

Regional Coordination Forum

July 11, 2024

Introductions - by organization with a Regional Coordination project

| Organization | Regional Coordination - Lead contact |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Coeur d'Alene Tribe | Ralph Allan |
| Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission | Laura Gephardt |
| Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes | Lynn Ducharme |
| Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians | Mike Kennedy |
| Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation | Chuck Brushwood |
| Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde | Lawrence Schwabe |
| Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation | Gene Shippentower |
| Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs | Jennifer Graham |
| Cowlitz Indian Tribe | Dalton Fry |
| Idaho Department of Fish and Game | John Powell |

| Organization | Regional Coordination - Lead contact |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Kalispel Tribe of Indians | Ray Entz |
| Kootenai Tribe of Idaho | Billy Barquin or Gary Aitken |
| Montana Fish and Wildlife & Parks | Matt Boyer |
| Nez Perce Tribe | Jay Hesse |
| Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife | Art Martin |
| Spokane Tribe of Indians | Derek Abrahamson |
| Upper Columbia United Tribes | Laura Robinson |
| Upper Snake River Tribes | Scott Hauser |
| Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife | Ben Blank |
| Yakama Nation | Tom Iverson |

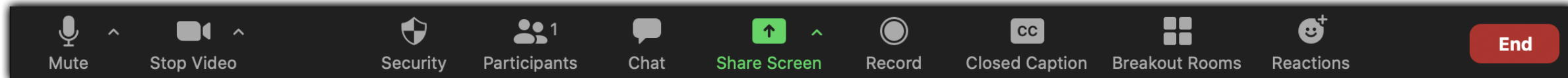
Meeting Logistics

➤ Conference room attendees

- Use a microphone at the table so that virtual attendees can hear you.

➤ Virtual attendees

- Encourage keeping camera on so we can all see each other (select 'gallery view' to see everyone).
- Use the 'raise hand' feature to speak.
- Microphone muted unless speaking or waiting to speak.
- The chat feature will be monitored, but we encourage direct dialogue when possible.



Agenda

9:00 AM PDT Welcome and Introductions

9:15 AM - 3:00 PM Topics to discuss below (break as needed)

| Agenda Items | Estimated start time | Approximate Duration |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Program Performance | 9:15 AM | 1 hour |
| 2. Program Amendment | 10:15 AM | 1 hour |
| <i>Extra time for continued discussion</i> | 11:15 AM | up to 45 mins |
| <i>Lunch Break</i> | by 12:00 PM | at least 1 hour |
| 3. Project Review | 1:00 PM | 1 hour |
| 4. Funding Adequacy | 2:00 PM | 20 mins |
| 5. Defining Roles | 2:20 PM | 30 mins |
| <i>Wrap up and next steps</i> | 2:50 PM | 10 mins |
| <i>Adjourn</i> | 3:00 PM | |

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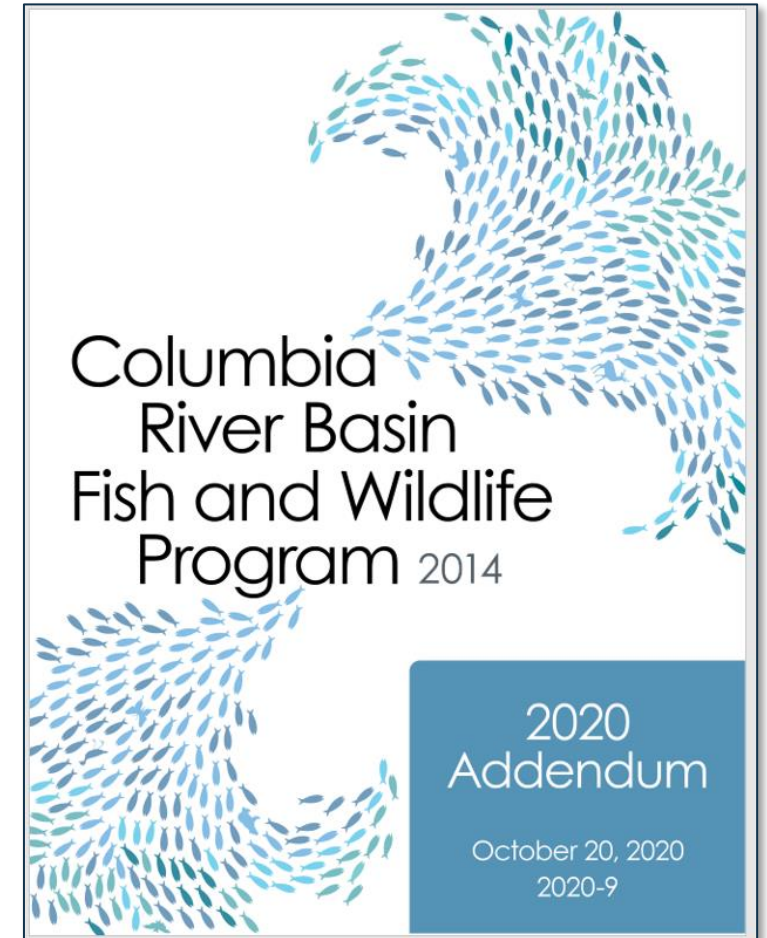
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Assessing and communicating Program performance

Kris Homel and Kate Self
RCF- July 2024

Evaluating Performance of the Fish and Wildlife Program

- Called for in the Northwest Power Act
- Aspects of performance in every program
- Recent increased focus on understanding progress from 40 years of investment across the Columbia Basin
- Program performance evaluation is an educational resource: Identify key questions for region to consider in anticipation of next Program amendment



The Fish and Wildlife Program includes:

- **Measures describing actions**
 - At the dams
 - Offsite (in mainstem/ tributaries/ estuary/ ocean)
 - Implemented by action agencies, Council, and through projects
- **Measures are organized by strategy**
 - 23 Program strategies
- **Goals and objectives**
 - 5 goals, 37 objectives



Protection and mitigation for all Fish and Wildlife affected by the hydrosystem - not just listed species

Outline

- Steps to Program performance
- Retrospective
- Categorical assessments
- Goals and objectives
- Discussion



Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council



Outline

- **Steps to Program performance**
- Retrospective
- Categorical assessments
- Goals and objectives
- Discussion



Our approach...

One-time document

Retrospective

Program history and context

Updated every five year; SPIs updated annually

Categorical Assessments

Describe Program implementation; uses SPIs

Updated annually

Goals and Objectives

Status and trends



Outline

- Steps to Program performance
- **Retrospective-
*available online!***
- Categorical assessments
- Goals and objectives
- Discussion



Retrospective

- Identify major actions
 - Development of Basin and Hydropower
 - Northwest Power Act
 - Program history and context by decade

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

CONTACT Enter your keywords SEARCH

ABOUT NEWS FISH AND WILDLIFE ENERGY MEETINGS REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

Fish and Wildlife

The Council works to protect and

A retrospective of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program 1980 – 2022

Prepared by Kris Homel Leslie Bach

We presented this Retrospective to the Fish and Wildlife Committee in August and September, 2022 and presented to the Council in March, 2023. This is the documentation we prepared to support that work.

This retrospective helped us understand the relationship between the Power Act and Fish and Wildlife Program, how Programs were developed over time, and important regional context that influenced Program content. The retrospective was also critical for helping us identify key measures over time that we could track through our Categorical Assessments.

In preparing this document, we strived to be as thorough as possible while maintaining a document that was still a readable length. This may mean some topics are not covered in a great degree of detail or were even excluded. However, in the Categorical Assessments, key measures are covered in greater detail.

SEP 20

Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 SW 6th Ave #1100
Portland, OR 97204
September, 2023

A RETROSPECTIVE OF THE COUNCIL'S FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM, 1980 - 2022

40+ years of the Program (and presentations from Aug and Sep 2022)

Resource Tools & Maps

JUL 2024

Outline

- Steps to Program performance
- Retrospective
- **Categorical assessments**
- Goals and objectives
- Discussion

- Purpose
- Content and use of SPIs
- Communicating results: presentations and documentation
- Timeline and status

Categorical Assessments

- **Connect actions, implementation, benchmarks**
 - Hydrosystem
 - Habitat
 - Artificial production
 - Program adaptive management

Purpose

1. Describe implementation
2. Report on progress and challenges in implementing measures
3. Identify key questions for region to consider in anticipation of next Program amendment

Categorical Assessments

- **Connect actions, implementation, benchmarks**
 - Hydrosystem
 - Habitat
 - Artificial production
 - Program adaptive management

Content and use of SPIs

- Description of strategies associated with category
- Key measures called for in each program
- Implementation over time
- How implementation relates to specific targets
- Context
- Associated SPIs used to provide data for analysis

Communicating results: presentations and documentation

Presentations include:

- Summary of 2014 Program strategies associated with assessment
- Complete list of measures within category
- Subset of measures that will be discussed in presentation
 - Context, summary of implementation (including SPIs), key points
- Discussion
 - Overarching topics for region to consider in next Program Amendment

Communicating results: presentations and documentation

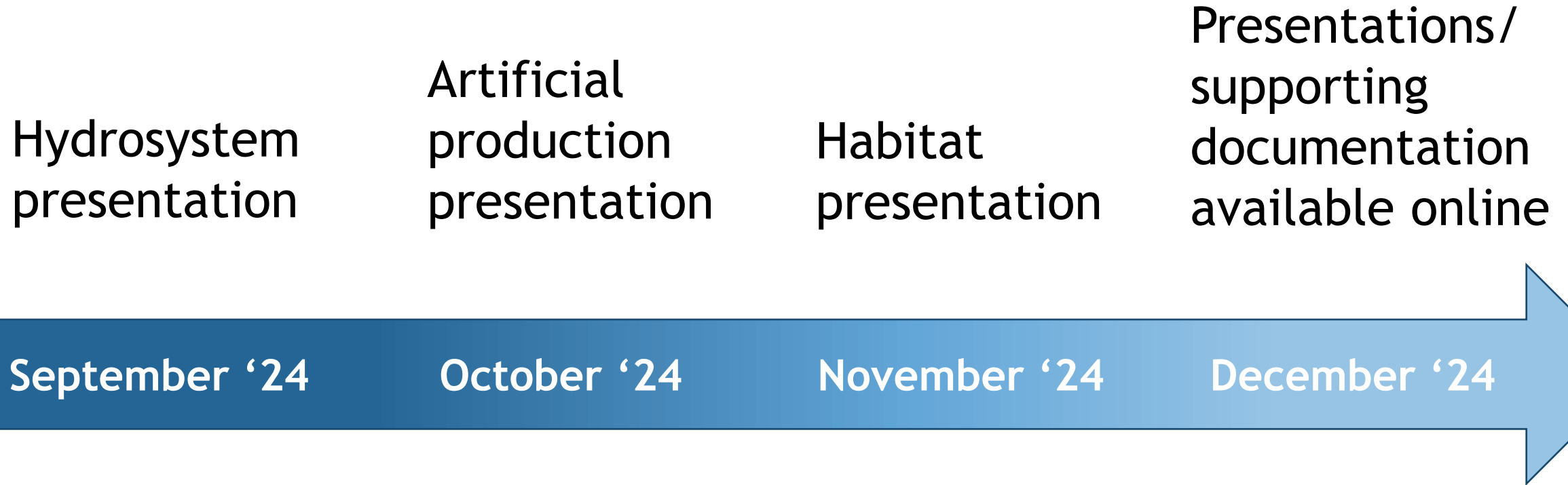
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- Summary of 2014 Program strategies associated with assessment
- Complete list of measures within category
- Subset of measures that will be discussed in presentation
 - Context, summary of implementation (including SPIs), key points
- Discussion
 - Overarching topics for region to consider in next Program Amendment

Supporting documentation includes:

- All measures within category
- Implementation figures and tables
- Description of how implementation assessed, context, discussion
- Different levels of documentation based on what resources currently exist

Timeline for Categorical Assessments



Status: Hydrosystem Assessment

- Identified approximately 1000 unique measures related to Hydrosystem
 - Narrowed this list down to the 43 key measures
- Measures describe
 - Water management
 - Passage
 - Water quality
- All in multiple environments and for the benefit of multiple resident and anadromous species

Status: Hydrosystem Assessment

- Data assembled and summaries vetted with topical experts
- Currently refining key topics to discuss and present in September
- Completing supporting documentation
- Information will be available on website

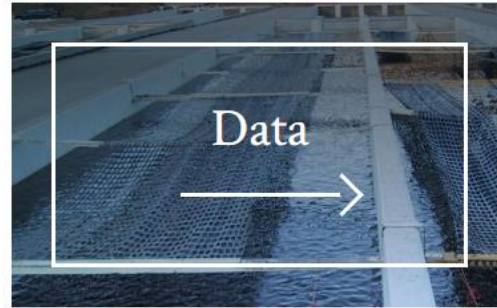


Status: Artificial Production Assessment

- Identified approximately 280 unique measures related to artificial production
 - Currently narrowing this list down to key measures
- Measures describe
 - Facility construction
 - O&M
 - M&E
 - Various species produced
 - Various objectives for production (resident fish mitigation, resident fish substitution, anadromous harvest, supplementation, reintroduction)

Status: Artificial Production Assessment

- Key measures will be connected to available resources to describe implementation
- Numerous resources available to apply to assessment
 - Hatchery Tracker
 - Story maps
 - Summarized data on juvenile releases



Columbia Basin facility and production information, Council Program release data, maps at the Program Tracker

PROGRAM TRACKER

A screenshot of a website titled "Hatcheries Columbia River Basin". The background is a dark, close-up photograph of several fish, likely salmon, swimming in water. The title "Hatcheries" is in a large, white, sans-serif font, and "Columbia River Basin" is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. Below the title is a white horizontal line, followed by a mission statement: "Committed to supporting a common vision that supports abundant, healthy wild fish and effective fish hatcheries in the basin". Below that is the text "Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Informal Hatchery Workgroup". On the right side of the page, there are four white buttons with rounded corners and black text: "Hatchery Overview", "Stories and Handouts", "2023 Assessment Reports & Data", and "Other Information". At the bottom left of the page, there is a small photo credit: "Photo credit: Roger Tabor, USFWS".

- Assembled datasets will be integrated into Program Tracker as SPIs
- Data will also inform tracking progress toward Goals and Objectives

Status: Habitat Assessment

- Identified over 400 unique measures
 - Currently narrowing this list down to key measures
- Measures describe
 - Restoration
 - Protection
 - Wildlife
 - Predator management
 - Non-native and invasive species

