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May 31, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

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

SUBJECT: Overview of Kootenai River Ecosystem Management Program and 2007 Libby Dam Sturgeon Operations

At the Council meeting in Bonners Ferry, the Council will get an overview presentation from Sue Ireland of the Kootenai Tribe of the Kootenai River Ecosystem Management Program funded under the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. In addition, there will be a brief update from Greg Hoffman, who is a fishery biologist with the Corps of Engineers at Libby Dam, of the recent Libby Dam operations in May and June to provide spawning flows for sturgeon.

The Kootenai River Ecosystem Management Program is group of interrelated projects that are addressing the goals and objectives identified in the Kootenai Sub-basin Plan by the fish and wildlife agencies, the Kootenai Tribe, and other co-managers involved in the restoration of native fish and wildlife and their habitat in the Kootenai Basin. Because there are many interrelated environmental factors that may be contributing to native fish and wildlife population declines in the Kootenai Basin and because of the urgent need for action due to the endangered status of some of the species, the Tribe in coordination with multiple agency and community stakeholders, has embraced an adaptive management approach to restoration actions in the Kootenai River ecosystem. Sue Ireland will explain their approach to these restoration projects.

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