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June 7, 2016

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee members

**FROM:** Staff

**SUBJECT:** Update on Emerging Priorities Implementation

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenter(s):** Committee members and staff

**Summary:** Committee members and staff will share information concerning notable implementation developments regarding the emerging priorities of the 2014 Fish and Wildlife program.

Topics within the emerging priorities emphasized at this time are:

- Update on assessment of Bonneville funded hatcheries, which is part of the 1<sup>st</sup> priority regarding long term maintenance of program assets.
- Update on May 2016 technical work session on natural origin salmon and steelhead objectives and discuss next steps for refining objectives.
- Update on the mapping tool, the artificial production map is live and a new icon is now on our website for accessing the mapping tool.
- Status report on regional discussions to develop an Early Warning System for Columbia River high water temperatures and associated problems (see agenda item for this meeting)
- Update on staff white paper evaluating fish passage studies at high-head dams.
- Update on research plan revision (see agenda item for this meeting).

- Update on Cost Savings Workgroup (see agenda item for this meeting).

**Relevance:** Ensuring the Council's emerging priorities are implemented effectively is a core function of the Fish and Wildlife committee members and division staff.

**Background:** The Council received recommendations for many new measures for inclusion into the 2014 Program. All measures are subject to the same legal obligation on the part of the federal agencies with responsibilities toward the Council's program under the Northwest Power Act. Some of the new measures recommended for inclusion in the 2014 Program expand existing work in new or additional directions; others represent new directions for the program.

The Council is providing the following guidance to Bonneville, the other federal agencies, and the region in general as to which of these new measures are emerging priorities for implementation in the next five years. During the course of the next five years, the Council anticipates that Bonneville will take the necessary steps to integrate these priorities into the program and will report annually to the Council on its progress. The Council may adjust the following ordered program priorities:

1. Provide for funding **long-term maintenance** (Appendix P) of the assets that have been created by prior program investments
2. Implement **adaptive management** (including prioritized research on critical uncertainties) throughout the program by assessing the effectiveness of ongoing projects, developing program objectives when appropriate and taking into account the effects of **climate change**
3. Preserve program effectiveness by supporting: (1) expanded management of **predators**; (2) mapping and determining hotspots for **toxic contaminants**; and (3) aggressively addressing **non-native and invasive species**
4. Investigate **blocked area mitigation** options through reintroduction, passage and habitat improvement, and implement if warranted
5. Implement additional **sturgeon** and **lamprey** measures (passage and research)
6. Update the **subbasin plans** most in need of updates
7. Continue efforts to **improve floodplain habitats**

**More Info:** <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/2014-12/Program>