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June 28, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Laura Robinson, Program Implementation and Liaison Specialist

Patty O'Toole, Program Implementation Manager

SUBJECT: Subbasin Dashboard Update

Council staff will update the Fish and Wildlife Committee members on the concept of the subbasin dashboard, an interactive, web-based tool for all subbasins. Staff continues to develop the dashboard concept, talk with others in the region and develop additional examples.

Purpose and intended audience

The subbasin dashboards are a way of transferring the key information in the Fish and Wildlife Program's subbasins and subbasin plans into a digital web-based format. The dashboards would essentially be individual websites for each subbasin, containing the key elements from the subbasin plans and specific information for each subbasin. This will make the subbasin information and plans easier to use and update; better able to link to or incorporate planning and implementation information relating to the subbasin (such as recovery plans), and monitoring and evaluation information and reports; and easier to evolve into the kind of flexible subbasin plans that can provide the continuing context and core for habitat and production activities basinwide.

While transforming the subbasin information and plans into the subbasin dashboard is not a new planning exercise and will not change the content of the Program, it will make the information and plans much easier to use now for implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. More important, the dashboards will also be the vehicle for simplifying and focusing the effort in the future to update the subbasin plans, and to keep them fresh, useful, and consistent with related developments. Because the current task is not a new planning exercise, most of the work can be done internally with staff resources, without taxing to a great degree the time and resources of the Council's partners in the subbasins. The audience for the dashboards will be the same as the audience in general for the Fish and Wildlife Program -- those directly involved in planning, reviewing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the measures and objectives in the plans and the projects that implement those measures and objectives.

503-222-5161 800-452-5161 Fax: 503-820-2370

Timeline

Staff is working to build the dashboards necessary for the upcoming review. The current focus is on the anadromous subbasins, followed by the blocked areas. Since meeting with the Fish and Wildlife Committee at the Hood River meeting in May, staff has made progress on subbasins in Washington and Oregon and will update the Committee on how this process is going.

Estimate of maintenance

Staff does not anticipate a large work load following the completion of all dashboards. The dashboards will be automated by accessing sites that other entities maintain. As dashboards are prepared, staff will monitor whether certain parts are labor-intensive and will adjust accordingly. Work load will ebb and flow but should not average more than 4 hours per month once the dashboards are completed.