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Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

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March 7, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Stacy Horton, Washington Policy Analyst/Biologist and Patty O' Toole, Fish and Wildlife Division Director

SUBJECT: Annual Update on BPA Progress to Increase Significantly the Level of Mitigation in the Blocked Areas Above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Chad McCrea, Natural Resources Director, Spokane Tribe of Indians; Brent Nichols, Division Director Fisheries and Water Resources, Spokane Tribe of Indians; BJ Kieffer, Policy Advisor, Spokane Tribe of Indians and Jason Sweet, Executive Manager Fish & Wildlife Program, Bonneville Power Administration.

Summary: Representatives from the Spokane Tribe of Indians and the Bonneville Power Administration will provide the Council with an update on efforts to increase mitigation in the blocked areas above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams, as called for in the 2020 Addendum to the 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Language in the Addendum calls for an annual report from the Spokane Tribe and Bonneville Power Administration to describe efforts to mitigate substantial unaddressed impacts. As co-managers of ongoing work in Lake Roosevelt, consultations with the Colville Confederated Tribes and Washington

Department of Fish and Wildlife should take place as part of this effort.
This is the second annual update.

Workplan: 2020 Addendum
Part II. Program Implementation, P. 38

Background: Language from the 2020 Addendum:

“Mitigation in Blocked Areas

Implementer: Bonneville

Implement a broad suite of actions to mitigate for the complete loss of anadromous fish and the losses to other fish and wildlife species in the Lake Roosevelt and Spokane River areas above Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams, as well as ongoing operational impacts. Increase significantly the level of mitigation for these losses without compromising the substantive protection and mitigation activities elsewhere in the basin. This part of the basin has suffered the loss of anadromous fish and other fish and wildlife species directly due to hydropower development at a scale at least comparable to, and in most cases greater than, other areas in the basin. These losses have been severely under-addressed and under-mitigated through the Northwest Power Act, especially when compared with other areas and other entities in the basin.

Bonneville should begin a comprehensive effort over the next five years to intensify, expand, and then sustain the mitigation effort for this part of the basin. In developing this comprehensive effort, Bonneville should work with the Spokane Tribe of Indians and the tribe’s list of mitigation measures recommended to the Council. Bonneville and the Spokane Tribe of Indians should consult with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and coordinate with their ongoing work in the Lake Roosevelt area. The Council expects annual reports from Bonneville and the Spokane Tribe of Indians detailing progress made in this mitigation effort.”