

Rhonda Whiting
Chair
Montana

Bruce A. Measure
Montana

James A. Yost
Idaho

W. Bill Booth
Idaho



Bill Bradbury
Vice-Chair
Oregon

Henry Lorenzen
Oregon

Tom Karier
Washington

Phil Rockefeller
Washington

September 27, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Patty O'Toole, Program Implementation Manager
Tony Grover, Fish and Wildlife Division Director

SUBJECT: Discussion of the next Fish and wildlife Program Amendment

Under the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Northwest Power Act), Congress charged the Council with developing and periodically amending a fish and wildlife program for the Columbia River Basin to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development and operation of hydroelectric facilities while assuring the Pacific Northwest an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply. The Council's current Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program was last amended in 2009.

Consistent with the Northwest Power Act, the Council will need to complete an amendment of its Fish and Wildlife Program prior to the review and revision of the 7th Power Plan. Staff suggests that the Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process should be initiated during the spring of 2013 to provide adequate time for this process to run its course prior to the review of the next Power Plan. At the October Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting staff will review a potential schedule for amending the Fish and Wildlife Program. Staff will also review suggested tasks to be accomplished before the amendment process begins.

One of the amendment process related tasks that will be discussed is the need to draft a formal, written, request for recommendations. This is a required step for the Council to initiate the program amendment process. In some past amendment processes, the Council has opted to highlight particular topics or issues for the region to consider when developing their recommendations to the Council. If the Council chooses to do this, staff suggests that the Fish and Wildlife Committee begin these discussions soon to meet the suggested spring 2013 deadline for sending out the formal written request to the region for recommendations.