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January 9, 2007

DISCUSSION MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

From: Doug Marker, Director
Fish and Wildlife Division

Subject: Briefing on draft Fish and Wildlife Division Work Plan for 2007

PURPOSE

This agenda item is for Committee and Council discussion of the objectives and sequence of work proposed by the Fish and Wildlife Division in 2007. The draft work plan is attached.

DISCUSSION

A major focus of the division's work will be preparing for opening the Fish and Wildlife Program for amendment in late 2007 or early 2008. The Fish and Wildlife Committee discussed this general schedule at its December meeting. Several tasks leading to calling for amendments include:

- Organizing a "Science-Policy" conference for high level discussions about major scientific issues in the Program and how those issues affect management decisions.
- Conducting additional staff-led evaluations of Program strategies during 2007.
- Developing conceptual provincial biological objectives to be proposed as Program amendments.
- Regional outreach and development of the amendment process itself.

With the Council's funding decisions for 2007-2009 complete, the staff will be working on proposing the scope and schedule for the next round of project selection decisions. The staff also have many follow-up tasks from the last decisions; both individual project issues and programmatic issues such as the operations and maintenance costs of the Program.

The work plan also includes schedules for continuing work on Mainstem Amendment implementation, supporting independent scientific review of the program, improving monitoring

and evaluation and data management in the Program and ongoing work with Bonneville and other regional partners to improve Program implementation.

Objective: Plan for amending Fish and Wildlife Program

Description: Anticipating opening the program for amendments in late 2007, these tasks will schedule evaluation of major program strategies and major scientific issues. These tasks also call for development of biological objectives for program amendments.

Council staff: Lynn Palensky, Peter Paquet

Others: BPA, CBFWA, ISRP

Milestone	Status
1Q 2007 (Jan-Mar)	
1. Participate on the Habitat Science Review Group and refining data for the All-H Analyzer	
2. Define schedule of Program evaluations	
3. Prepare draft set of topic areas for program amendments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues • Level of importance • Method of analysis 	
4. Initial planning of science/policy conference	
2Q 2007 (Apr-Jun)	
1. Participate on the Habitat Science Review Group and refining data for the All-H Analyzer	
2. Develop conceptual provincial biological objectives	
3. Conduct Program area evaluations (SBP, etc.)	
4. Plan outreach schedule with Public Affairs	
5. Plan science/policy conference	
3Q 2007 (Jul-Sep)	
1. Participate on the Habitat Science Review Group and refining data for the All H Analyzer	
2. Develop background materials, Council guidance for call for amendments	
3. Science/policy conference (possible 4thQ)	
4. Develop issue paper on provincial objectives	
4Q 2007 (Oct-Dec)	
Call for amendments	
End-of-year status:	

Objective: Develop process and schedule for future Program project funding recommendations

Description: Staff will design and present to Council alternatives for the project review and selection process for FY 2010 and beyond, that recognizes the recent and ongoing reviews of Fish and Wildlife Program monitoring and evaluation, data management, project operation and maintenance, etc. The process will include many of the attributes of past reviews (ISRP review, site visits, local input, public review, etc).

Council staff: Patty O'Toole, Mark Fritsch, Erik Merrill

Others: BPA, CBFWA, ISRP

Milestone	Status
1Q 2007 (Jan-Mar)	
1. Develop and present alternative project review and selection processes to Committee and Council for 2010 and beyond.	Ongoing
2. Track, sequence and coordinate the project review and selection process against other major processes such as program amendments, BiOp, recovery plans, etc.	Ongoing
3. ISRP Retrospective Report 2007-09 due	Ongoing
2Q 2007 (Apr-Jun)	
1. Finalize and implement project review and selection process. 2. Revise proposal form and coordinate with Pisces. 3. Coordinate with CBFWA, fish and wildlife managers, local review groups, Bonneville. 4. Incorporate elements of Program evaluations from the Program Amendment process, ISRP retrospective report elements, BiOp considerations, etc.	
3Q 2007 (Jul-Sep)	
1. Future schedule depends on decision by Council	
4Q 2007 (Oct-Dec)	

Objective: Establish regionally accessible data for Program evaluation

Description: Continue work to identify and resolve data gaps for Program monitoring and evaluation and to make priority data sets available through the Internet. These data sets include the status and trend of fish and wildlife populations, hatchery and hydrosystem performance and the indicators of habitat conditions that will be used for future subbasin planning and Program evaluation.

