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July 1, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Council staff

SUBJECT: Update on fish and wildlife program amendment process

At the July Council meeting, staff will provide a brief update on the program amendment process. This will include a discussion of the schedule, the next steps in the process, and public comment, public hearings and consultations.

Extension of comment period to July 25: On June 23, the Council received a request from the Nez Perce Tribe to extend the written comment period from July 9 to July 25. After consulting with Council members, the Council chair agreed to the request, a change was posted on the Council's website and sent to interested parties by email. We will begin this agenda item with a public statement about the request and the extension and by confirming the extension to July 25th.

Possible schedule and next steps, given comment period extension: Attached, for discussion purposes is a possible schedule and description of next steps, given the extension of the comment period. This schedule assumes the Council is still trying to adopt a final program by September 17.

Final public hearing/continuing consultations: On Tuesday, July 8th the Council will hold its tenth and final public hearing upon the conclusion of the Council agenda. The hearing is scheduled from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Consultations with specific entities are still being scheduled and may continue through the remainder of the written comment period, and longer if necessary.

Possible schedule/Next steps (draft for discussion purposes):

July 28-August 5:

Staff work: Staff begins to summarize comments

August 5/6:

Council meeting: Review comments summarized to-date and discuss issues and possible revisions

August 7–21:

Staff work: Draft revisions

August 25-29th:

Special Council meeting (possible): Discuss revisions

September 1-5th:

Staff work: Draft revisions

Enter ex-parte* period September 1 through the adoption of the final program

(* *Council and staff will rely on information in the record, no additional input from outside the Council*)

September 9/10:

Council meeting: Review and discuss revisions, potentially adopt?

September 15-19:

Special Council meeting (if needed): Discuss, finalize revisions

Adopt final program