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June 4, 2018

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

**FROM:** Council Staff

**SUBJECT:** Update on Columbia Basin Habitat Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenters:** Leslie Bach  
Nancy Leonard  
Mark Fritsch  
Jody Lando, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)  
Greg Sieglitz, NOAA-Fisheries

**Summary:** Council, BPA and NOAA-Fisheries staff will present a brief update on the status of the Columbia Basin Habitat Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy. The summary will include a brief description of the components of the strategy, and an updated summary of tasks and timelines.

**Relevance:** This work focuses on implementing the Council's 2013 conditions and recommendations for ensuring a cost-effective approach to tributary habitat monitoring and evaluation, as defined in Programmatic Issue #2 (i.e., *Habitat effectiveness monitoring and evaluation*) from the 2010-11 review of RME and AP Category of projects.

**Background:** In 2013, the Council requested a framework for habitat research and monitoring to support evaluation of the effectiveness of habitat projects.

Although some products and updates were provided over the years, the analytical framework was never completed. At the [July 2017 meeting](#), the Council directed staff to work with the region's fish and wildlife managers and BPA to develop a tributary habitat monitoring strategy. In 2017 and 2018 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 have compiled those comments.

Building from that effort, Council, BPA and NOAA-Fisheries staff formed the Columbia Basin Research, Monitoring and Evaluation steering team to develop an integrated Research, Monitoring and Evaluation strategy that meets multiple basin needs, including the 2019 Columbia River System Biological Opinion. There is strong support from the region's fish and wildlife managers for the three entities working together to develop a single strategy that will guide project monitoring across the Basin. The steering team has been writing the draft strategy and has developed a plan for review and revision by the region's fish and wildlife managers.