Council staff: Peter Paquet, Steve Waste

Others: StreamNet, NED

Milestone	Status
1Q 2007 (Jan-Mar)	
1. Complete identification of fish abundance data gaps	
2. Complete report on the availability of current fish abundance data in Streamnet or other regional sources	
3. Report on Program projects for focal species that lack current abundance data	
4. Propose Council actions to resolve gaps in abundance data for Program focal species.	
5. Confirm that NED data portal operates to make priority data sets accessible through the Web.	
6. Define scope of habitat data to form the pilot project for regional access and standards.	
2Q 2007 (Apr-Jun)	
1. Initiate identification of gaps in initial habitat data sets.	
2. Identify gaps in delivery of initial habitat data sets from Program-funded projects.	
3. Implement Council decisions to resolve abundance data sets.	
4. Transfer and standardize data sets from Hatchery Reform project.	
5. Confirm that smolt and adult hydrosystem survival data is accessible through NED data portal.	
6. Establish data reporting requirements for Bonneville-funded projects	

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3Q 2007 (Jul-Sep)	
1. Add hatchery data sets to regionally accessible system.	
2. Continue work to make priority habitat data sets regionally accessible through the Web	
4Q 2007 (Oct-Dec)	
1. Continue work to make priority habitat data sets accessible	
End-of-year status:	

Objective: Implement Program Measures for Monitoring and Evaluation of Program Results

Description: These tasks continue work to define the monitoring elements that support evaluation of Program results. In 2006 the staff identified specific monitoring needs and issues for scientific evaluation and project funding decisions.

Council staff: Steve Waste

Others: PNAMP, ISAB, ISRP

Milestone	Status
1Q 2007 (Jan-Mar)	
1. Complete high level indicator paper	
2. Complete gap analysis of fish population abundance monitoring	
3. Complete 2 nd ISAB workshop on supplementation monitoring	
4. Based on ISRP Retrospective Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define appropriate level of M&E for habitat projects Conduct assessment of monitoring elements of habitat restoration projects in program 	
5. Begin review of tagging programs for hydrosystem survival monitoring	
2Q 2007 (Apr-Jun)	
1. Continue gap analysis of habitat indicators	
2. Based on the results of the supplementation monitoring workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulate recommendations on the scope and design of a regional supplementation experiment Develop a RFP for the experiment 	
3. Prepare an evaluation report on Intensively-monitoring watersheds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate role of effectiveness monitoring Determine appropriate level of program funding 	
4. Continue review of tagging programs	
5. Support development of Program science-policy conference	
3Q 2007 (Jul-Sep)	
1. Complete an update of the monitoring components of the Program with cost	

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estimates and assignments	
2. Conclude gap analysis of priority indicators	
3. Prepare report on tagging review for ISAB Review	
4. Support development of research conference	
4Q 2007 (Oct-Dec)	
1. Formulate tagging recommendations for program based on ISAB review of tagging report	
2. Revise Guidance for Monitoring and Evaluation by incorporating results of reviews on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat monitoring and evaluation • Intensively monitored watersheds • Supplementation • Tagging 	
End-of-year status:	

Objective: Incorporate Bi-Op requirements and ESA recovery planning through Council process

Description: Provide process to incorporate BiOp requirements into the Fish and Wildlife Program.

Council staff: Lynn Palensky, Patty O'Toole, Doug Marker

Others: NOAA Fisheries, USFWS, Bonneville; local project reviewers

Milestone	Status
1Q 2007 (Jan-Mar)	
1. Tracking development of the BiOp through the remand process	
2. Review Proposed Action (if released)	
2Q 2007 (Apr-Jun)	
1. Coordinate with NOAA and BPA on final schedule for UPAs and evaluating actions	All tasks are subject to the ultimate timing of the BiOp and Recovery Plans
2. Review compatibility of subbasin plans and recovery plans	
3. Assist in recovery planning activities as requested and as appropriate	
4. Identify potential gaps in implementation and BiOp requirements	
5. Synch up M&E criteria	
3Q 2007 (Jul-Sep)	
4Q 2007 (Oct-Dec)	
End-of-year status:	

Objective: Major project reviews (Step Reviews)

Description: Staff will continue to track and facilitate the three-step review sequence for all new production proposed, and for other large, complex implementation projects under the program.

