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April 2, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: Patty O'Toole

SUBJECT: Update on the Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Staff

Summary: The staff will describe the Fish and Wildlife Committee's recommended approach for amending the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program by addendum and seeks feedback from the Council. The staff intends to begin drafting the addendum upon confirmation of the approach by the Council.

Relevance: The Council is in the midst of its Fish and Wildlife amendment process. The Council called for recommendations to amend its Program in May of 2018 and recommendations were due on December 13, 2018.

Workplan: Related to the Program amendment process described in the Fish and Wildlife Division workplan

Background:

The Council has previously recognized that this amendment cycle is an appropriate time to focus on a few key Program areas. In the call for recommendations to amend the

Program in May of 2018, the Council recognized the many accomplishments in thirty-six years of Program development and implementation and noted the many recent and current regional processes and developments that will be influenced by or may influence the region's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program and its implementation in the near future. When the Council called for recommendations, it requested that the recommending entities focus on the most significant issues about the Program or its implementation that require change. Many entities recommended that the 2014 Program need not change significantly, except in a few areas. Other entities provided a broader set of recommendations, although the staff believe that most of these recommendations do not result in significant change from the 2014 Program.

At the March Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting, the Committee reviewed two possible approaches for how the Council could move forward with the Program amendments: amend the 2014 Program via an addendum or amend the text of the 2014 Program.

The Committee recommended that the Council use the approach of an addendum to amend the 2014 Program. The text of the 2014 Program would be retained, and the addendum would focus on a subset of issues raised in the recommendations that require further refinement. Examples of the types of issues to be addressed in the addendum include issues raised related to implementation priorities and implementation mechanisms or related to program performance and adaptive management. The Committee recommends that the addendum focus on priority actions and investments raised in the recommendations that the Council believes need to happen in the next five years that would not otherwise occur.

For recommendations that represent significant Program changes, the staff recommends that these be fully analyzed by staff and then presented to the Committee for consideration for inclusion in the addendum. For those recommendations that are mostly editorial in nature, these would not be addressed in the addendum. The Council would address and respond to these recommendations in the Findings and Response to Recommendations. All recommendations will be seriously considered and responded to in this approach – this approach is not meant to ignore or dismiss or defer any recommendations.

Upon review and confirmation of this approach by the Council, the staff will begin drafting the addendum. We will review the draft addendum with the Fish and Wildlife Committee through the month of May, with the intention of bringing a draft to the full Council in June.

Example of Addendum organization and components:

Introduction

The addendum would begin with text describing its purpose, how the Council developed it, how it relates to the 2014 F&W Program and the status of the 2014 Program, and how it relates to the program amendment recommendations the Council received.

Program Performance and Adaptive Management

To address the many recommendations on adaptive management and program objectives, this section would provide refined and reorganized Program goals and objectives and information on how progress towards these will be tracked over time. If all objectives are not developed during the amendment process, this section would identify how these will be developed in the next five years. Performance indicators for the Program strategies and related adaptive management language could be included. The Council could also address recommendations that adopt or change the loss assessments and provide an update on mitigation progress in strategies such as Wildlife Mitigation.

Near-Term Implementation Priorities:

This section could include specific language pertaining to near-term investment priorities and expectations, another subject heavily addressed in the recommendations. This section could include specific measures to address implementation gaps or highlight topics of emphasis.

Other Implementation Actions:

This section could include the Council's five-year expectations for itself, Bonneville, or others regarding key program implementation issues that are broader than the funding priorities in section (a) above. For example, the Council could address other implementation recommendations beyond funding such as project reviews, overall budget considerations, etc.