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July 6, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Stacy Horton, Washington Policy Analyst/Biologist

SUBJECT: Briefing by Kelly Susewind, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Kelly Susewind, Director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Summary: Mr. Susewind has been the Director of Fish and Wildlife for WDFW since August 2018. Kelly has been reaching out to communities to further discussions around policy issues and their development as they relate to fish and wildlife. His presentation will provide an overview of WDFW's role in fish and wildlife conservation and sustainable harvest, and touch on the highlights of WDFW's work in Washington's portion of the Columbia Basin, including the agency's role in estuary restoration, resident fish, blocked area mitigation and reintroduction, and in mitigation for the impacts of hydropower on fish and wildlife. He also will discuss emerging opportunities that could strengthen collaboration and ecosystems of the Columbia River Basin.

WDFW Update to Northwest Power & Conservation Council

Kelly Susewind, Director

July 13, 2022

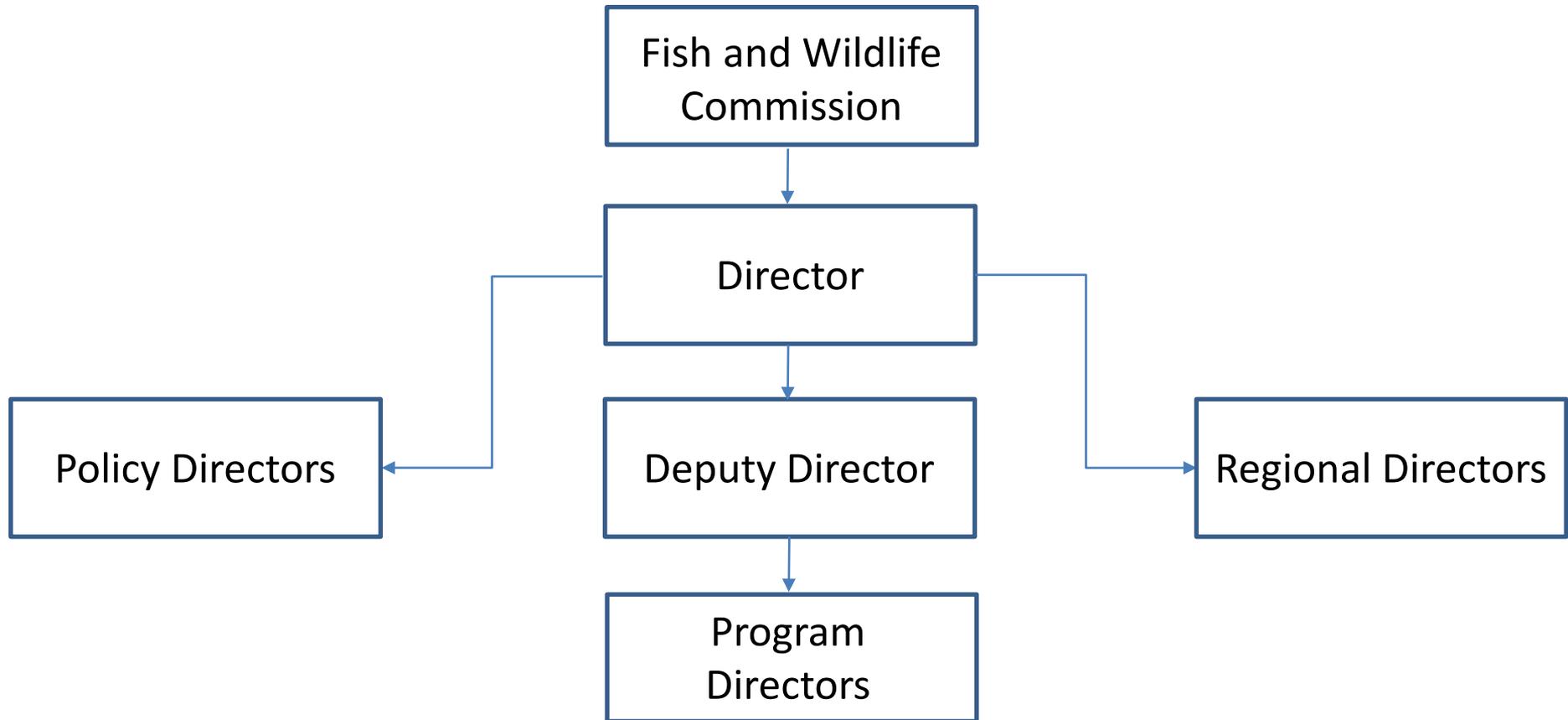




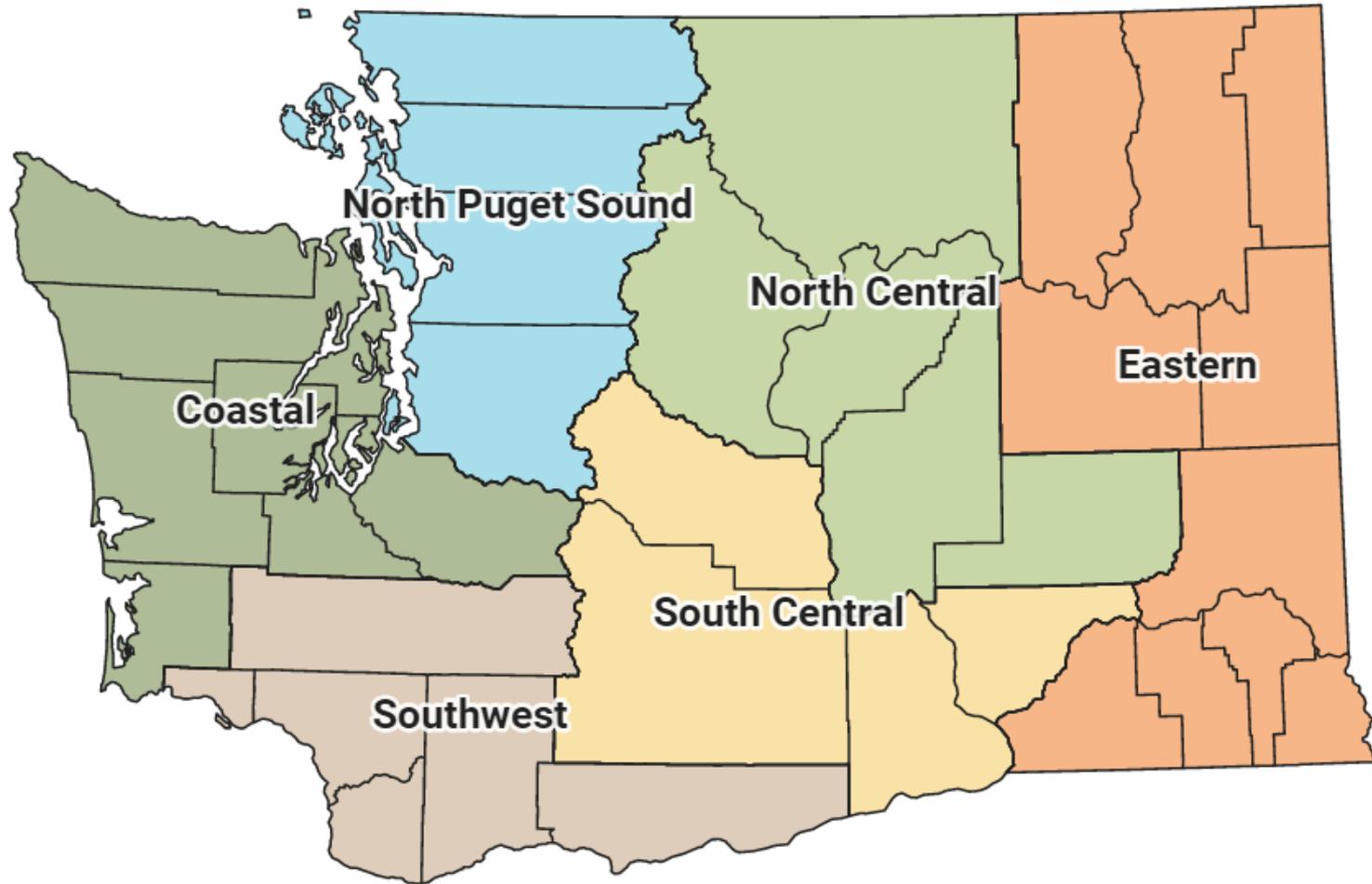
Overview

- WDFW Organization
- Funding
- Hot Topics
- Implementing the Council's F&W Program
- Project Examples
- Wildlife Areas
- Emerging Opportunities

