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November 10, 2020

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Committee Members

**FROM:** Patty O'Toole, Mark Fritsch and Leslie Bach

**SUBJECT:** Fish and Wildlife Program/Addendum next steps

### BACKGROUND:

**Summary:** Staff will discuss progress on ongoing implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Program with a focus on work associated with the 2020 Program Addendum. They will describe their initial efforts on establishing a process for assessing and reporting on Program goals, objectives and strategy performance indicators identified in Part I of the 2020 Program Addendum. Staff will also briefly address implementation priorities in Part II of the addendum and the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program.

**Relevance:** The Council's Fish and Wildlife Program under the Northwest Power Act of 1980 is implemented by several agencies of the federal government protects and mitigates for the impacts of hydropower dams on fish and wildlife through system operational measures and habitat and production projects. The Bonneville Power Administration has an obligation under the Act to use its fund to protect and mitigate fish and wildlife in a manner consistent with the Council's program. This mechanism helps direct more than \$250 million each year to over 250 fish and wildlife projects throughout the Columbia River Basin, as well as reimburse the federal government for appropriations for dam modifications and other capital and expense investments.

**Workplan:** Program Implementation (2014 Program and 2020 addendum) is described in the 2020 Fish and Wildlife Workplan.

**Background:** The 2020 Addendum consists of two parts, Part I focuses on Program Performance and Part II on Program Implementation. Part I contains a set of goals, objectives and indicators that can be tracked and assessed over time to provide information on addressing program performance. In Part I the Council committed to form a committee or workgroup to provide guidance to the Council on compiling, assessing, tracking and reporting on the program goals, objectives and strategy performance indicators.

We envision that the committee or workgroup will meet periodically to discuss data availability, assessment and reporting approaches, revisions to strategy performance indicators, and data gaps. Staff will prepare for these meetings by compiling and organizing the available data and information, and identifying gaps, issues and questions in advance of the meetings. This will allow the workgroup to effectively and efficiently address key topic areas. To support this effort, staff have begun the process of developing a structure for assembling and managing the data on objectives and strategy performance indicators. At the November Committee meeting the staff will share examples of this structure and the data associated with strategy performance indicators.

The 2014/2020 Program recognizes that Bonneville implements a host of ongoing protection and mitigation projects, most with formal or informal multi-year commitments. Continuing these is a program priority, including tracking, review and refining as needed. Our project review process is geared toward periodic review of these existing projects.

The 2014/2020 Program also identifies a few gaps in implementation, through the list of emerging priorities in the 2014 Program and through the specific priorities in Part II of the 2020 Addendum. These reflect either new or expanded work in some cases.

Bonneville has expressed their intent to hold Program spending at or below inflation, per their 2018 strategic plan. The staff will continue to work with Bonneville to establish a systematic approach and process for implementing Council recommendations, including project reviews and other annual processes and placeholders (Budget Oversight Group, the Asset Management Plan, Cost Savings) to continue implementing the Council's recommendations.