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July 30, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky, Program Development Manager

SUBJECT: Update on Geographic Review

The Geographic Review includes all of the ongoing habitat type projects in the anadromous areas of the Columbia Basin under the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP) is just over two weeks away from completion of their final review. At the June meeting in Missoula, staff presented a summary of the ISRP's programmatic issues that we should expect to see as part of the ISRP's final review in August. Staff will present early thoughts on one or more programmatic issues, including principles and criteria for implementing umbrella projects.

Background: Beginning in 2009, the Council and Bonneville, with advice from the ISRP, decided to review projects funded under the Fish and Wildlife Program in functional categories (i.e., wildlife, monitoring, evaluation and research, artificial production, resident fish in the areas impassible for anadromous fish) to be completed with the Geographic Review. This Geographic Review includes the evaluation of the ongoing habitat projects in areas of the basin which are currently accessible to anadromous fish. Nine of those projects represent *umbrella projects* – larger habitat projects that identify, rank, select, and in some cases fund habitat projects and are considered “programmatic” in nature. Once this review is complete, the Council and ISRP will have completed reviews in this manner for all existing projects in the Program.

Next steps for this review

- Final ISRP Report complete by **August 15, 2013**
- ISRP presentation to Committee in **September 2013**
- Staff recommendation to Committee in **October 2013**
- Council Decision anticipated in **November 2013**

In their preliminary review of proposals, the ISRP recommends that

- 13 proposals met scientific review criteria (incl. 1 in Part),
- **33 proposals meet criteria with some qualifications,**
- 1 proposal did not meet criteria, and 3 were not amenable to scientific review,
- The ISRP requested responses on 33 proposals (were due July 9).

13 Programmatic Issues

1. Develop Strategic Framework for Restoration
2. Implement Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation at a Regional Scale
3. **Evaluate and Improve Umbrella Projects** (*for discussion in Bend*)
4. Learn from Productive Coordination/Partnerships
5. Improve Workforce Support and Development
6. Expand the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
7. Provide Long-term Maintenance of Fish Screens and Livestock Fences
8. Streamline NEPA Compliance
9. Consider Forest Health
10. Efficiently Use Large Wood
11. Evaluate and Control Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals
12. Improve Noxious Weed Management and Control
13. Evaluate and Improve Winter Habitat