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October 4, 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 on hatchery assessments
- Emerging priority 2, adaptive management (addressed in the first item on the committee agenda)
- Emerging Priority 2, update on development of a Council fish and wildlife research plan (addressed earlier in Committee meeting)
- Emerging priority 3, predation, update on unusual out of season sea lion predation and possible ocean conditions drivers (addressed earlier in Committee)
- Emerging priority 3, mapping toxic hotspots, update on toxic workgroup efforts to produce a pilot map of (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon) PAH compounds.
- Emerging Priority 3, non-native and invasive species, development of a Invasive Mussel Forum Charter

- Emerging priority 4, update on the staff white paper regarding experience with fish passage attempts at high head dams
- Emerging priority 7, reminder of the upcoming Future of Our Salmon conference, '*Healthy Floodplains, Living Rivers*', October 18-20, 2016

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 four years. During the course of the next four 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>