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November 10, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Mark Fritsch, Project Implementation Manager

SUBJECT: Update on Project #1994-043-00, *Lake Roosevelt Data Collection - FY2016 funds associated with urgent request from Spokane Tribe for removal of Northern Pike in Lake Roosevelt*

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Mark Fritsch, Project Implementation Manager
Brent Nichols, Fisheries Manager, Spokane Tribe of Indians

Summary: Brent Nichols will update the Committee on the multi-agency action to assist in the removal of Northern Pike from Lake Roosevelt. This action was supported by the Council earlier this year. In addition, as per the Council's earlier support recommendation, Brent and Council staff will outline the process associated with the proposed future suppression activities.

Relevance: This update is associated with the recommendation made by the Council in June 2015 regarding the urgent Budget Oversight Group (BOG) request to enable agencies and tribes adjacent to Lake Roosevelt to respond quickly with efforts to suppress invasive Northern Pike.

Workplan: Reviews associated with BOG requests are a sub element of project reviews in the section 2.B. of the workplan tasks.

Background: Northern Pike have been found with increasing frequency in Lake Roosevelt since 2009. They are a non-native predator known to be able to quickly establish and alter the native aquatic species assemblage. In early

2015 in association with Annual Fall Walleye Index Sampling (FWIN) and juvenile white sturgeon sampling an alarming increase in Pike abundance caused concern among co-managers (Spokane Tribe of Indians, Colville Confederated Tribes and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife). Concurrently, the 2015 spring angler catch rates increased significantly and anglers now routinely capture Pike in the shallow bays in the Columbia River near Kettle Falls and on the Kettle River. The co-managers are concerned about the continued expansion of Pike in Lake Roosevelt, especially to the Spokane and Sanpoil rivers where native Redband Trout populations are already hindered by non-native Walleye predation. In addition, Pike pose an enormous threat to salmon and steelhead recovery efforts below Chief Joseph Dam on the Columbia River.

At the June 3, 2015 BOG meeting, a request¹ from the Spokane Tribe of Indians to fund a multi-agency action to assist in the removal Northern Pike from Lake Roosevelt was reviewed. The request was for \$28,531 (Fiscal Year 2015) to begin work immediately². The request was deemed to be urgent and was elevated to the BOG Management Group. On June 6th confirmation was received from Council members supporting this request conditioned on further funding in FY2016 be contingent on favorable ISRP Review.

More Info: <https://www.cbfish.org/ChangeRequest.mvc/Display/533>

¹ Project #1994-043-00, *Lake Roosevelt Data Collection*

²Immediate purchase of equipment and associated increase in operational costs associated with a pilot Pike removal program that was implemented in the summer of 2015 by the three co-managers.