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March 1, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Laura Robinson, Program Implementation and Liaison Specialist

SUBJECT: Evaluation of information from passage studies at high-head dams

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Laura Robinson

Summary: Council staff will present to the Fish and Wildlife Committee the options for how to proceed with the Program measure to: "Evaluate information from passage studies at other blockages and from previous assessments of passage at Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams." This measure is part of the Program's Phase I for *Reintroduction of anadromous fish above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams to mainstem reaches and tributaries in the United States*. After preliminary research, Council staff recommends taking a straightforward approach and concentrating on high-head dam passage given that the program measure is nested under passage feasibility above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. To do so, this review will focus on fish passage design options and uses, and will help to inform a future cost analysis on passage, which is another part of the Program's Phase I. Additional information could be captured relating to environmental, social, economic, and biological effects of fish passage but will be provided in appendices in order to focus the report specifically on passage.

Relevance: 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program priority measure: *Investigate blocked area mitigation*

Workplan: Council Workplan Objective 2.A *Assist Phase I feasibility study for reintroduction above CJ/GC*

Background: The Council's 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program established a strategy for Anadromous Fish Mitigation in Blocked Areas, part of which lays out a science-based phased approach to examine the feasibility of reintroduction of anadromous fish into the blocked US waters of the Upper Columbia. One portion of Phase I calls for the need to: "Evaluate information from passage studies at other blockages and from previous assessments of passage at Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams."