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January 28, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Staff

SUBJECT: Update on RM&E/Artificial Production Category Review and Fast-track proposals

Staff will provide an update on the progress and schedule for the RM&E/artificial production category review and the Fast-Track project reviews for the Biological Opinion.

BACKGROUND

RM&E Category Review

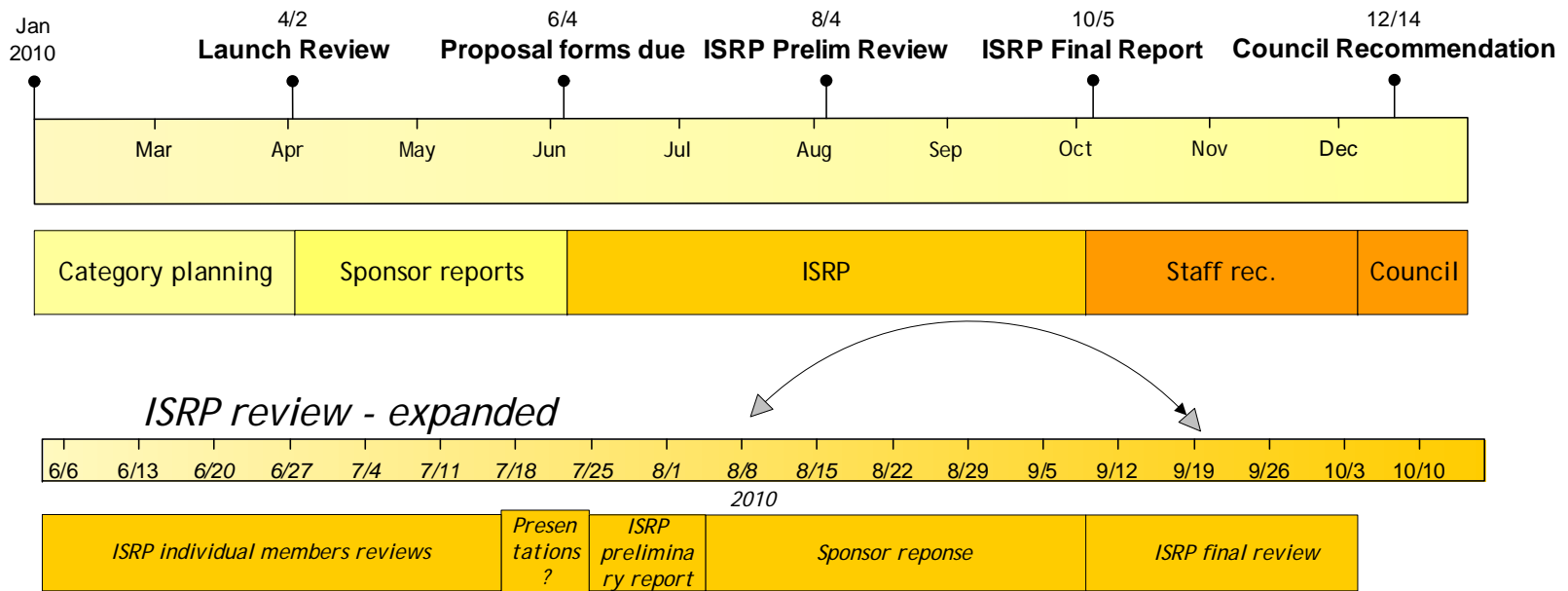
Since the last update in January, the Council met with Bonneville and NOAA staff to discuss the draft schedule for review (Attachment 1, following page) and aligning the Hatchery Genetic Management Plan process with the artificial production review. Council staff continues to develop the MERR Framework to be used as guidance in the review process. Council and Bonneville staffs are also working together on making Taurus ready to support the RM&E review; part of which includes refining projects lists for this category. Currently, the projected launch date for the review process is April 3rd, beginning with "sponsor reports".

Fast Track BiOp Projects

The Bonneville/Action Agency/Council workgroups identified 27 projects needed to meet high priority FCRPS RPA gaps by being implemented as soon as possible. The fast-track process began on December 14, 2009, with proposals due for science review by January 25th, 2010 (Attachment 2). We received 19 completed proposals on the due date (Attachment 3). Eight on-going projects were found to be within scope and therefore did not need to complete a new proposal. These eight projects, however, will be reviewed in the categorical review process. The ISRP will complete a preliminary report on February 26th.

