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November 2, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Steve Waste and Peter Paquet

SUBJECT: Report on status of abundance monitoring for focal species

RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational briefing and no action is required by the Council at this time.

SIGNIFICANCE

Last month, the Columbia Basin Authority presented to the Council the draft *Status of the Resource Report*. The report uses annual population counts to measure the status of individual species in each subbasin. This memo describes how well those individual status reports cover the focal species of fish targeted by the project proposals the Council has recommended for funding. The wildlife portion of the report is still under development.

BACKGROUND

As part of the current effort to define data collection priorities for the Program, the staff is discussing using population abundance data as a core indicator of program success. During the discussion of the *Status of the Resource Report* the Council asked the staff to compare the species reports in each subbasin to the focal species targeted in the project proposals that the Council recommended for funding in FY 2007-2009. This analysis can be a first step in identifying data gaps in the Program.

ANALYSIS

Assessing Coverage of Focal Species

The results of the staff assessment are presented in the attached table. The table provides an overview of the Status of the Resource coverage of species targeted by program projects. The sources of data in the table are as follows:

- The list of focal species comes from the Council's subbasin plans
- The focal species targeted by the projects were identified by the project sponsors, who identified a primary species in their proposal
- The coverage of focal species by status data was drawn from the draft *Status of the Resource Report*

In the body of the table:

- Each cell contains the number of projects funded in the Council's FY 2007-2009 recommendations
- Green signifies that the focal species targeted by Fish and Wildlife Program projects have a status report in the *Status of the Resource Report*
- Yellow signifies that focal species targeted by Fish and Wildlife Program projects do not yet have a status report in the *Status of the Resource Report*. For example, the current draft lacks data for status reports in the Clearwater.

Please note that the table does not include subbasins in which the program is not funding any projects. Because the *Status of the Resource* report will not be completed until the end of November, the figures in this assessment are subject to change. For example, in the left half of the table two subbasins appear for which the focal species for Status of the Resource remain to identify, so they were not included in the figures reported below.

Findings on Focal Species

The table shows that a majority of Program projects address focal species for which abundance data is being collected. This finding is most evident in the right half of the table where the largest number of projects occurs. Specifically, this survey found that:

- Focal species targeted by 177 Fish and Wildlife Program projects have a status report in the *Status of the Resource Report*
- Focal species targeted by 108 Fish and Wildlife Program projects do not have a status report in the *Status of the Resource Report*

Consequently, the *Status of the Resource Report*, even in debut version will help the region focus discussion on which of the data gaps might warrant coverage through the Fish and Wildlife or other programs.