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January 26, 2011

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** John Shurts

**SUBJECT:** Decision on whether to adopt the Blackfoot River Subbasin Plan into the Council's *Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program*

In late 2009 a planning team in the Blackfoot River subbasin submitted a proposed subbasin plan as a recommendation for adoption into the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This occurred as part of a targeted call for subbasin plan recommendations that was open until February 2010. One year later, at the February Council meeting, the Council will have to make a decision whether to accept that recommendation and adopt into the program what is now a revised version of the Blackfoot subbasin plan.

To explain the revision: Following the original submission of the Blackfoot subbasin plan, a review by the Independent Scientific Review Panel and public comments identified a set of issues with the technical assessment for the plan and with the linkage of the management plan to the assessment. In early January of this year, the Blackfoot subbasin planners presented the Council with a revised Blackfoot subbasin plan, revising and adding to the technical assessment and the management plan to respond to the ISRP and public comments. Stan Bradsahw, the lead writer on the Blackfoot plan, outlined the revisions at the Council's January meeting in Missoula. You may find the revised Blackfoot plan on the Council's website at <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/blackfoot/plan/default.htm>.

The Council opened a public comment opportunity on the proposal to adopt the revised Blackfoot plan into the Fish and Wildlife Program that will run until February 1. We have also scheduled a public hearing by teleconference on the afternoon of January 31 in case anyone wants to provide oral comments on the proposal.

Until the comment period closes, the staff is unable to complete its analysis and frame a recommendation. We will provide that analysis and recommendation after February 1 but before the February meeting.