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February 3, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Update on Regional Coordination Forum

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Lynn Palensky

Summary: A date is scheduled for the first regional coordination forum (RCF) where the regional coordination representatives and other interested parties can to discuss the upcoming years' issues of regional significance. A save-the-date notice has been sent to regional coordinators for Thursday, March 19. Staff will develop the agenda over the next month for this day-long meeting. Part of this meeting will be dedicated to updating the list of "Council's current and anticipated priority coordination work for FY2013-2014" from the Council's July 10, 2012 decision on regional coordination work (Attachment 1).

Relevance: The March forum kicks off the first of many anticipated RCF meetings. While the initial meeting is scheduled for the end of the first quarter, subsequent meetings should be held earlier in the year to inform work priorities, sequencing, and Bonneville's contracting process. An earlier meeting will also help agencies and tribes to plan participation and travel for this and other program-related coordination work.

Work plan: This work is being tracked in the annual Fish and Wildlife Division work plan and the regional forum to discuss work priorities and will help inform the Division's annual work plan.

Background: The previous members of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) for years, together, 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.

**Excerpt from the Council's Recommendation for Regional Coordination Projects -
July 10, 2012 Decision:**

A. Council's current and anticipated priority coordination work for FY2013-2014

Table 1 lists what the Council believes are the priority needs for program coordination for the next two years, FY2013-2014. In other words, these activities are well-suited for program-level regional coordination funding since the Council will need the assistance from partners throughout the region. All of the work below is intended to be of benefit at a basinwide or regional scale and should inform the Council for policy, program performance evaluation, and implementation decisions. In contracts, coordination needs for individual projects should be funded from project budgets.

Table 1. Council Priority Work for FY2013-14 for Regional Participation/Coordination

| Function | Deliverables or Outcomes |
|---|--|
| Participate and contribute to Council-sponsored/requested topical forums, reports and workgroups to aid in program development and implementation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, preparation and logistics for geographic reviews (presentations and site visits) as requested by Council. • Predation workshops on invasive species, Non-Native species • Columbia Basin Sturgeon Workshops • Fish Tagging Forum • PERC to develop recommendations on program data needs, sharing and accessibility • Wildlife Crediting Forum • Council's Research Plan • Track Council's Fish and Wildlife Committee meetings and disseminate relevant information to members/stakeholder groups. • Regularly check on updates to the Council's website for relevant Council/ISRP/ISAB reports and disseminate relevant information to members/stakeholder groups. • Development of management plans, synthesis and retrospective reports that are responsive to the Council and ISRP |
| Participate and contribute to ongoing work to improve program reporting, evaluation and assessment including (PERC, coordinated assessment meetings, Committees to develop HLI's) | <p><i>Forums</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamprey workgroup meetings • Resident fish Committee • Anadromous Fish Committee • Wildlife Committee • Fish Screening Oversight Committee |
| | <p><i>Products</i></p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued development of MERR and related products (e.g., HLIs, Biological Objectives, Research Plan, effectiveness reporting, and monitoring design) Development, refining and updating of the fish and wildlife indicators reported in the Status of the Resource (SOTR) that serve to inform Council HLIs Monitoring Design or Protocol in development of approach(s) for regional habitat status and trend and effectiveness monitoring Protocol and Method Development Data Management Strategy and Data Steward Coordination |
| | <p><i>Policy Guidance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize data needs for the program Recommendations for data sharing and accessibility Provide technical and policy comments or recommendations to Council-related documents and/or processes |
| Attend and participate in key program-related regional forums where policies, programs, and actions affect fish and wildlife are planned and implemented | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and preparation to present and/or implement program-funded conferences, or program-funded programs such as AFEP, YKFP, CRITFC, CREC, Lake Roosevelt Forum, LSRCP, CHaMP, hatchery evaluation and effects team. |
| Participate and contribute to subbasin and/or provincial level coordination of Program activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate among entities within a subbasin and/or province, projects, programs, and funding sources, for the purpose to enhance collaboration among entities receiving Bonneville implementation funding (e.g. prioritization of work, efficient sharing of resources). |