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April 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Lynn Palensky

SUBJECT: Update on Categorical Reviews

Wildlife Projects Review

The Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) and Peer Review Groups' preliminary comments and recommendations on 36 proposals submitted for the 2009 Wildlife Category Review was released March 26.¹ Twelve proposals met scientific review criteria, and three proposals met criteria with some qualifications. The ISRP's recommendations on those should be considered final. However, the ISRP requested responses on 21 proposals (see Table 1, page 3). Project sponsors are provided an opportunity to respond to ISRP concerns by April 21, 2009 before the ISRP submits its final report to the Council on May 19, 2009.

"Response requested" is assigned to a proposal in a preliminary review that requires a response on specific issues before the ISRP can make its final recommendation. This does not mean that the proposal has failed the review. The ISRP requests responses from a majority of proposals, and most sponsors provide sufficient information in the response loop to meet the ISRP's scientific review criteria.

Below is the anticipated remaining 2009 schedule for the wildlife review:

- April 21 - Sponsor responses to ISRP due
- May 19 - ISRP Final Report due and begin public comment period
- June Council meeting - ISRP presentation to full Council on wildlife review
- June 16 - public comment period closes
- June 18 - staff recommendation on funding to Fish and Wildlife Committee
- July Council meeting - Council recommendation to Bonneville on wildlife projects

¹ ISRP 2009-7: www.nwcouncil.org/library/isrp/isrp2009-7.htm

RM&E and Artificial Production Review

Council and Bonneville staffs are in the planning phase of the RM&E categorical review. In addition, given the level of monitoring components for artificial production initiatives in the basin, Council staff recommends that the artificial production category be reviewed simultaneously with the RM&E category. The planning phase for the two categories 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 when that is finalized. At the last Committee meeting in March, staff provided a draft planning document that outlined the planning phase and review steps for the RM&E category. We are integrating Council member comments and hope to post on the web an updated planning document this week.

Bonneville anticipates a 4-8 week time extension to complete the workgroups' work, which includes analysis of work elements, BiOp requirements, and program gaps. They will also talk with sponsors about potential project adjustments to fill gaps. Council staff will also be working with Bonneville on potential targeted solicitations for gaps identified in the RM&E areas of the program. This extension does not impact our staff's work; in fact it will give us additional time to further refine science review questions and logistics prior to kicking off the science review.

We are still on track for the following 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

Table 1. ISRP Preliminary Recommendations for Wildlife Proposals

Project #	Title	Sponsor	Meets Scientific Review Criteria?
199009200	Wanaket Wildlife Area	CTUIR	Response requested
199106100	Swanson Lake Wildlife Mitigation Project (Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area)	WDFW	Response requested
199107800	John R. Palensky Wildlife Area (Formerly Burlington Bottoms)	ODFW	Yes
199204800	Colville Confederated Tribes Wildlife Mitigation Project	CCT	Response requested
199205900	Amazon Basin/Eugene Wetlands	Nature Conservancy	Yes
199206100	Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation	Albeni Falls Interagency Work Group	Response requested
199206102	Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation - Kalispel Tribe	Albeni Falls Interagency Work Group	Response requested
199206103	Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation - IDFG	IDFG	Response requested
199206105	Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation - Kootenai Tribe O, M and E	Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	Yes
199206106	Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation - Coeur d'Alene Tribe	Albeni Falls Interagency Work Group	Response requested
199206800	Willamette Basin Mitigation	ODFW	Response requested
199404400	Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area (SFWA)	WDFW	Yes
199505700	S Idaho Wildlife Mitigation	IDFG	Response requested
199505701	S Idaho Wildlife Mitigation	IDFG	Response requested
199505702	Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes	Yes (Qualified)
199505703	Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation	Shoshone Paiute Tribes	Yes (Qualified)
199506001	Iskuulpa Watershed Project	CTUIR	Response requested
199608000	NE Oregon Wildlife Project (NPT) Precious Lands	Nez Perce Tribe	Yes
199609401	Scotch Creek Wildlife Area	WDFW	Yes
199800300	Spokane Tribe Wildlife Mitigation Operations & Maintenance	Spokane Tribe	Response requested
199802200	Pine Creek Conservation Area: Wildlife Habitat and Watershed Management	CTWSR	Yes
200000900	Logan Valley Wildlife Mitigation Project	Burns Paiute Tribe	Yes
200001600	Tualatin River NWR Additions	Tualatin River NWR	Response requested

Project #	Title	Sponsor	Meets Scientific Review Criteria?
200002100	Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites - Oregon Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area Additions	ODFW	Yes
200002600	Rainwater Wildlife Area Operations and Maintenance	CTUIR	Yes
200002700	Malheur River Wildlife Mitigation Project	Burns Paiute Tribe	Response requested
200102700	Western Pond Turtle Recovery - Columbia River Gorge - Washington	WDFW	Response requested
200201100	Kootenai Floodplain Operational Loss Assessment, Protection, Mitigation, and Rehabilitation.	Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	Yes
200201400	Sunnyside Wildlife Mitigation	WDFW	Response requested
200301200	Shillapoo Wildlife Area	WDFW	Response requested
200307200	Habitat and Biodiversity Information System For Columbia River Basin	Northwest Habitat Institute	Yes
200600300	Desert Wildlife Area O&M (Wetland Enhancement)	WDFW	Yes (Qualified)
200600400	Wenas Wildlife Area O&M	WDFW	Response requested
200600500	Asotin Creek Wildlife Area O&M (Schlee Acquisitions)	WDFW	Response requested
200600600	Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP)	CBFWA	Response requested
200800700	The UCUT Wildlife M&E Program (UWMEP)	UCUT	Response requested