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February 3, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee

FROM: Nancy Leonard, Fish, Wildlife and Ecosystem Monitoring and
Evaluation Manager

Laura Robinson, Program Implementation and Liaison Specialist

Tony Grover, Fish and Wildlife Division Director

SUBJECT: Proposed work plan and schedule for adult salmon and steelhead
objectives Objective Process

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Nancy Leonard, Laura Robinson, and Tony Grover

Summary:

Staff propose collaborating to the extent possible with NOAA staff in the salmon and Steelhead Objective Process. This includes working with NOAA staff so that the compilation of existing objectives is informative for NOAA's regional assessment process and in the objective process regional meetings. To complete the time-sensitive salmon and steelhead objective task by the end of 2015, staff propose engaging external consultants to assist with the compilation of existing objectives and to facilitate the regional meetings.

Relevance:

2014 Program priority: Implement adaptive management (including prioritized research and critical uncertainties_ throughout the program by assessing the effectiveness of ongoing projects, developing program objectives when appropriate and taking into account the effects of climate change

Work plan:

2015 Fish and Wildlife Annual Work plan item 2b: Identify and organize objectives

Background:

During the 2014 amendment process for the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, following entities recommended amending the Program to include objectives at the program/basinwide scale:

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| •WDFW | •ODFW | •CRITFC |
| •WA Governor's Salmon recovery Office | •Colville Confederated Tribes | •USRT (Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation) |
| •USFWS | •Nez Perce Tribe | •Yakama Nation |
| •Pacific States Marine Fishery Council | •Burns Paiute Tribe | •Consolidated Tribes of the Grand Ronde |
| •Cowlitz Tribe | •UCUT | |
| | •NOAA Fisheries | •Save Our Wild Salmon |
| •Trout Unlimited | •Native Fish Society | •And others (NSIA and ANWS) |

In response to the recommendations received, the 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program includes guidance for [refining program goals and quantitative objectives](#). This guidance states that the Council will oversee a regional process to survey, working with others in the region, including the state and federal fish and wildlife agencies and tribes, other federal agencies and the independent science panels, to collect, identify, and refine a realistic set of quantitative objectives for program focal species and their habitat related to the four broad themes and program goal statements. Evaluating progress toward program goals and objectives will occur through the adaptive management strategy and will be reported using program indicators. The process to identify potential quantitative objectives (and program goals) should consider existing relevant Columbia River Basin documents as they may serve to inform quantitative objectives relevant for tracking program progress. This process will also consider the quantitative objectives recommended through the 2014 Program amendment process.

This process is divided into four steps, the first of which focuses on objectives for adult salmon and steelhead. The Council will work with state and federal agencies and tribes in the region to collect, organize, review, and report on these quantitative objectives by the end of 2015. This effort should include a review of agency and tribal management plans, draft and final federal recovery plans, subbasin plans and

other relevant documents and reports. The final report will include, but not be limited to, an inventory of non-ESA listed populations of salmon and steelhead that lack federal recovery objectives. The Council (working cooperatively with the agencies and tribes) will define a process for tracking the region's progress on enhancing salmon and steelhead population status in the context of the quantitative objectives defined in the final report. The Council will rely on the agencies and tribes to identify "best source" locations of population status information to inform this process (including but not limited to the Coordinated Assessment program and NOAA's Salmon Population Summary data base).

The Council will work with the states, federal agencies, and tribes to identify specific indicators for Bonneville-funded hatchery programs that could be tracked and reported to inform progress on meeting mitigation objectives (i.e., harvest, supplementation, reintroduction, and conservation). The Council, agencies, and tribes will work with the Coordinated Assessment (CA) partners, the Fish Passage Center and others as appropriate, to collect existing indicator information.

More info:

Staff proposed Objectives process timeline:

- Conduct work related to compiling existing objectives for salmon and steelhead; meet with external facilitator; and coordinate with NOAA on pre-meeting tasks between March 2015 and June 2015.
- 1st all day meeting with the biological objective workgroup on June 11th
- Meeting to check in with FW committee/Council on July 14-15
- 2nd all day meeting with the biological objective workgroup on July 16th
- 3rd all day meeting with the biological objective workgroup on August 13
- 4th all day meeting with the biological objective workgroup on September 17
- Meeting to check in with FW committee/Council on Oct 13/14
- 5th all day meeting with the biological objective workgroup on October 15th
- 6th all day meeting with the biological objective workgroup on November 19th
- Present final report and findings of the Objective Process workgroup to FW committee/Council on Dec 15-16

<http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/2014-12/program/>

[http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/2014-](http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/2014-12/program/partthree)

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[s/a goals objectives/1 refining goals objectives/](http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/2014-12/program/partthree)