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November 8, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Relative Reproductive Success (RRS) workshop update

BACKGROUND:

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

Summary: On October 13, BPA and the Council co-hosted a [workshop](#) at the Council central offices focusing on Relative Reproductive Success (RRS) studies within the Fish and Wildlife Program. Managers from all 10 RRS projects attended, presented on their work, and participated in a discussion on the knowledge gathered on these projects and the directions they are heading.

The CSW is compiling findings and recommendations regarding the future policy direction of the RRS projects and will present a complete report to the Fish and Wildlife Committee at the December Council meeting. At this time, the CSW found the main takeaways from the workshop to be:

- There is interest among the RRS managers to meet regularly to share knowledge on the factors affecting RRS and how to fix these issues, and to attempt to standardize metrics across all RRS projects. The Council may be the coordinating body to facilitate such a forum.
- Several RRS projects are collecting data consistent with their project scope, while other projects are not meeting their initial study

design. Project #2003-063-00 (USFWS) is an example, and additionally BPA has committed to meet with the ODFW project sponsors (Project #2007-299-00) to discuss their project moving forward.

Relevance: The Cost Savings Workgroup (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.

The CSW 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 had two purposes:

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