WDFW Organization



WDFW Regional Organization



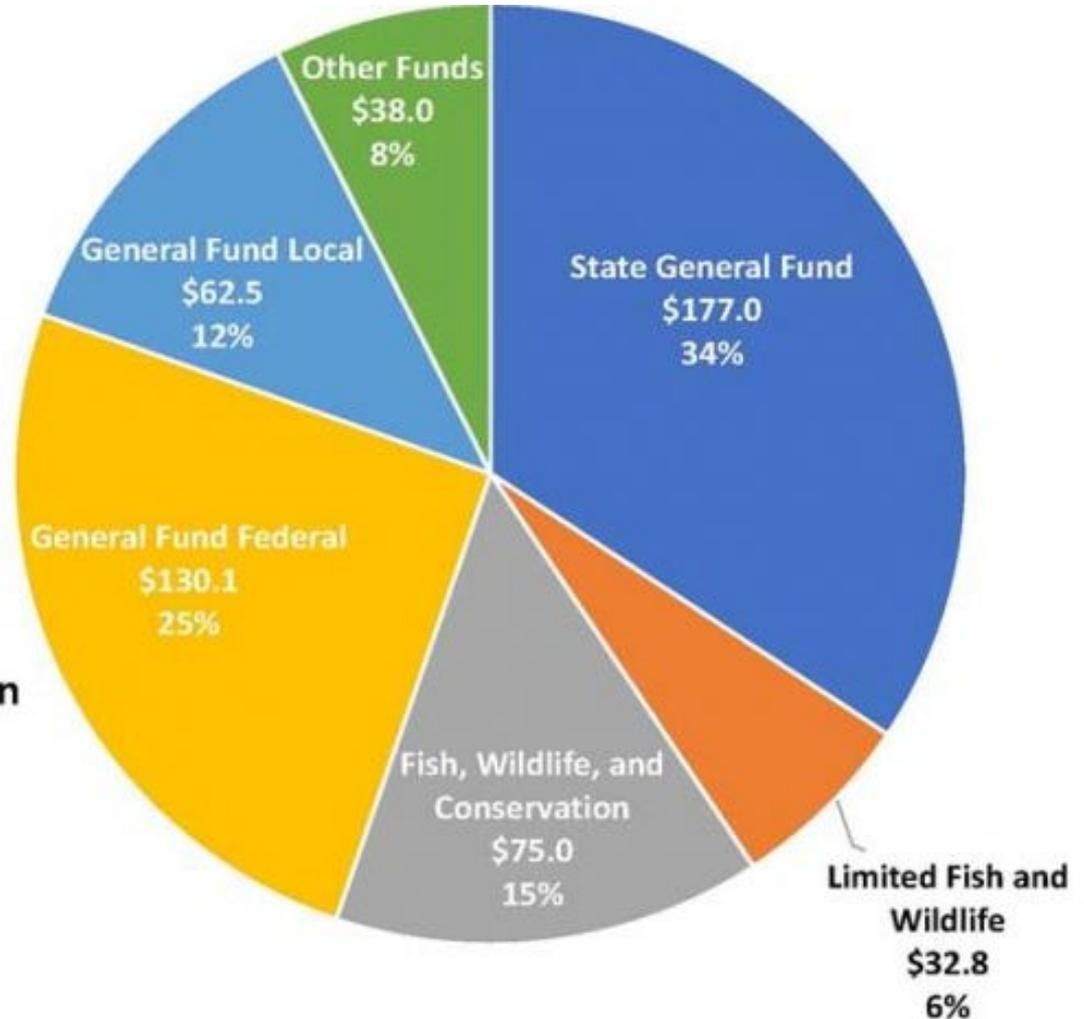
WDFW's Operating Budget

2021-23 Biennium (Dollars in millions)

**Total 2021-23 Operating Budget:
\$515.5M**

**The State Wildlife Account was
split into two new accounts:**

- 1. Limited Fish and Wildlife**
- 2. Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation**



Hot Topics

- Placeholder



WDFW's BPA/NPCC FWP Funding

- WDFW's BPA funding:
 - Direct from BPA
 - Fish-related: \$2.1M in FY2021, plus capital restoration projects on case-by-case basis
 - Wildlife areas: \$3.28M in FY2021



Implementing the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program:

- Restoration projects
- Fish screening program
- Resident fish program
- Research, monitoring, & evaluation
- Predation management
- Wildlife mitigation



Council's F&W Program

- The Northwest Power Act directs BPA to use its funds to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife in a manner consistent with the Council's F&W Program.
- After the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP), the Council recommends projects to be funded through BPA's F&W budget to implement the Council's F&W Program.



Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review

- The Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery (AFHH) Project Review is the fourth and last set of reviews of Program funded projects over the past five years. There were 124 AFHH projects and 245 total.



Recommendations on Flat Funding

- BPA should identify projects that are experiencing inflationary pressure.
- BPA should develop flexibility in its budget management protocol.
- WDFW appreciates the recent increase for the coming year.



Recommendations, cont'd...

More generally...

- Monitoring needs to keep up with fish passage routes, (e.g., spillway PIT-tag detectors)
- Fund infrastructure O&M backlog
- Ensure sufficient funding for Comparative Survival Study



Project Example: Estuary Restoration – South Bachelor Island



Project Example: Fish Screening



- In FY2020, Cost Savings funds were used to address the maintenance needs at the New Cascade Phase II fish screen facility in Ellensburg, WA.
- BPA provided \$220K to WDFW to accomplish this work.
- Eight drum screens were refurbished, including screen upgrades.



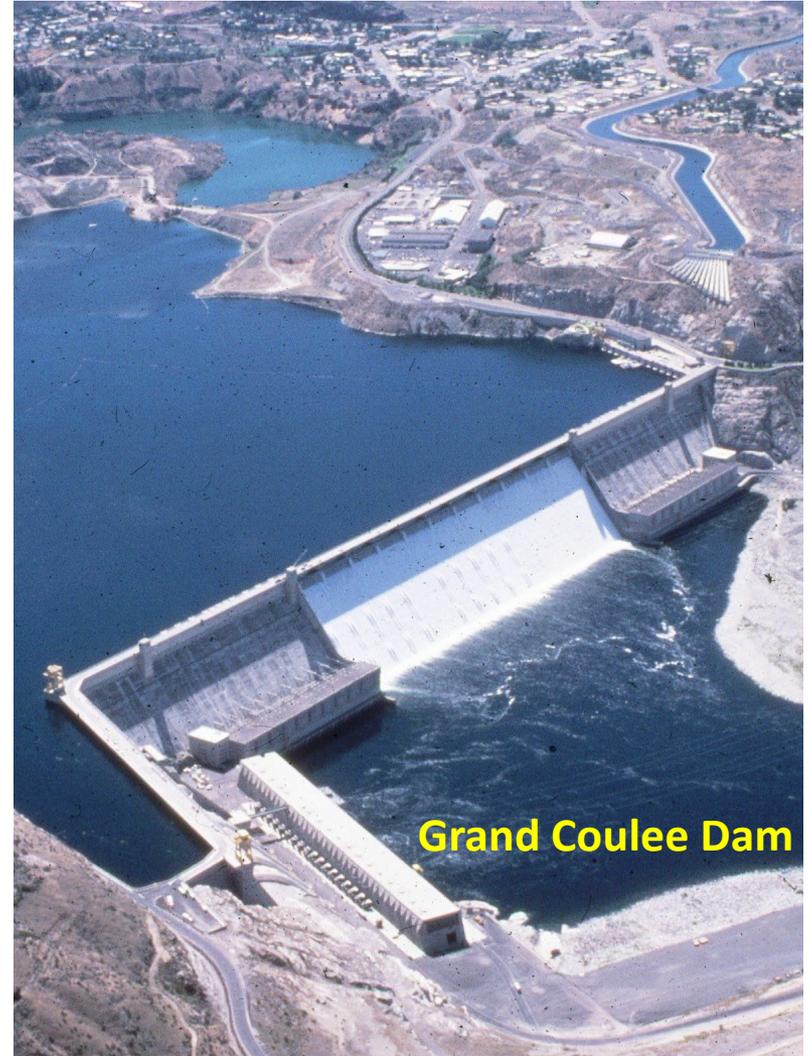
Project Example: Resident Fish - Sturgeon



