

Bruce A. Measure
Chair
Montana

Rhonda Whiting
Montana

W. Bill Booth
Idaho

James A. Yost
Idaho



Joan M. Dukes
Vice-Chair
Oregon

Bill Bradbury
Oregon

Tom Karier
Washington

Phil Rockefeller
Washington

October 27, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Patty O'Toole, Project Implementation Manager
Laura Robinson, Fish and Wildlife Intern

SUBJECT: Survey Results about Subbasin Plan

The Fish and Wildlife Program's 62 subbasin plans provide guidance for directing project implementation that serves to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife that have been adversely affected by the hydropower system. The plans were developed in an open public process with fish and wildlife managers, local governments, interest groups and stakeholders and other state and federal land and water resources managers.

To gain a better understanding of the region's use of the subbasin plans and how the plans could be improved, Council staff recently reached out to the region with a survey. The online survey was sent to past subbasin planners, state, tribal and federal agencies, local entities and landowners around the region. Respondents had 45 days to respond with a deadline of September 16th. Respondents were asked 25 questions that assessed their knowledge of the subbasin plans, their current use, how they believe the Council can make them more useful and valuable, as well as questions that gathered general information on the respondent.

Staff is pleased to report that over 250 surveys were completed. Interestingly, responses were recorded from all around the nation, Canada and Russia, and represented salmon recovery boards, federal agencies, state fish and wildlife agencies, tribal entities, independent scientists and local organizations and individuals. Many respondents described their work to focus on habitat restoration and fisheries management and many identified themselves as working for federal agencies.

The majority of respondents claim that the subbasin plans are potentially, somewhat or very useful (96.5%); that they have consulted the plans in the last year (75%); and that they are still fully or partially relevant (82%).

Council staff will be presenting additional results and discussing the survey findings with the Fish and Wildlife Committee at the November meeting.