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November 27, 2012

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Patty O'Toole and Tony Grover

**SUBJECT:** Discussion of the next Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment

Under the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 December Council meeting the staff will review a potential schedule for amending the Fish and Wildlife Program. The draft schedule is attached.

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.

In preparation, the Fish and Wildlife Committee has begun to reacquaint themselves with particular topic areas of the 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program and recent developments in these areas and anticipates having recommendations for the Council about issues to include in the letter requesting recommendations.

