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November 30, 2006

To: Council Members

From: Doug Marker, Director
Fish and Wildlife Division

Subject: Discussion of Fish and Wildlife Program data management and reporting

Purpose: This agenda item has three closely related discussions about the regional availability of fish and wildlife data. This first topic proposes endorsement of the content of the *Status of the Resource* report for a second year of production. The second and third topics are reports. Each topic has a staff cover memo and attachments.

1. Confirm next steps for *Status of the Resource* report: Lynn Palensky has a summary of the completion of the first year of this report by the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority. The staff believes the information in this report meets the content previously discussed with the Council and should be continued and expanded for a second year. CBFWA is funded to produce this report annually.

2. Review of availability of current fish and wildlife population reports: Steve Waste and Peter Paquet have completed an analysis of how well the population reports in the *Status of the Resource Report* cover the subbasins and species targeted by Program projects. They identify where there are apparent gaps in that information.

3. Presentation of proposed Streamnet data priorities: Bruce Schmidt, of Streamnet, and Peter Paquet will discuss the current Streamnet proposal to obtain and supply the fish and wildlife population data that is necessary to maintain current reports on the status of fish populations targeted by Program projects. This is an initial discussion following the Council's FY 2007-2009 interim funding recommendation for data management projects.

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Attachment B

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November 29, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Status of the Resource Report - Next Steps

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff would like to communicate to the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority that the completion of the first year of the *Status of the Resource Report* meets the goals of the report discussed with the Council earlier this year and to continue expansion and refinement of the report as discussed below. This does not require a formal motion by the Council but we would like your approval for such an endorsement.

If you have other interests for the report we would like to hear those at this discussion. The second year of the report will continue a format of current abundance reports, annual accomplishments, and summarizing limiting factors and objectives from subbasin plans.

SIGNIFICANCE: The status of the Resource Report, we are pleased to announce, is complete for this first year of work. CBFWA, Bonneville and the Council agreed to the framework for the SOR report about a year ago, and it is now ready for publication. This is the first product of its kind in the Columbia Basin; a regionwide compilation of stock status and habitat-related data for each subbasin in one location. This product has direct ties to other ongoing efforts to collect, manage, and store data in the Columbia Basin, as well as to track and report progress, accomplishments, and spending at different geographic scales. The SOR elevates us to a new level of integration of knowledge, reporting, and tracking fish and wildlife issues within the basin as a whole.

BACKGROUND: The SOR work for 2006 focused on developing the framework and format of the report as well as collecting data from subbasin plans and other sources. CBFWA made several presentations to the Council during development. The report, in its current state of completion, is ready for printing in a limited quantity and will soon be interactive on CBFWA's website. While that happens, CBFWA staff will move into the next stage of development -- year two -- which will focus on accomplishments, integration of data and information with StreamNet, identifying gaps, and updating and adding population abundance data, refining metrics to track work and expenditures to Bonneville projects, PCSRF funding, and more. The report will easily produce an annual record of accomplishments each year.

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November 30, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council

FROM: Steve Waste and Peter Paquet

SUBJECT: Review of Availability of Current Fish and Wildlife Population Reports

This part of the briefing provides a characterization of gaps in population abundance data that have been identified through an examination of the *Status of the Resource Report*.

BACKGROUND

At the November Council meeting staff reported the extent to which the draft *Status of the Resource Report* identifies sources of population abundance data for focal species in subbasins with Fish and Wildlife Program projects. This briefing adds information on the extent to which population abundance data is, or is not, available for focal species in subbasins without program projects, again based on the *Status of the Resource Report*. The purpose of this exercise has been to characterize:

- The availability of population abundance data for use as a core indicator for evaluating the program
- Apparent gaps in the availability of population abundance data

ANALYSIS

The attached table updates the one presented at the November Council meeting. It is organized so that:

- Green signifies that the focal species have a status report in the *Status of the Resource Report*
- Yellow signifies that the focal species do not have a status report in the *Status of the Resource Report*

- The presence or absence of Fish and Wildlife Program projects for a focal species in a subbasin is indicated numerically within each cell. No number means there are no program projects targeting that species

This version has been expanded to now include:

- All subbasins
- All focal species
- Wildlife projects

The expanded table now portrays where population abundance data is being collected, or not, for focal species in subbasins with and without program projects.

