

Henry Lorenzen
Chair
Oregon

Bill Bradbury
Oregon

Phil Rockefeller
Washington

Tom Karier
Washington



Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

W. Bill Booth
Vice Chair
Idaho

James Yost
Idaho

Pat Smith
Montana

Jennifer Anders
Montana

September 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. The following topics will be discussed:

- Emerging priority 1, Long term Operation and Maintenance planning update
- Emerging priority 2, update on development of a Council fish and wildlife research plan
- Emerging priority 4, summary of comments received from collaborators on the staff white paper regarding experience with fish passage attempts at high head dams
- Emerging priority 5, upcoming 'North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society' meeting in Hood River (attachment)

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>

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Emerging priority # 5: sturgeon events

Sturgeon are included as one of the Council's seven emerging program priority areas in the [Investment Strategy](#) chapter of the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program. The language calls to expand the program in new or additional directions including implementing additional sturgeon and lamprey measures (passage and research). Our continued support for iconic Columbia River white sturgeon populations is imperative to continue the enviable claim of protecting one of the world's only *non-listed* populations of white sturgeon, and rebuilding the endangered Kootenai River population. Noted below are two upcoming sturgeon-related events.

North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society (NASPS): 2016 annual meeting.

The NASPS, a research and conservation organization, was founded in 2012 and is affiliated with the World Sturgeon Conservation Society. NASPS is holding its annual meeting in Hood River, Sept 19th - 22nd. Attendees and presenters will come from many regions in the states and Canada, as well as from other countries. There will be a large Columbia River contingent at this meeting (see attached conference [schedule of talks](#)). For more info see: <http://www.nasps-sturgeon.org/conferences/north-american-conference-announcements.aspx>

Sturgeon Festival, Vancouver, WA Sept. 17

This festival is held at the Water Resources Center in Vancouver and focus on sturgeon and on Columbia River ecosystems. The festival is family-oriented. The Council will be represented alongside other organizations like WDFW and CRITFC. Staff will table the event with an interactive map, sturgeon coloring page and sturgeon swag. See the [Sturgeon Festival](#) website.