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**DRAFT**

## **DISCUSSION MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Fish and Wildlife Committee

**From:** Doug Marker, Director  
Fish and Wildlife Division

**Subject:** Continued discussion of Program Amendment process

## **PURPOSE**

This agenda item is to continue the discussion we began last month about the preparation for opening the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program for amendment. At last month's meeting we discussed a schedule of calling for amendments in late 2007 and in the meantime, scheduling a series of evaluations of the current Program structure and strategies. We would like to have your comment on specific topics for Program evaluations during 2007.

## **DISCUSSION**

The staff has discussed scheduling evaluations of Program strategies during 2007 to inform regional development of amendment proposals for the next Program. In addition, several Council Members suggested that some topics in the Program be developed through a science-policy conference to be held in the late summer, early fall.

A "Science-Policy" conference could feature high-level presentations by research leaders on major evolving issues in Columbia Basin fish and wildlife mitigation, restoration and enhancement. These presentations could summarize findings to initiate a discussion with the Council and other regional policy and management leaders for development of Program amendments.

Examples of topics that have been suggested for such a conference include:

- Mainstem juvenile and adult survival
- Juvenile Chinook overwintering in the hydrosystem
- Spillway weir performance
- Inriver vs. transport survival
- Delayed mortality
- Estuary and ocean survival
- Nutrient enhancement

Staff-led evaluations could be in a variety of formats including panel discussions or presentation of issue papers. These topics might not be as science-oriented as the topics above but address experience with strategies of the current Program. Examples of topics we've discussed include:

- The products and continued use of subbasin planning
- Cost and performance of habitat strategies funded through the Program
- Program monitoring and evaluation and data management
- The future costs and expected performance of additional hydrosystem passage improvements

We would like to discuss these evaluation formats with the Committee and receive suggestions for additional topics; either for staff-led evaluations or for a "Science-Policy" conference. We will bring back to the March meeting a proposed list of topics and schedules for presentations