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April 3, 2018

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

**FROM:** Leslie Bach, Nancy Leonard, and Mark Fritsch

**SUBJECT:** Follow-up from April 5<sup>th</sup> CHaMP Presentation by Wildland Hydrology

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenters:** Leslie Bach, senior program manager  
Rick Golden, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), fish & wildlife project manager

**Summary:** BPA contracted with Wildland Hydrology, a consulting firm based in Fort Collins, Colorado, to conduct an independent review of the data collection associated with the Project #2011-006-00, Columbia Habitat and Monitoring Program - Pilot (CHaMP). On April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Wildlands Hydrology team will provide an in-depth overview of their review and findings at a day-long workshop. Council and BPA staff will provide a summary of the workshop and will discuss how this review relates to future implementation of habitat monitoring projects.

**Relevance:** This review is a component of an ongoing effort to implement the Council's 2013 Conditions and Recommendations for ensuring a cost-effective approach to tributary habitat monitoring and evaluation. It addresses Programmatic Issue #2 (*Habitat effectiveness monitoring and evaluation*) from the 2010-11 review of the RME and AP Category of projects, including the Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Program (ISEMP), Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program (CHaMP), and

Action Effectiveness Monitoring (AEM). See More Info (below) for a brief description of the three projects.

**Background:** In 2013 the [Council requested that BPA provide a comprehensive review of the three tributary habitat monitoring projects, ISEMP, CHaMP and BPA AEM](#). Information requested included how these projects meet the Program's needs for assessing the benefits of habitat actions, and how they provide guidance for managers implementing habitat actions. Included in this request was for BPA to provide an analytical framework for overall evaluation of tributary habitat actions. Products and updates have been provided since 2013, however a comprehensive review did not occur.

To address this needed review, the Council instructed staff to evaluate current tributary monitoring actions and the role of the ISEMP, CHaMP and AEM projects (see [February 2017](#) and [March 2017](#) Council memos). This included conducting discussion meetings with co-managers and sponsors about the use and utility of the three habitat monitoring projects. The results of that review were presented and discussed at the [June 2017 Committee meeting](#) and the [July 2017 Council meeting](#).

**Discussion:** The discussion meetings revealed a number of concerns with all three projects. One important aspect was how well the implementation of the CHaMP project met the region's need for a habitat data collection program. Wildland Hydrology was contracted to review the CHaMP protocols, field methods and data processing, storage and retrieval, and to evaluate the reliability of the CHaMP data collected to date. Wildland Hydrology completed a [report](#), and are presenting the findings of their work at a day-long workshop. The workshop will be recorded, and a link will be provided when available.

As directed by the Committee, staff have been working with the fish and wildlife managers and sponsors to develop a tributary habitat monitoring strategy. This effort is ongoing. Staff held a series of webinars and workshops, and developed a draft strategy based on the outcomes from those meetings. The draft strategy was sent to the region for review and comment, and staff are currently working on a revised version. The information from this CHaMP review will be factored into the revision. At the same time, Council staff continue to coordinate with BPA and NOAA-Fisheries to ensure development of a collaborative strategy that can meet multiple needs.

**More Info:** Brief Description of ISEMP, CHaMP and AEM

[Project #2003-017-00, Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Program \(ISEMP\)](#)

The ISEMP is a monitoring and evaluation design project that was initiated in 2003 as a series of pilots for testing monitoring indicators and metrics,

sampling designs, evaluation procedures, data management, and large-scale coordination and implementation logistics.

Project #2011-006-00, *Columbia Habitat and Monitoring Program - Pilot (CHaMP)*

The CHaMP is a pilot project designed to monitor fish habitat status and trends using a standardized monitoring protocol with a program-wide approach to data collection and management. It is currently applied in 8 watersheds within the portion of the Columbia Basin accessible to anadromous salmonids.

Project #2016-001-00, *BPA Project Action Effectiveness Monitoring (AEM) Programmatic*

AEM is a pilot project designed to develop a standardized, programmatic approach to project-level action effectiveness monitoring. The AEM approach is intended to move action effectiveness monitoring from a project-by-project approach to a coordinated, standardized and cost-effective approach.