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## Northwest Power and Conservation Council

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December 2, 2014

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Council members**

**FROM: Lynn Palensky**

**SUBJECT: Proposed plan for scientific and administrative review of ongoing wildlife, research, monitoring and evaluation and possible new project solicitation(s)**

### **BACKGROUND:**

**Presenter:** Lynn Palensky

**Summary:** Staff will outline a schedule and process for moving forward with the next project review cycle(s) based on the status of our current recommendations, and further informed by our annual work plan priorities. The 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program (Program) calls for the Council to engage with the region to assist in developing and potentially streamlining the next review process.

**Relevance:** The Council's review of program projects is a keystone process in our Program as called out in the NW Power Act. It provides the policy and scientific foundation to the projects implemented in the Program.

**Work plan:** This work is part of the Fish and Wildlife Division's Work Plan

**Background:** Section 4h(10)(D) of the Northwest Power Act directs the Council to review projects proposed for funding by Bonneville to implement the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The Council engages in this review with the assistance of its Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). The Council also works with Bonneville to develop the information necessary to make this review process successful. Beginning in 2009, the Council and Bonneville, with advice from the ISRP, decided to review projects in

functional and sequential categories of wildlife, monitoring, evaluation and research, artificial production, resident fish (in the areas impassible for anadromous fish), and geographic (anadromous fish habitat). The Council wrapped up its final category review in November of 2013. The Council recommendations for some of the earlier project reviews are expired and thus, another review is needed to inform recommendations for future funding and implementation.

More Info: The 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program (p 118-120) and previous Council decisions on category reviews. See: <https://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/reviews/>

Below is the status of the category reviews based on Council recommendations:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Timeframe for Funding Recommendation</b>	<b>Follow up items (programmatic)</b>
Wildlife	5-year recommendation. Expires at end of FY 2014 (most)	WAC recommendations for HEP needs and HU's; Programmatic on weed control costs
RM&E/AP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basin Wide</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Monitoring</li> <li>• Artificial Production</li> <li>• Species-specific</li> </ul>	5-year funding recommendation through end of 2016. <i>Exceptions: Research, sturgeon, lamprey, ocean, coded-wire-tags, prior to end of 2014</i>	Updated research plan (in 2015); Ocean Forum (ongoing), CWT Forum (complete)
Resident Fish, Data Management and Regional Coordination	5-year funding recommendation for most resident fish and data management projects; 2-year funding recommendation for regional coordination projects	Review the regional priorities every two years to guide work of sponsors
Geographic (habitat)	Expires at end of 2017 (most)	

At a minimum, the Council needs to initiate science reviews for wildlife and research projects and the Council needs to evaluate regional coordination projects. The Council may also initiate science reviews in 2015 for sturgeon, lamprey, and a handful of other projects with shorter funding recommendations. These review processes may look slightly different this time around based on input from regional parties.

Another consideration for the Council is the idea of new project solicitations. The program includes measures that expand existing work in new or additional directions or represent new directions for the program. In addition, the Council may want to provide

guidance to Bonneville on investment priorities. The Council's priority investment strategy is providing ongoing operation and maintenance of aging infrastructure. The Program calls for the Council to develop a process to inventory, prioritize and fund work that will bring past investments into proper functioning condition. No additional funding exists at this point to fund this work or for any new projects. Funding for this work can come from three places: savings from existing projects, close-out of projects, or new money added to the program.

Staff seeks initial thoughts from the members on how to proceed with 2015 project reviews in the context of other work priorities.