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November 8, 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 maintenance of past investments: Update
Emerging priority 2, adaptive management (research, action effectiveness, objectives and climate change):

- update on development of a Council fish and wildlife research plan (see full Committee agenda item for this topic – this meeting)
- highlights from the November 1 and 2, 2016 PNAMP Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) [Workshop](#)

Emerging priority 3, predators, toxics and invasive/non-natives:

- update on the Columbia River Toxics Mapping [workgroup](#)
- non-native and invasive species, development of an Invasive Mussel Forum Charter (see Committee agenda item for this topic – this meeting) and update on the recent northern pike meeting.

Emerging priority 4 Investigate blocked area mitigation: Presentation on fish passage attempts at high head dams - white paper. (See full Council agenda item for this topic – this meeting)

Emerging priority 5, additional sturgeon and lamprey measures: Lamprey activities update

Emerging priority 7, improve floodplain habitats: takeaways from the Future of Our Salmon conference, '*Healthy Floodplains, Living Rivers*', October 2016

Other: Regional Coordination Forum: Next RCF meeting is scheduled for December 15th in Portland

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>