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February 2, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Patty O'Toole

SUBJECT: Draft 2021 Fish and Wildlife Division Workplan

BACKGROUND:

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

Summary: Staff will review the Fish and Wildlife Division (division) workplan for 2021 and highlight several significant tasks

Relevance: The workplan will guide division work for the remainder of 2021.

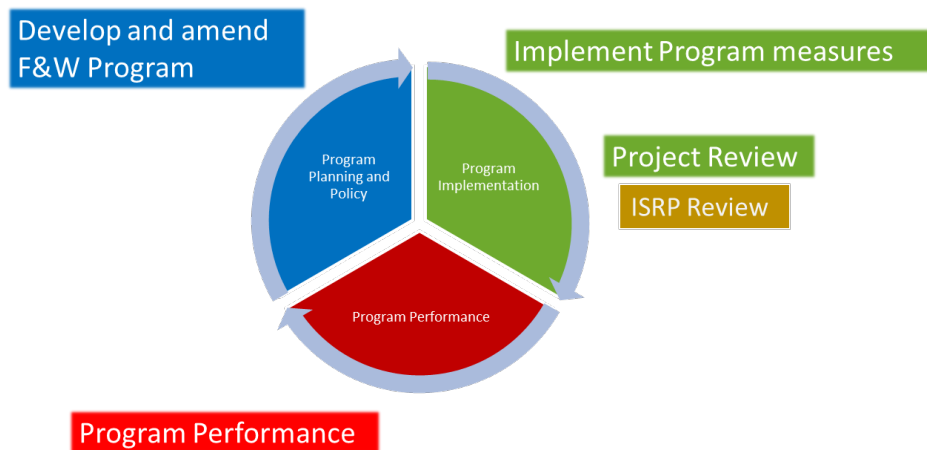
Workplan: Draft plan for 2021

Background:

At the February Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting, staff will review the Fish and Wildlife Work Division Plan for 2021. Staff will distribute the work plan to members before the meeting by email.

The work of the staff is generally organized into three major areas (see figure 1): 1) Program policy development and planning; 2) Program Implementation including the major task of periodic review of projects and tracking implementation by others; and 3) Program performance. For 2021, staff will focus on implementation of the Council's 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program and its 2020 addendum, and Program performance. Staff will highlight some components of the 2021 workplan at the February Committee meeting.

Figure1: Organization of major areas of staff work.



A major task for the division this year includes a review of current Fish and Wildlife Program anadromous fish habitat and hatchery projects. The review, consisting of 134 projects, began February 2, 2021 and will wrap up in April 2022. In addition, staff continues to collaborate with Bonneville Power Administration in the establishment of a collaborative framework and process for addressing Council recommendations that fits within Bonneville's budgeting and contracting processes, including project reviews and other annual processes (e.g., Budget Oversight Group, Asset Management, Cost Savings, etc.) through time.

The staff also intends to work with our partners to develop an updated approach for reviewing projects in the future. The review and recommendation of projects by the Council and review by the Independent Scientific Review Panel are required under the Northwest Power Act, but the Council can exercise flexibility around *how* the review occurs. During the recent amendment process, project sponsors provided suggestions for how the review could be improved in the future. Regional coordinators also suggested some principles for future reviews during the Regional Coordination Forum meeting in January. At the February meeting, staff will review these suggestions and describe next steps.

During 2021, we will continue to expand our work on Program performance by compiling data and information on the strategy performance indicators described in the Council's 2020 Fish and Wildlife Program Addendum Part I. This effort includes formation of a work group of fish and wildlife managers and others to provide guidance to the Council on assessing, tracking and reporting on the program goals, objectives and strategy performance indicators. Additionally, the staff will develop a framework for describing different aspects of program performance, including a regional overview of the Program and its achievements, and more detailed status assessments to be completed over time.



Fish and Wildlife Division Work Plan 2021

Program Implementation,

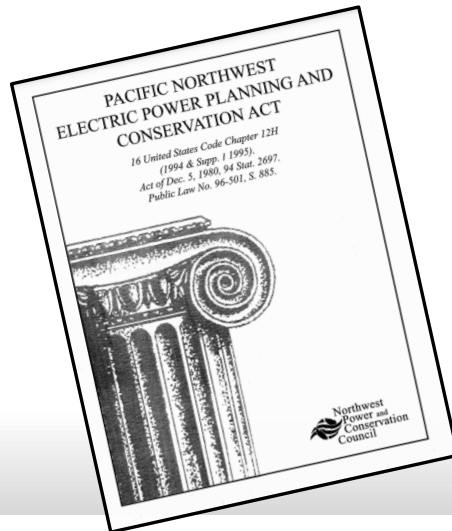
c. Project Review – explore and plan for future project reviews

Fish and Wildlife Committee

February 2021

Project reviews

- Why review projects?
 - Northwest Power Act: Section 4h10D: Council role in review and ISRP review (1996 amendment to NPA)
- Benefits:
 - Clear documentation of each project's purpose, objectives and results
 - Scientific review
 - Identify contribution to the Program and region
 - Sharing of project data and information
 - Identification of policy issues to address



What we have heard

- Take a more landscape approach
 - Science reviews should provide better understanding and context for the fish and wildlife program and supporting actions of management
 - Create a mechanism for project sponsors to work with each other on review teams to enhance interactive exchange during science review
- Acknowledge that different projects have different timelines and needs for review.
 - Hatchery O&M, wildlife O&M and fish screens don't need as frequent review as a science-driven projects



What we have heard - continued

- Streamline and Improve Process
 - Minimize work burden on project sponsors.
 - Adjust feedback loops to help project sponsors deliver the right information to the ISRP
 - Enhance opportunities for dialogue between reviewers and sponsors
 - Clarify expectations about scope of review for all
 - Maintain site visits to educate reviewers on importance of project, constraints and methods.

Possible guiding principles

- Learn from and support past efforts and processes of the Program
- Build upon current important outcomes from project review
 - Clear documentation of each project's purpose, objectives and result
 - Independent science feedback to project sponsors
 - Increased transparency and accountability.
- Emphasize project performance and effectiveness at a landscape level to better track the performance of actions through time.
- Acknowledge and consider the implications of long-term agreements and accords



Next steps

(conceptual – estimated timeframes)

Steps would include:

- Internal staff work to capture general concepts and options
- Link planning to the Collaborative Framework for implementation
- Work with others in the region to develop and refine process
- Work with Council members for feedback

Timeline:

- Draft options by end of November 2021
- Update the Fish and Wildlife Committee as needed throughout
- Council decision on preferred option January 2022

Questions?