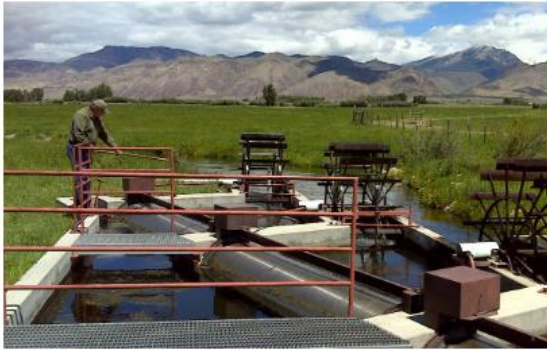


Photo: Nez Perce Tribe - Precious Lands Wildlife Area

Status: Habitat Assessment

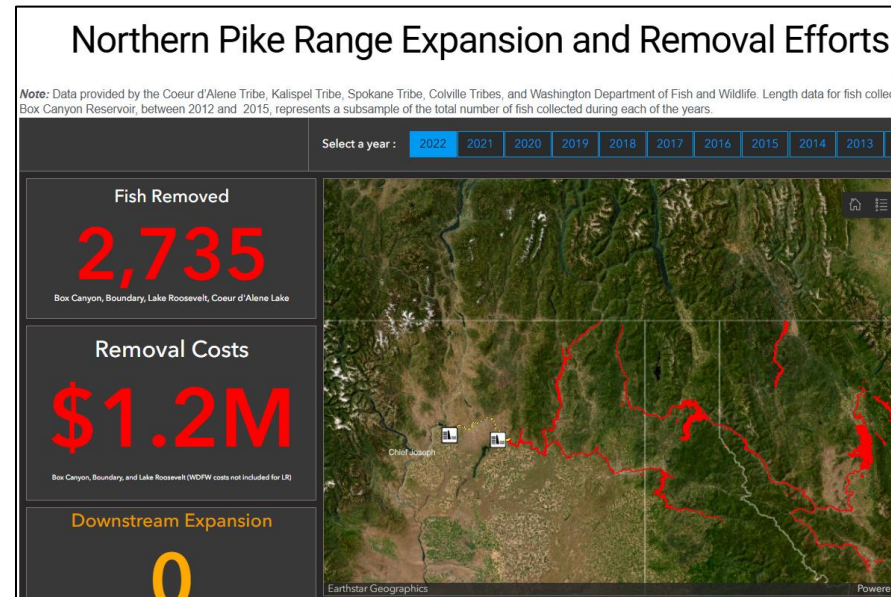
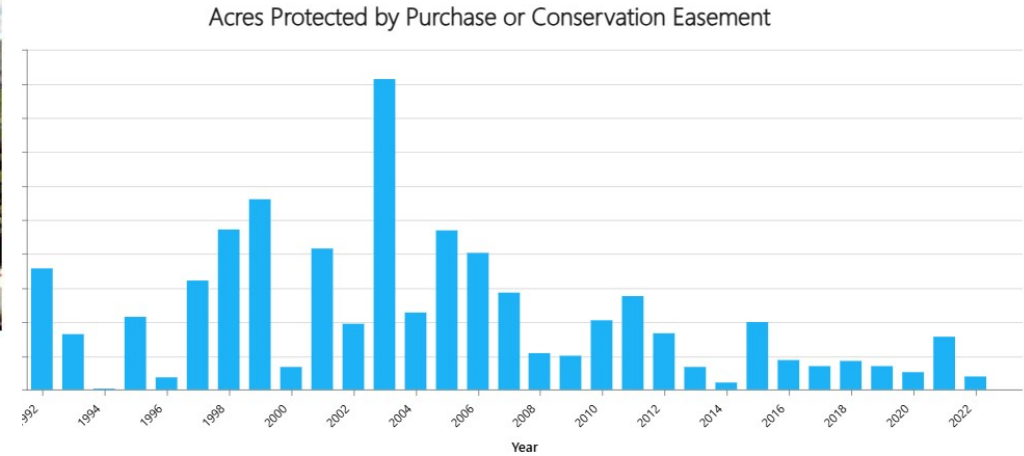
Numerous resources available for assessment:

- Habitat restoration SPIs
- Screens mapper
- Wildlife tracking resources (HEP reports, summaries, lands tracker, SPIs)
- Predator management SPIs; Northern Pike mapper
- Non-native and Invasive species monitoring stations, detection data, SPIs, other reports



FISH SCREENS

[Maps and project details](#) on over 1,800 fish screens in the basin, and an [overview](#).



LANDS

[Maps and details](#) on lands acquired through the Program

Outline

- Steps to Program performance
- Retrospective
- Categorical assessments
- **Goals and objectives**
- Discussion

- Purpose
- Content
- Communicating results: presentations and new Program Tracker page
- Timeline



Purpose of evaluation

- Quantify progress, especially 5 million fish
- Identify objectives that are qualitative or not trackable
 - Perhaps some of these can be sharpened in the next amendment?
 - Perhaps additional objectives needed?

Goals and objectives

Track progress toward Program goals and objectives from 2020 addendum

- Goals
- Objectives
- Associated SPIs

Content

2020 Addendum

–5 goals, 37 objectives

- Salmon and Steelhead
- All native aquatic focal species
- Wildlife
- Ecological
- Communication, assessment, and coordination

→ Goals and objectives may be quantitative or qualitative
→ Some goals require data summaries, others connect to existing SPIs

Communicating results

- Revising Program Tracker to include a section for goals and objectives
- Each goal and objective has high level visual summary and is connected to associated SPIs
- All methods to create summary appear in documentation on website
- Presentation on progress toward goals and objectives

Performance indicators by Program goal

Preliminary design



ANADROMOUS SALMON AND STEELHEAD

[Mainstem hydrosystem flow and passage](#)

[Fish propagation and hatchery](#)

[Wild fish](#)

[Anadromous fish in blocked](#)



OTHER NATIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

[White sturgeon](#)

[Pacific lamprey](#)

[Eulachon](#)

[Resident fish](#)

[Predator management](#)



WILDLIFE

[Wildlife mitigation](#)



ECOLOGY/HABITAT

[Habitat](#)

[Water quality](#)

[Mainstem hydrosystem flow and passage](#)

[Predator management](#)



OUTREACH, COORDINATION, ASSESSMENT

[Public engagement](#)

[Protected areas and hydroelectric development/licensing](#)

[Resident fish](#)

Timeline

(for all goals/ objectives with available data)

- Revised Program Tracker in development
- Data summaries ongoing
- Data summaries complete
- Discuss with topical experts
- Develop visuals for Tracker
- Presentation on Goals/ Objectives
- Revised Program Tracker goes live

July / August '24

September- November'24

December '24

Outline

- Steps to Program performance
- Retrospective
- Categorical assessments
- Goals and objectives
- **Discussion**

- Example to discuss:
 - 5 Million Fish
 - Wildlife mitigation status

Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Goal | Increase total adult salmon and steelhead runs of Columbia River origin to a 10-year rolling average of five million annually by 2025, in a manner that emphasizes increases in the abundance of the populations that originate above Bonneville Dam. |
| S1 | <u>Contribute to</u> achieving the targets for salmon and steelhead adult abundance by stock and subregion developed by the NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee's (MAFAC) Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force. |
| S2 | Contribute to achieving a smolt-to-adult return ratio (SAR) in the 2-6 percent range (minimum 2-percent; average 4-percent) for listed Snake River and upper Columbia salmon and steelhead, as well as for non-listed populations. |
| S3 | Continue to improve juvenile passage survival through the hydrosystem |
| S4 | Achieve the following annual adult salmon and steelhead survival standards for the Bonneville Dam to Lower Granite Dam reach and the Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam reach |
| S5 | With the agreement of the relevant co-managing state agencies and tribes, contribute to assessing and, where appropriate, expanding anadromous fish distribution into historical habitat above blocked areas |
| S6 | Bonneville-funded hatcheries meet hatchery mitigation goals as described in the management plans or Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs). |
| S7 | Maintain genetic diversity over time. |

5 Million Fish by 2025

2014 Program - What

*Increase **total** adult salmon and steelhead runs of Columbia River origin to a 10-year rolling average of five million annually by 2025, in a manner that **emphasizes increases in the abundance of the populations that originate above Bonneville Dam****.

2020 Addendum - How

- Combine the number of adult salmon of all species counted at Bonneville Dam
- The number of fish spawning below Bonneville Dam
- Estimated number of salmon caught in the ocean and in rivers below Bonneville Dam.

Because most of the loss of salmon and steelhead production as a result of hydroelectric development has occurred above Bonneville Dam, increases in abundance to satisfy this goal must come predominantly from this area.

****Remember: This goal is addressing losses due to hydroelectric development, specifically.***

One fish, two fish...

| Data | | Sources |
|------------------------------------|-----|--|
| Bonneville Dam counts | ✓ | Fish Passage Center, OR/WA Joint Staff Reports (Seasonally reported) |
| Fish spawning below Bonneville Dam | TBD | River mouth run size less Bonneville Dam count + in-river harvest + other mortality (temperature, marine mammal predation, etc.) |
| In-river harvest | ✓ | OR/WA Joint Staff Reports (Seasonally reported) |
| Ocean harvest | ✓ | Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Pacific Salmon Commission |

Other sources: MAFAC Summaries (NOAA), Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

5 Million Fish Discussion

Abundance of populations originating above Bonneville:

- Calculating the proportion of fish headed upriver versus the river-mouth return may allow us to compare above BON returns vs. total returns across time.
 - Absolute estimates by stock fluctuate annually
 - We are looking for a trend

Ocean considerations:

- The Program calls for considering harvest mortality.
 - Is it necessary to account for ocean mortality outside of fisheries?
- Annual exploitation rates vary by season.
 - Can an average rate be applied?

General thoughts:

- Consideration of how to incorporate uncertainty across estimates (provide ranges, consult with experts).

