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May 31, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Jim Ruff — Manager, Mainstem Passage and River Operations

SUBJECT: Update on Lake Pend Oreille Kokanee Spawning Bed Damage

At the June 12 Council meeting in Bonners Ferry, the Council will get an update on the damage caused by a marina developer to a key kokanee spawning area in Lake Pend Oreille in mid-April. Presenters will include Chip Corsi, who is Idaho Department of Fish and Game's (IDFG) Regional Supervisor in the Coeur d'Alene field office, and Beth Reinhart, who is a project manager in the Regulatory Division of the Corps of Engineers' Coeur d'Alene field office.

Mr. Corsi will outline the extent of the damage that occurred to some kokanee spawning beds in Lake Pend Oreille and provide an initial biological assessment of that damage. Ms. Reinhart will explain the Corps' permit process, what type of in-water work triggers a Corps permit, and the terms and conditions of the recent Lake Pend Oreille work permit.

Background

As you may recall, the Lake Pend Oreille fishery recovery project has been funded by Bonneville under the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program for many years. The project's primary focus is to complete studies and work to restore kokanee spawning habitat in Lake Pend Oreille and reverse the decline of kokanee to support a sport fishery. IDFG is also working on fishery restoration as part of the mitigation for the impacts created by Avista Utilities' Clark Fork hydroelectric projects under the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement. Between Bonneville, Avista, and IDFG-funded programs, over \$2 million per year is being expended to recover the kokanee fishery in the lake, which has an estimated economic value of \$17 million annually (IDFG Economic study, 2003). Areas of emphasis are lake level management to ensure high survival of shoreline spawning kokanee, restoration of tributary habitat for kokanee and native bull and cutthroat trout, the Cabinet Gorge kokanee hatchery, and predator reduction.

Also for background purposes, attached is a copy of several local Bayview newspaper articles covering this issue in Lake Pend Oreille that was forwarded to us from the Idaho Council office.