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October 29, 2009

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Peter Paquet, Manager Wildlife & Resident Fish

SUBJECT: Wildlife Crediting Forum

BACKGROUND: In the 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program, the Council called for the initiation of a Wildlife Mitigation Crediting Forum to: “1) recommend a commonly accepted ledger of habitat units acquired; 2) recommend to the Council ways to resolve issues about accounting for habitat units; and 3) develop a common data base for tracking, assigning and recording habitat units.” In addition, “[a]s part of the crediting forum, the Council will work with Bonneville and the managers to develop a comprehensive agreement on the proper crediting method for construction and inundation losses or strategies that will allow parties to reach long-term settlement agreements. Once completed, the Council will consider adopting the comprehensive agreement into the Program.”

At its July and August, meetings the Council approved the framework and budget and charter for the Wildlife Crediting Forum. The framework authorized the Council staff to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for facilitation services to assist with the Wildlife Crediting Forum process. The RFP was issued in mid-September and responses are due on October 31, 2009. Since this date occurs after the deadline for this packet, staff will provide further information on potential contractors at the meeting. Letters of invitation requesting participation in the forum have been sent to tribal, state and federal fish and wildlife managers, Bonneville Power and Bonneville customers. Staff will update Council members on responses to those requests.