Wildlife

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Goal | Mitigate for wildlife losses caused by the development and operation of hydropower dams |
| W1 | Complete mitigation for construction and inundation losses over the next five-year period by acquiring lands or through settlement to turn the entire C&I portion of the Wildlife Loss Mitigation table to Dark Blue or Light Blue. |
| W2 | Assess and mitigate for losses due to the operation of the hydroelectric facilities. Mitigate for the assessed losses of wildlife associated with the ongoing operations of Hungry Horse and Libby at 26,321 acres for Hungry Horse Dam and 35,571 acres at Libby Dam. The objective for the next five-year period will be to turn the Purple portions of the Operation Loss portion of the Wildlife Loss Mitigation Table Yellow or Light Blue |
| W3 | All parcels and/or management units operate under an approved management plan. |
| W4 | Maintain existing habitat mitigation values on the parcels and/or management units as described in their individual management plans. |

Wildlife

- Wildlife goals and objectives tie to SPIs but data summaries needed to populate SPIs
- Will simultaneously complete wildlife assessment, track wildlife goals/objectives, and populate wildlife SPIs
- Assessment provides context for understanding progress or topics that need additional attention, as we approach amendment

| Dam or Dam Complex | C&I Loss | Operation Loss |
|---|----------|----------------|
| Willamette | LB | LB |
| Bonneville | DB | P |
| The Dalles | DB | P |
| John Day | DB | P |
| McNary | DB | P |
| Lower Snake | DB | P |
| Upper Snake (Idaho MOA, including Deadwood operation) | LB | LB |
| Anderson Ranch | Y | P |
| Black Canyon | P | P |
| Deadwood | P | P |
| Minidoka | Y | P |
| Palisades | Y | P |
| Dworshak | LB | P |
| Chief Joseph | DB | P |
| Grand Coulee | Y | P |
| Albeni Falls (Idaho MOA) | LB | LB |
| Albeni Falls (Kalispel MOU) | LB | P |
| Albeni Falls (Other) | Y | P |
| Libby | LB | Y |
| Hungry Horse | LB | Y |

- DB- C&I or Op loss has been mitigated through mitigation of sufficient HUs or agreed upon metric
- LB- C&I or Op loss has been mitigated through settlement agreement
- Y- C&I mitigation has taken place/ might be near completion but issues remain to be addressed
- Y- Op losses have been assessed and some mitigation may have begun
- P- C&I mitigation has been unaddressed or significant issues remain
- P- Op losses have not been assessed

Wildlife Mitigation Strategy Indicators

Amount of construction and inundation mitigation acquired at each hydro-facility or number of settlement agreements covering C&I losses. (W1-1)

Number of operational loss assessments or settlement agreements covering operational losses completed for each hydro-facility. (W2-1)

Number of parcels and/or management units being managed through an approved management plan. (W3-1)

Number of parcels or management units that report concerns related to meeting their habitat mitigation values. (W4-1)



Questions & Discussion

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Upcoming Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment

Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program
Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Regional Coordination Forum - July 11, 2024



Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

Today- an early overview

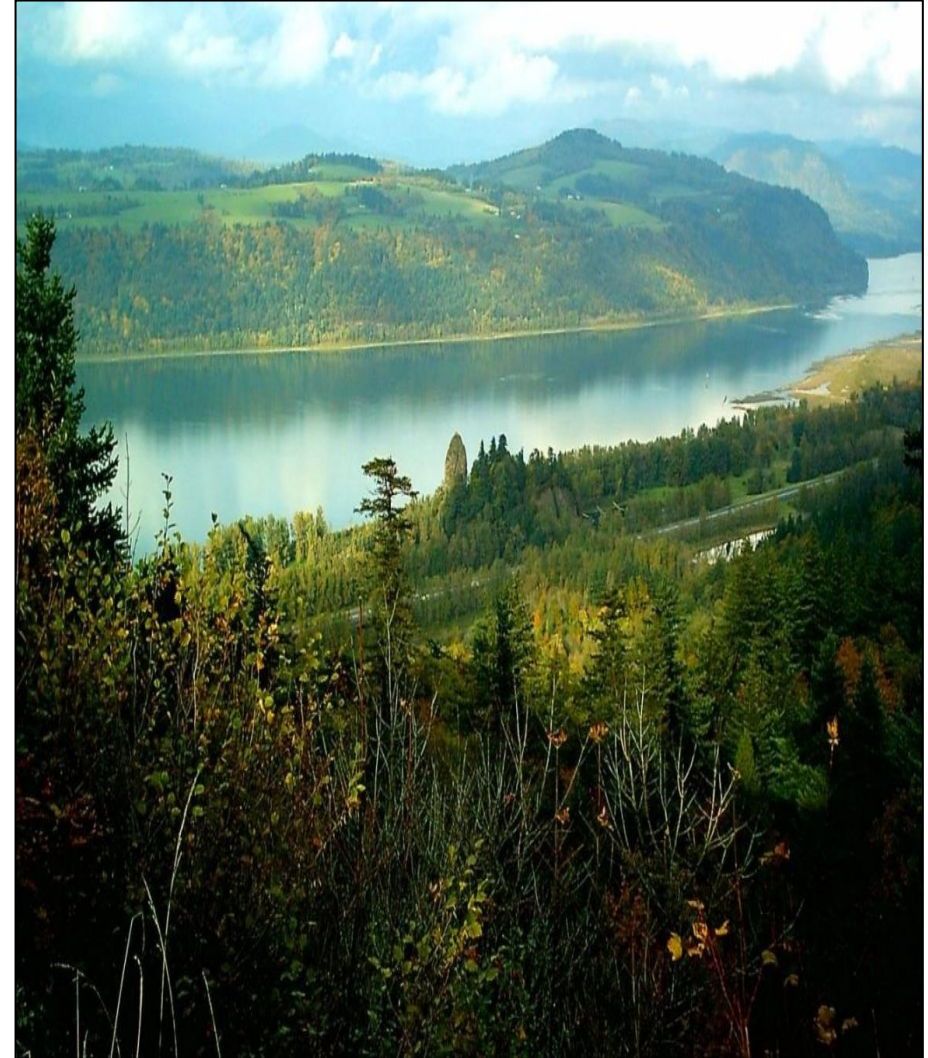
1. Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process
2. 2014/2020 Fish and Wildlife Program
3. Broader context - regional influences
4. Getting ready and timeframes

1. Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process:

- Northwest Power Act requirements
- Substance and process steps
- Interaction with power planning and power plan

Northwest Power Act

- Develop a Program to protect, mitigate and enhance the fish and wildlife affected by the development and operation of the hydropower dams, including related spawning grounds and habitat of the Columbia River and its tributaries....
- While doing so, also assure the region an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply
- Provide for wide public participation in developing the Fish and Wildlife Program and facilitating the orderly planning of the region's power supply



Power Act definition of mitigation responsibility

1. Mitigation responsibility -all hydroelectric facilities in the U.S. portion of the Columbia Basin regardless of ownership or location
2. Protection and mitigation - achieved through onsite actions (hydrosystem water management, flows and passage measures) and offsite mitigation and enhancement actions (tributary and estuary habitat and production measures)
3. The Fish and Wildlife Program must treat the “river and its tributaries as a system”
4. BPA to use its fund and authorities to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife in a manner consistent with the Council’s program
5. Other federal agencies (Corps, Reclamation, FERC) as well as BPA must take into account Council’s program in decision making “to the fullest extent practicable at relevant stages of decisionmaking,” while also treating fish and wildlife equitably with other authorized purposes of the dams

Program amendment process, Council's role in the Act is significantly different than the Council's work to review and adopt a power plan

- Program amendment process is tightly scripted, step-by-step, beginning with a call to others for **recommendations**
- Power plan review specifies substantive elements of the plan, with very little process requirement.
- Process is heavily dependent on input from others, beginning with **recommendations**, especially from the state and federal fish and wildlife agencies and region's Indian tribes.

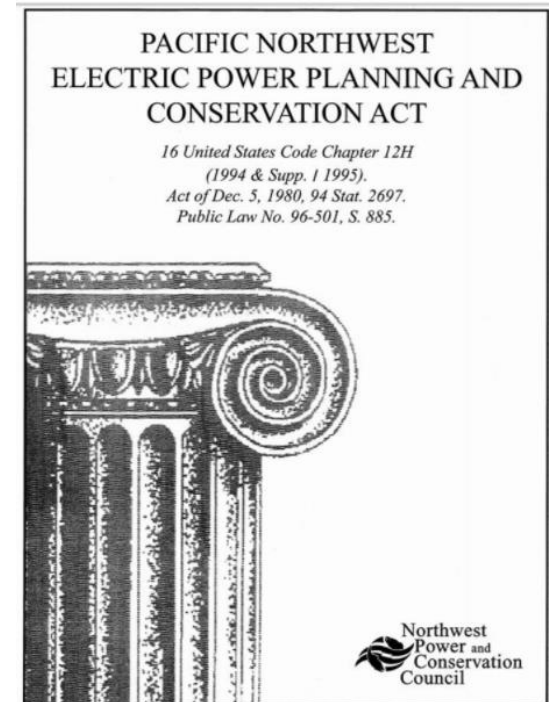
Northwest Power Act - continued

- Council has legal obligations to the recommendations, and to the activities, perspectives and legal authorities of the agencies and tribes.
- Recommendations, related information, comments on recommendations and draft amendments form the bulk of the **administrative record** for Council's decisions on the program.



