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Washington

September 29, 2011

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairman Booth and members of the Fish and Wildlife Committee

**FROM:** Tony Grover

**SUBJECT:** Science & Policy Exchanges

At last month's Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting a long list of potential topics for 'Mini-Science and Policy' exchanges was presented to the committee by staff. Since that time I have discussed that list with nearly all Council members. Council members generally agree a few topic areas should receive the greatest focus:

- Habitat restoration (at the watershed scale prompted by the ISAB report currently under development). Consider ties to:
  - CHaMP, ISEMP and IMWs
  - Geographic review
- Supplementation
  - Wild and hatchery fish interactions
  - Idaho Supplementation Study
  - Hatchery Scientific Review Group results
  - Council criteria from the RM&E / AP category review
- Predation
  - Current conditions
  - Predator "share"
  - Native fish versus non-native fish including lake trout
  - Trophic cascades and impacts to food webs
- The recent Food Web report authored by the ISAB and how to integrate those insights into the Council's evaluation and decision-making processes

Other topics that emerged as possible subjects for science policy discussions are:

- Lamprey
- Harvest considerations
- Fish tagging or alternative identification methodologies

These exchanges should involve interested Council members, and may differ from past Science / Policy exchanges by being more frequent, focused, shorter, with targeted outcomes for possible Program implementation or possible issue incorporation into the next Program as appropriate for the topic. These exchanges might take place at or around a council meeting in a classroom-style setting, or even as a longer panel discussion at a meeting. More than on discussion may be required to fully explore a topic.

Discussions at these Science & Policy exchanges are intended to inform and frame issues for the next Program amendment process, and may help shape implementation strategies. These exchanges are not intended to predetermine Program language

Fish and Wildlife managers, researchers and other experts on each topic will be invited to share their experience and latest findings. They will also be encouraged to discuss among themselves, and with Council members and staff, how best to integrate their technical and scientific findings with management policies and decision-making processes.

Chairman Booth has scheduled a special meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Committee for November 2, in Portland. Among other topics, the agenda will include a more in-depth discussion of the Science-Policy exchanges.