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| **Bill Bradbury** **Chair**Oregon | Logo-Letterhead | **Jennifer Anders****Vice Chair**Montana |
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March 18, 2014

Mr. William C. Maslen

Manager, Fish and Wildlife Division

Bonneville Power Administration

P.O. Box 3621

Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Mr. Maslen:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the fulfillment of a Programmatic Issue associated with the Research, Monitoring, Evaluation Category review recommendation for sturgeon projects on March 12, 2014.

In addition, this letter informs the project sponsors and other interested parties of the status of this Programmatic Issue. The following is a summary of the action taken by the Council at the meeting in March.

**Background**

In the final 2011 programmatic recommendations (Issue #7) for the sturgeon projects in the RME/AP review (table below), the Council called for the “d*evelopment of a comprehensive management plan for white sturgeon through a collaborative effort involving currently funded projects”* and submission to the Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP) for review.

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| 198605000 | White Sturgeon Mitigation and Restoration in the Lower Columbia and Snake Rivers | Oregon Department Of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) |
| 200715500 | Develop a Master Plan for a Rearing Facility to Enhance Selected Populations of White Sturgeon in the Columbia River Basin | Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) |
| 200845500 | Sturgeon Management | Yakama Nation |
| 200850400 | Sturgeon Genetics | Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) |

The draft framework was developed and serves to summarize and synthesize the large volume of active sturgeon research monitoring and management efforts on a basinwide scale; provide information specific to individual management units; and provide regional goals for conservation, management, restoration, and mitigation activities. The draft framework was submitted to the Council on February 26, 2013 for review. In March 2013, the Council solicited regional review and comments on the draft framework concurrent with the ISRP review (ISRP document 2013-05), at the team’s request.

The team then incorporated ISRP and regional/public comments into the final framework and presented it to the Council at the March 2014 meeting (see the following link).

<http://www.nwcouncil.org/media/6948703/ColumbiaBasinWhiteSturgeonPlanningFramework2013Dec.pdf>

With science review and regional review and input, the team has fulfilled the programmatic issue recommendations (Issue #7) for the sturgeon projects in the RME/AP review[[1]](#footnote-1). The Council would also like to thank the team and the project sponsors for all the effort and time in the development of the Framework and regional workshops. The Council is encouraged by the collaborative and coordinated effort and looks forward to seeing the framework used to guide future project implementation.

Sincerely,

 Tony Grover

 Director, Fish and Wildlife Division

cc: Marcy Foster, BPA

 Peter Lofy, BPA

 Paul Krueger, BPA

 Greg Dondlinger, BPA

 John Skidmore, BPA

Sarah Branum, BPA

Blaine Parker, CRITFC

Andrew Matala, CRITFC

Brad James, WDFW

Tom Rein, ODFW

Christine Mallette, ODFW

Donella Miller, YN

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1. The specific projects as per the Council RME/AP review may have project specific conditions. Please see Council

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ecision document. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)