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July 7, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Patty O'Toole, Fish and Wildlife Division Director, and staff

SUBJECT: Review of comments and Committee recommendation on adoption of the final Part I of the Fish and Wildlife Addendum

SUMMARY: Staff will review with the Committee the comments received on the revised draft Part I of the 2020 Addendum to the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program and will recommend revisions to Part I for Committee consideration. Following that discussion, staff recommends the Committee forward its recommendation on Part I to the full Council for the August Council meeting, after incorporating any changes made by the Committee at its July meeting.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Council began amending its Fish and Wildlife Program in May of 2018. In December 2019, based on public review comments received on the draft program addendum, the Council decided to extend the time for deciding on Part I of the Addendum to allow staff to work with the fish and wildlife agencies and tribes in a focused process to revise Part I. That process was completed in May 2020, and the revised draft Part I of the addendum was released for public review and comment. Public comment on the revised Part I concluded on June 22, 2020.

BACKGROUND

During the public comment period on the draft 2020 Addendum, the Council received comments requesting that the Council extend the time for making a decision on Part I and to develop a collaborative process to refine and revise the goals, objectives, and indicators for the program. At the December Council meeting, the Council members decided to extend the time for completing Part I of the program addendum and approved a workplan and timeline proposed by staff. This workplan included a set of technical workshops with the fish and wildlife agencies and tribes to develop goals, objectives and indicators. Part II of the addendum was adopted by the Council in January 2020.

Eight technical workshops were held from January through April on Part I of the addendum. The discussion at the workshops addressed the technical comments received on the draft and some of the policy issues that had been identified during the previous public comment period. Following the workshops, the Council revised its draft Part I and released it for public comment in May. Public comment concluded on June 22.

ANALYSIS

Twenty-two sets of comments were received on the revised draft Part I from state and state supported agencies, tribes or tribal organizations, one federal agency, environmental groups, one customer group and a few individuals. These comments can be found at <https://app.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/2018amend/2020comments>. A public hearing was held via webinar and teleconference on June 15, 2020 and was advertised in Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon. Many people listened in, and two people provided oral comment.

Staff reviewed the comments and reflected those comments in the working draft document that will be sent to members several days before the Committee meeting. At the July Committee meeting, staff proposes to work through the document with the Committee, review the comments, and discuss proposed revisions. Following that discussion, staff recommends the Committee forward its recommendation on Part I to the full Council for the August Council meeting, after incorporating any changes made by the Committee at its July meeting. The staff recommends that the Council consider the revisions and adopt Part I in August.

Immediately following the July Council meeting, Council will close the administrative record and members and staff must cease communicating about Part I and the topics covered in Part I with anyone outside the Council. The Council will remain in this status until after the Council makes the final decision on adopting Part I into the program.