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February 8, 2005

To: Council Members

From: Doug Marker, Director
Fish and Wildlife Division

Subject: Briefing and comment on Bonneville's future fish and wildlife funding commitment

At the Council meeting, the staff will present a detailed review of the assumptions for future program implementation costs that are being discussed for inclusion in Bonneville's rate case. We will also discuss the status of our work with Bonneville and other regional parties on provisions for a management agreement for Bonneville's fish and wildlife budget.

We have invited representatives of Columbia Basin tribes and of Bonneville's utility customers to comment to the Council on these issues.

Attached is the preliminary analysis of current program costs with a discussion of the "drivers" for potential increases and decreases in specific categories of program costs. We would like discuss these assumptions with the Council for evaluating funding levels for the Bonneville's rate case.