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Montana

NORTHWEST POWER AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL CHARTER OF THE OCEAN AND PLUME SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT FORUM

1. Official Designation: This Forum will be known as the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Ocean and Plume Science and Management Forum.
2. Background: In 2010 the Council reviewed all Research, Monitoring and Evaluation projects, and requested that an Ocean Synthesis Report be developed by three ocean project sponsors. After ISRP review of this report the Council decided to re-focus the ocean research program and hosted an [Ocean and Plume Workshop](#) on February 14, 2013 to explore future opportunities for research. This workshop was successful at providing a forum for ocean researchers and in-river managers to identify critical uncertainties and potential management applications. To continue regional coordination on ocean research the Council's Fish and Wildlife Committee requested the development of an Ocean and Plume Science and Management Forum (Forum) charter.

The Council's Fish and Wildlife Program acknowledges that the ocean, plume and estuary are integral components of the Columbia River ecosystem and the lifecycle of Columbia River salmon. The 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program states the following primary ocean strategy: "*Identify the effect of ocean conditions on anadromous fish survival and use this information to evaluate and adjust inland actions* (pg. 31)." The 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program continues a plume and nearshore-ocean strategy which includes support from the Council for efforts by the Ocean and Plume Science and Management Forum to encourage coordination between ocean researchers and agencies and tribes to explore opportunities improve inriver management activities based on information about ocean conditions. With this strategy in mind, the goal of this Forum is to engage researchers and fisheries managers in a process of identifying the management implications of ocean research.

This advisory committee is established as part of a network of advisory committees satisfying the Council's obligation under the Act to establish a Scientific and Statistical Advisory Committee. Section 4(c)(11). Under Section 4(a)(4) of the Act, the terms of the

Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. Appendix I, Sections 1-14, apply “to the extent appropriate” to the Council’s advisory committees.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activity: The Forum will assist and advise the Council by completing the following tasks:
 - (A) Identify and provide opportunities for information sharing, dialogue and collaboration between ocean and plume researchers and estuary and freshwater managers.
 - i. Identify opportunities to disseminate and integrate ocean research information within existing management forums and information channels
 - ii. Review and provide input on the plume and ocean section of the ISAB/RP critical uncertainties report and the Council’s draft research plan (2016).
 - iii. Identify management applications of ocean and plume information, including existing and yet to be collected information. This should include harvest impacts on the Columbia River Basin ecosystem.
 - iv. Make recommendations to the Council on ways to improve the utility and in-river freshwater resource management benefits of both ongoing and proposed ocean and plume research conducted under the Program.
4. Official to Whom the Ocean and Plume Science and Management Forum Reports: The Ocean and Plume Science and Management Forum will report to the Executive Director of the Council.
5. Authority of the Forum: The Forum will serve in an advisory capacity only. Neither the Forum nor its members are authorized to make statements or commitments on behalf of the Council. Non-staff members of the Committee are not Council employees.
6. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Person-Days: Twenty-two person-days (staff) per year to prepare for, organize and attend Forum meetings.
7. Forum Members: The Chair of the Forum, in consultation with the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Division, will solicit technical experts to participate on the advisory committee from a wide range of regional stakeholders. The Council’s Executive Director shall approve the participants and, in doing so, shall ensure that membership of the advisory committee is fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed by the advisory committee. Committee members shall be selected based primarily on their technical and policy expertise and experience. Members may include representatives of state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, tribes, Bonneville, customer representatives, universities, public interest groups, and the general public. All Committee members serve at the pleasure of the Council.
8. Forum Management Officer: The Forum Management Officer (“Management Officer”) for the Ocean Plume Science and Management Forum will be the Director of the Council’s Division of Fish and Wildlife. The Management Officer will designate members of the Council’s staff to coordinate and attend meetings of the Forum.
9. Chair:
 - (A) The Chair of the Council will select the Chair of the Ocean Plume Science and Management Forum from among the members of the Council’s Fish and Wildlife Committee.

- (B) The Forum Chair may be called upon to report to the Executive Director of the Council on appropriate matters, including progress on the tasks described in Part 3 of this Charter.
- (C) The duties of the Forum Chair will include presiding over the Forum meetings, ensuring that detailed minutes of such meetings are prepared and submitted to the Executive Director of the Council in a timely manner, and maintaining communication between the Forum and the Council's staff.
- (D) The Forum Chair will certify detailed minutes of meetings of the Forum. The minutes should include a complete and accurate description of matters discussed, conclusions reached, actions taken, persons invited to meet with the Forum, and persons in attendance. The minutes also will include copies of reports received, issued or approved by the Committee. Minutes of meetings will be prepared and released within ten days of the meeting, unless the Management Officer grants an extension. The Chair will distribute copies of the minutes to members of the Committee and other interested persons.
- (E) Subcommittees or small workgroups of the Forum may be established by the Chair of the Forum to undertake particular aspects of the Forum's work. Methods for organizing the work and procedures of the Forum must follow the scope of responsibilities assigned to the Forum by the Council. Council staff will make arrangements for Forum meetings and provide general support services.
10. Rules: The Advisory Committee rules approved and adopted by the Council on March 17, 1982, as amended from time to time, will apply to the Ocean and Plume Research and Management Forum to the extent such matters are not covered in this Charter.
11. Estimated Frequency of Forum Meetings: The Chair of the Forum, after consultation with the Management Officer, or his designee, will call meetings as necessary. The estimated frequency of meetings is 2-4 times per year.
12. All meetings will be open to the public, unless closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c). Timely notice of meetings, including agendas, will be made. Interested persons may attend Forum meetings and appear before or file statements with the Forum, subject to such reasonable rules as the Council may prescribe.
13. Duration: The Forum will terminate two years from the filing date of this Charter, unless renewed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. All Members of the Forum serve at the pleasure of the Council.

This Charter for the Ocean and Plume Research and Management Forum was approved and adopted at a duly noticed meeting of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, December 15, 2015 in Portland, Oregon.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST ELECTRIC POWER
AND CONSERVATION PLANNING COUNCIL

By: 
Phil Rockefeller, Chair