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## Northwest Power and Conservation Council

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March 1, 2016

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee members

**FROM:** Mark Fritsch, project implementation manager

**SUBJECT:** Bonneville Power Administration update on their approach to tributary habitat research, monitoring and evaluation (TRME) including the tributary action effectiveness monitoring (AEM) approach at the project/reach scale, ISEMP, and CHaMP.

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenters:** Ben Zelinsky, Katie McDonald, BPA, and Gary Johnson, Battelle

**Summary** Bonneville staff will brief the Committee on their progress in addressing the Council's 2011 RME&AP Project Category Review recommendation #2 on habitat effectiveness monitoring and evaluation. The Council's recommendation pertained specifically to BPA's programmatic approach to Tributary Habitat AEM, ISEMP, and CHaMP. This briefing will include a high level summary of the current status of tributary habitat RME, progress to date on addressing Council recommendations, and the anticipated schedule for deliverables that will support evaluating and managing the tributary habitat RME program through 2018.

**Relevance:** Ensuring the Council's [Programmatic Issue #2 recommendation](#) for habitat effectiveness monitoring and evaluation from the 2011 RME&AP Project Category Review is addressed. This update specifically addresses the condition added to this recommendation in the Council's [June 12, 2013](#) decision letter sent to Bonneville, see the background section for specific text.

Workplan: As described under the Council's Annual Workplan 2, B

Background: As part of the [June 12, 2013](#) Council's decision associated with the Council's [2010-11 review](#) of the *RME and AP Category* of projects, the Council requested an annual update from Bonneville. The specific language that conditioned the Council decision is in the below excerpt from the Council's [June 13, 2013 decision letter](#):

*Subsequent ISRP and Council review and recommendations for the two existing Program projects (ISEMP and CHaMP) should follow the timeline and transition as described in the [AEM Approach](#) documents<sup>1</sup>. That is, the submission and the review in 2015 should be used for a comprehensive consideration of whether and how to transition CHaMP out of the pilot phase; to confirm or alter the timeline for completion and end of the Program funded IMW studies and the evolution of the rest of the ISEMP project; to confirm and implement or alter the AEM Approach to project-level effectiveness; and to flesh out, explain and decide on the analytical framework for an overarching evaluation of the habitat monitoring and evaluation information. This submittal should be no later than March 2015.*

In response to this request, an update was provided by Jason Sweet (Supervisory Fishery Biologist at Bonneville) to the Committee in [May 2013](#) during which a tentative timeline was conveyed for submitting a comprehensive report addressing the Council's recommendation to the Council during the Spring of 2015 for ISRP review. Due to extenuating circumstances Bonneville was not able to meet the 2015 deliverable date and is now providing an update during the March 2016 Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting.

More Info:

- 2014 Program's [Adaptive Management](#) guidance
- [FY 2012 RM&E /Artificial Production Review documents](#) including Council recommendation, ISRP final review, committee meeting materials.
- Program Effectiveness – [existing and ongoing work](#)

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<sup>1</sup> [Columbia Basin Tributary Habitat Improvement: A Framework for Research, Monitoring and Evaluation, January 2013](#); and, [Action Effectiveness Monitoring of Tributary Habitat Improvement: a Programmatic Approach for the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, dated January 8, 2013](#)