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February 3, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Fish and Wildlife Staff

SUBJECT: Follow-up on programmatic issue for habitat “umbrella projects”
under the geographic category review

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Lynn Palensky and Mark Fritsch

Summary: This item is a follow-up to the Council’s November 5, 2013 geographic category project review recommendation to Bonneville for five umbrella projects being implemented under the Council’s fish and wildlife program. One of the two reporting requirements includes an annual summary of the expenditure for the calendar year. This allows Council members and staff to understand how much is being spent, where, by whom, and for what anticipated benefits (similar to the information shared in the Water Transaction Program). The first of these annual reports was due on January 15, 2015. Staff will provide a high-level summary of reports received from:

1. Project #1992-026-01: Grande Ronde Model Watershed
2. Project #2010-077-00: Tucannon River Programmatic Habitat
3. Project #2010-001-00: Upper Columbia Programmatic Habitat
4. Project #2003-011-00: Columbia River Estuary Habitat Restoration
5. Project #2009-012-00: Willamette Bi-Op Habitat Restoration

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Staff will send electronic copies of the reports to Council members upon request.

Relevance: This is a significant step in making the umbrella projects more transparent. The total annual program funding for these umbrella projects is about \$10 million for largely habitat work. For years, the Council members and staff have not seen dedicated annual reports on how the funding gets dispersed at the local level for habitat work. These annual reports will show recipients of funds, amounts, purpose, and benefits for fish and wildlife.

Workplan: This is part of ongoing work: project review follow-ups

Background: The October 2013 Council decision on umbrella projects called for such a report (below). A follow-up letter to project sponsors requested to have the reports by January 15th, 2015.

Council Decision (10/13): *On an informational basis, umbrella project sponsors will inform the Council at the end of each calendar year regarding umbrella sponsor's administrative costs and provide a summary of projects implemented under the umbrella solicitations.*

1. Funding recommendation beyond 2016 will be based on outcome of and participation in a Council-facilitated performance/effectiveness review every two-four years using the tailored questions from the proposal form for umbrella projects. The review also will likely include a workshop with presentations for sponsors and partners. The first review will take place early-to-mid 2016.

More Info: Full Council decision on geographic projects review:
<http://www.nwcouncil.org/media/6904100/110713GeographicProjectReviewDecltr.pdf>