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February 24, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Jim Ruff -- Manager, Mainstem Passage and River Operations

SUBJECT: Briefing on 2010 Fishery Forecasts and 2009 Fishery Retrospective

Background

At the March 9th Council meeting, Bill Tweit (Columbia River Policy Lead for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) and Ed Schriever (Chief of Fisheries for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game) will present the latest information on the 2010 adult salmon and steelhead run forecasts for the Columbia and Snake rivers. In particular, Bill Tweit's presentation will cover a retrospective of 2009 adult salmon and steelhead runs to the Columbia River. In addition, he will also present an overview of 2010 run forecasts to the Columbia River with a brief summary of expectations for the 2010 Columbia River fishery.

Ed Schriever will summarize the recent, historical returns of salmon and steelhead to the lower Snake River in Washington, focusing on the species/run groupings of spring, summer, fall Chinook salmon; summer steelhead; and sockeye salmon. For each species/run grouping, counts of fish crossing Lower Granite Dam will be presented. Numbers of fish passing Lower Granite Dam comprise the aggregate count of adult salmon and steelhead destined primarily for eastern Oregon's Grande Ronde and Imnaha river drainages and Idaho's Clearwater and Salmon river drainages. In addition to historical return information, 2010 forecast information for Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, and sockeye salmon will be presented.