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March 5, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

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

SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment – Committee review draft announcement and request for recommendations

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.

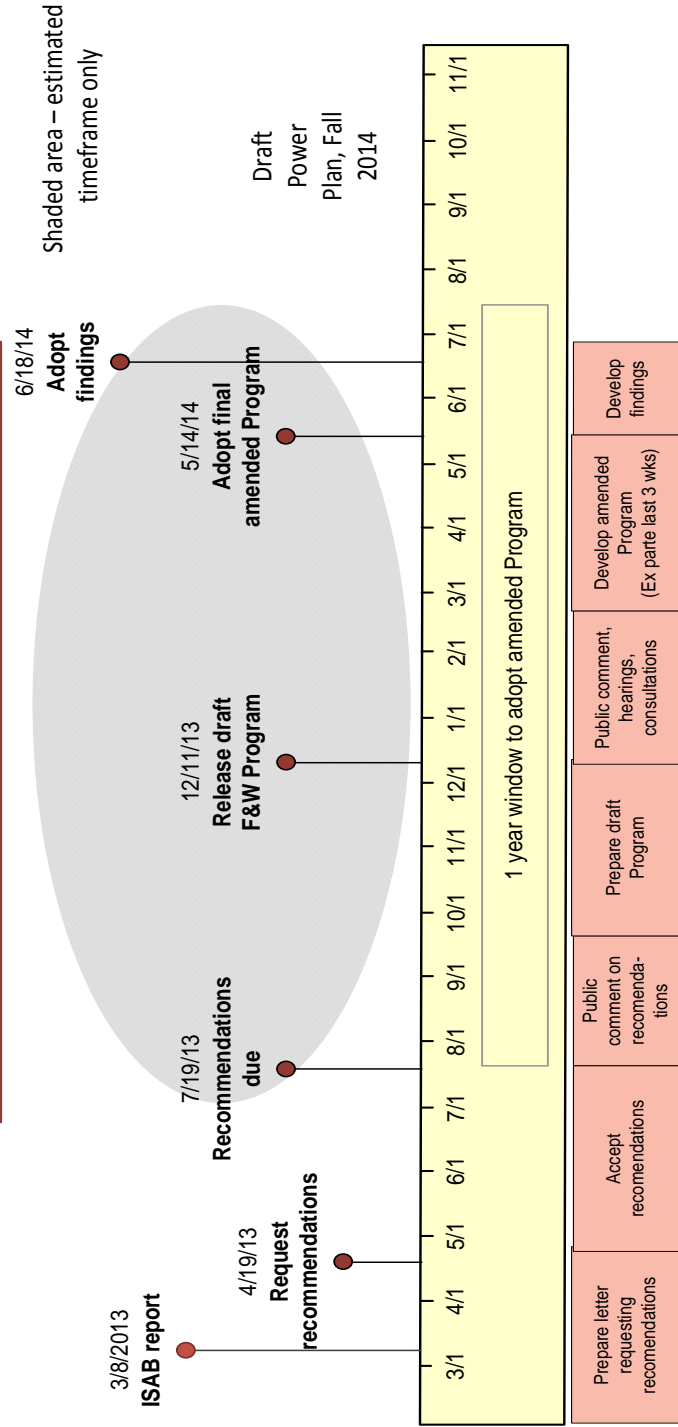
Consistent with the Northwest Power Act, the Council will need to complete an amendment of its Fish and Wildlife Program prior to the review and revision of the 7th Power Plan. Staff shared the amendment schedule with the Council at the February Council meeting. Based on that schedule, the Council is planning to initiate the Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process in mid April 2013 to provide adequate time for a new program to be adopted prior to the review of the next Power Plan. Please see the attached schedule.

The amendment process formally begins with a letter from the Council to the region requesting submission of recommendations to amend the program. In recent months the Fish and Wildlife Committee has been discussing the content of the recommendations request letter and will be reviewing a draft at the March Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting. The current draft of the letter will be circulated to all Council members on March 5th although a final Council decision to release the letter is not required until the April Council meeting. Any changes to the draft resulting from the Committee discussion at their March meeting will be shared with the Council. Staff requests the Fish and Wildlife Committee approve a draft recommendation request letter on March 12, 2013, that can be forwarded to the full Council for consideration.

At the April Council meeting staff will request a formal decision by the Council to approve the letter requesting recommendations to amend the 2009 Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program.

2014 Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Timeline

(3/5/13)



2/1/13

11/15/14