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February 5, 2013

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fish and Wildlife Committee

**FROM:** Nancy Leonard, Fish, Wildlife, Ecosystem Monitoring and Evaluation Manager

**SUBJECT:** Update from StreamNet

Bruce Schmidt, Program Manager for the StreamNet Project (1988-10-804) with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, will provide an update on the StreamNet's FY-13 work plan and how it incorporates guidance received from the Council's November 2012 and July 2012 recommendations.

The NPCC Category Review of database projects, review through the Council's Project Evaluation and Review Committee (PERC), and guidance provided by Bonneville Power Administration, have resulted in a significant shift in emphasis for the StreamNet Project's Fiscal Year 2013 and beyond.

The project strongly supports the Council's recommendations from the July 2012 Category Review and from the November 2012 decision related to the PERC review. Of particular importance is the emphasis on regional identification of specific data needs through a regional forum as recommended by PERC. The StreamNet project sponsors look forward to working with the Fish and Wildlife Committee and other regional entities in specifying data needs for the Fish and Wildlife Program, a prerequisite for developing and implementing improved data management and more efficient data flow to address the priority needs.

The StreamNet project also has adopted new BPA data priorities to guide the work plan. This guidance consists of prioritizing:

- Data from BPA funded projects
- Data for priority ESA-listed populations, primarily salmon and steelhead
- Columbia Basin data

To allow the StreamNet program to incorporate these new directions from the Council and BPA into the FY13 contract, the FY-12 contract was extended for three months. As a result of this extension the FY13 contract is for only a 9 month period beginning Jan. 1, 2013 and ending Sept. 30, 2013. The FY-14 contract will be negotiated during spring and early summer of 2013 and will incorporate these new directions based on experience gained during FY-13.

The FY 13 contract has shifted the project's emphasis from data development of existing data types to a number of new data types, activities and services to support BPA reporting under the FCRPS BiOp. To accommodate this change in direction updates to existing data types routinely disseminated through StreamNet will be deferred, likely to FY14 or beyond, until these new priorities are completed. Work addressed in the FY-13 Statement of Work includes:

- Inventorying of data gathered by BPA funded projects and identifying data that is suitable for StreamNet that is not in the StreamNet database. This task also includes providing support to move BPA funded data to secure and accessible locations
- Compiling of data used to inform the indicators and supporting metrics for the Coordinated Assessments project to initiate the flow of abundance and productivity estimates, by population, to population assessments by NOAA Fisheries, for use by regional scale entities to understand current status, and for BiOp reporting. This may also include developing data flow diagrams that illustrate the complexity of current operations and the efficiencies gained by adopting the Coordinated Assessment guidance.
- Providing support for improving data flow capabilities (expertise and internal infrastructure) for the Coordinated Assessments data within and from the source agencies and tribes in order to improve the efficiency for ongoing provision of these data to the region and ultimately to allow automation of data flow.
- Improving linkage of StreamNet with other regional scale databases, including CBFish, MonitoringMethods.org, MonitoringResources.org, and regional database projects to take advantage of information already being captured in other locations, thus improving efficiency of data sharing and removing redundancy, thereby reducing workload and cost for project sponsors.
- Supporting a regional workshop that will focus on further defining a regional data sharing approach. This collaborative effort among StreamNet, PNAMP and BPA is intended to complete the BPA Data Sharing Framework and to maximize data integration among data projects and avoid redundancy. Participating in a pilot project being initiated under MonitoringResources.org to assure that fish data from StreamNet data and its regional hydrography GIS layers are fully incorporated along with habitat data and project data to provide a more comprehensive data sharing solution. The intent is to develop a means of providing multiple kinds of data through a single interface for increased efficiency for reporting and project assessment.
- Supporting the adoption and implementation of additional database capabilities in data source agencies to improve their ability to more efficiently and effectively provide data to StreamNet, other regional databases, and in conjunction with the Coordinated Assessments.
- Initiating update of existing data types in the StreamNet database, but only if there is time remaining once the above tasks are completed. This opportunity to update likely will not exist during FY-13 or will be incomplete.

## Background

Below are excerpts from the Council recommendations made during the Council's July 2012 and November 2012 meeting that provide guidance to the StreamNet project.

### November 2012 Council Recommendation (refinement to the July 2012 recommendations)

1. Budget reduction within the range of 10 to 15%, which is commensurate with the reduction being sought from project managers throughout the Columbia River Basin.
2. Provide an ongoing forum consisting of Council, BPA representatives and fish and wildlife managers to direct data management including an annual policy guidance meeting with the Council's Fish and Wildlife Committee.
3. Those collecting data should use BPA funds only to collect Columbia River Basin data and should prioritize entering that data into StreamNet.

### July 2012 Council Recommendation

- StreamNet should include synthesized information, e.g. population estimates, needed for informing Program implementation and broad Program evaluation.
- Data made accessible through StreamNet should focus on data funded by Bonneville and priority data for the program. Identification of Bonneville funded projects that collect fish data should be based on project information available at [cbfish.org](http://cbfish.org).
- As necessary, prioritization of Bonneville funded data should be informed by Bonneville and Council's evaluation and reporting needs for the program (e.g., ISRP retrospective reports, Report to Congress, and HLI reports), and Bonneville FCRPS BiOp reports. Furthermore, if the PERC moves forward, it would be expected that the council recommendations based on the guidance from this committee would be incorporated in this work.
- Sponsor to participate on the PERC as requested by the Council to assist in developing recommendations of the PERC.