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January 11, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee

FROM: Patty O'Toole
Program Implementation Manager

SUBJECT: Discussion of the next provincial review process

I. Introduction

At the December Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting, the Council staff discussed concepts for the next provincial review. The staff would like to continue this discussion at the January Fish and Wildlife committee meeting. No action is requested.

II. Background

The Council staff and the Fish and Wildlife committee have discussed the next provincial review process and implementation of subbasin plans over the last several months. Comments were solicited from the region on these issues through the Council's request for additional comment on issues related to the Program Amendment Process and through consultations with various entities. The comment period remains open through January 31, 2005.

The staff has discussed with the Committee an alternative that would launch the next provincial review in FY 2006, with implementation targeted for FY 2007. We proposed that preliminary, basinwide work could occur in FY 2005 and 2006 to prepare for implementation in 2007. The preliminary work to be completed in FY 2005 will be discussed in a separate agenda item with both the Fish and Wildlife Committee and with the full Council.

III. Discussion

Staff will walk through a discussion of various elements involved with the next provincial review. Many of these elements are being discussed in several arenas including the Regional Coordinating Group meetings and staff will report on the current thinking regarding these elements.

Elements for continued discussion include:

- Organization of projects into a new format to allow for sorting and review. This will enhance incorporation into the Bonneville PIECES system, and allow for project level and work element sorting, review and tracking. Proposals and work elements will be organized into categories. Categories may include research, monitoring and evaluation, coordination, mainstem, habitat and production. Each category of projects could undergo a distinct review during the provincial review, concurrent with the rolling provincial review. For example, research projects would be reviewed against each other and against regional goals identified in the Council's Research Plan.
- Define new Updated Proposed Action work (balanced with the program). The updated proposed action calls for expanded predator control, improving tributary spawning and rearing habitat, improving estuary habitat and other actions. It is anticipated that some of this work will be implemented in the Fish and Wildlife Program in FY 2006. The budget impact of this additional work is uncertain at the moment, as is the total amount of funding available for the Program in FY 2006, the final year of the Bonneville's current rate period.
- Province planning or "roll up" (integration) work that may produce information that could inform alternatives for prioritization and allocation of funding.
- The sequence of the province review (who is first, who is last)
- The schedule for completing the full cycle.
- The province funding allocations (including an allocation or "placeholder" for mainstem/systemwide projects, or other projects that are not guided by subbasin plan documents).
- Identification of the appropriate process for (local) needs identification and prioritization within the allocation.