Council staff: Mark Fritsch

Others:

Milestone	Status
1Q 2007 (Jan-Mar)	
1. Define schedules associated with step reviews as part of FY 2007 - 2009	
2Q 2007 (Apr-Jun)	
1. Klickitat Hatchery/Lyle Falls - Step 1 submittal (need to confirm)	Status to be confirmed in early February '07 - probably will slip
2. Chief Joseph Hatchery - Step 2 submittal	
3. Sekokini Springs Hatchery - Step 1 submittal	probably will slip
3Q 2007 (Jul-Sep)	
1. Kootenai sturgeon facility Step 1 (July 20, 2007)	
4Q 2007 (Oct-Dec)	
1. Possible decision on Chief Joseph Hatchery (Step 2)	
End-of-year status:	

Objective: Follow-up or conditions for 2007-2009 Projects

Description: The Council's recommendations for 2007-2009 Fish and Wildlife project funding included a number of requests for additional review and decisions. Staff will continue to track, follow-up and facilitate issue resolution for 07-09 projects that had conditional funding approval.

Council staff: Mark Fritsch, Patty O'Toole and Lynn Palensky

Others: State Staff & Fish and wildlife managers

Milestone	Status
1Q 2007 (Jan-Mar)	
1. Communicate and coordinate deliverables associated (conditions) with the FY 2007 - 2009 recommendations (conditions)	
2. Continue working on individual project approvals	
3. Coordinate and conduct the Council/ISRP review of the subbasin effort in the Umatilla	
5. Coordinate and plan the Kokanee production workshop for the Intermountain province	
6. Define wildlife O&M standards	
7. Support IEAB review of O&M standards	
8. Create mechanism for coordination projects to report monthly expenditures and report to Council	
2Q 2007 (Apr-Jun)	
1. Resolve application of BPA in lieu funding policy	
2. Continue working on individual project approvals	
3. Complete Council/ISRP review of the subbasin effort in the Umatilla	
4. Complete IEAB review of proposed standards	
5. Initiate council review of the other O&M costs	
6. Complete and make decision on the kokanee production projects in the Intermountain province	
3Q 2007 (Jul-Sep)	
1. Continue review of other O&M costs	

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2. Continue working on individual project approvals	
4Q 2007 (Oct-Dec)	
1. Develop review process for coordination projects review for 1Q 2008	
2. Resolve O&M issues	
End-of-year status:	

Objective: Mainstem amendment implementation

Description: Council staff participation in the NMFS Regional Forum teams, as well as the review and monitoring of all mainstem fish passage implementation efforts and operational proposals to ensure consistency with the Council's 2003 Mainstem Amendments.

Council staff: Jim Ruff

Others: Regional Forum participants

Milestone	Status
1Q 2007 (Jan-Mar)	
1. Support Council priorities in the NMFS Regional Forum teams and processes	Complete and ongoing effort; regularly attend and participate actively in IT (as co-chair) and SCT meetings, as well as COE's FFDRWGs
2. Monitor and review development and ISAB review of new fish passage model (COMPASS) and latent mortality	In progress; obtained a beta version of COMPASS fish passage model for spring migrants and awaiting ISAB reviews
3. Provide analytical support and review of both 2007 and longer term system operation alternative(s)	In progress--monitoring BiOp remand injunctive relief hearings re: 2007 spill levels, as well as hydro-regulation and forecasting work group efforts; also awaiting Action Agencies' proposed action
4. Support development and review of long-term SR fall Chinook in-river and transport evaluation	In progress--2007 SR fall Chinook survival study is pending availability of adequate numbers of fish for study
5. Support SCT's FY07 CRFM project selection process and Corps' FY07 implementation efforts consistent with the mainstem amendments and Congressional funding	In progress--awaiting Congressional approval of final FY07 CRFM budget; once budget is passed, will work in SCT to prioritize projects consistent with mainstem amendments
6. Develop and initiate a process for a programmatic review of fish tagging technologies	In progress--actively participating on interagency Tagging Technologies Work Group and have developed a draft work plan for a fish tagging programmatic review process
7. Develop background materials for evaluations of various mainstem fish passage and operational issues related to Council Program amendment process	In progress
2Q 2007 (Apr-Jun)	
1. Support Council priorities in the NMFS Regional Forum teams and processes	
2. Monitor and review development and ISAB review of new fish passage model	

