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June 5, 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 an update on 1) research project status review beginning this month (early June), and 2) the next category review process, schedule and program area focus.

### **Background:**

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) is preparing to launch its science review process for all projects directly funded through the Program. In preparation for this upcoming science review, the Council is initiating a research project status review of 28 projects to evaluate the extent to which critical uncertainties have or have not been addressed and to summarize what has been learned to-date from these research projects. This status review is responsive to the Council decision and the programmatic recommendations for research projects evaluated in the 2010-2011 Research, Monitoring and Evaluation and Artificial Production (RME/AP) Category Review. The status review will occur ahead of and help inform the category of projects to undergo science review scheduled to occur in late 2018 and early 2019.

Research exists at various levels in the program, some as small components of a larger implementation projects and others primarily focus on research. The 28 projects were identified as part of the recent research inventory process which identified the body of research work funded under the Fish and Wildlife Program (Program). These projects

focus primarily on research with broad applicability and sometimes address several critical research uncertainties as defined in the 2017 Research Plan. All smaller research components will be reviewed and tracked in the category review process.

### **The Multi-Phase Research Inventory/Project Review Processes**

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 (*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).

#### Phase 3 (*April-June*) 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. *This will happen largely through the research project status review process in summer 2018.*

- ✓ Recommendations for next steps

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.

*Next Category Review - proposed next steps for science review of all projects: Staff is recommending conducting science reviews staggered over the next two years (2019 and 2010), perhaps by grouping projects into two large categories: Program Support, Mainstem, and Basinwide projects, followed by Habitat, Resident Fish and related artificial production projects. Once the research status review is complete, the larger category science reviews will begin. Smaller research components imbedded in larger projects will be tracked through the category science review process. Staff continues to build on the assumptions and goals for category science reviews as outlined in staff June 2017 [memo](#). Staff will outline this proposed plan for the committee to consider.*

#### Phase 4 (*early fall or winter*)

- Launch category science review process for an agreed-upon subset of projects.