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August 6, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Council Staff

SUBJECT: Regional review phase of Draft Columbia Basin Habitat Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Leslie Bach, Nancy Leonard and Mark Fritsch
Jody Lando, and Katie McDonald, Bonneville Power Administration
Greg Sieglitz, NOAA-Fisheries

Summary: Council, Bonneville and NOAA-Fisheries staff will discuss the release of the draft Columbia Basin Habitat Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy. Staff will provide a general overview of the strategy and will describe the plan and timeline for review and discussion by the region's fish and wildlife managers.

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 Bonneville to develop a tributary habitat monitoring strategy. In 2017 and 2018 staff held a series of webinars and workshops, and developed a preliminary strategy based on the outcomes from those meetings and review by the region.

Building from that effort, Council, Bonneville 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. There is strong support from the region's fish and wildlife managers for the three entities to work 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.

Regional review phase of Draft Columbia Basin Habitat Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy

Leslie Bach, Nancy Leonard, Mark Fritsch, NPCC
Jody Lando and Katie McDonald, BPA
Greg Sieglitz, NOAA-Fisheries

Current Efforts

- Collaborative work among Council, BPA and NOAA to draft Columbia Basin habitat RM&E strategy
 - Use existing RM&E direction and guidance, Council's draft habitat M&E strategy, manager comments and program amendment recommendations as foundation
 - Provide for extensive input by regional habitat RM&E managers
 - Align, to the extent possible, the timing and purpose of related processes: Program addendum, NEPA and BiOps

Strategy Overview

COLUMBIA BASIN HABITAT RESEARCH, MONITORING AND EVALUATION STRATEGY

Columbia Basin Research Monitoring & Evaluation Steering Committee

Bonneville Power Administration

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Goals and Principles of Strategy

- Develop a strategy that addresses the needs of the FWP and the BiOps
- Provide information to inform ongoing and future habitat restoration programs
- Generate accessible data at multiple scales
- Emphasize adaptive management, synthesis and reporting
- Incorporate existing programs and plans that guide RM&E work
- Provide for extensive input by regional habitat RM&E managers

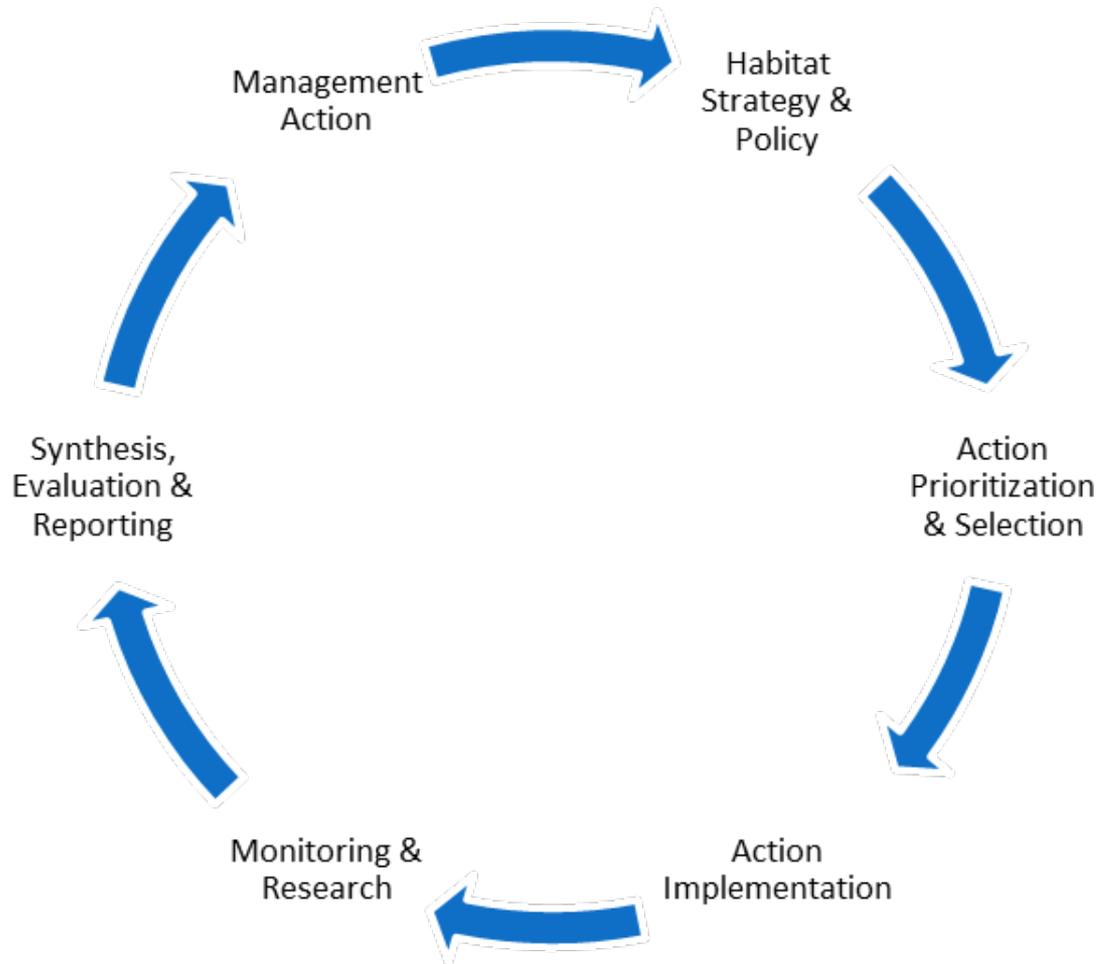
Draft Strategy Key Themes

- Programmatic approach to habitat RM&E
 - Broad consistency across the region
 - Opportunity for additional work on a “case-study” basis
- Guidance for different types of monitoring
 - Compliance
 - Implementation
 - Effectiveness
 - Status and Trends
 - Research

Draft Strategy Key Themes (cont.)

- Key Management Questions (KMQs) Construct
 - Specific KMQs for each type of monitoring
 - Link among KMQs, Ecological Concerns/Limiting Factors, and Monitoring Indicators
- Explicit criteria for meaningful Indicators
- Geographic organizational structure for data (GIS)
- Specific direction at different scales (project-scale; watershed scale)
- Data management and reporting
- Synthesis and evaluation of results

Adaptive Management



Key Management Questions linked to the phases of Adaptive Management

Draft Timeline

- Document Release: end-August; early September
- Webinar: Week of Sept 9
- In-person meetings: October-December
- Written Comments: September – March (2020)
- Revised Document: June 2020

In-person meetings

- In-person “workshops” (**draft proposal**)
 - October 1: Spokane (same day as Council Hearing)
 - October: Boise
 - November: Portland (in conjunction with Council meeting)
 - November: The Dalles
- Additional meetings as needed