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May 28, 2004

**To:** Council Members

**From:** Peter Paquet, Manager, Wildlife & Resident Fish

**Subject:** Discussion of Memorandum of Potential Crediting Method for Fish Habitat Projects

At the May Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting the staff provided a briefing on a method being discussed with Bonneville staff to address the issue of crediting for fish habitat projects so they may be acquired using capital funds. As you will recall this was a very simple approach that relied on using linear miles of anadromous fish habitat inundated by the construction of the Federal Columbia River Projects. During the meeting, Bonneville representatives indicated that there were several issues that they believed needed to be considered in the development of a crediting method. These included issues such as the habitat offset from hatchery production, credit for existing fish habitat and wildlife projects and the fit within the integrated strategy for biological opinion actions. Bonneville staff indicated that they were still in the process of developing a final position with regard to these issues.

Staff has briefed the CBFWA Anadromous Fish Caucus on the concept and is continuing discussions with Bonneville and will report to the committee on the status of the issue at the Clarkston meeting.