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(COMPASS) and latent mortality	
3. Provide analytical support and review of both 2007 and longer term system operation alternative(s)	
4. Support development and review of long-term SR fall Chinook in-river and transport evaluation	
5. Support SCT's FY07 CRFM project selection process and Corps' FY07 implementation efforts consistent with the mainstem amendments and Congressional funding	
6. Implement a process for a programmatic review of fish tagging technologies	
7. Develop background materials for evaluations of various mainstem fish passage and operational issues related to Council Program amendment process	
8. Support Libby/Hungry Horse operations consistent with Mainstem Amendments	
3Q 2007 (Jul-Sep)	
1. Support Council priorities in the NMFS Regional Forum teams and processes	
2. Provide analytical support and review of both 2007 and longer term system operation alternative(s)	
3. Support implementation of a 2007 SR fall Chinook in-river and transport evaluation	
4. Support SCT's FY08 CRFM project selection process and Corps' FY07 implementation efforts consistent with the mainstem amendments and Congressional funding	
5. Implement a process for a programmatic review of fish tagging technologies	
6. Develop background materials for evaluations of various mainstem fish passage and operational issues related to Council Program amendment process	
7. Support Libby/Hungry Horse operations consistent with Mainstem Amendments	
8. Participate in Corps' SRWG efforts to prioritize FY08 research projects to ensure consistency with mainstem amendments	
4Q 2007 (Oct-Dec)	
1. Support Council priorities in the NMFS Regional Forum teams and processes	

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1. Provide analytical support and review of both 2007 and longer term system operation alternative(s)	
2. Support development and review of long-term SR fall Chinook in-river and transport evaluation	
3. Support SCT's FY08 CRFM project selection process and Corps' FY08 implementation efforts consistent with the mainstem amendments and Congressional funding	
4. Participate in Corps' annual AFEP research review meeting and SRWG efforts to prioritize FY08 Corps-funded research consistent with mainstem amendments	
5. Complete the programmatic review of fish tagging technologies	
6. Participate in the initiation of the Program amendment process, specifically in areas of mainstem passage and operations	
7. Support Council priorities in the NMFS Regional Forum teams and processes	
End-of-year status:	

Objective: Manage Fish and Wildlife Program Implementation - 2007

Description: The staff has continuing responsibility to monitor implementation of the Council's project funding recommendations by the Bonneville Power Administration. Monitoring includes tracking the consistency of contracting with the Council's project recommendations and tracking overall Program capital and expense budgets.

Council staff: Patty O'Toole, Mark Fritsch

Others:

Milestone	Status
1Q 2007 (Jan-Mar)	
1. Track accomplishments achieved by projects through improved contracting and reporting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Bonneville to establish regular Pisces reporting of accomplishments (metrics). • Analyze reports on a regular basis, report to F&W committee as needed 	To begin 1Q
2. Track contracting process at Bonneville to determine consistency of contracting with Council recommendations	To begin 1Q
3. Track program spending	Ongoing
4. Develop method to track Program cost sharing	To begin 1Q
5. Manage within year modification process	Ongoing
6. Manage capital budget	Ongoing
7. Manage three-step review process	Ongoing
8. Develop FY 2008 start-of-year budget process.	To begin 1Q
9. Develop and initiate Innovative project selection process	Ongoing
10. Review project (and program) operation and maintenance requirements	Ongoing
2Q 2007 (Apr-Jun)	
1. Track accomplishments achieved by projects through improved contracting and reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Bonneville to establish regular Pisces reporting of accomplishments (metrics). 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze reports on a regular basis, report to F&W committee as needed 	
2. Track contracting process at Bonneville to determine consistency of contracting with Council recommendations.	
3. Track program spending	
4. Track Program cost sharing	
5. Manage within year modification process	
6. Manage capital budget	
7. Manage three-step review process	
8. Implement FY 2008 start-of-year budget process.	
9. Implement Innovative project selection process	
10. Review project (and program) operation and maintenance requirements.	
3Q 2007 (Jul-Sep)	
1. Track accomplishments achieved by projects through improved contracting and reporting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Bonneville to receive regular Pisces reporting of accomplishments Analyze reports on a regular basis, report to F&W committee as needed 	
2. Track contracting process at Bonneville to determine consistency of contracting with Council recommendations.	
3. Track program spending	
4. Track Program cost sharing	
5. Manage within year modification process	
6. Manage capital budget	
7. Manage three-step review process	
8. Finalize FY 2008 start-of-year budget.	
9. Implement Project Review and Selection Process for FY 2010 and beyond.	
10. Finalize Innovative project recommendations for Bonneville	
11. Review project (and program) operation and maintenance requirements.	
4Q 2007 (Oct-Dec)	
1. Track accomplishments achieved by projects through improved contracting and	

