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April 3, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Update on Research Project Inventory and Project Review

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Lynn Palensky

Summary: Staff will provide a progress report on the multi-phase research inventory process since the last update to the Committee in February. Staff will also discuss possible options for project review processes.

Background: Using the 2017 [Research Plan](#) as a guide, the Council initiated a process to inventory all research projects and components funded in the Program. Based on a search of relevant work elements and project summaries, staff compiled an initial list of projects that may contain research as defined by: 1) projects that are exclusively research; 2) effectiveness monitoring projects; or 3) projects that contain research elements. That list was shared with the sponsors of those projects and they were asked to confirm presence/absence of research elements. A few responses are still trickling in. Staff will finalize the list once we incorporate all feedback, including input from the Bonneville RM&E staff. This will be the first time the Council will have had a clear understanding of where all current research elements exist within its program.

The Multi-Phase Research Inventory/Review Process

The Council's Fish and Wildlife [Program](#) (see Program section on [Adaptive Management](#)) and 2017 [Research Plan](#) provides guidance for reviewing, organizing and prioritizing research funded under the Program.

Phase 1 (*Complete*)

- ✓ Compile a draft list of all research work elements in the Program.

Council central and state staff developed an initial inventory of research based on comparing the definitions in the research plan to stated project work elements, project summaries and the ISAB/ISRP's [Critical Uncertainties Report](#).

Phase 2 (Largely complete)

- ✓ Validate the list with projects sponsors.

Staff shared the compiled list of projects that appeared to have research elements with sponsors and asked for feedback. An early draft of the information was shared at the February Regional Coordination Forum (RCF). RCF members' feedback was incorporated ahead of sending the package to sponsors. Council staff asked for feedback from sponsors by March 20. While most have responded, comments continue to trickle in. Bonneville staff also weighed in so staff will be reviewing that information as well in April.

Phase 3 (*April-May*) we are here.

- Council Policy Review

Staff will identify policy and programmatic issues from the inventory and develop a summary of findings from this exercise. Options for next steps may include focused science policy forums, detailed reviews, traditional review process, and solicitation for focused work.

- Recommendations for next steps (May and June)

The Council, working with Bonneville, will use criteria described in the Program and in the Research Plan to recommend next steps to review and guide future research conducted under the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This may involve different review paths for different topic areas.

Phase 4 (*early fall or winter*)

- Launch project review process for an agreed-upon subset of work.