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June 18, 2013

## DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council members

**FROM:** Tony Grover  
Director, Fish and Wildlife Division

**SUBJECT:** Council decision on request to extend for 60 days the date for submitting recommendations to amend the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Extend the deadline for recommendations to amend the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program from July 19, 2013 to September 17, 2013.

### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Council has received two written requests to extend the recommendation period for amendments to the Columbia basin Fish and Wildlife Program by 60 days. One request was from the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission and the other was submitted by the Upper Snake River Tribes. Seven of the tribes making up these two organizations are recognized as fish and wildlife managers by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

Staff supports the 60 day extension request. Closing the recommendation period on September 17, 2013 will not delay the anticipated schedule of adoption of a new Power Plan, now scheduled for early 2015. Nor will the 60 day extension cause the council to abbreviate the development, consideration or adoption of an amended Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. The Council has one year from the closure of the amendment recommendation period to adopt a final amended Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Therefore, the effect of this extension will be to move the entire Program amendment process to 60 days later than originally planned.

Staff will be prepared to discuss other events and processes in the region and how they may be influenced by the 60 day extension.

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