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April 5, 2007

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Kerry Berg

**SUBJECT:** Presentation on Libby Dam Operations

Brian Marotz from Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (MFWP) will give a presentation on managing the multiple priorities for Libby Dam operations. Brian has worked extensively on Libby Dam operations, including the development of Variable Flood Control (VARQ) and tiered flow operations for the endangered white sturgeon below Libby Dam.

Brian will update the Council on operations at Libby Dam, including white sturgeon flow augmentation, methods to avoid uncontrolled spills, and strategies to smooth the transition from the spring peak toward stable summer flows. Brian proposes that summer reservoir drafts for anadromous fish flow augmentation be translated into an adjustable release volume based on water availability. This would allow error in water supply forecasting to be absorbed by a few feet of variation in reservoir elevation, while the river is operated to benefit fish downstream. Ultimately, the operation would mainly be described by these "sliding-scale" operations. The State of Montana continues to work extensively with the pertinent federal agencies on what the proper operations are for white sturgeon as well as what the appropriate summer operation should be.

Brian Marotz is the Fisheries Mitigation Manager for MFWP in Kalispell, MT, in charge of the fisheries mitigation programs for Hungry Horse and Libby Dams. He is a Certified Fisheries Scientist with MS in Fisheries Management from Louisiana State University and a BS in Biology from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. He has worked in marine, estuarine and freshwater science since graduating in 1984.