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October 7, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee

FROM: Doug Marker

SUBJECT: Bonneville update items for Committee agenda

Therese Lamb, Bonneville Vice President for Environment, Fish and Wildlife, will brief the Committee on two current issues: 1. The actual and estimated final project costs for Fiscal Year 2003; and 2. Bonneville's objectives for a long-term fish and wildlife agreement. A panel from the Federal Caucus will brief the Committee on the 2003 check-in report for implementation of the 2000 Biological Opinions for the federal hydro system. A summary of that report is attached.

These are discussion items for the committee. No action is requested at this meeting. Bonneville staff will have completed an initial summary of the actual billings for projects in the Fish and Wildlife Program in 2003 as well as the estimates by project sponsors of work performed but not yet billed for the fiscal year. We are working with the Bonneville staff to analyze those reports and the issues to discuss with the Committee.

The discussion of Bonneville's objectives for a long term fish and wildlife funding agreement is for the Committee's information and consideration. No formal discussions have begun. I have reviewed potential Council objectives for a long term agreement at previous meetings and there are similar discussions occurring among the region's tribes and fish and wildlife agencies. Most recently the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians adopted a resolution stating tribal objectives and expectation for inclusion in negotiations.

The 2003 check-in report has been submitted to NOAA Fisheries. It was prepared by the three action agencies whose staff will brief the committee on the content of the report.