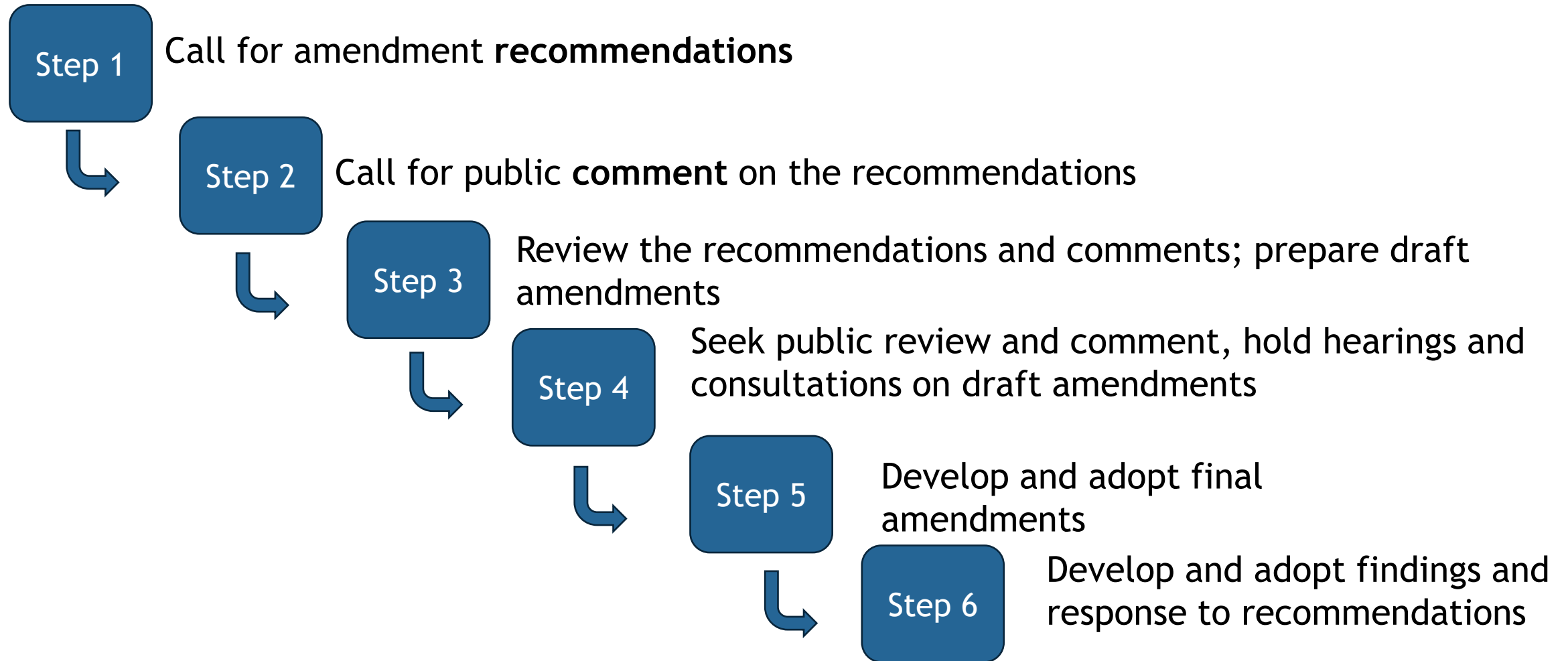
Amending the Fish and Wildlife Program

- Steps and procedures described in the Northwest Power Act:
 - Council reviews Power Plan at least every five years
 - *Prior to any review or major revision of Power Plan, Council is to call for and review recommendations for amending Fish and Wildlife Program*

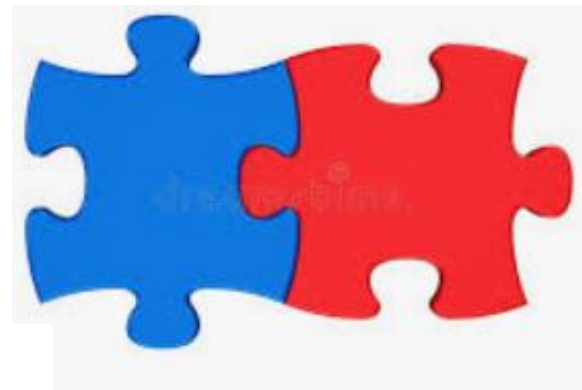


Major Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment steps

(*not all detail)



Intersection of the fish and wildlife program with power planning



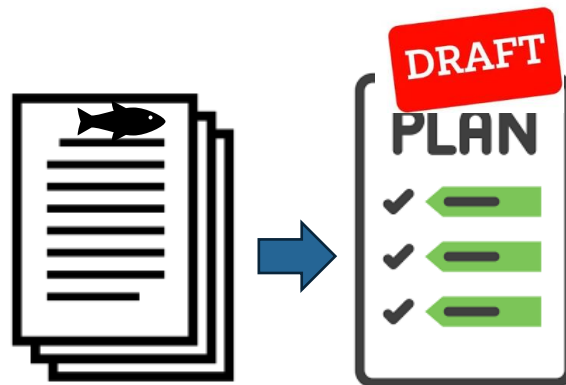
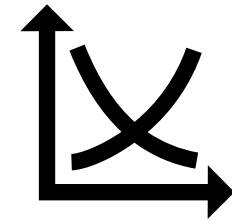
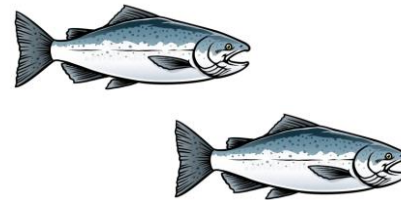
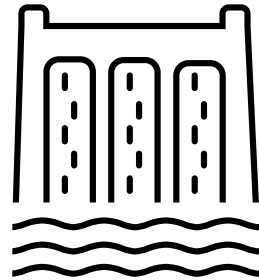
Interaction between Fish & Wildlife Program amendment process and power planning

- Act requires that prior to any “review” of the power plan, the Council first call for recommendations to amend the fish and wildlife program.

Recommendations leading to amended Program



Change



Interaction between fish and power ...

Timing considerations

- Timing
 - Act requires Council to “call for recommendations” to amend F&W Program prior to a “review” of power plan
 - Power plan “preparation” any time
 - But, F&W Program should be adopted prior to developing draft power plan
 - Primary reason relates to hydrosystem operations

Interaction between fish and power ...

“AEERPS” considerations

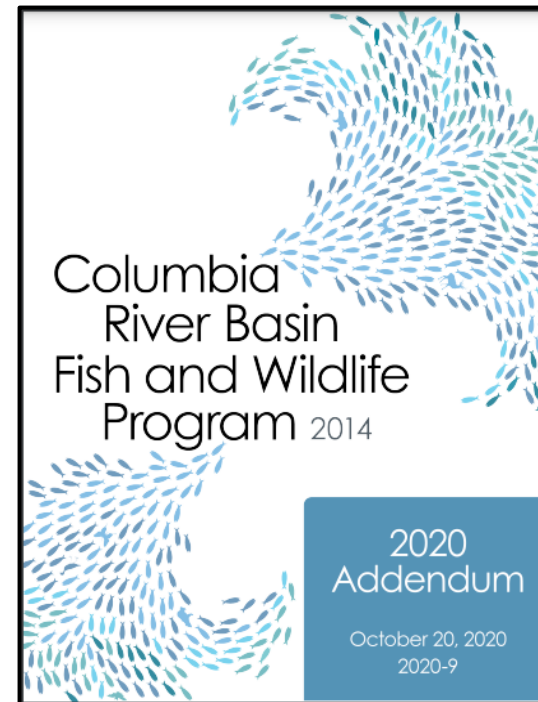
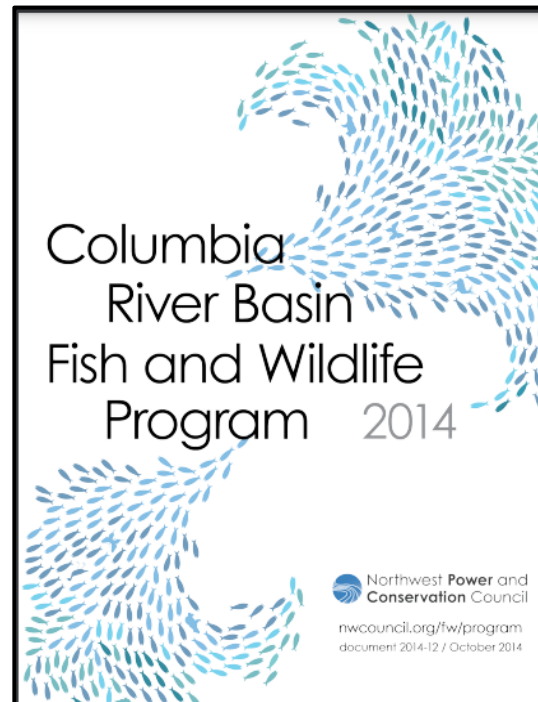
- AEERPS
 - Act requires the Council to adopt program measures to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife “while assuring the Pacific Northwest an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply” (AEERPS)
 - Requires some analytical assistance from power division and conclusions by Council
 - Considerations include effects of operations and costs
 - Necessarily a preliminary assessment prior to power plan - power plan resource strategy intended by Act as part of an overarching strategy to implement fish and wildlife program that affects power supply

2. 2014/2020 Fish and Wildlife Program:

- What will get amended
- What is in the Program?
- What is being implemented?

Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

- 2014/2020



The Fish and Wildlife Program includes:

- Measures describing actions
 - At the dams - ex: water management, flows, passage
 - Offsite (in mainstem/ tributaries/estuary/ ocean) - ex: habitat protection and restoration, artificial production, predator management
 - Wildlife and resident fish mitigation through same types of measures
- Goals and objectives



Protection and mitigation for all Fish and Wildlife affected by the hydrosystem - not just listed species

2014/2020 Program

- Thousands of measures grouped into 23 strategies and 59 subbasin plan management plans
- Goals and objectives thoroughly reviewed and revised in 2020 Program
- Measures address mitigation through: hydrosystem operations/water management/dam passage, habitat protection and restoration, artificial production. Also measures address water quality, predation management, non-native and invasive species, consideration of fish and wildlife habitat from tributaries, mainstem rivers, estuary, plume and ocean, anadromous and resident fish and wildlife mitigation, research, monitoring and evaluation activities.

Columbia River Basin Subbasins

Print in landscape (sideways) orientation



Program implementation

- Operations by Corps and Bureau, and Bonneville, F&W program investments and expenditures. But other elements too:
- Much of what gets implemented is now structured through various implementation agreements – these briefly discussed in next section
- Detail coming - through reports on our internal assessments of program implementation and performance



Program Retrospective- staff report



Available on the Council's website

3. Broader context

What else is happening around the region that influences the Council's work on the program?

Partial list of considerations:

- ESA listings: including Biological Opinions with commitments to hydrosystem operations and offsite mitigation actions
 - Columbia River System (CRS) salmon; Upper Snake Reclamation salmon, CRS bull trout and sturgeon; Willamette
- Accords and related implementation commitments
- Two new similar agreements - P2IP implementation agreement; Six Sovereign/federal commitments/agreement
- Status of meeting mitigation goals and objectives. Concern over salmon abundance levels for some populations
- Columbia River Treaty developments
- Implications of Bonneville's work to develop and get agreement on new power sales contracts?

***More coming later this year.
Lots of experience with how
to treat these.**



Kootenai River White Sturgeon

4. Getting ready and timeframes

Calendar of topics by month (draft)

| Month | Council meeting agenda items |
|-------------------------|---|
| July (Portland, OR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview, early discussion on the amendment process, schedule for 2024 tasks, rough timeline for 2025 & 2026 (1.5 hrs) |
| August (Webinar) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Regional Coordination Meeting (July 11), other |
| September (Astoria, OR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of the Northwest Power Act’s legal decision framework and amendment procedures (Part I) (1.5+ hrs) • Staff report on Program performance: implementation assessment of Program Hydro measures, related topics (1.5 hrs) • ISAB report on review of 2020 Fish and Wildlife Program Addendum (30 min) (<i>might move to Oct</i>) |
| October (Portland, OR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of the Northwest Power Act’s legal decision framework and amendment procedures (Part II, External context for the Council’s work on the program, including ESA listings and BiOps and Accords and other long-term implementation agreements) • Staff report on Program performance: implementation assessment of artificial production (hatchery) measures, related topics (1 hr) |
| November (Portland, OR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff report on Program performance: implementation assessment of Program habitat restoration and protection, wildlife, invasive species, predator management measures, related topics (2 hrs) • Discuss outline of letter calling for recommendations |
| December (Webinar) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff report on Program goals and objectives and latest developments for the Program Tracker • Review draft letter calling for recommendations |

Estimated timeline for Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Process *for discussion purposes* **DRAFT**





Questions & Discussion

Agenda

9:00 AM Welcome and Introductions

9:15 AM - 3:00 PM Topics to discuss below (break as needed)

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Update on Project Review approach and planning for F&W Program Lands review

Regional Coordination Forum

July 11, 2024



Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

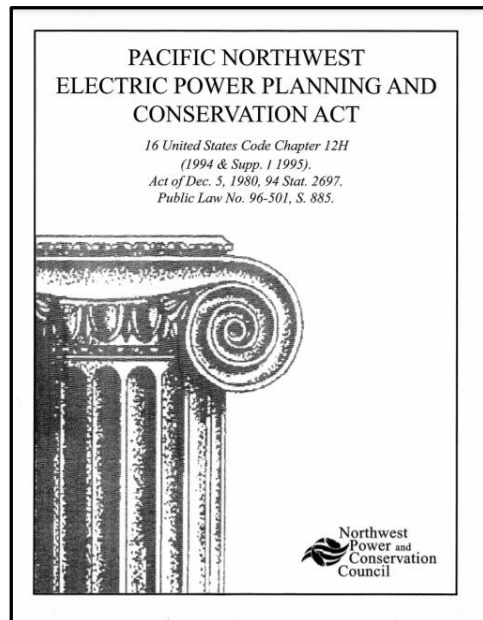
Presentation Outline

- Brief review of the updated approach for project reviews (details described at the [April 2023 RCF](#) meeting, [May 2023](#) and [October 2023](#) Committee meetings).
- Summary of “project mapping” effort to guide and organize next reviews.
- Rationale for initiating review cycle with projects focused on fish and wildlife program lands.
- Next steps.

Updated project review approach aims to:

I.) Continue to meet science review requirements:

- Northwest Power Act: Section 4h10D: Council role in review and ISRP review (1996 amendment to NPA)



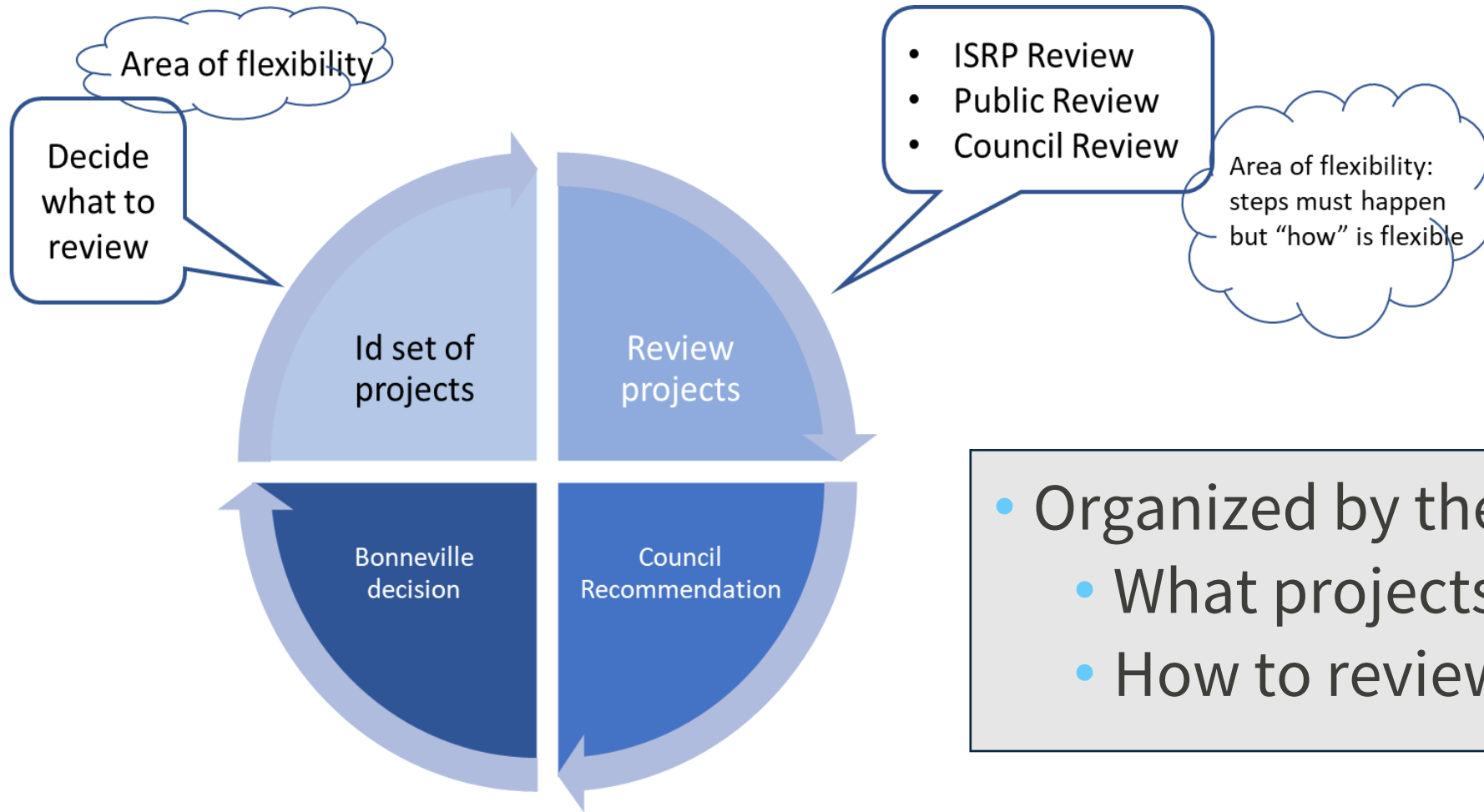
II.) Continue to emphasize transparency & accountability:

