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December 2, 2014

### MEMORANDUM

**TO: Council members**

**FROM: Lynn Palensky**

**SUBJECT: Proposed plan for convening a regional coordination forum involving agencies, tribes and others**

### **BACKGROUND:**

**Presenter:** Lynn Palensky

**Summary:** Staff will begin to outline a schedule and process for moving forward to convene a forum of regional coordination representatives and other interested parties to discuss the upcoming years' issues of regional significance. A potential timeframe for this initial forum might be in February, in conjunction with the Council meeting.

**Relevance:** Planning this forum will meet our program obligation to discuss with the region an effort to phase and prioritize work. It will also inform the regional coordinators (and work plans under those contracts) on prioritizing regional coordination work, participation and travel.

**Work plan:** This effort is being tracked in the annual Fish and Wildlife Division Work Plan. The regional coordination forum's discussion of work priorities will also help inform the Division's annual work plan.

**Background:** For years, the previous members of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) jointly developed an annual work plan for implementation. While CBFWA no longer exists, the members are still interested in assisting the Council in developing annual priorities of regional significance. The format will be different in that it will focus on larger, programmatic issues vs. implementation at a project level.

However, it will help both regional coordinators and the Council to plan anticipated work load for staff each year.

More Info: The 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program, page 121:

*Annually, the Council will convene a forum of regional coordination representatives and other interested parties to discuss the upcoming years' issues of regional significance that may include:*

- *Council-sponsored/requested topical science and policy forums, workgroups, and special panels to aid in program development and implementation*
  - *Ongoing work to improve program reporting, evaluation, and assessment*
  - *Key program-related regional forums where policies, programs, and actions affecting fish and wildlife are planned and implemented*
  - *Coordination of subbasin or other level program activities*
- The Council will factor in the implementation priorities and its fish and wildlife program work plan into this annual discussion forum.*

***Program coordination funding***

*Entities receiving program coordination funding must participate in the annual forum and a subset of the resulting priority activities identified by the group, as appropriate for the particular entity. All related work should focus on activities that inform the Council on policy, program performance evaluation, and implementation decisions and are beneficial at a basinwide or regional scale.*

*All entities receiving funding for coordination of program activities must develop a work plan detailing the coordination elements, objectives, deliverables, and budget, as well as submit annual reports on this work, based on the upcoming year's priorities as outlined in the annual forum.*