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March 4, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Jim Ruff – Manager, Mainstem Passage and River Operations

SUBJECT: Briefing on Columbia River Basin fish run forecasts for 2014

At the March 12, 2014, Council meeting in Portland, Bill Tweit (Special Assistant for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) and Ed Schriever (Chief of Fisheries for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game) will present the latest information on the 2014 adult salmon and steelhead run forecasts for the Columbia and Snake rivers, with a brief summary of expectations for the 2014 fisheries.

Bill Tweit's presentation will cover the 2014 Columbia River salmon run forecasts. It will also include a retrospective review of the 2013 adult salmon and steelhead returns and fisheries in the Columbia River Basin excluding the Snake Basin.

Ed Schriever will then summarize the recent, historical returns of salmon and steelhead to the Snake River Basin, focusing on the species/run groupings of spring, summer, fall Chinook salmon; summer steelhead; and sockeye salmon. For each species/run grouping, counts of fish crossing Lower Granite Dam will be presented. Numbers of fish passing Lower Granite Dam comprise the aggregate count of adult salmon and steelhead destined for eastern Oregon's Grande Ronde and Imnaha river drainages and Idaho's Clearwater and Salmon river drainages. In addition to historical return information, 2014 forecast information for Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, and sockeye salmon will be presented.

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