- Sharing of project data and information (i.e., project purpose, objectives, results)
- Identify contribution to the Program and region
- Identification of policy issues to address

III.) Acknowledge the maturity of the active & ongoing projects implementing the Program

IV.) Add value and create efficiencies in the process

Two focus areas for updating project review approach:



- Organized by the 2 areas of flexibility
 - What projects to review
 - How to review projects

Concepts to achieve desired outcomes

1. Comply with NW Power Act
2. Continue to emphasize transparency & accountability
3. Improve efficiencies in the process

| Outcome type | Outcomes | Concepts to work toward desired outcome |
|--|---|---|
| Legal | Comply with the NW Power Act and science review | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to review projects – updated approach as noted below. |
| Transparency & Accountability | Identify and share project contributions to the Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic premises and scientific soundness of existing projects have been accepted. • Shift focus of review to an <u>implementation check-in on project actions</u>. • Use targeted questions to guide the review. |
| | Sharing of project information and data | |
| | Identification of policy issues to address | |

Concepts to achieve desired outcomes

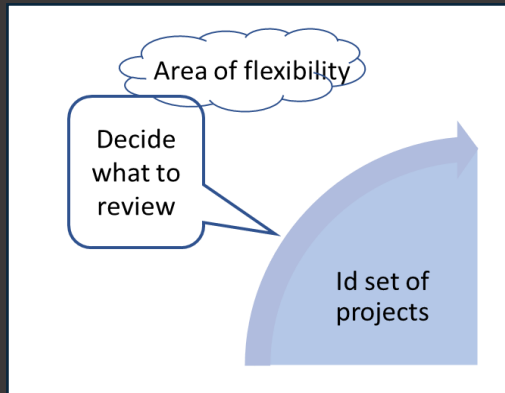
| Outcome type | Outcomes | Concepts to work toward desired outcome |
|--------------|----------------------------|--|
| Process | Review efficiencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Project mapping” to structure review:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discrete, smaller sets of projects to be reviewed.• Clarify which projects are amenable to science review.• Targeted questions for similar types of projects:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides structure for review and Council recommendations.• Implementation check-in with review materials reduced.• Interaction with the ISRP:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Value-added comments/guidance to strengthen projects for continued implementation.• Additional evaluation for only a subset of projects with outstanding Council condition(s) from past reviews. |

Presentation Outline

- Brief review of the updated approach for project reviews (details described at the April 2023 RCF meeting, May 2023 and October 2023 Committee meetings).
- **Summary of “project mapping” effort to guide and organize next reviews.**
- Rationale for initiating review cycle with projects focused on fish and wildlife program lands.
- Next steps.

Project review components – next steps to develop

What projects to review



- Confirm existing information about projects to be reviewed:
 - **Project mapping (purpose/emphasis)**
 - Identify project-specific Council recommendations and need for additional science review if outstanding

- Completed project mapping with Bonneville (Feb – April)
 - Confirmed list of active projects (309).
 - Confirmed how each project connects to the Program.
 - Confirmed type(s) of work each project implements.

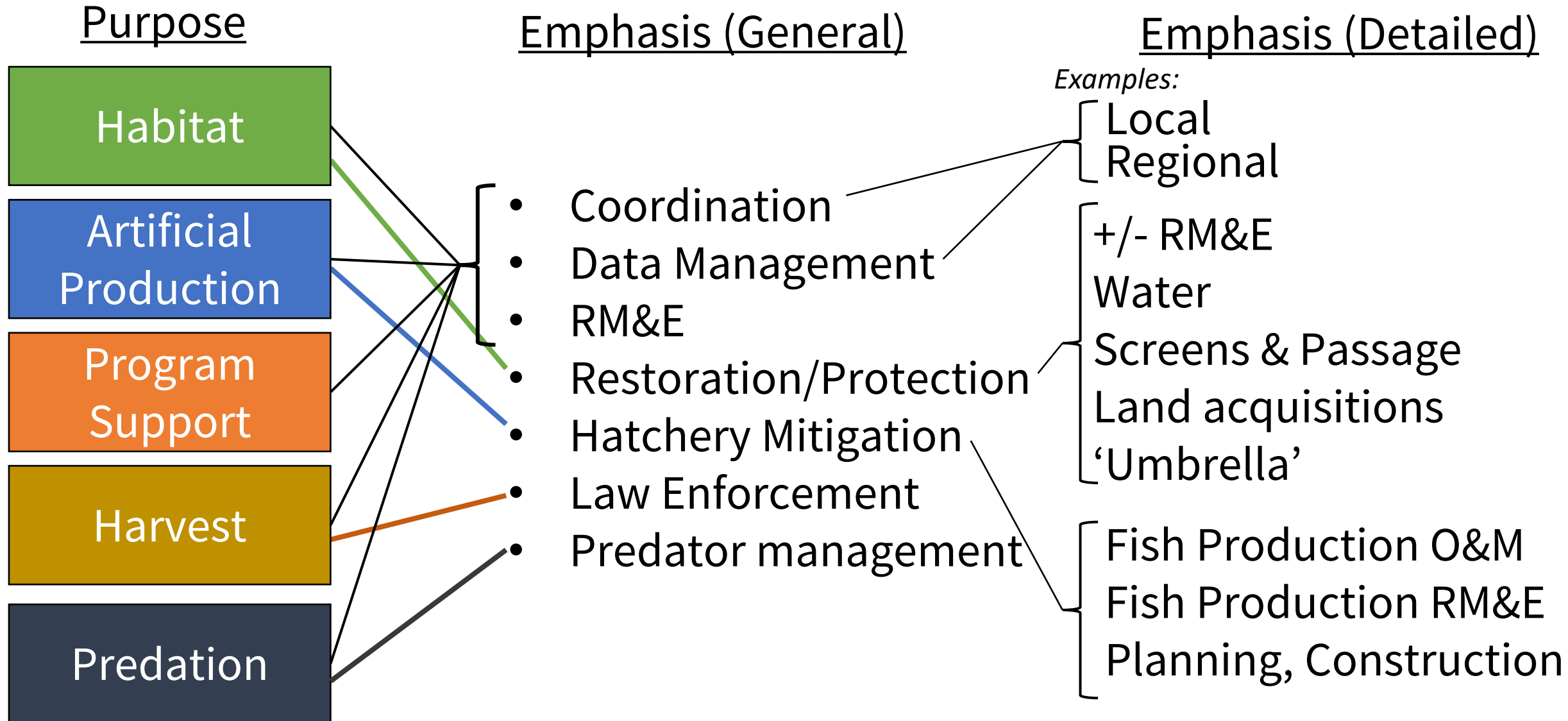
Project mapping = organizational structure for review

Categorizing and grouping projects helps facilitate:

- Focus on projects that implement similar types of work.
- Develop targeted questions for similar types of projects.
- Group projects into discrete sets and consideration of projects with different timelines and needs for review.
- Define and clarify which projects are amenable to science review and which projects are not.

