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MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee

FROM: John Ogan

SUBJECT: Review process for subbasin plans

Staff had intended to discuss with the Committee the process that we propose for reviewing and adopting subbasin plans. We last discussed this issue with the Committee and Council last December in a general way.

On July 22nd the Regional Coordinating Group for subbasin planning (Level III) met in Boise, and Council staff reported that we were in the process of finalizing the details of a subbasin plan review process that we would propose to the Fish and Wildlife Committee and perhaps the full Council at the August Council meetings. Because we were still working on some elements of that review process, and because of the already full agenda, we were unable to brief the RCG members on the specifics of the review process we have developed. Because of the importance of this issue, and significant interest from many of its members, the RCG asked to be given the opportunity to review and comment on the review process proposal before it gets "cemented" formally by the Council. The goal would be to secure RCG understanding and support for the subbasin plan review process and to provide a proposal to the Committee and Council on that basis at its September meeting.

Judi Danielson, Chair of the RCG, agreed that this policy-level advisory group should be given the opportunity to review and endorse the review proposal being developed by staff before it is accepted formally by the Council. The RCG will meet on August 27th, be briefed on the staff review proposal, and be given an opportunity to provide input.

This is an update and information item. There is no Committee action or recommendation requested here.