

DRAFT BASINWIDE MONITORING, RESEARCH, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND DATA ACCESS FRAMEWORK (March 2012 version)

The latest version is entitled Draft Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Reporting and Data Access Framework ([draft Framework](#)) and differs in format by being a more succinct guidance document. The draft Framework represents a substantial step forward as the Council prepares to amend the Fish and Wildlife Program in 2013. This iteration provides draft policy level guidance to the region. Many of the placeholders from the November 2010 have been filled in, specifically the guidance related to prioritization and the reporting needs for Program implementation and evaluating progress. The remaining November 2010 placeholders, pertaining to biological objectives and the Council's research plan, will be addressed later in 2012.

Following the direction in the Program, the current draft Framework emphasizes the need to more strongly develop the evaluation and reporting components of the Program. The draft Framework also stresses the importance to have the appropriate data management and access as this information will inform on Program progress and facilitate its adaptive management. Assessing Program action effects and effectiveness is stressed.

Two parallel efforts described in the draft Framework concerning [high level indicators](#) (HLIs) and the research monitoring and evaluation (RME) [implementation strategies](#) (referred to under the *Monitoring and Research Strategies and Synthesis* section) are progressing. The HLIs have been in-development since 2008. Three HLIs were adopted by the Council in October 2009. A draft web-based HLI report has been developed and it will be presented at the March 2012 Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting. Furthermore, some of the fish and wildlife agencies and tribes have developed draft RME implementation strategies which aim to provide a clear description of ongoing RME, including its coordination, identification of gaps, and links to the Council's draft management questions and high level indicators. Two additional components of the draft Framework will be initiated during 2012: refinement of the Program's Basinwide Biological Objectives and updating the Council's Research Plan. All efforts and products linked to the draft Framework are, or once available will be, posted on the Council's website.

The draft Framework was presented during the March 2012 Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting. The Fish and Wildlife committee encourages review by the fish and wildlife agencies and tribes and other interested parties to assist in further improving this guidance prior to the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process. The intention is to consider these concepts and components for inclusion in the 2014 Program, as envisioned in the 2009 Program.

We would appreciate receiving comments on how to improve the content, clarity and effectiveness of the draft Framework by **September 17, 2012**.

Please send comments to Nancy Leonard (nleonard@nwcouncil.org, 503-222-5161).

Thank you for your interest in helping the Council improve this draft Framework.