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August 2, 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. The following topics will be discussed:

- Emerging priority 2, Program Objectives:
 - NOAA has posted in the federal register a notice announcing the nomination process for the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force. Nominations from sovereigns and stakeholders are due by September 6, 2016.
 - Council staff is holding a lunch work session to facilitate exchange between fish and wildlife managers and the regional habitat indicator project led by PNAMP.
- Emerging priority 3, ISAB's Predation Metric Report: One of the Council's emerging high priorities addresses "preserving program effectiveness by supporting expanded management of predators." This priority action was recommended by numerous state, tribal, and

regional entities during the 2013-14 program amendment process and subsequently adopted by the Council into the 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (the Program). The Council requested in March 2016 “that the ISAB recommend a common metric to measure the effects of predation on salmonids. Specifically, the Council encourages the ISAB to discuss alternative metrics and summarize the benefits and limitations of each as they relate to the goal of comparing different sources of predation across the salmon lifecycle.” The ISAB held meetings in April, May and July during which experts (NWFSC, CRITFC, WSFWS, ODFW, BPA, PSMFC) studying and managing predators in the Columbia River Basin provided information to the ISAB. The ISAB is on track to meet the Council's deadline for providing a final report by the end of September 2016. The report will provide information on predation metrics, discuss alternative metrics (including adult equivalents), and provide additional guidance to inform the future efforts of a regional technical work group on predator management.

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>