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September 29, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Booth and members of the Fish and Wildlife Committee

FROM: Tony Grover

SUBJECT: Follow-up schedule and activities for the RM&E AP plus Category Review

The ISRP and the Council asked for several follow up reports and activities as a result of the Research Monitoring and Evaluation and Artificial Production category review. To make sure that work is done, staff members are working with project sponsors who implement projects related to the ocean, estuary, lamprey, white sturgeon, tagging, and CHaMP. Staff may also need to begin working with BPA and others on the as yet undefined CHREET project, if and when that project is reinitiated. In the preceding packet item, Patty O'Toole briefed you on how she is coordinating with projects sponsors and BPA on the ISRP/Council request for a synthesis of ocean projects. Similar follow-up activities are being carried out by staff in each of the topic areas listed above.

We will discuss the general schedule for each of these follow-up activities, and what is expected to come out of that work.

In addition to the ocean subcategory, a brief description of each topic area follows:

Estuary: A plan to develop a regional monitoring framework for the estuary is scheduled for December 2011, which will be followed by a summary of all work to date in the summer of 2012 and completion of the monitoring strategy, including updated project selection criteria ready for ISRP review in late 2012. It is important that this work be sufficiently developed for use by the Council and ISRP during the Geographic category reviews, which are scheduled to begin about a year from now. Lead entities are the US Army Corps of Engineers and BPA, with assistance from the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Wildlife, the Columbia Land Trust and the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce.

Lamprey: The lamprey technical working group expects to have a comprehensive synthesis report ready for review by the end of 2011. The group members include USF&WS, CRITFC, ODFW, WDFW, BPA, NOAA, Chelan PUD, Grant PUD, Douglas PUD and the USACOE.

White Sturgeon: A comprehensive monitoring plan for Columbia Basin white sturgeon will be ready for review by the ISRP in July of 2012, including a third major workshop to be held in January of 2012. ODFW, WDFW and CRITFC are working with others around the basin to develop the comprehensive plan.

Tagging: The Council chartered the Fish Tagging Forum in July of 2011. A decision on a facilitator is scheduled for the October Council meeting. The Forum will complete its work in July of 2013, in time for a funding recommendation to BPA for the next coded wire tag project contract period. Several interim products will be discussed with the Committee and the Council as they are completed. The initial focus of the Forum will be on coded wire tag projects and thus will involve PSMFC, USF&WS, WDFW, ODFW and IDFG as well as utility and customer representatives, the Mid-C PUDs and others who have an interest.

CHaMP: The Council recommended funding to BPA of a set of pilot watersheds to begin implementing the Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program. A report to the Council and ISRP for review is scheduled for January 2012. A recommendation by the Council about continuing the CHaMP effort, staying in pilot mode for another year or to go to full implementation will occur after the January report is reviewed, requested responses by the ISRP are received and the Council makes a decision. CHaMP is a BPA and NOAA led effort that involves most of the co-managers and others within the anadromous zone of the Columbia Basin.

CHREET: The Columbia River Hatchery Effects Evaluation Team was initially conceptually proposed through the category review, though no project details are yet available. Timing for this project is unknown. This project may also be a BPA and NOAA led effort, though that is not clear at this time. Many other entities in the Columbia Basin have expressed substantial interest in this possible project.

Staff will keep the Committee and Council apprised of progress on these follow-up tasks. A graphic showing estimated timelines is attached.