Apparent Gaps

This version of the table indicates that there are apparent gaps in the current coverage of population abundance data. To help inform Council discussion of a desired level of coverage, this section describes the apparent gaps. Whether or not there are actual gaps depends on if population abundance has been collected but not yet reported.

Coverage of Anadromous Fish - The availability of population abundance data for anadromous fish is almost complete, with some exceptions. In some cases the data has not been reported, but will soon be available. The most significant apparent gap is for coho, for which we have nine projects across seven subbasins, but no data is currently available.

Coverage of Resident Fish - For resident fish there are generally more gaps than coverage. One exception is bull trout, for which population abundance data is not available for three projects, but is available for 18 projects. There are 29 subbasins in which a project addresses a focal species for which no abundance data is being reported at this time, even though it may be collected. The most significant gap appears to be for Yellowstone Cutthroat and Interior Redband Trout which together account for 11 of the 29 subbasins. Specifically, there are 14 Redband trout projects without subbasin abundance data and four Yellowstone Cutthroat projects without subbasin abundance data.

Coverage of Wildlife - The *Status of the Resource Report* does not report the population abundance of wildlife populations. The future monitoring of wildlife response to acquisitions is a continuing discussion for the program. The staff expects to discuss with the Council the appropriate role of population monitoring for wildlife projects.

DISCUSSION

The *Status of the Resource Report* is based on an annual profile of population abundance data, which could in turn provide significant support for future evaluation of the program. In the near term, the *Status of the Resource Report* provides a basis for identifying gaps in the monitoring of population abundance. Over the long-term, staff recommends a phased approach to addressing

the gaps so that the data that is already being collected can be utilized first. Some data gaps might warrant coverage under future program funding cycles whereas as others may not.

A final consideration is the lack of transfer of population abundance data from tribal sources to StreamNet. It is possible that the development of data transfer capacity for tribal sources of population abundance data could reduce the remaining gaps. Future iterations of the *Status of the Resource Report* could be supported directly by StreamNet, rather than the primary sources.

Next Steps

- Complete the pilot work on abundance data sources and methods reported at the November meeting, for all subbasins
- Include in final version the following information for each subbasin:
 - Identify if the missing data is being funded by the program, and if so ensure ensure that the data is reported to StreamNet
 - The availability of the data and whether StreamNet already receives or needs to begin acquisition of the data from its original source
 - Methods by which the data is collected
- Confirm with CBFWA whether existing gaps exist because data is unreported or not collected
- Confirm that it is a priority for CBFWA to take this next step

In summary, the existence of gaps on these factors is part of the baseline of the data currently available to the “*Status of the Resource Report*.” StreamNet can help the program advance from this current baseline by supporting the filling of these gaps, thereby forging a more complete basis for future evaluations of the program. Quantifying StreamNet’s progress in the completion of this task will be straightforward.

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November 30, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Peter Paquet, Manager Wildlife & Resident Fish

SUBJECT: StreamNet Workplan Briefing

PURPOSE: This portion of the briefing addresses the status of proposed revisions to the StreamNet workplan (Attachment 1). This is an informational briefing and no Council action is needed at this time.

BACKGROUND: StreamNet is in the process of revising their proposed work plan in response to the Council's request for data priorities including population abundance. This briefing is intended to provide the Council with an overview of the proposed changes. The primary change to the proposal is that it now emphatically states StreamNet's willingness to acquire and maintain population abundance data as a priority indicator. Generally, this will require a fundamental change in StreamNet's mode of operation from one of responding to information requests, to one of proactively seeking information to support future evaluations. An important aspect of this change will be for StreamNet to work with the data source providers to improve the timeliness of reporting. This change can be achieved in part through automation, but will also require expedited handling of the indicator data on the part of the sources.

