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TO: Regional Coordination Group Members

FROM: Council Staff

SUBJECT: Update on Subbasin Plan Adoption Process

Since the last RCG meeting in November, the Council has taken the following action on subbasin plans:

Track 1 ("green") plans

At its December meeting, the Council voted to adopt 23 subbasin plans (management plan element, with other elements as appendices) into the 2000 fish and wildlife program:

Asotin	Lake Chelan	Spokane
Bruneau	Lake Rufus Woods	Tucannon
Coeur d'Alene	Lower Snake	Umatilla
Columbia Gorge	Malheur	Upper Columbia mainstem
Fifteenmile Creek	Owyhee	Upper Mid-Columbia mainstem
Flathead	Pend Oreille	Willamette
Hood	Salmon	White Salmon
Kootenai	San Poil	

Track 2 ("blue") plans

The Council voted to release for public review and comment a second set of 29 subbasin plan recommendations as draft amendments to the Council's fish and wildlife program. (See the attached hearings schedule for these subbasins.)

- Boise
- Burnt
- Clearwater
- Columbia Estuary
- Cowlitz
- Deschutes
- Elochoman
- Entiat
- Grays
- Imnaha
- Kalama
- Klickitat
- Little White Salmon
- Lewis
- Lower Columbia
- Lower Mid-Columbia
- Lower Mid-Snake
- Methow
- Okanogan
- Payette
- Powder
- Snake Hells Canyon
- Upper Mid-Snake
- Walla Walla
- Washougal
- Weiser
- Wenatchee
- Wind
- Yakima

Track 3 (“red”) plans

These five subbasins (Upper Snake, Closed, Headwaters, Grande Ronde, and John Day) were on an extended timeframe for plan revision. The planning groups had contracts with the Council through December 31, 2004 to revise the plans. All but the John Day has been completed and resubmitted for review. The John Day subbasin plan will undergo further revision under a funding agreement with OWEB and be resubmitted on March 15th. The Council will initiate the public review and comment period as part of the adoption process at that time.

“Process Issues”

A significant body of comment was received through November 22nd on the broader process issues on how subbasin plans will be used, next possible planning steps, and relationship of subbasin plans to recovery plans. Other agenda items at this RCG meeting deal with the use of subbasin plans in near-term and longer term project selection processes, and the relationship to ESA recovery plans. The Council staff is continuing to work with tribes, states, Bonneville, NOAA, and the Council on proposals for scope and timing of technical and planning aspects of province planning or “roll-up” of subbasin plans. While we do not want this topic to take much time at this particular RCG meeting, if the group desires, the Council staff can give a brief verbal report on the status of those discussions.