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January 4, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Update on implementation of Fish and Wildlife Program priorities

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Fish Division staff

Summary: Staff will update the Committee on the recent activity to implement measures associated with the Fish and Wildlife Program's emerging priorities.

Relevance: Addresses implementation of the Council's 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

The Council identified seven emerging priority areas in its 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program. These are:

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*

Staff will update the Fish and Wildlife Committee on the recent activity to implement measures associated with these priorities and provide an opportunity to hear from the Committee members if they have any concerns or questions.

- EP-1: *long term maintenance*. See presentation earlier on this agenda. - M Fritsch
- EP-2: *prioritized research on critical uncertainties*. See research Plan presentation on full Council agenda. P O'Toole
- EP-2: *developing program objectives when appropriate*. Mapping Tool: NOS Objectives for salmon & steelhead made available at beginning of 2017. N Leonard
- EP-3: *mapping and determining hotspots for toxic contaminants*. Continued work to get data organized in a standard format. L Bach
- EP-3: *aggressively addressing non-native and invasive species*. Update on securing funds from the US Army Corps of Engineers to enhance invasive species check station coverage to prevent zebra and quagga mussel infestations in the Columbia River basin. L Bach
- EP-4: *Investigate blocked area mitigation options through reintroduction, passage and habitat improvement*. Posted on the Council website the final version of the NPCC staff paper on Fish Passage at high head dams. L Robinson
- EP-5: *Implement additional sturgeon measures*. See sturgeon RFI in the Cost Savings Workgroup memo earlier this Committee meeting. T Grover