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April 29, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Council staff

SUBJECT: Update on fish and wildlife program amendment process

At the May Council meeting, the staff will review with the Council: 1) the current amendment process schedule; 2) the Council website for public comment on the draft fish and wildlife program; and 3) a draft schedule for public hearings.

The Council is nearing the public comment period for the draft amended program. Once the Council makes the decision to release the draft program for public comment, it will be posted on the Council's website. Similar to processes used in the past, a form will be available on the website where the public may leave a short comment, or attach a longer comment. Staff anticipates the comment period will last about 60 days, after which the Council will consider the comments and begin preparation of a final fish and wildlife program. Staff anticipates a decision by the Council to adopt the amended program in September of this year (See the attached amendment schedule). During this time please continue to track any communication about the draft program (oral or email) and place it in the administrative record.

Central and state staff are working together to develop a public hearing schedule. The Council is required to hold public hearings in each of the four states according to the Northwest Power Act. In the past, the Council has held several hearings in each state. The current draft schedule and more information about the hearings will be presented at the Council meeting.

2014 Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Timeline

Revised April 28, 2014

