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August 6, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Update on Committee's mainstem and program support project review recommendations

At the July Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting, staff presented and the members agreed on a set of programmatic and project-specific recommendations for the mainstem and program support projects. The Committee asked the staff to schedule a decision on these recommendations for the Council meeting in August.

The Committee recommendations were necessarily tentative because the public comment period on the ISRP report required by the statute was still open. The public comment period closed on July 26, 2019, and we received no public comment. Therefore, the staff has no suggested modifications to the Committee's recommendations based on public comment.

During the July Committee meeting, the Committee agreed to a couple of edits to the staff recommendations, along with technical edits. The edits included:

1. Correct recommendation for the *Development of Systemwide Predator Control (Northern Pikeminnow - Project # 1990-077-00)* in Part 4.
2. Sentence clarification in the Hatchery programmatic issue (3 para, first sentence).

These edits have been made in the [decision memo](#) for the full Council (see Tab 4).

Finally, the staff does propose that the Committee agree to a change in one recommendation - for *BPA Project Action Effectiveness Monitoring (AEM) Programmatic (Project # 2016-001-00)* - based on additional information received from Bonneville after the July Council meeting and a clarifying discussion between Council and Bonneville staff. The proposed change is as follows:

- Original recommendation: *Discontinue additional data collection on partial barrier removal and floodplain restoration action categories. Bonneville and sponsor to adjust the scope of work and budget accordingly to continue implementation of remaining activities for completion in FY 2023. For any work beyond FY 2023, sponsor must submit a new proposal for ISRP and Council review.*
- Proposed recommendation: *Continue implementation on all activities with anticipated close-out in FY 2023. For any related work beyond FY 2023, sponsor must submit a new proposal for ISRP and Council review.*

Upon further discussion with the project sponsor and associated data collection entities, staff now recommends full implementation of the project. The project sponsor provided staff clarification on the extent, location and timing of data collection for both the partial barrier removal and floodplain restoration action categories. The sponsor also provided more detail on the analysis methods for the floodplain restoration action category, which clarified how the data will be utilized to evaluate the effectiveness of floodplain restoration actions in the Columbia Basin. Thus, based on the information provided, staff recommends full implementation of the project.

Staff has included this modified recommendation in the decision memo to the full Council, subject to the Committee's endorsement.