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July 26, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee

FROM: Nancy Leonard, Fish Wildlife Ecosystem Monitoring and Evaluation Manager
Laura Robinson, Program Implementation and Liaison Specialist

SUBJECT: Update on Program Biological Objectives

The 2000 Fish and Wildlife Program established a broad framework for fish and wildlife mitigation and recovery within the Columbia River Basin. The framework included a vision for the Columbia River, which is intended to define the expected basin-wide outcomes of the Fish and Wildlife Program, and a scientific foundation, which is a set of scientific principles that are intended to broadly summarize current scientific knowledge concerning ecosystem attributes, processes, and functions that are applicable to fish and wildlife mitigation and recovery within the Basin. In order to achieve the vision, the Program called for development of biological objectives that describe physical and biological changes needed to achieve the vision and that consist of two components:

- (1) biological performance: describing population responses to habitat conditions; and
- (2) environmental characteristics: describing the environmental changes that are needed to achieve the desired population responses

The basin-level biological objectives were developed and incorporated in the 2000 Fish and Wildlife Program. Biological objectives for the provinces and subbasins levels were intended to be developed subsequently, with subbasin-level biological objectives having been developed as part of the subbasin plans. Provincial-level biological objectives have yet to be developed.

F&W Program Guidance:

The 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program provides guidance for the further development of the biological objectives for the Program. This guidance consists of:

- Initiating a process to work with agencies and tribes to assess the value of the Program with quantitative biological objectives at the basinwide level, or at any level above the subbasin and population level. If determined to be useful in certain categories, the Council will work with these partners to develop a set of quantitative objectives for amendment into the Program.
- Describing characteristics for biological objectives, such as having benchmarks and informing revisions of the Program's basinwide strategies overtime.
- Suggesting potential categories of biological objectives, such as population characteristics and species habitat potential.

ISAB suggestions:

The Independent Science Advisory Board (ISAB) reviewed during 2001 the basin-level biological objectives, as well as the other components of the framework, in the 2000 Fish and Wildlife Program. This review provides several suggestions for improving the basin-level biological objectives that warrant consideration as the Council works with the region to discuss further development of the Program's biological objectives. A subset of the ISAB suggestions consists of:

- Improving the linkage of the basin-level objectives with the Program's vision and scientific principles
- Having a consistent level of specificity among the basin-level biological objectives
- Modifying the biological objectives so that they are more similar in approach to the environmental characteristic biological objectives, as these were deemed to be more appropriate as basin-wide objectives than the biological performance biological objectives.

Staff Proposed Next Steps:

To address the 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program task for the further development of the Program's basin-level biological objectives, staff suggests:

- Refining the current basin-level biological objectives based on the 2001 ISAB suggestions to ensure consistency of specificity, linkages to the vision and scientific principles, and modeling the refined biological objectives following the format of the environmental characteristic biological objectives.
- Identifying missing biological objective topics, including those suggested in the 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program, that the region may want to consider developing for the basin-level biological objectives.
- Working with and receiving input from agencies and tribes on the Council staff refinement of the biological objectives and identifying potentially missing biological objective topics, and revising accordingly.
- Updating the Fish and Wildlife Committee on the refined biological objectives and potentially new topics identified for future development.
- Providing the refined basin-level biological objectives as part of the Program Amendment process for the region to consider for adopting (either fully, partially, modified version, or none) within the 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program. During the Program Amendment process agencies and tribes may also chose to submit other basin-level biological objectives for amending into the Program.