Project Example: Blocked Area Mitigation and Reintroduction



Chief Joseph Dam



Grand Coulee Dam



Project Example: Predation



Photo from Ritchie Graves (NOAA)



Photo Courtesy of Bird Research Northwest

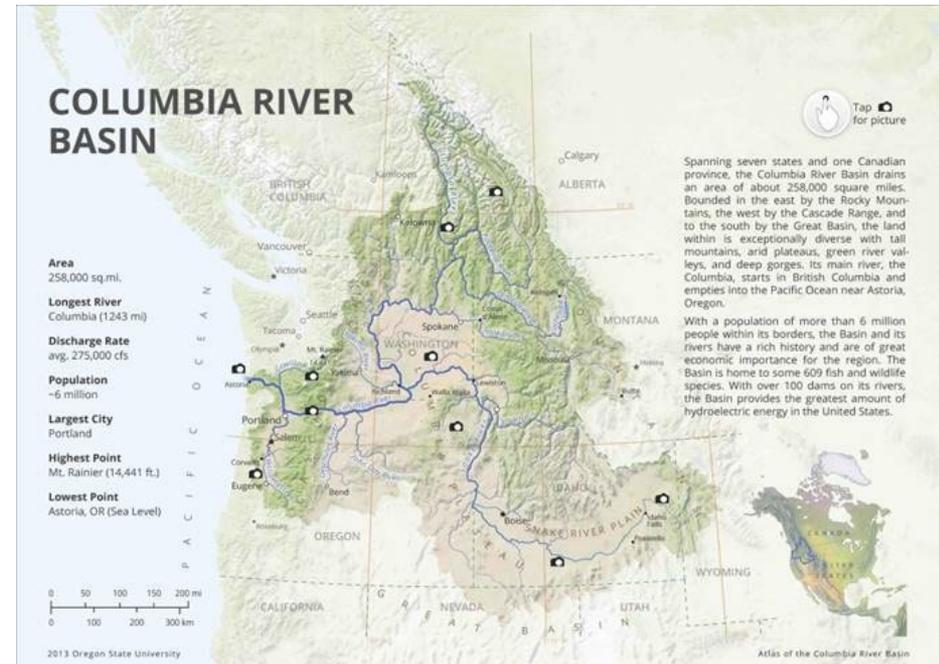


Wildlife Areas as Mitigation for Inundation Impacts



Emerging Opportunities

- Fish and Wildlife Program funding and governance reform
- Inslee/Murray process
- Columbia Basin Collaborative
- WA Wildlife area settlement



QUESTIONS?