A secondary change to the proposal is that it now identifies the work elements of the StreamNet program that would be changed or modified in order to meet this new charge. The revised proposal now includes a summary of StreamNet work for FY 07 (see Table 1.). StreamNet is seeking confirmation from the Council on whether it should proceed with the approach set forth in the revised work plan.



STREAMNET WORK PLAN BRIEFING

Fiscal Years 2007 – 2009

November 30, 2006

Bruce Schmidt
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Contributors

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Phil Roger, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Foreword

The following pages describe the status of the revised fiscal year 2007-2009 Statement of Work for the StreamNet project, as of November 30, 2006. It's our understanding that a decision will be made at the January Council meeting. This briefing is provided for your information during the December Council meeting.

Background

The StreamNet project has been the only source of regionally standardized, geo-referenced fish data from the Columbia River Basin for almost 20 years. The project is funded through the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) Fish and Wildlife Program and is administered by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. We serve as a neutral broker for disseminating scientifically-based, regionally standardized data to the Columbia Basin region with primary emphasis on the raw data used by the region's fish management agencies to support ongoing management programs.

StreamNet is committed to the goal of universal data discovery and dissemination. StreamNet's GIS data are already available through the national Geospatial One Stop portal (www.geodata.gov) and we are participating in development of the Northwest Environmental Data-network Portal. StreamNet is also a node on the National Biological Information Infrastructure. We stand committed to assisting the Columbia region achieve a consolidated, coordinated approach to data management and dissemination.

BPA tentatively funded the 2007-2009 StreamNet project at its 2006 level, pending further review and decisions by the NPCC. Based on recommendation by the Mainstem Systemwide Review Team (MSRT), the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority sponsored a data workshop on Sept. 20-21, 2006 to review the project and recommend priorities.

Our efforts to craft a revised 2007-2009 Statement of Work for the StreamNet Project are ongoing. Our approach is to use the summarized comments provided from the Data Workshop, and the individual and shared perspectives of the StreamNet cooperators about the guidance provided by all those in attendance. This approach recognizes that the Data Workshop did not result in consensus on critical StreamNet tasks or assign priorities to the tasks discussed. While we believe the majority of the work plan is in final stages of development, a few final choices remain among ongoing and new work. Ultimately, the work items included in the work plan submitted to the Council will reflect the StreamNet cooperators good-faith attempt to meet regional needs.

The set of work items described in this document reflects our understanding of important regional needs based on the summarized comments provided from the Data Workshop. Prior to the January Council meeting, the StreamNet Steering Committee will continue to pursue consensus on project priorities and will submit a final Executive Summary of our proposal, along with a more detailed introductory document and work plan outline for Council consideration.

Work Plan Considerations and Potential Direction

The following list of potential work plan tasks reflects the discussions and guidance from the Data Workshop, as described in the draft Data Workshop Summary.

1. Improve data coverage and services (especially tribes and natural resource agencies)

StreamNet will contact tribes and state and federal natural resource agencies to determine their data holdings, data management capabilities, and interest in regional data sharing.

Work in the pilot subbasins may facilitate these contacts. Plans to acquire data will be developed based on interest and capabilities. Data acquisition may be dependent on other funding proposals to provide adequate data management capability to the tribal programs.

2. Improve data timeliness

StreamNet partners will work within their agencies to explore means to automate data flow, demonstrating how applications and systems can assist internal data management and speed external data transfer. The project will explore means of improving or automating data flow from the source agencies to the StreamNet database. We will also explore capturing provisional data that could be provided to appropriate agencies or programs before the data become “official” for release by the agency.

