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March 1, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members
FROM: Lynn Palensky
SUBJECT: Discussion of Science Policy Conference

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to present to Council an update on the progress of the proposed science-policy conference planning. This memo will also be attached to Council memo on the Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Process. We would like the Council to confirm the direction staff is taking in planning this conference.

BACKGROUND

At the February meeting staff described the recommended scope and schedule for a science-policy conference. Below are the highlights from that memo. The conference would:

- sharpen issues of a limited number of topic areas to help inform program amendments
- foster discussions among scientists, Council members and fish and wildlife managers about new science and how that science might affect management actions
- help frame issues for targeted comments during the Request for Recommendations for Amendments to the Program
- occur in September 2007, ahead of releasing the call for Program amendments

The proposed topics for the conference include: estuary, habitat strategies, ocean conditions, mainstem survival of adults and juveniles, and Snake River Fall Chinook overwintering.

Audience:

Council Members, fish and wildlife managers, and experts in the particular fields.

Where:

Portland State University in downtown Portland.

When:

September 12-13, 2007 following the September Council meeting

Format: Facilitated science presentations and management (panel) discussions. We envision that the key players include the Council members, scientists, fish and wildlife managers, and members from the ISAB/RP.

ISAB involvement: Staff believes that the process of developing the conference, the issues, and summary reports can benefit greatly from the Independent Scientific Advisory Board's involvement. We met with them on February 28th to discuss their potential involvement. Rick Williams, former ISAB/RP chair, is amenable to assisting as a science advisor as we plan the sessions and to facilitate the sessions.