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September 8, 2021

### MEMORANDUM

**TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members**

**FROM: Maureen Hess and Mark Fritsch**

**SUBJECT: Mapping Fish and Wildlife Projects to the Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program**

### BACKGROUND:

**Presenter:** Crystal Ball, Danielle Walker and Scott Donahue (Bonneville Power Administration staff); Maureen Hess and Mark Fritsch

**Summary:** Bonneville staff will provide an overview of efforts to improve management of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (Program) through a more disciplined approach to project planning and execution. BPA staff initiated a Project Portfolio Management Initiative to assess Program investments based on biological benefit and cost-effectiveness and to ensure a connection to mitigating for impacts of the Federal Columbia River Power System. Understanding how BPA direct-funded fish and wildlife projects connect to the Council's Program is part of this initiative.

Council and BPA staff worked collaboratively in recent months to develop a shared list of active projects and understand how projects support the Council's Program. This presentation will share the results of 'Phase I' of this effort, which confirms nearly all projects support the Program. Refining information associated with each project (e.g., purpose and emphasis areas) and mapping the projects to Program strategies is the next step of the initiative.

**Relevance:** Identifying how projects connect to the Program (i.e., Phase I described above), refining associated information on the purpose and emphasis areas that projects serve (i.e., what projects are doing), and identifying how projects address Program strategies (i.e., how projects are related to the Program) are important components of Council staff work on implementation of the Program and the Category Review process under section 4(h)(10)(D) of the Northwest Power Act. This work will also assist staff work related to Program Performance.

**Workplan:** This effort is consistent with Fish and Wildlife Division work plan 2021; Program Implementation, Task C; and Program Performance, Tasks B – F.

**Background:** The project mapping effort (Phase 1) was initiated to better understand the status of projects implemented under the Program and identify how projects are connected to and support the Program. The website, [cbfish.org](http://cbfish.org), provides project information about the BPA's implementation of the Program. BPA and Council staff used information in [cbfish.org](http://cbfish.org) to assist in identifying the projects in an active implementation stage and which projects are directly part of the Program. The staff worked together to categorize each project to identify those that have a current Council recommendation and those that are appropriate for science review, those that are considered BPA Program Support (i.e., not included in a Council recommendation), and projects that are either in development or closing out. This process allows for updating [cbfish.org](http://cbfish.org) with accurate information on projects. Future work to identify how specific projects address the Council's Program strategies, along with refinements to categorizing individual project purpose and emphasis areas is an ongoing collaborative effort among BPA and Council staff.

# Mapping F&W Projects to the Council Program

September 14 2021

# F&W Program Refinements

Established by the Strategic Plan, BPA is advancing the F&W Program through:

- Enhancing our disciplined approach to managing the F&W Program
- Assessing F&W investments based on biological benefit and cost-effectiveness
- **Ensuring a connection to mitigating for impacts of FCRPS through Council Program and the ESA**

# Refreshing Project Connections

## Objectives:

- Develop a shared list of active projects that support the Council Program
- Understand how projects support the Program
- Update regional reporting system (CBFish) and establish process for regular review

# What is a Project?



COLUMBIA BASIN  
**FISH & WILDLIFE PROGRAM**

[www.cbfish.org](http://www.cbfish.org)

# Coordination with Council staff



- Five meetings over two months
- Reviewed all projects
- Some easier to categorize than others
- Six general categories were created
- Coarse associations to Council's F&W Program included (i.e., yes, no)

# Project Categories and relationship

- Council recommended - ISRP Review
- Council recommended – ISRP N/A
- BPA Program Support
- BPA Program Support - Accords
- Transitioning to close out
- In Development





# Project Categories and relationship

Program Category	Program Related?	Definition
Council recommended - ISRP Review	Yes	A project that is being implemented through the (direct) Program and has a standing ISRP review and final recommendation by the Council.
Council recommended – ISRP N/A	Yes	A project that is being implemented through the (direct) Program that has a standing review and final recommendation by the Council, but has determined ISRP review is not applicable. This category also includes both ISRP and ISAB projects.
BPA Program Support	Yes	A project that supports the (direct) Program but is not included in a Council recommendation or ISRP review.

