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May 3, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Program Amendment Preparations

PURPOSE:

I will provide an update on staff preparations for the upcoming program amendment process in the area of staff-led summaries. Brian Lipscomb will then give a brief update on the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority's work to prepare for program amendments.

BACKGROUND:

At the March meeting, staff provided Council members with list of topics considered for additional summary analysis to help sharpen and inform issues for program amendments. This list was paired down from a larger list through several staff meetings by lumping, splitting and adding topics to the science-policy exchange. Our original thought was to prepare individual topic area summaries to include ISAB reports and recommendations, program language and policies. After further sorting and confirming status of many ongoing reviews and work groups, we now have a sense of what additional work is needed to provide the issue summaries. Another alternative to producing individual summaries would be to produce white papers or a larger briefing book to highlight the key issues for each topic.

The table on the following page lists 13 topic areas with a status comment for each. The status describes ongoing reviews and work groups, or, what work would be necessary to complete a review. The ISAB has agreed to assist and even take the lead on some of the issues, particularly those topics with reports due in the next few months. CBFWA and its various committees and upcoming workshops can also assist with sharpening issues. Staff will continue to work with Council members to refine this list as it could represent a significant workload.

Table 1. Program Amendment -- possible topic area summaries

	Amendment Topics	Status of issue(s) development
1	Climate change	ISAB Report will be complete in May and presented to the Council in Walla Walla
2	Human population	ISAB Report will be complete in June and presented to the Council in Bonner's Ferry
3	Resident fish substitution and use of non-native species	The ISAB/ISRP is conducting a review in the summer of 2007, pending NOAA and NW Tribes' concurrence, ahead of program amendments. Specific objectives and questions for this review have already been drafted. There have been several recommendations for the Council to address the invasive and introduced species issues and examples include: 1. ISRP Retrospective Report 1997-2005 (ISRP 2005-14) 2. Stanford et al. 2006, Return to the River, Status of Freshwater Habitats Chapter 3. Council's Research Plan (2006-3), in the Research Needs
4	Invasive species	Additional invasive species not covered in the above report may be covered in a subsequent review. Other species include invertebrates (including mussels), plants and fish. This would be logical work for the ISAB to complete following the Resident Fish Substitution Report.
5	Water quality and toxics	The EPA will be at the July Council meeting on behalf of the Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Work Group to present the proposal to evaluate contaminants elsewhere in the Columbia River Basin. The Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership is holding a conference on water quality and toxics relative to the lower river in May. Staff will be attending that conference and will summarize information that relates to our program.
6	Artificial production (includes performance, O&M, purpose, captive brood)	This is a complicated and comprehensive topic including: various reviews, current and future programs, and monitoring and evaluation, multiple species issues, etc. Staff work would involve pulling together and summarizing the many pieces. This work would represent a significant workload for staff, but we could seek assistance from the ISAB.
7	Monitoring and evaluation	Staff work would involve updating the monitoring plan to broaden and include components from BiOp if available. This would include additional information on Intensively Monitored Watersheds, tagging and high level indicators.
8	Operation and Maintenance (O&M) for land and habitat	Work is underway by the IEAB and wildlife managers on the topic of wildlife land o&m. There is a need to define program operation and maintenance activities,

	<i>(hatcheries would be covered primarily in the artificial production piece)</i>	determine what activities are appropriate for program funding and also looking at alternative ways to fund long-term commitments.
9	Lamprey and sturgeon	There is a lamprey technical work group addressing lamprey issues and research needs. The Council should look to this group to summarize issues and look at creative funding sources. Sturgeon: The Council should also look to the managers to assist with identifying issues related to the very different sturgeon populations.
10	Tagging	A draft staff review of tagging technologies will be complete in May and will provide the basis for the comprehensive ISAB review on tagging due in September.
11	Mid-level biological objectives	An Ad hoc group is working to describe the potential use and benefit of developing biological objectives at a province or ESU scale, and how those objectives might be expressed. The group has meetings scheduled through September.
12	Subbasin planning	Subbasin planning issues include updating, inclusion into amended program, action plan development and a lead-in to implementation. The 2000 program created the framework for development of subbasin plans; the new program should address current and future use. This is a good subject for a larger group discussion; maybe a subset of the old Regional Coordination Group (RCG) or the Level II groups.
13	Implementation provisions	Issues include: 1) report deadlines, 2) project selection 3)provincial review, 4) funding priorities, 5) coordination with other regional programs, 6) project management, 7) governors report, 8) land and water, 9) ISRP, 10) ISAB, ISRP and ISAB admin and membership, and 10) reporting accomplishments.