

W. Bill Booth  
Chair  
Idaho

James A. Yost  
Idaho

Tom Karier  
Washington

Richard K. Wallace  
Washington



Bruce A. Measure  
Vice-Chair  
Montana

Rhonda Whiting  
Montana

Melinda S. Eden  
Oregon

Joan M. Dukes  
Oregon

February 28, 2008

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council members

**FROM:** Patty O'Toole, program implementation manager  
Lynn Palensky, program planning and special projects coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Update on Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process

The April 4<sup>th</sup> deadline for submitting recommendations is approaching. Staff continues logistical planning for the program amendment process. Two items we would like to briefly discuss in March are 1) the draft public hearings schedule, and 2) review the proposed schedule and possible agendas for full council work sessions on amending the Fish and Wildlife Program.

1) State and central staff continue to refine the amendment hearing schedule. Public hearings will take place after the draft Fish and Wildlife Program is released for public review, currently anticipated in mid-August. The proposed draft hearing schedule is as follows:

### **2008 Fish and Wildlife Program - Public hearing schedule** (draft Feb. 28, 2008)

Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Release draft program (anticipated)  
Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, Astoria, Oregon hearing, 5-7 p.m.  
Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, Portland, Oregon hearing, 4-7 p.m.  
Monday, September 22, Spokane, Washington hearing, 5-7 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 23, Lewiston, Idaho hearing, 5-7 p.m.  
Wednesday, September 24, Boise, Idaho hearing, 5-7 p.m.  
Wednesday, September 24, Pendleton, Oregon hearing, 5-7 p.m.  
Thursday, September 25, Yakima, Washington hearing, 5-7 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 30, Olympia, Washington hearing, 5-7 p.m.  
Tuesday, October 14, Kalispell, Montana hearing, 4:30-6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, October 14, Pablo, Montana hearing, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. (tentative)  
Wednesday, October 15, Missoula, Montana hearing, 5-7 p.m.

2) Staff, working with Council members, developed the attached memo which outlines the process, schedule and tentative agendas for full Council work sessions. These work sessions will be used to address the recommendations we receive for amending the Program. We will review this memo briefly at the March Council meeting.

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Tony Grover

**SUBJECT:** Proposed dates, locations and topics for Council work sessions for the Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment process.

The work sessions will be morning meetings, the day before ordinary Council meetings. The duration of each meeting will be one half or three-quarter day sessions, open to the public, but with no opportunity for public statements or presentations. All Council members should attend, but work sessions can proceed if all Council members are not able to participate. The meetings will be informed by staff whitepapers, background documents, compilations, and original recommendations. Council members will make recommended decisions, but not final decisions until the appropriate time. Disputes may be dealt with through small group break-out sessions done in private.

Work sessions will start in April at the Whitefish meeting and will continue through November. Council members will be informed with staff generated materials emailed to them in advance and will come to the meetings "ready to work" when the meeting starts. This will require up front staff work to not only get documents out early and often, but staff also need to be clear about what the purpose of each document is and how it fits in with the process, topics and structure of the draft amended program.

If the recommendations are not too voluminous then each Council member and staff person will receive a full set of hard copies. Otherwise, the recommendations will be available in hard copy form at each Council work session for reference, and electronic copies of everything will be distributed to Council members and staff.

**Proposed schedule for work sessions:**

<b>Amendment Work Session</b>	<b>Other related activity</b>	<b>Important related dates</b>
April 15 <sup>th</sup> in Whitefish, 9:00 am until 12:00 pm	1:30 pm to 4:00 pm summary presentations by recommendation submitters	Start public comment on recommendations April 7 <sup>th</sup>
May 13 <sup>th</sup> in Walla Walla, 9:00 am until 12:00 pm	Council member's option to consult with staff, managers and stakeholders in the afternoon.	May 5 <sup>th</sup> -- final FCRPS, Upper Snake and Harvest BiOps due.
June 10 <sup>th</sup> in Spokane, 9:00 am until 12:00 pm	Council member's option to consult with staff, managers and stakeholders in the afternoon.	End public comment on recommendations June 5 <sup>th</sup>
July 15 <sup>th</sup> in Kalispell, 9:00 am until 12:00 pm	Council member's option to consult with staff, managers and stakeholders in the afternoon.	Willamette BiOp due sometime in July
August 12 <sup>th</sup> in Spokane, 9:00 am until 12:00 pm	Council member's option to consult with staff, managers and stakeholders in the afternoon.	Council decision to release Draft on August 14 <sup>th</sup>  Public comment on draft amendment starts August 15 <sup>th</sup>
September 16 <sup>th</sup> in Astoria, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Council member's option to consult with staff, managers and stakeholders in the afternoon.	Hearings in Astoria, Portland, Spokane, Lewiston, Boise, Pendleton, Yakima and Olympia during September.
October 15 <sup>th</sup> in Missoula, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Council member's option to consult with staff, managers and stakeholders in the afternoon.	Hearings in Pablo, Kalispell and Missoula  Public comment on draft amendment ends on Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup>
November 18 <sup>th</sup> in Coeur d'Alene, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Council member's option to consult with staff, managers and stakeholders in the afternoon.	Council adopts final amendments on December 11 <sup>th</sup> .

**Proposed theme of each work session (subject to change as needed):**

April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting: Overview of recommendations received, proposed organization and timing for working through the recommendations, proposed high level structure for the draft amended program. Also, if the Long Term Agreements are available, Council members and staff will discuss the content and implications of these agreements in some detail. Also, ...

*Possibly hold an executive session on legal issues if legal counsel has concerns about the Long Term Agreements.*

May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting: Discuss the content of the final Biological opinions for the FCRPS, Upper Snake and Harvest; and consider how all or parts of these documents may be integrated into the structure of the draft amended program. Review and discuss portions of the program that are not targeted by recommendations. Affirm or adjust scientific principles. Discuss the level of detail and specificity that should be in the Program. Discuss if funding should be addressed in the program. Revisit vision, goals and objectives in the program. Also, ...

*Possibly hold an executive session on legal issues if legal counsel has concerns about the BiOps or Long Term Agreements, or if litigation related to the BiOps requires a response or involvement by the Council.*

June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting: Discuss habitat elements of the draft amended program, how to integrate recovery plans, and intention to carry forward with subbasin plans (including a possible future schedule for updates to the plans). Discuss how to integrate any changes to science review and new project review process into the program. Discuss coordination issues. Discuss current wording and possible changes to the resident fish and wildlife elements of the Program. Conclude habitat discussion. Discuss artificial production, predation, protected areas, the lower river and estuary, toxics, climate and population change effects, invasive species, public information functions and how to integrate these into the program. Also, ...

July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting: Discuss Columbia and Snake River hydropower system operations, adult and juvenile passage and survival. Discuss monitoring and evaluation, metrics, reporting and accountability issues. Discuss content and structure of draft program amendment. Also, ...

August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting: Final edits to draft program amendment. Also, ...

September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting: Discuss under addressed or outstanding topics. Also, ...

October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting: Discuss public comment and possible changes to the draft program amendment. Also, ...

November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting: Discuss final proposed program amendment. Make final edits to the final draft. Also, ...