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May 3, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Peter Paquet, Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Division

SUBJECT: Briefing on Ad Hoc Biological Objectives Workgroup

PROPOSED ACTION: No action is required.

PURPOSE:

Staff and others will provide the Council with an update on the activities of the Ad Hoc Biological Objectives Workgroup.

BACKGROUND

For the past several months Fish and Wildlife Division Staff has been meeting on an ad hoc basis with representatives from the utility community, fish and wildlife managers and Bonneville to discuss possible alternatives for the expression, scope, scale and benefits of biological objectives in relationship to the upcoming Fish and Wildlife Program amendment proceedings. The group has tentatively approved the following as a statement of its goals:

In light of the upcoming process to amend the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, an ad-hoc group has been established to examine how clarifying and creating additional biological objectives might add value to the Program. This group currently is made up of representatives of customer groups, Bonneville Power Administration, NPCC Staff, and Fish and Wildlife Managers. The intent of this effort is to inform those who recommend amendments to the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program

Initially the focus of this effort will be on the scope of biological objectives for the Council's Fish & Wildlife Program: not the funding level of the Council's program. The group will reach a consensus view on aspects of biological objectives when possible, and will articulate different points-of-view when they cannot reach consensus. Initially, the group will:

1. *Identify shortfalls and opportunities to improve the current format and articulation of biological objectives within the Council's program;*
2. *Identify the benefits and risks of including new biological objectives in the Council's program*
3. *Examine how biological objectives for the Council's Program could incorporate biological objectives identified in other realms of Columbia Basin fish and wildlife protection efforts.*
4. *Discuss the pros and cons of different scales and types of biological objectives*
5. *Identify the role biological objectives will play in implementation of the Program*
6. *Discuss the relationship of the biological objectives to BPA's mitigation responsibility.*

. The timeline for the group's work will coincide with the Program amendment schedule and will conclude with the end of public involvement in the Program amendment process.

The group has established the following meeting schedule for future meetings:

May 4, Friday 1:30-4:00
May 18th Friday 9:00-noon
June-Sept 2nd and 4th Thursday each month 1:30-4:00
June 14th & 28 afternoons
July 12th & 26th
August 9th and 23rd
September –6th