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December 2, 2014

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members**

**FROM: Laura Robinson, Program Implementation and Liaison Specialist**

**SUBJECT: Discussion of the program's phase 1 to investigate reintroduction feasibility above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams**

### **BACKGROUND:**

**Presenter:** Laura Robinson, Tony Grover, Mark Walker

**Summary:** Council staff will brief the Fish and Wildlife Committee on the plan to pursue the program's first phase for a feasibility study for anadromous fish reintroduction above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. Mark Walker and Tony Grover will have just returned from a trip to DC to discuss priorities of the 2014 program with Congressional staff, and will update the Committee Members on the outcome of their discussions on this topic.

**Relevance:** 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program priority #4

**Workplan:** 2014 Priority objective #2: Promote regional fish and wildlife recovery – implement Program  
Proposed 2015 work plan: Anadromous fish mitigation

**Background:** Reintroduction efforts have been highlighted in the program since the early 1990s. After receiving recommendations from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Spokane Tribe, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Grande Ronde Tribe, Burns Paiute Tribe, Yakama Indian Nation, Umatilla Tribe, Cowlitz Tribe, Upper Columbia United Tribes, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and Upper Snake River Tribes foundation, and

others the Council included a science-based phased approach in the 2014 program. This language begins with a feasibility study to determine habitat availability, suitability, and salmon potential above Grand Coulee by learning both from previous studies at blockages throughout the basin and a potential new study at Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee. The program language also calls for Council discussions with tribal, state, federal and other agencies regarding the purpose, scope, and progress of reintroduction efforts for juvenile and adult anadromous fish into the blocked areas of the upper Columbia.