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July 6, 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:

- *Long term maintenance:* Update on assessment of Bonneville funded hatcheries.
- *Adaptive management:*
 - Update on research plan revision.
 - *Objectives:* Council staff will hold a work session on Tuesday August 9th from 11:30 to 1:30pm in Polson, Montana to facilitate exchanges between Fish and Wildlife Managers' and the PNAMP regional habitat indicator workgroup effort.
- *Climate change:* 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)

- *Toxic contaminants*: Update on the toxics workgroup plans to use the Council's mapping tool to pilot the development of a basinwide map linked to support data for a single toxic substance.
- *Investigate blocked area mitigation*:
 - Update on staff white paper evaluating fish passage studies at high-head dams.
 - Update on the habitat assessment work for the area above Chief Joseph dam.

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>