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February 6, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: Update on Emerging Priorities Implementation

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Fish and Wildlife Division staff

Summary: Staff will update the Committee on significant developments regarding implementation of measures associated with the Fish and Wildlife Program's emerging priorities.

Relevance: This item addresses implementation of the Council's 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program emerging priorities.

Emerging Priorities:

The Council identified seven emerging priority areas in its 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program. These are:

1. Provide for funding *long-term maintenance* of the assets that have been created by prior program investments
2. Implement *adaptive management* (including prioritized research on critical uncertainties) throughout the program by assessing the effectiveness of ongoing projects, developing program objectives when appropriate and taking into account the effects of *climate change*

3. *Preserve program effectiveness by supporting: (1) expanded management of [predators](#); (2) mapping and determining hotspots for [toxic contaminants](#); and (3) aggressively addressing [non-native and invasive species](#)*
4. *Investigate [blocked area mitigation](#) options through reintroduction, passage and habitat improvement, and implement if warranted*
5. *Implement additional [sturgeon](#) and [lamprey](#) measures (passage and research)*
6. *Update the [subbasin plans](#) most in need of updates*
7. *Continue efforts to [improve floodplain habitats](#)*

Staff will update the Fish and Wildlife Committee on the recent activity to implement measures associated with these priorities and provide an opportunity to hear from the Committee members if they have any concerns or questions.

- EP-1, EP-2 and EP-3: See the memo earlier on this Committee agenda regarding the Status of the Fish and Wildlife program's Story Maps. N. Leonard and M. Fritsch
- EP-1: *Long term maintenance*. The O&M Subcommittee and staffs have been working to develop a long-term operation and maintenance (O&M) plan/framework to address non-recurring maintenance needs to ensure the longevity and integrity of the Programs past investments made for the benefit fish and wildlife. The framework is intended to define and provide a plan to achieve a long-term maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement system for Program investments associated with hatcheries, fish screens and wildlife lands and is slated to be complete by the end on 2018. In the interim, and to continue progress in addressing the assets needs, based on input received at the O&M sub-committee meeting on January 8th the request for screens and hatcheries in FY2019 and FY2020 is \$589,386 and \$497,475, respectively. Funds for the requests are derived from cost saving from existing projects that had decreasing expenditures or were closing out. M. Fritsch
- EP-2: *Implement adaptive management (including prioritized research on critical uncertainties)*. See the Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting agenda for an update on research projects review. L. Palensky
- EP-3: *Preserve program effectiveness*. See the full Council agenda for a presentation by Dr. Michelle Wargo Rub regarding lower-river spring and summer Chinook survival, which is relevant to *expanded management of predators*. L. Robinson
- EP-5: See the memo earlier on this Committee agenda regarding the project review of *Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative projects*. M. Fritsch