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February 5, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

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

SUBJECT: Update on Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment process

The proposed schedule for amending the Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program calls for the Council to send out a request for recommendations in mid-April of this year. Several tasks need to be completed by the staff and Council members in order to meet this target date. The proposed schedule for the amendment process is attached.

The Council will call for recommendations to amend the Fish and Wildlife Program via a formal letter to the region. This letter will contain information about the amendment process including why the Council needs to amend the Fish and Wildlife Program and instructions for how people should submit their recommendations to the Council. In addition the Council can choose to use the letter to provide to the region guidance on the substance of possible amendment recommendations. The staff is preparing a draft letter for Committee consideration that will be circulated to Committee members in advance of the February Committee meeting. The staff suggests that the Committee use the February Committee meeting to discuss the draft letter, and that the draft letter be reviewed by the full Council in March with a final decision by the full Council to release the letter at the April Council Meeting.

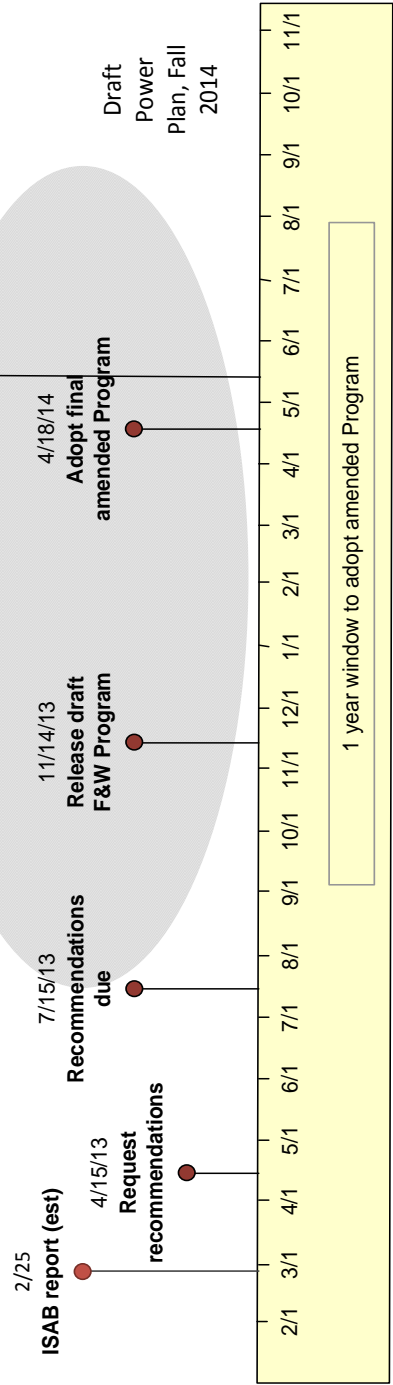
The Committee members expressed interest in meeting in the near future with various agencies and tribal organizations about the upcoming amendment process. To assist with these discussions, staff prepared a one page informational document to share with interested parties. The document contains basic information about the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and the amendment process. The one page document is attached.

Finally, the staff has prepared an assessment of our progress to implement the 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program. This was included in the material for the January Committee meeting but there was insufficient time available for discussion. We are including this document again in the

event there is time for discussion at the February meeting. Because of its large size, it will be sent with the electronic version of the February packet and paper copies will be available at the February committee meeting.

Proposed 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Timeline (1/15/13)

Shaded area – estimated timetable only



Prepare letter requesting recommendations	Accept recommendations	Public comment on recommendations	Prepare draft Program	Public comment, hearings, consultations	Develop amended Program (Ex parte last 3 wks)	Develop findings
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11/15/14

1/1/13

2014 Program Amendment Process

In the spring of 2013, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) will be requesting recommendations to amend the Council's [Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program](#).

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 Fish and Wildlife Program consists of the Program framework and basinwide and mainstem provisions adopted as the [2009 Fish and Wildlife Program](#), and the [subbasin plans](#) adopted in 2004-05.

The Northwest Power Act requires the Council to call for recommendations to amend the Fish and Wildlife Program at least every five years and, following the Program amendment, revise the Council's Northwest Power Plan to include the amended Program.

According to Section 4.h of the Power Act, the Council begins the amendment process by requesting recommendations for:

- measures which can be expected to be implemented by the [Bonneville] Administrator, using authorities under [the Power] Act and other laws, and other federal agencies to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife, including related spawning grounds and habitat, affected by the development and operation of any hydroelectric project on the Columbia River;
- establishing objectives for the development and operation of such projects on the Columbia River and its tributaries in a manner designed to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife; and
- fish and wildlife management coordination and research and development (including funding) which, among other things, will assist protection, mitigation, and enhancement of anadromous fish at, and between, the region's hydroelectric dams.

The call for recommendations also will stipulate that:

- All recommendations must be accompanied by detailed information and data in support of the recommendations; and
- recommendations will be accepted for 90 days. The Council then has one year to draft and adopt the amended program, including time for public participation and comment.

Please contact [Patty O'Toole](#) or visit www.nwcouncil.org for more information.

Proposed 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Timeline (1/25/13 draft)