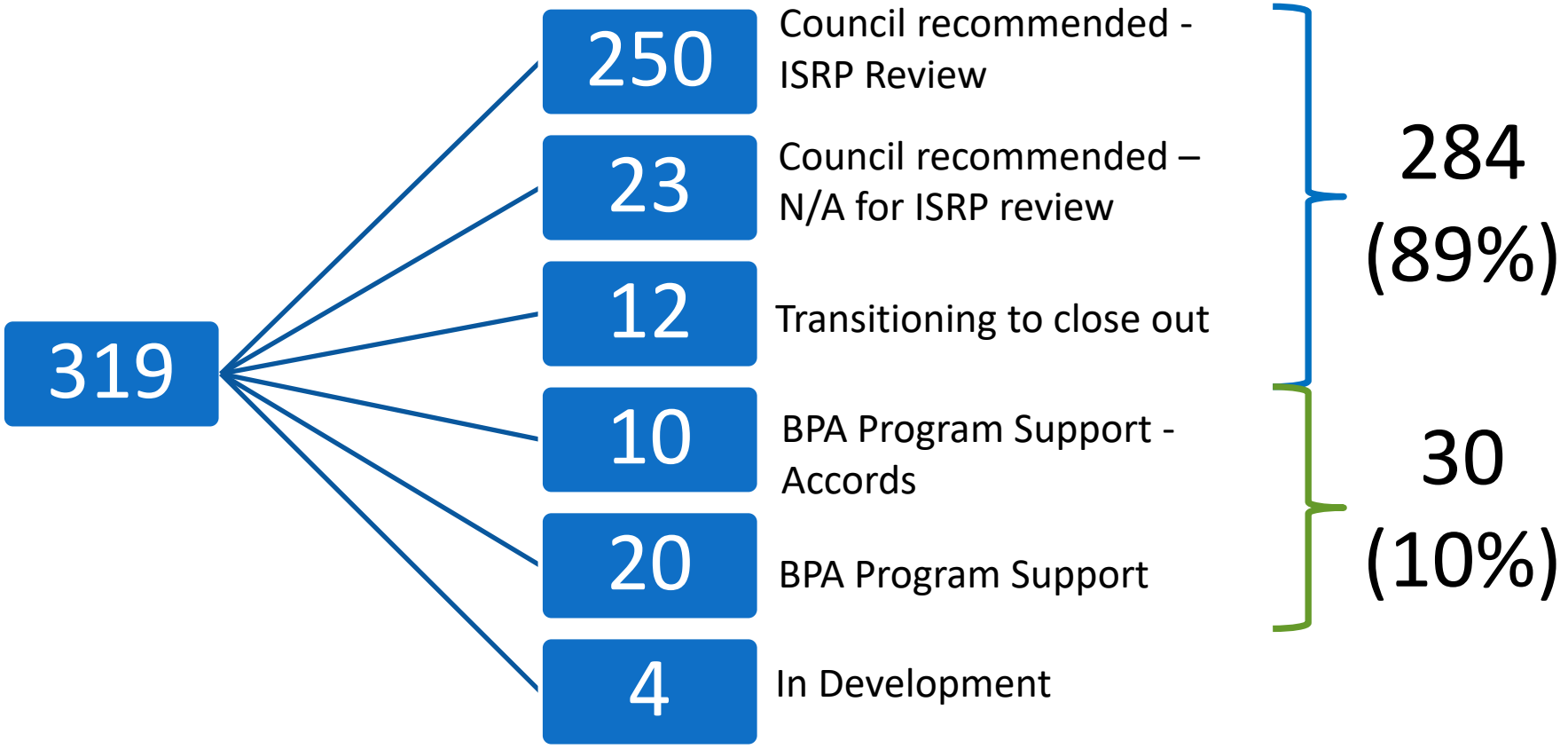


# Project Categories and relationship

Program Category	Program Related?	Definition
BPA Program Support - Accords	Yes	An administrative project that supports Accord agreements through the (direct) program, but is not included in a Council recommendation or ISRP review.
Transitioning to close out	Yes	A project that is being implemented through the (direct) Program and has a standing ISRP review and recommendation by the Council, but awaiting final closeout and is not anticipated to be reviewed again by Council
In Development	Undetermined	A project in implementation phase that has not yet undergone ISRP review and final recommendation by the Council.



# Project Categories Results





# Takeaways

- Council and BPA staff have confirmed that nearly all projects support Council Program
- Projects have Council recommendation and independent science review
- Snapshot of current state – numbers will change
- Next Steps
  - Continue to refine how projects relate to the Program (strategies, measures, etc.)

Questions?