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July 7, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Council Staff

SUBJECT: Update on Project Reviews

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Mark Fritsch, Leslie Bach and Patty O'Toole

Summary: Update on Resident Fish and Sturgeon Projects review and overview of upcoming review associated with the Anadromous Habitat and Hatchery.

Relevance: Section 4h(10)(D) of the Northwest Power Act directs the Council to review projects proposed for funding by Bonneville to implement the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The Council engages in this review process with the assistance of the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). The Council and Bonneville work together to develop the information necessary to make the review process successful.

Workplan: Fish and Wildlife Division preliminary work plan 2020; Program Implementation (2014 Program and 2020 addendum); Project review.

Background: In 2017, the Council initiated a series of category-based reviews beginning with a review of all the Wildlife projects. The wildlife category review decision was made on October 11, 2017 for the 29 projects. At the July 2018 Council meeting, the Fish and Wildlife Committee supported moving forward with a three-year science review schedule for all remaining projects and discussed the overall approach for

Mainstem/Program Support, Resident Fish and Sturgeon and Anadromous Habitat and Hatchery. The schedule reflects the order and timing for the three category reviews, accounting for field season, public comment period, and time necessary based on the number of projects within each category.

The Mainstem/Program Support Category review included 48 projects that generally focus on the mainstem and mainstem passage; conduct research that is basin-wide in nature and/or are informative to the Basin as a whole; focus on a single-species; support or inform other program areas through collecting, managing, and or analyzing data from monitoring or research projects; or have broad use, applicability, and accessibility. The Council decision associated with this review occurred on August 14, 2019.

Resident Fish and Sturgeon Category Review

The Resident Fish and Sturgeon Category Review is the third review of program-funded projects and was initiated in November 2019. This current review includes 44 projects addressing resident fish and sturgeon.

On April 3, 2020, due to the COVID-19 situation, the Council extended the review process for approximately 60 days. This extension coincided with the preliminary ISRP review and extended the response date to June 23, 2020. Following is the adjusted time frames.

- Initiate Public Comment April 3, 2020
- **Managers and Sponsors responses due by June 23, 2020 – earlier responses are welcome**
- Final ISRP report on August 6, 2020
- Public comment closes on September 7, 2020
- ISRP presentation to the Council August 11/12, 2020
- F&W Committee recommendation September 15, 2020
- Council decision October 13/14, 2020

Response to date have been received from 42 of the 44 projects. Council staff will bring a recommendation to the F&W Committee at the September meeting and are anticipating a decision from the full Council in October.

Anadromous Habitat and Hatchery Review

This review is the last category of this review cycle. Staff anticipates that there will be approximately 143 projects in this review. Based on the current amendment process and the Covid-19 situation, Council state and central staffs discussed potential changes to the Anadromous Habitat and Hatchery Review. This included the exploration of different options and approaches for the review process, including postponement to redesign

and incorporate aspects of program performance. After several conversations it was determined that the current anticipated timeline should be maintained. At the same time, staff will be developing program performance assessment efforts and coordinating those with the project review process as possible.

The Anadromous Habitat and Hatchery Review will begin the first week in November 2020. In the next few months Council and Bonneville staffs will work together to confirm the proposal form and submission process. It is anticipated that the review process will take nine to ten months to complete. The deadline for the submittal of the proposal for ISRP review is January 12, 2021. Council recommendations are anticipated in August 2021. The detailed schedule is attached.

ANADROMOUS FISH HABITAT AND ARTIFICIAL PRODUCTION

