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June 7, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Update for the Cost Savings Workgroup

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Committee Chair Anders, Bryan Mercier, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Kerry Berg, Lynn Palensky, Laura Robinson and Tony Grover, all Council staff.

Summary: At the May meeting in Boise, the fish and wildlife committee gave the Cost Savings Workgroup the go-ahead to develop a process to explore additional cost savings within a small group of similar projects. The initial set of projects discussed are focused on relative reproductive success (RRS). The workgroup met once since the Boise meeting and will update the committee on a potential process and schedule for the RRS project assessment.

Relevance: The Cost Savings Workgroup implements the language on page 116 of the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program: *'Bonneville should fund any new fish and wildlife obligations from identifying savings within the current program...'*

Background: Council member Anders chairs the Cost Savings Workgroup (Workgroup), which is composed of Bryan Mercier and Peter Cogswell of BPA and Kerry Berg, Lynn Palensky, Laura Robinson and Tony Grover, all Council staff. The Workgroup initially developed a cost savings

methodology, which was approved by the Council at the regular July 2015 meeting in Spokane, (<http://www.nwcouncil.org/media/7149359/1.pdf>). Additional information about the Workgroup and the methodology can be found on the Council's website at <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/cost-savings-group/>, including a 'frequently asked questions' document that explains what the Workgroup does and how it goes about identifying and vetting potential cost savings.

Relative Reproductive Success project list:

The following are the projects identified as all or partially focused on relative reproductive success:

Proj Num	Title
199506325	Yakima River Monitoring and Evaluation-Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP)
199604300	Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement
200900900	Basinwide Supplementation Evaluation
200303900	Monitoring the reproductive success of naturally spawning hatchery and natural spring Chinook salmon in the Wenatchee River
200305000	Evaluate the Reproductive Success of Wild and Hatchery Steelhead in Natural and Hatchery Environments
200305400	Evaluate the Relative Reproductive Success of Hatchery-Origin and Wild-Origin Steelhead Spawning Naturally in the Hood River
200306300	Natural Reproductive Success and Demographic Effects of Hatchery-Origin Steelhead in Abernathy Creek, Washington
200729900	Investigation of Relative Reproductive Success of Stray Hatchery & Wild Steelhead & Influence of Hatchery Strays on Productivity in the Deschutes
201003300	Study Reproductive Success of Hatchery and Natural Origin Steelhead in the Methow
198909600	Genetic Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Program for Salmon and Steelhead

Considerations for this focused look at RRS projects:

- The project proposal, including the stated or logical end date
- The Council's most recent funding recommendation
- The most recent ISRP review
- The ISAB's report on Critical Uncertainties
- The project impetus (i.e., FCRPS Biological Opinion, Council Program, etc.)

Some of these projects may be nearing the end of the initially defined study period. The Workgroup proposes to gather and compile available information regarding scope, reporting, costs and results for this group of

projects. Some discussion with Council and Bonneville staff beyond the members of the Workgroup may be required during this initial phase. After the information is assembled, the Workgroup will make the information publically available sometime in the summer to begin working with the sponsors and other stakeholders to convene a one day workshop in October. The one day workshop will serve to update the Workgroup members on the latest information on each of the projects and will provide an opportunity for sponsors to interact with each other and regional experts on their similar projects.