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January 3, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Tony Grover and Leslie Bach

SUBJECT: Committee recommendation for Council decision to make final edits and post Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) story map on the Council's website.

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Tony Grover and Leslie Bach

Summary: Council staff have been hosting a regional workgroup focused on demonstrating tools for identifying and displaying toxic contaminant issues in the Columbia River Basin. The basis for the group is to raise awareness of the issue of toxic contaminant impacts on native fish and wildlife. The workgroup has focused on Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) as a pilot mapping exercise. The workgroup has compiled all the readily available data on PAHs in the Basin, and has incorporated those data and general information into a draft PAH story map. The updated draft story map will be presented to the Committee for discussion, with the goal of recommending it for a full Council decision.

Proposed Action:

Council staff request that the Committee provide any additional comments or edits, and recommend that the story map be sent to the Council for a decision to post it to the Council's website as an informational tool.

Budgetary Impacts:

Council expended \$22,860 to develop the story map.

Relevance: The Fish and Wildlife Program Water Quality sub-strategy includes a provision for the Council to "...assist regional parties in advancing public education and information on toxics issues" (page 55, Water Quality Strategy). The emerging program priorities section calls for the Council to preserve program effectiveness by supporting "mapping and determining hotspots for toxic contaminants" (page 116, Investment Strategy – Emerging Program Priorities).

Background: Council staff have been hosting a regional toxic contaminants workgroup consisting of staff from NOAA, CRITFC, Washington Ecology, ODEQ, LCEP, UCUTs, Yakama Nation, USGS, EPA and others. The basis for the group is to raise awareness of the issue of toxic contaminant impacts on Columbia Basin fish and wildlife. The workgroup is focusing on developing mapping products that will provide education on toxic contaminant issues across a broad spectrum of audiences. The group has selected Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) as the pilot for a toxic contaminant map and public education tool for the Basin. PAHs are known to cause adverse effects on salmon and steelhead, and they are widespread and ubiquitous in the Basin.

The workgroup has compiled all readily available data on PAHs in the Basin, and has organized those data into a standard template. The data have been incorporated into a story map that includes information on the effects of PAHs on native fish and wildlife, the potential sources of PAHs, and opportunities for reducing PAHs and their effects. The map will provide a template and example for mapping and displaying data and information on other toxic contaminants that affect fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin.