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## Northwest Power and Conservation Council

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August 2, 2016

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee members

**FROM:** Staff

**SUBJECT:** Cost Savings Workgroup Update

### **BACKGROUND:**

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

**Summary:** The Cost Savings Workgroup (CSW) will provide to the committee: 1) a progress update of the review of relative reproductive success (RRS) projects; and 2) a recommendation to redirect a portion (\$40k) of cost savings toward additional work on an emerging priority project.

**RRS:** The CSW has worked with the sponsors of the RRS projects to schedule a one-day workshop for these projects on October 13, 2016 at the Council's Portland office. This workshop has two purposes:

- Knowledge sharing and retention
- Cost savings that can be identified and repurposed for other emerging priorities

The CSW is working to develop short summaries of each RRS project, along with a set of questions for project sponsors based on the summaries and associated documents. These questions are designed to better understand the project and its value to Fish and Wildlife Program. The

CSW will then submit to the Committee its findings and recommendations regarding the future policy direction of the RRS projects.

Recommendation to redirect funds: Consistent with the Fish and Wildlife Program, cost savings will be available for emerging priorities. The first approved expenditure from cost savings of \$100,000 has been committed to the habitat assessment study. The next recommendation to redirect cost savings is to continue the Northern Pike suppression work proposed by the Spokane Tribe in Lake Roosevelt (1994-043-00, *Lake Roosevelt Data Collection*). This work was approved at the [April Committee meeting](#). The funding required from cost savings to continue work in FY 2017 would be \$40,000. If approved, the remaining balance of cost savings would be approximately \$510,000.

The CSW is reviewing other topic areas that may be appropriate for use of cost savings, such as sturgeon, lamprey, long-term maintenance of past investments, and floodplain restoration. The CSW will continue to look for areas in which to redirect cost savings, for discussion with the committee.

The next meeting of the CSW will be at 9:00 am on August 26<sup>th</sup> in Portland.

**Relevance:** The CSW 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 CSW, 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 CSW initially developed a cost savings methodology, which was approved by the Council at the regular July 2015 meeting in Spokane. Additional information about the [CSW](#) and the [methodology](#) can be found on the Council's website including a 'frequently asked questions' document that explains what the CSW 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

### **Northern Pike suppression**

The Council's April 21, 2016 [decision letter](#) describes the conditions placed on the Spokane Tribe's northern pike suppression efforts in Lake Roosevelt funded through project 1994-043-00, *Lake Roosevelt Data Collection*.