Update on Program Biological Objectives

Fish and Wildlife Committee

August 7, 2012

Nancy Leonard

Fish, Wildlife and Ecosystem Monitoring and Evaluation Manager

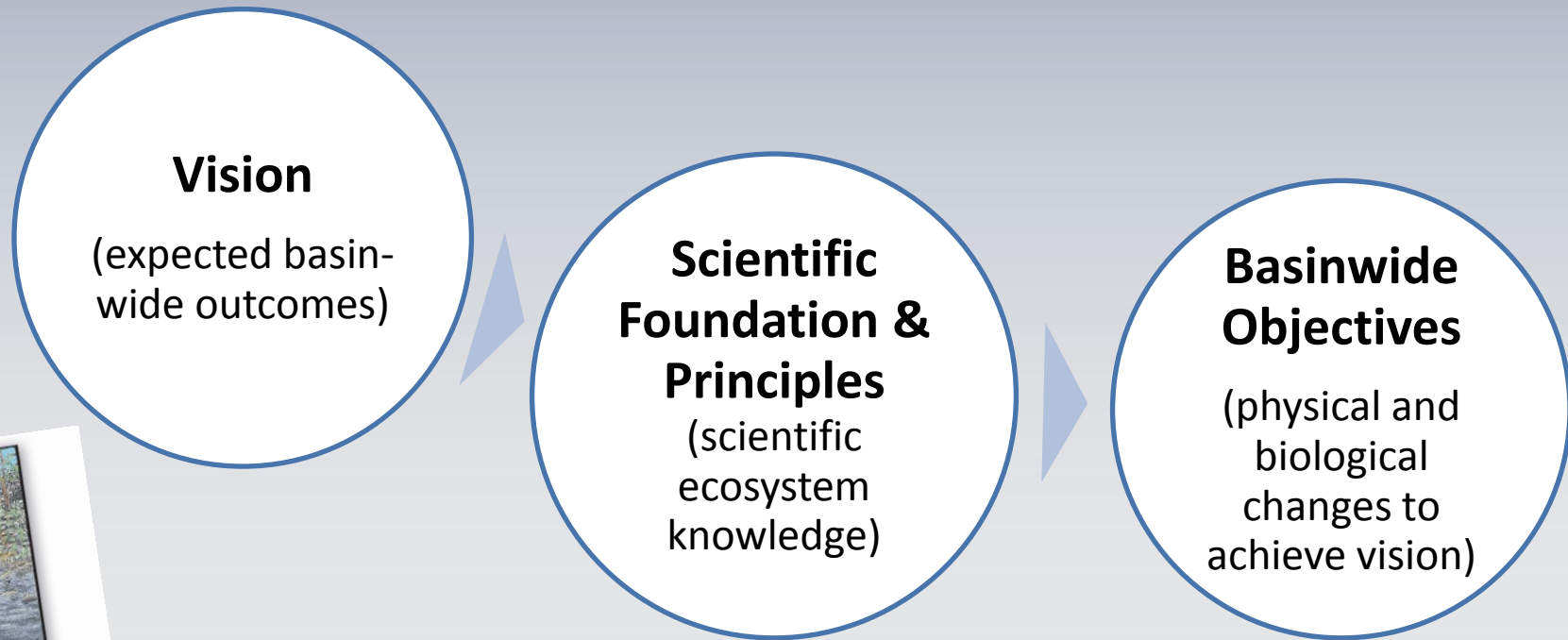
Laura Robinson

Program Implementation and Liaison Specialist



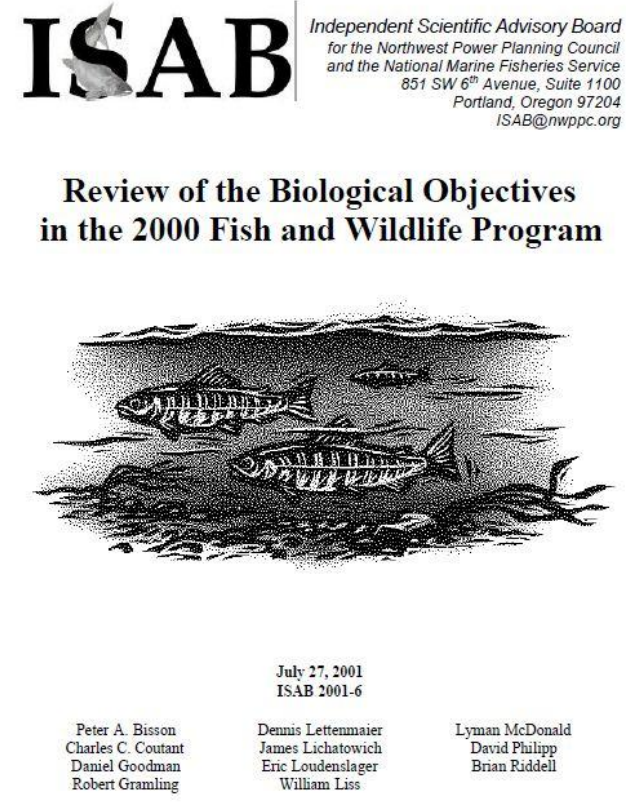
Background

- 2000 FW Program established a broad framework



Background

- 2000 FW Program established a broad framework
- 2001 ISAB review of Framework and Basinwide Objectives
 - Improve linkage between objectives, scientific principles, and vision.
 - Approach of environmental characteristics more appropriate for basinwide level.
 - Apply consistent level of specificity among objectives.



Background

- 2000 FW Program established a broad framework
- 2001 ISAB review of Framework and Basinwide Objectives
- 2009 FW Program calls for the further development of the Program's basin-level biological objectives, including:
 - Assess value of quantitative biological objectives at the basinwide level, or above subbasin and population level.
 - If useful, develop a set of quantitative objectives
 - Consider potential new topics

Northwest Power and Conservation Council
**Columbia River Basin
Fish and Wildlife Program**



Council Document 2009-09

Staff Next Steps



Objectives

- Refine current basin-level biological objectives per 2001 ISAB review
 - Ensure consistency of specificity.
 - Linkages to the vision and scientific principles.
 - Follow format of environmental characteristic biological objectives.
- Identify missing biological objective topics
 - Including topics suggested in the 2009 Program.
- Revise objectives and topics per input from agencies and tribes.
- Update the Fish and Wildlife Committee (~Nov 2012)
- Use Program amendment process for further input on refined and new objectives and for new submissions by agencies and tribes.

QUESTIONS ?