How projects are categorized and grouped


“Project Mapping” = Identify the type of work projects implement.




Current projects mapped to purpose & emphasis

| Project Purpose | Project Emphasis (General) | Project Emphasis (Detailed) | # Projects | |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|----|
| Habitat | Coordination | Coordination - Local | 5 | |
| | Data Management | Data Management - Local | 4 | |
| | Restoration/Protection | | Restoration/Protection | 54 |
| | | | Restoration/Protection Umbrella | 7 |
| | | | Restoration/Protection, RM&E | 17 |
| | | | Restoration/Protection - Water | 3 |
| | | | Restoration/Protection - Fish Lands Acquisition, O&M, RM&E | 8 |
| | | | Restoration/Protection - Wildlife Lands Acquisition, O&M, RM&E | 28 |
| | | | Restoration/Protection - Lands Acquisition Support | 2 |
| | Restoration/Protection - Screens, Passage, and/or Traps O&M | 5 | | |
| RM&E | RM&E - Ecological | 31 | | |
| Artificial Production | Coordination | Coordination - Local | 3 | |
| | Hatchery Mitigation | Hatchery planning and evaluation, and construction | 6 | |
| | | Fish Production - O&M | 23 | |
| | | Fish Production - O&M, RM&E | 12 | |
| | | Fish Production - RM&E | 14 | |
| | RM&E | RM&E | 10 | |
| Program Support | Coordination | BPA Accord Coordination | 7 | |
| | | BPA Internal Coordination | 7 | |
| | | Coordination - Regional | 20 | |
| | Data Management | BPA Internal Coordination | 2 | |
| | | Data Management - Regional | 7 | |
| | RM&E | RM&E | 18 | |
| | Science Review and Advice | Science Review and Advice | 2 | |
| Harvest | Law Enforcement | Law Enforcement | 5 | |
| | RM&E | RM&E | 3 | |
| Predation | Predator Management | Predator Suppression, RM&E | 6 | |
| Grand Total | | | 309 | |

- Discrete, smaller sets of projects.
- Develop targeted questions for similar types of projects.
- Clarify type of projects amenable to science review vs. those that are not.

 Amenable to science review (211*)

 Contextual role in science review (98)

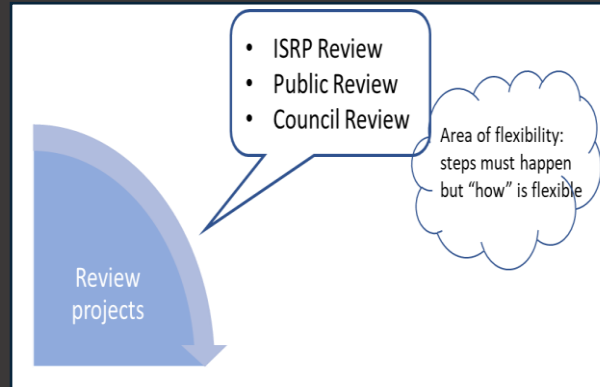
*Exception of O&M components; BPA Program Support and overhead/technical support projects

Presentation Outline

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- Summary of “project mapping” effort to guide and organize next reviews.
- **Rationale for initiating review cycle with projects focused on fish and wildlife program lands.**
- **Next steps.**

Project review components – next steps to develop

How to review



- Science review process details/steps
 - Presentations, site visits
 - Review team structure
 - Feedback loop
 - Initial set(s) of projects and targeted questions

- Identified first subset of projects to initiate review using updated approach.



Fish and Wildlife Program Lands

Rationale for initial review:

- Time since last review (most in 2017)
- Alignment to other staff work:
 - Identification of SPIs for wildlife lands.
 - Track progress toward wildlife program goals.

Review Materials reduced compared to in the past:

Addendum to last project review's proposal/narrative:

1. Brief (< 5 pages) project summary of accomplishments since your last review.
2. Answers to targeted questions - Note these are in development, examples may include:
 - Request to confirm information for acquired parcel(s) (e.g., acreage, whether parcel benefits fish, wildlife, or both, whether a dam is credited for the acquisition).
 - Provide a description of implementation and compliance monitoring.
 - List goals and objectives from land management plans.
3. Supporting documents.
 - a. Land Management Plans (LMP) for all parcels acquired under the project.
 - b. Documentation (e.g., link to CBFish.org, agency documents or websites, other reports or workplans) that shows progression toward meeting measurable goals and objectives stated in the management plan.
 - c. Optional: other relevant or supporting documents.

Process improvements to facilitate efficiencies:

- Previous project's review submittal serves as foundation for this review (i.e., no new proposal).
- Sponsor & ISRP interaction = coordinated sponsor/project-specific meetings, as needed, rather than formal group 'proposal' presentations.
- No preliminary ISRP report and formal response loop
- Basic premises and scientific soundness of existing projects have been accepted.
 - ISRP review and Council recommendations focused on value-added comments/guidance to strengthen projects for continued implementation.

Next steps

- Prepare for review of the 38 Lands projects (Current):
 - ✓ Notify Lands project sponsors with anticipated review schedule
 - Clarify how each project may participate in review.
 - Develop review guidance template to include targeted questions.
 - Continue to seek additional input & feedback on process from F&W managers, Bonneville, ISRP.

- Initiate review and send out guidance template to sponsors – September 2024

Anticipated Timeline

| | 2024 | | | | 2025 | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------|-----|---------------|------|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| Lands Review components & timeline | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul |
| Council staff to send guidance document to project sponsors | mid-September | | | | | | | | | | |
| Webinar for project sponsors - instructions and submission process | September 26th | October 3rd | | | | | | | | | |
| Sponsors submit review materials | | | | December 12th | | | | | | | |
| ISRP review and coordination with sponsors to address questions as appropriate; produce final report | | | | | | | | | May 1st | | |
| Public Comment | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Council staff review and recommendations | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F&W Committee | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Council Decision | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Council recommendations to Bonneville | | | | | | | | | | | |



Questions & Discussion

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RCF small workgroup comments – Program funding

- Funding not keeping pace with growing costs and inflation, reducing quantity and quality of mitigation work.
 - Project impacts include shrinking scope, elimination of entire projects, no ability to adapt to new information needs.
- Even with Program budget increase in FY2024, inflation projections indicate additional cuts to projects will still need to occur in 2025.
- Disconnect between what was reviewed and recommended by Council and what gets funded by Bonneville.
 - Bonneville focus on own priorities in contracting.
 - Minimal transparency related to funding decisions.
 - Frustrations with Council review process because decisions on funding are no longer connected to this process.
 - Concerns that other Bonneville-funded projects do not undergo ISRP, public, and Council review.
- Need a comprehensive long-term plan to address non-recurring maintenance needs for Program hatcheries, annual O&M budgets are inadequate.

RCF small workgroup stated needs – Program funding

1.) Multi-year projects under the F&W program should have cost-of-living adjustments built into their contract and include inflation so they can maintain scope and continue to function as reviewed.

2.) Funding should be adequate to meet Program goals, including maintenance of existing mitigation, and opportunities to adjust to changing information, not held to Endangered Species Act priorities.

Agenda item 5 - Defining Roles

3.) Implementation roles and responsibilities for Bonneville, Fish and Wildlife Managers, and the Council need to be reviewed because there has been a shift over time in how implementation decisions are made, and this shift differs from what the Power Act and Programs envisioned.

How Council addressed concerns in the past

2020 Addendum to the 2014 Program (see memo for specific language):

- *Protect productive work during budgetary processes.*
- *Protect productive work even if using stable project budgets to help control the growth of program expenditures.*
- *Share the cost management efforts as equitably as possible over the entire program.*

Council recommendations from project review decision in 2022 (see memo for specific language):

- *Bonneville to identify projects experiencing issues related to inflation and develop options for relief - report findings and conclusions to Council.*
- *Bonneville to develop flexibility in budget management protocols to allow the budget available for F&W mitigation be fully expended on F&W mitigation within the biennial rate case and report progress to the Council.*



Discussion

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Defining roles - continued discussion

- **3. Implementation roles and responsibilities for Bonneville, Fish and Wildlife Managers, and the Council need to be reviewed** because there has been a shift over time in how implementation decisions are made, and this shift differs from what the Power Act and Programs envisioned.



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