3. Assess data/services to support future subbasin planning, the current set of draft core and/or high level indicators, or other regional monitoring and evaluation programs

StreamNet will work with NPCC staff and regional scale programs, beginning in the pilot watersheds, to determine long term data management needs and to plan for a hierarchical data system to serve future planning efforts. This effort will move forward on an opportunistic basis until the next round of subbasin planning.

4. Acquire population scale fish abundance indicators

StreamNet will collaborate with ongoing efforts such as the Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Program, the Collaborative System-wide Monitoring and Evaluation Project (CSMEP), and the Intensively Monitored Watersheds to acquire abundance and productivity data necessary for calculation of high level indicators in select pilot subbasins or watersheds. We will develop means of acquiring, standardizing to a regional format and disseminating these data. Where available in the pilot watersheds, StreamNet will capture existing population scale fish abundance and productivity estimates and make them available with necessary metadata.

Other work being contemplated for inclusion in the work plan reflects additional workshop recommendations: These include:

- Quality assurance documentation
- Metadata services
- PNAMP monitoring effort
- CSMEP data support
- Support for the Status of the Resource Report

Data Types

The Revised StreamNet Work Plan Proposal will contain a detailed list of data types that StreamNet has been asked to provide or has provided in the past. To perform the new work requested at the data workshop under level funding, however, it will be necessary to drop or defer work on several existing data types. Also, new types of data have been requested, but addressing them would require additional funding or dropping additional existing data types. These tradeoffs will be described in the final StreamNet Work Plan Proposal.

Funding Options

During the review process, the MSRT combined all StreamNet proposals and recommended a total FY-07 budget amount of \$2,500,000. Table 1 describes potential work plan items at the funding level recommended by the MSRT, and based on guidance from the Data Workshop and subsequent discussions by StreamNet cooperators. Discussions underway are focused on how those tasks would change if the project were only funded at 2006 levels (\$2,261,033). It is important to keep in mind that the initial StreamNet submission for the 2007-2009 solicitation was for a FY-07 base level of \$2,901,154 that included additional work to develop tribal data, fish barrier, water diversions and screening, and increased resident fish data and to increase focus on data development and data automation tools. The project also submitted four additional proposals for development of specific data types as follows: Data to support restoration planning (including CSMEP work); Hatchery releases by location; Harvest (comprehensive); and Habitat restoration project tracking. These data types and other work will be considered in discussions of the final work plan tasks.

Table 1. Potential StreamNet work. This list is provided as work to prioritize.

MSRT Recommended Funding Level		
New		Pilots to develop population-level abundance and productivity data.
		Work with tribes to identify data flow and transfer capabilities and needs.
		Explore availability of fisheries data from federal natural resource agencies.
		Determine means to increase timeliness of data development, including improved data flow in agencies, improved processes in StreamNet, and through increased automation of data flow.
		Work with regional entities to identify future subbasin planning data needs.
		Formally document StreamNet's quality assurance processes, initially in pilot basins.
		Expand development of metadata, initially in pilot basins.
Continue		Continue most data development, data services and library services from past years, except for data types dropped or deferred, as described in the work plan.
Additional Options		Begin capture of tribal data.
		Work closely with the CBFWA Status of the Resource Project to help obtain access to information needed by that project
		Begin working with a select group of projects within the Fish and Wildlife Program to develop methods and tools to efficiently transfer information from BPA funded projects to the StreamNet database, or assist in making their data web accessible.

	Support PNAMP monitoring effort.
	Restore work to develop hatchery release data by release location.
	Harvest, inclusive (freshwater, estuary & marine; sport & commercial).
	Habitat restoration project tracking (comprehensive, region wide).
	Pick up annual production of <i>Columbia Fish Runs and Fisheries</i> report, which has been dropped by the agencies.
	Assistance to CSMEP for data inventories by subbasin.
	Expand resident fish data compilation.
	Other specific data types as listed in the table in the draft work plan.