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February 26th, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Update on Categorical Reviews

Wildlife Projects Review

The ISRP began its review of the wildlife projects the week of January 26. Sponsors will present their projects to the ISRP on March 3-4 at the Council office in Portland. Staff anticipates using the review to develop funding recommendations for the Council in May.

RM&E Review

Council and Bonneville staffs are in the planning phase of the RM&E categorical review. The planning phase involves many components and therefore is the longest phase of the review process. With this category, Council and Bonneville staffs are engaged together on many levels of planning that involve mapping out the process for science review and identifying RM&E-related requirements within the Biological Opinion. All of which will be looked at through the lens of a broad RM&E framework.

Outcomes of the planning phase include developing and defining:

1. Final project list for science review by subcategory
2. Overall objectives for RM&E and possible Artificial Production review
3. Overall review schedule and detailed schedule for ISRP review
4. Workgroup recommendations on habitat RM&E, and filling gaps for the BiOp
5. Summary of current spending on RM&E and related work
6. Proposal form update and consistency with Pisces and Taurus
7. Narrative update with specific questions tailored to each subcategory
8. Expected cross-cutting issues to address in review
9. Draft targeted solicitations to fill gaps as needed
10. Guidance documents for sponsors