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May 31, 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 areas of the Science-Policy Exchange and staff-led summaries. Brian Lipscomb will then give a brief update on the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority's work in preparation for program amendments.

### BACKGROUND:

#### Staff-led summaries

At the May meeting, staff provided Council members with a list of 13 topics considered for summary analysis to help sharpen and inform issues for program amendments. We continue to gather information to assess the status of work related to each topic and what is needed to complete summary analysis. Table One, beginning on page, three lists 13 topic areas with a status and update comment for each that describes ongoing reviews and work groups, or what work is necessary to complete a review. The ISAB is taking the lead on lead on some of the issues, and CBFWA, through its various committees and workshops, will also help sharpen issues. Staff will continue to work with Council members to refine this list to ensure that we are covering the appropriate issues.

#### Science-Policy Exchange

We continue to make good progress on planning the science-policy exchange through the steering committees for each session. The following page shows the draft schedule.



**Table 1. Program Amendment -- topic area summary status**

	<b>Amendment Topics</b>	<b>Status of issue(s) development (as of May meeting)</b>	<b>June Update</b>
1	Climate change	ISAB Report will be complete in May and presented to the Council in Walla Walla	Climate change report complete.
2	Human population	ISAB Report will be complete in June and presented to the Council in Bonner's Ferry	Report due out in June.
3	Resident fish substitution, use of non-native species and invasives	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	Letter released to Admin oversight group requesting this work be completed by ISAB. Council business item at the June meeting. Invasive invertebrates (including mussels) will be covered at a general level in this report. At the July Council meeting, Stephen Phillips (PSMFC), Paul Heimowitz (USFWS) and possibly Scott Smith (USGS) will brief the Council on aquatic invasive species, with an emphasis on zebra and quagga mussel efforts on prevention, early detection and rapid response plan.
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.	Combine with Topic #3
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.	At the August or September Council meeting, the new EPA RA Elin Miller will brief the Council on EPA's current water quality strategy for the Columbia and Snake rivers with an emphasis on contaminant monitoring; also, Deb Marriott (LCREP) and her staff will brief the Council about their Lower Columbia River contaminant studies.
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.	The ISAB Supplementation Work Group will brief the Council on progress of their report that to describe the problem, definition and design for future research on supplementation to answer questions about fitness of hatchery fish.
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.	

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8	Operation and Maintenance (O&M) for land and habitat <i>(hatcheries would be covered primarily in the artificial production piece)</i>	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, 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.	Technical forum on Lamprey tentatively scheduled for late August.
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 in September.	Technical Report on Tagging Technologies is now complete. Staff will use this to prepare for the ISAB's review 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.	