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January 3, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Jeff Allen

SUBJECT: Briefing on IDFG proposed Albeni Falls Settlement comment period.

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Bill Booth

Summary: Since the passage of the Northwest Power Act of 1980, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has participated in the implementation of the Act through the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The Albeni Falls Dam, which regulates the levels of Lake Pend Oreille and flows downstream, is one of the federal hydropower projects that have impacted Idaho's fish and wildlife resources. Since signing an agreement with BPA in 1997, IDFG has been implementing a wildlife mitigation program for the construction and inundation of Albeni Falls Dam as have the Kalispell, Kootenai, and Coeur d'Alene Tribes.

To address BPA's and Idaho's interests concerning construction and inundation mitigation, perpetual O&M funding for mitigation properties already acquired, and the continuing need to mitigate for operational losses resulting from the raising and lowering of Lake Pend Oreille lake levels, Idaho and BPA are finalizing a stewardship and mitigation agreement. A draft of the agreement will be available during a 30-day public comment period, which is expected to begin next week.