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November 10, 2015

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish Committee Members

**FROM:** Stacy Horton, Policy Analyst/Biologist, Washington

**SUBJECT:** Update by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Spokane Tribe on Northern Pike Management in Lake Roosevelt

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenters:** Dr. Brent Nichols, Fisheries Manager, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Chris Donley, Eastern Region Fish Program Manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Dan Rawding, Fish Program Science Division for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, will provide the Council with an update on their pilot effort to remove pike from Lake Roosevelt in the summer of 2015.

**Summary:** The July 2015 Fish Committee meeting in Spokane concluded with the Council expressing serious concerns about the potential impact of northern pike as a predator in the Columbia River system, given that multiple age classes were detected in Lake Roosevelt. The Council expressed a commitment to continue to follow this issue. The co-managers will report on their pilot pike removal program, implemented in the summer of 2015. Staff proposes the Council consider a continuation of the Lake Roosevelt pilot pike removal program, and extending the scope of project 1990-077-00, *Development of Systemwide Predator Control* to include non-native species like northern pike, bass and walleye since the infrastructure and funding already exist for predator removal work. WDFW reports that a

northern pike was captured in the John Day pool recently, so action is needed.

**Relevance:** The northern pike is an introduced, non-native fish species which is known as a voracious fish predator. The co-managers of Lake Roosevelt are concerned about the continued expansion of pike in Lake Roosevelt, resulting in impacts to native fish populations. In addition, pike pose an enormous threat to salmon and steelhead recovery efforts below Chief Joseph Dam on the Columbia River. Actions to preserve Fish and Wildlife Program effectiveness by aggressively addressing non-native and invasive species is the Council's third highest emerging priority.

**Background:** See the northern pike [presentation](#) by the Kalispel Tribe, Spokane Tribe, Colville Tribe and WDFW from the June 9, 2015 Council Meeting in Coeur d' Alene, ID.