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May 4, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee

FROM: Bruce Suzumoto

SUBJECT: Report on summer 2004 operations

On April 21 Bonneville and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that more time was needed to decide whether or not a summer spill test should be implemented. The meeting with regional executives originally scheduled for April 23 was postponed until the action agencies could provide an amended proposal that would provide sufficient offsets for fish impacts. Offset recommendations still being discussed include changes in harvest activities, hatchery production and flow augmentation operations for outmigrants. No official date has been set for the release of an amended summer spill proposal but it is anticipated that a proposal will be released sometime during the week of May 4. A regional executives' meeting would then be held soon after to discuss the proposal and receive comments. A final decision on the summer spill operations will be made approximately one week after the regional executives' meeting.

Discussions on Libby and Hungry Horse reservoir operations are still underway but at this time there is nothing substantial to report. Council staff will discuss the summer spill proposal and reservoir operations as new information is released.

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