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January 3, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Update on identification of Cost Savings and Emerging Priorities Implementation

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Fish and Wildlife Division staff

Summary: Staff will update the Committee on significant developments regarding implementation of measures associated with the Fish and Wildlife Program's emerging priorities. No additional cost savings have been identified since the last report in October.

Relevance: This item also addresses implementation of the Council's 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program emerging priorities.

Emerging Priorities:

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

1. Provide for funding *long-term maintenance* 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*. Actions to address priority needs of Program hatcheries and fish screens have been initiated through the use of cost savings funds. The next meeting of the O&M Subcommittee will occur on January 8, 2018. See the agenda item above on this topic for this Committee meeting. M. Fritsch
- EP-2: *Implement adaptive management (including prioritized research on critical uncertainties)*. The Council adopted a research plan in June 2017. At the October fish and wildlife committee meeting staff described the first phase of a multi-phase process to review research conducted under the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, using the research plan as guidance for that review. The first phase is developing a comprehensive list of all research work in the Program. Council central and state staff developed that list based work elements, project summaries and information from the ISAB/ISRP's Critical Uncertainties Report. Bonneville staff are reviewing it now for further refinements (December and January) and then we will validate the information with our project sponsors in February (Phase 2). L. Palensky
- EP-3: *Preserve program effectiveness*. A Northern Pike suppression proposal for Lake Roosevelt is in review by the ISRP and expected to be completed mid-January.
- EP-3: *mapping and determining hotspots for toxic contaminants*. See Council agenda for a discussion of the draft Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) story map and recommendation for completion. L. Bach / T. Grover

Policy reviews that may result in cost savings:

Rotary screw traps: Council and Bonneville staff agreed to look closely at the array of rotary screw traps funded through the BPA fish and wildlife funds. Council member Norman is leading the screw trap review. An [updated inventory](#) of screw traps was compiled by Bonneville Staff. Sponsors were sent the inventory and a [letter](#) with a list of questions compiled by Council and Bonneville staff with responses due by the end of

October. Staff summarized responses in November and scheduled a series of phone call with sponsors on December 14 to ask follow up questions.

General observations regarding the conversations with project sponsors on December 14th:

- More than 100 screw traps are fully funded or funded in part by BPA within the Columbia River Basin. Information obtained through this review will provide a clearer sense of what O&M requirements are for these important assets.
- The majority of the sponsors are deploying the screw traps efficiently and successfully. Challenges such as ice, high flows, low flows, streams changing course and vandalism are being appropriately managed.
- Trap efficiencies are being tested routinely. In a few situations with few fish and flashy streams, innovative statistical techniques are required to calculate out-migrant abundance estimates.
- Most sponsors have close working relationships with hatcheries, and are well informed of any upstream hatchery release, and take appropriate actions to avoid overwhelming the trap.
- For the most part the fish data gathered from the screw traps is being properly reported and the data are being used to make appropriate management decisions.
- BPA staff will follow-up with individual sponsors to work through any remaining screw trap deployment or data reporting issues.

Council and Bonneville staff will continue to coordinate on a summary of this effort which will be completed in the spring of 2018.

Attachment:

Table of cost savings source and allocation: no updates since October 2017

		Cost Savings Budget Tracking			updated 8/29/2017	
Credit		FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
2007-404-00	Captive Brood		\$355,007	\$355,007	\$355,007	\$355,007
2007-404-00	Captive Brood			\$77,773	\$77,773	\$77,773
1982-013-03	CWT-USFWS		\$29,162	\$29,162	\$29,162	\$29,162
2006-006-00	HEP	\$90,502	\$90,502	\$90,502	\$90,502	\$90,502
2010-076-00	Snake River	\$92,244	\$92,244	\$92,244	\$92,244	\$92,244
2010-033-00	RRS-Methow		\$85,000	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$85,000
2003-063-00	RRS-Abernathy			\$196,670	\$393,340	\$590,010
2007-299-00	RRS-Deschutes			\$110,000	\$220,000	\$330,000
2010-034-00	WDFW - LCM			\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Total savings found		\$182,746	\$651,915	\$1,111,358	\$1,343,028	\$1,649,698
Debit		FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
2016-003-00	Blocked area		\$100,000			
1994-043-00	N. Pike		\$40,000			
	Sturgeon RFI			\$283,000	\$233,000	
	O&M - Hatcheries		\$115,000	\$324,000		
	O&M - Fish screens			\$150,000		
Total savings utilized		\$182,746	\$255,000	\$757,000	\$233,000	\$0
Unspent savings		\$182,746	\$396,915	\$354,358	\$1,110,028	\$1,649,698

*unallocated funds will be moved to BPA reserves on September 30, 2017.

Note: In December 2017 the Council members approved via email that the O&M funds from cost savings for FY18 would be revised to \$236,000 for screens and \$238,000 for hatcheries, with no net effect on total savings used.