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MEMORANDUM

TO: Council

FROM: Steve Waste, Manager for Program Analysis and Evaluation

SUBJECT: Overview of the Accomplishments of the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership

Jen Bayer, coordinator of PNAMP, will provide an informational briefing to provide an overview of the accomplishments to date of the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership or PNAMP. Attachment 1. provides a summary of PNAMP accomplishments from 2005-2006.

ATTACHMENT 1.



Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) 2005 -2006 Accomplishments Summary

Pacific Northwest Aquatic
Monitoring Partnership

For more information about PNAMP, see our website: www.pnamp.org

PNAMP GOALS:

- Improve communication among monitoring programs across state, tribal, and federal organizations.
- Improve scientific information needed to inform resource policy and management questions and decisions.
- Seek efficiencies and cost-effectiveness across monitoring programs through compatible and cooperative monitoring efforts.
- Promote science-based credibility of monitoring and assessment efforts.
- Share resources and information among monitoring programs across state, tribal, and federal organizations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS and PRODUCTS

PNAMP produces tools and facilitates forums among technical experts and between scientists, managers, and liaison groups for the collective evaluation and interpretation of current and new knowledge regarding issues in monitoring.

In 2005-2006 PNAMP:

- Conducted PNAMP Aquatic Monitoring Inventory
- Conducted survey to identify high level management questions and their related hierarchical set of information needs shared by the participating agencies (report of survey in review).
- Recommended a core set of high level indicators that can be shared among all types of monitoring to ensure desired consistency (report in review).
- Implemented a study to conduct a side-by-side protocol test in which field attributes and sampling protocols are compared across numerous agencies (interim recommendations available; final product due 2007)
- Developed Macroinvertebrate sampling and laboratory processing protocol
- Recommended data collection and sharing standards (for 2006: Best Practices for Location and Time Reporting) for information to be shared across the various monitoring programs.
- Collaborated with State of the Salmon Program on Salmonid Field Protocols Handbook to be published by the American Fisheries Society in 2007.
- Drafted regional plan to establish a network of intensively monitored watersheds (IMWs)
- Supported technical forums (open to the public): “2005 Large-scale Monitoring” symposium at the American Fisheries Society NPIC meeting; “2006 Remote Sensing Workshop”; “2005 Fish Practitioners Workshop”; “2006 Monitoring Practitioners Workshop”; “2005 and 2006 Northwest Environmental Data-Network Workshops”; “2006 Integrated Monitoring Design for Status and Trends Workshop”.

- Collaborated with PNW RGIC to identify and implement a process for developing/ refining common GIS layers.

PNAMP provides leadership and coordination for interagency and multi-organizational responses to major resource monitoring efforts. PNAMP has provided a forum for inter-organizational committees to work to integrate resource monitoring programs of state, federal, tribal, local, and private organizations in the Pacific Northwest.

In 2005-2006 PNAMP:

- Became a formal organization by drafting a Charter and Business Practices, subsequently signed by 19 state, federal, tribal and regional entities.
- Drafted a long-range strategic planning document (“PNAMP Strategy For Coordinating Monitoring of Aquatic Environments In The Pacific Northwest” March 2005).
- Used the PNAMP Steering Committee to increase understanding across PNAMP partners of large scale needs, such as: key management questions that drive monitoring in the region and high level indicators (summary products in review).
- Used the PNAMP technical workgroups to facilitate coordination and collaboration among monitoring practitioners on monitoring design, protocols, data standards. These workgroups are organized by aquatic monitoring topics: Watershed Monitoring, Effectiveness Monitoring, Fish Population Monitoring, Estuary Monitoring, and Data Management.
- Participated in the Northwest Environmental Data Network (NED) and Pacific Northwest Regional Geographic Information Council (PNW RGIC) to support existing data coordination efforts and leverage PNAMP needs with larger goals.
- Facilitated coordination between PNAMP Fish Population Monitoring Workgroup and the Collaborative Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Project (CSMEP) to ensure efficiency and avoid redundancy.
- Created a public website (www.pnamp.org), technical posters (for technical meetings), and a variety of presentations to disseminate information about PNAMP to regional and national meetings
- Conducted briefings for executive bodies (RIEC/IAC, Federal Caucus, Washington Governor’s Forum on Monitoring, and individual executive, policy staff, and local and national technical forums (National Water Quality Monitoring Conference) and public meetings (Northwest Power and Conservation Council).