The fast-track projects are intended to be implemented in the spring of 2010 so permits are essential for immediate implementation. If the fast-track process or permitting circumstances will not result in faster implementation, the default process for that project will be the regular RM&E category review. Council and Bonneville staffs will work with the project proponents to assess the feasibility of each project to meet the needs of the fast-track process.

Draft RM&E plus and Artificial Production Category Review Schedule Draft: 28 Jan 2010



Important Dates:
 Early March - sponsor workshops around the region
(Boise, Lewiston, Yakima (Ellensburg), Pendleton, Portland)
 April 3rd: Start date for "sponsor report phase" - time for to complete proposal forms. (But earlier if possible!)
 June 4: All project proposals due for ISRP review.
 August 4th: ISRP preliminary report due
 September 8th: Sponsor responses due
 October 5th: ISRP Final Report
 October 12th: ISRP presentation to Council

Updated 1/28/2010

Attachment 2. Fast-Track Project Schedule

Date	Milestone	Note
14 December 2009	Proposal Forms Ready	Done. On Council's website; updated for RM&E
25 January 2010	Proposal Forms Due	Done.
27 January	Proposals Sent to ISRP for Review	In progress. Four-week review
26 February	ISRP Reports Due	Final Reports on some and Preliminary reports on others
03 March	Emails Requesting "response" to ISRP	Three-week turnaround
04 March	Staff Recommendations to Council	For projects with Final Review from ISRP
09 March	Committee Recommendations	On staff recommendations
10 March	Council Recommendations	On committee recommendations
25 March	Sponsor Responses Due	From sponsors
26 March	Responses sent to ISRP	Three-week review
15 April	Final ISRP Report Due	On "responses"
22 April	Possible Special Council meeting	To approve final fast-track set

Attachment 3. Fast Track Project List

Project #	Project Title	Sponsor
2010-035-00	Abundance, productivity and life history of Fifteenmile Creek Steelhead	Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
2010-026-00	Chinook and Steelhead Genotyping for Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) at Lower Granite Dam	Idaho Department of Fish & Game
1997-030-00	Chinook Salmon Adult Abundance Monitoring [Includes fast track Joseph Creek Steelhead Escapement project]	Nez Perce Tribe
2010-033-00	Estimate the Relative Reproductive Success of Hatchery and Natural Origin Steelhead in the Methow River Basin	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
2010-030-00	Estimate viable salmon population (VSP) parameters for Yakima steelhead major population group (MPG)	Yakama Nation and WDFW
2010-036-00	Expansion of Washington's Tag Recovery Program in the Lower Columbia Region to Improve Fisheries and Viable Salmonid Population Monitoring	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
1998-007-02	Grand Ronde Supplementation: Lostine River Operation and Maintenance and Monitoring and Evaluation	Nez Perce Tribe
1991-073-00	Idaho Natural Production Monitoring	Idaho Department of Fish & Game
1990-055-00	Idaho Steelhead Monitoring and Evaluation Studies	Idaho Department of Fish & Game
1989-098-00	Idaho Supplementation Studies	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
2010-032-00	Imnaha River Steelhead Status Monitoring (was 200205600)	Nez Perce Tribe
2010-028-00	Implement a Rotating Panel Sampling Adult Steelhead in Small Tributaries of the Tucannon and Snake rivers	WDFW
2003-017-00	Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Program (ISEMP): The design and evaluation of monitoring tools for salmon populations and habitat in the Interior Columbia River Basin.	Northwest Fisheries Science Center
2010-038-00	Lolo Creek Permanent Weir Construction	Nez Perce Tribe
1993-056-00	Research to advance hatchery reform	Northwest Fisheries Science Center
1998-016-00	Salmonid Productivity, Escapement, Trend, and Habitat Monitoring in the John Day River Subbasin	Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
2010-031-00	Snake River Chinook and Steelhead Parental Based Tagging	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
2010-042-00	Tucannon Expanded Pit Tagging	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
2010-034-00	Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Steelhead Juvenile and Adult Abundance, Productivity, and Spatial Structure Monitoring.	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife