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## Northwest Power and Conservation Council

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January 6, 2015

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council members

**FROM:** Lynn Palensky

**SUBJECT:** Proposed sequence for next project reviews

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenter:** Lynn Palensky

**Summary:** Staff will outline a schedule and process for moving forward with the next project review cycle based on the status of our current recommendations and further informed by our annual work plan priorities. The 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program calls for the Council to engage with the region to assist in developing and potentially streamlining the next review process.

**Relevance:** The Council's review of program projects is a keystone process in our Program as called out in the NW Power Act. It provides the policy and scientific foundation to the projects implemented in the Program.

**Work plan:** This work is part of the Fish and Wildlife Division's Work Plan

**Background:** Section 4h(10)(D) of the Northwest Power Act directs the Council to oversee, with the assistance of the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP), a process to review projects proposed for funding by Bonneville to implement the Council's fish and wildlife program. The Council also works with Bonneville to develop the information necessary to make this review process successful. Beginning in 2009, the Council and Bonneville, with advice from the ISRP, decided to review projects in functional and sequential categories of wildlife, monitoring, evaluation and research, artificial production, resident fish (in the areas impassible for anadromous fish), and geographic (anadromous fish habitat). The Council wrapped up

its final category review in November 2013. The Council recommendations for some of the earlier project reviews are expired and thus, a review is needed to inform recommendations for future funding and implementation.

More Info: The 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program (p 118-120) and previous Council decisions on category reviews. See: <https://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/reviews/>

Below is the status of the category reviews based on Council recommendations and staff recommendations for future reviews:

Category	Timeframe for Funding Recommendation	Staff Recommendation
Wildlife	5-year recommendation. Expired end of FY 2014 (most)	<i>Review in 2015, focused on key issues</i>
RM&E/AP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basinwide</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Monitoring</li> <li>• Artificial Production</li> <li>• Species-specific</li> </ul>	3-year funding recommendations for research, sturgeon, lamprey, ocean coded wire tags; 5-year funding recommendation through end of 2016.	<i>Review research projects in 2015 complementary to the Council's research plan update process. Possible review of lamprey work</i>
Resident Fish, Data Management and Regional Coordination	5-year funding recommendation for most resident fish and data management projects; 2-year funding recommendation for regional coordination projects	Review of regional coordination projects and priority work in 2015
Geographic (habitat)	Expire at end of 2018	

Wildlife projects: Staff proposes a review of the wildlife projects in 2015. That review may be focused on long-term operation and maintenance needs, management plans, management issues and results of enhancement work. Staff will be meeting with the Wildlife Advisory Committee on January 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss thoughts on the process.

Research projects: The 2014 Program calls for the Council's research plan to be updated every three years beginning in 2014, with the first update to be completed by the end of 2015. The update process described in the 2014 Program involves the ISRP and ISAB and includes reviewing what research has been funded (past and current). To be efficient, staff recommends aligning the need to review research projects with the needs of the research plan update process. This alignment would involve planning for and conducting some level of review of the current research project in 2015 that will inform the research plan update process.

Another consideration for the Council is the idea of new project solicitations. The program includes measures that expand existing work (e.g., sturgeon and lamprey) in

new or additional directions or represent new directions for the program. In addition, the Council may want to provide guidance to Bonneville on investment priorities. The Council's priority investment strategy is ongoing operation and maintenance of aging infrastructure. The Program calls for the Council to develop a process to inventory, prioritize, and fund work to ensure the existing program funded infrastructure remains properly functioning and will continue to benefit fish and wildlife. Funding for this work can come from three places: savings from existing projects, close-out of projects or new money added to the program.