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February 25, 2010

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Staff

**SUBJECT:** Update on RM&E/Artificial Production Category Review and BiOp Fast-track proposals review

### **RM&E/Artificial Production Categorical Review**

At the February meeting, staff presented a schedule that would have the RM&E/Artificial Production categorical review beginning on April 2, 2010. After consideration of several issues, Council and Bonneville staffs agree that an extension of the start date may be warranted to 1) allow the Taurus team time to program all essential components for the proposal form intake; 2) allow for public feedback on the Monitoring and Evaluation Review and Reporting document after the Council releases it for public comment; and 3) allow time for project proponents to test the new proposal system and provide feedback. Council staff will have available at the Committee meeting, a detailed schedule reflecting a start date of between April 2, and June 1, 2010 for the categorical review.

### **Fast Track BiOp Projects**

The ISRP completed its initial review of the 19 proposals on February 24<sup>th</sup>. See <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/budget/2010/rme>. Attachment 1 is a summary of the ISRP's initial recommendations by project. The recommendations represent a final review for a subset of projects, while others represent a preliminary review with a "response to ISRP requested".

The schedule has been updated to reflect a public comment period (Attachment 2). The major change to the schedule is the date that the Council makes recommendations to BPA, which will occur at the April meeting rather than the March meeting.

## Attachment 1. ISRP Initial Review of BiOp Fast Track Proposals (ISRP 2010-7)

The ISRP found that 9 proposals met scientific review criteria; 5 of these had qualifications that the ISRP recommended could be considered by the Council and addressed by the proponent and BPA during contracting. These 9 proposals are ready for immediate Council and BPA decisions. In response to the Council and BPA's stated desire to implement the fast track action in 2010, the ISRP considered the option to specifically identify if a fast track work element is justified independently of other project actions. The ISRP found that 2 proposals justified the fast track component of their project but the complete project needed a response. These 2 proposals received an "in part/response requested" recommendation. The ISRP requested a response on the remaining 8 proposals.

<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Proponent</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>ISRP: Meets Criteria?</b>
199305600	Research to advance hatchery reform	NW Fisheries Science	Mainstem / Systemwide	Yes
199703000	Chinook Salmon Adult Abundance Monitoring	Nez Perce Tribe	Mountain Snake	Yes
201003500	Abundance, productivity and life history of Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead	ODFW		Yes
201004200	Tucannon Expanded PIT Tagging		Blue Mountain	Yes
199801600	Salmonid Productivity, Escapement, Trend, and Habitat Monitoring in the John Day River Subbasin	ODFW	Columbia Plateau	Yes (Qualified)
201002600	Chinook and Steelhead Genotyping for Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) at Lower Granite Dam	IDFG	Mainstem on the ground / Multiprovince	Yes (Qualified)
201003100	Snake River Chinook and Steelhead Parental Based Tagging	IDFG / NPT / SBT	Mainstem on the ground / Multiprovince	Yes (Qualified)
201003400	Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead Juvenile and Adult Abundance, Productivity, and Spatial Structure Monitoring.	WDFW	Columbia Cascade	Yes (Qualified)
201003800	Lolo Creek Permanent Weir Construction	Nez Perce Tribe	Mountain Snake	Yes (Qualified)
198909800	Idaho Supplementation Studies	IDFG / NPT / SBT	Mountain Snake	In Part / Response requested
199800702	Grand Ronde Supplementation: Lostine River Operation and Maintenance and Monitoring and Evaluation	Nez Perce Tribe	Blue Mountain	In Part / Response requested
199005500	Idaho Steelhead Monitoring and Evaluation Studies	IDFG	Mountain Snake	Response requested

199107300	Idaho Natural Production Monitoring	IDFG	Mountain Snake	Response requested
200301700	Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Program (ISEMP): The design and evaluation of monitoring tools for salmon populations and habitat in the Interior Columbia River Basin.	NW Fisheries Science	Mainstem /Systemwide	Response requested
201002800	Implement a Rotating Panel Sampling Adult Steelhead in Small Tributaries of the Tucannon and Snake rivers	WDFW, NOAA	Columbia Plateau	Response requested
201003000	Estimate viable salmon population (VSP) parameters for Yakima steelhead major population group (MPG)	Yakama Nation, WDFW	Columbia Plateau	Response requested
201003200	Imnaha River Steelhead Status Monitoring (was 200205600)	Nez Perce Tribe	Blue Mountain	Response requested
201003300	Estimate the Relative Reproductive Success of Hatchery and Natural Origin Steelhead in the Methow River Basin	WDFW	Columbia Cascade	Response requested
201003600	Expansion of Washington's Tag Recovery Program in the Lower Columbia Region to Improve Fisheries and Viable Salmonid Population Monitoring	WDFW	Lower Columbia	Response requested

## Attachment 2. Fast-Track Project Schedule

Date	Milestone	Note
14 December 2009	Proposal Forms Ready	Done. On Council's website; updated for RM&E
25 January 2010	Proposal Forms Due	Done.
27 January	Proposals Sent to ISRP for Review	Done.
24 February	ISRP Initial Report complete	Final recommendations on some projects; preliminary recommendations on others. Complete.
24 February	Public Comment on ISRP Report begins	
24 February	Emails Requesting "response" to ISRP	
25 March	Public Comment Period ends	Council and staff consider comments and prepare recommendations
25 March	Sponsor Responses Due back to ISRP	ISRP reviews responses and develops final report due April 16 <sup>th</sup>
1 April	Staff Recommendations to Council	On subset of projects that met scientific criteria from Feb 24
13 April	Committee Recommendations	On staff recommendations
14 April	Council Recommendations	On committee recommendations
15 April	Final ISRP Report Due	On "response requested" proposals
Late April/ May	<i>Possible</i> Special Council meeting or at regular May meeting	To approve final fast-track set