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reporting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Bonneville to establish regular Pisces reporting of accomplishments (metrics). • Analyze reports on a regular basis, report to F&W committee as needed 	
2. Track contracting process at Bonneville to determine consistency of contracting with Council recommendations.	
3. Track program spending	
4. Track Program cost sharing	
5. Manage within year modification process	
6. Manage capital budget	
7. Manage three-step review process	
8. Develop FY 2009 start-of-year budget process.	
9. Implement Project Review and Selection Process for FY 2010 and beyond.	
10. Begin Work on next rate case?	
End-of-year status:	

Objective: Partnership Activities

Description: Continue to work with regional partners on supporting programs and sharing investments in fish and wildlife work within the basin. Foster exiting relationships and take advantage of new ones and opportunities to strengthen our program work and funding.

Council staff: Lynn Palensky, Peter Paquet

Others:

Milestone	Status
1Q 2007 (Jan-Mar)	
1. Water Transaction Program evaluation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track 3rd party evaluator evaluation • Submission of 1st draft of evaluation final report March 	
2. Report on the Federal Habitat Action Plan	
3. Work with regional partners on streamlining and supporting project review and funding processes	
2Q 2007 (Apr-Jun)	
1. Scoping of a potential Columbia River Funders Forum	
2. Water Transaction Review: Meeting with advisory committee to review and comment on first draft of final report	
3Q 2007 (Jul-Sep)	
Water Transaction Review: Final Report Due	
4Q 2007 (Oct-Dec)	
Water Transaction Review: Potential Media Event - outreach	
End-of-year status:	

Objective: Support independent science review

Description: Staff continues to support the ISAB and ISRP. The ISAB provides independent scientific advice and recommendations on issues related to regional fish and wildlife recovery programs under the Northwest Power Act, the Endangered Species Act, and tribal treaties with the goals of fostering a scientific approach to fish and wildlife recovery as well as ensuring the use of sound scientific methods in the planning and implementation of research related to these programs. The ISRP reviews individual fish and wildlife projects funded by the Bonneville Power Administration and makes recommendations on scientific matters related to those projects.

Council staff: Erik Merrill

Others: ISAB/ISRP

Milestone	Status
1Q 2007 (Jan-Mar)	
1. ISAB review of COMPASS model and latent mortality	
2. ISAB review of Potential Impact of Human Population and Economic Development on Fish and Wildlife Restoration	
3. ISAB Climate Change Report	
4. ISRP Retrospective Report	
5. ISRP/IEAB Review of SAFE Report	
6. ISAB and ISRP Pisces Quarterly Status Reports	
7. ISRP Workshop on Lake Roosevelt Kokanee Management (2Q?)	
2Q 2007 (Apr-Jun)	
1. Potential ISRP Review of COE's AFEP	
2. ISAB Review of NOAA Recovery Documents (TRTs)	
3. Potential ISAB Review of Non-native Resident Fish Substitution Practices	
4. ISRP Step Reviews of Chief Joseph, Klickitat, and Sekokini Springs Submittals	
5. ISRP Review of Innovative Proposals	
6. Potential ISRP project reviews to follow-up FY 2007-09 conditional recommendations	
7. ISAB and ISRP Pisces Quarterly Status Reports	
3Q 2007 (Jul-Sep)	
1. ISRP Step Review of Kootenai sturgeon submittal	

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2. Potential ISRP project reviews to follow-up FY2007-09 conditional recommendations	
3. ISAB and ISRP Pisces Quarterly Status Reports	
4Q 2007 (Oct-Dec)	
1. Potential ISRP project reviews to follow-up FY 2007-09 conditional recommendations	
2. ISAB and ISRP annual reports	
3. ISAB and ISRP statements of work and member contracts for FY 2008	
End-of-year status:	

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