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August 1, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Jim Ruff

SUBJECT: Update on status of Snake River fall Chinook transportation evaluation

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide the Fish and Wildlife Committee members and staff an update on the current status of the Snake River (SR) fall Chinook transport evaluation for 2008.

Discussion

A technical-level SR fall Chinook Transportation group meeting was held in Lapwai, ID on July 11th to discuss developing a plan and schedule to move forward with a summer transportation study in 2008 and out years. The group consisted of technical representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe, NOAA Fisheries, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and Corps of Engineers (Corps). The technical group agreed to convey to their respective policy folks and *U.S. v. OR* representatives information on the group's progress and schedule, as well as a recommendation on how to move forward with this study. The group noted that this is not a new effort, as much work has been done over the past three years by various parties associated with *U.S. v. OR*, the SR fall Chinook transportation study ad hoc group, the RME remand sub-group, and others.

Next Steps

The following is a summary of the next steps agreed upon and necessary to proceed with this transport study in 2008. Attachment 1 is the agreed upon schedule from the technical group.

- Secure an ESA permit modification from NOAA Fisheries to use the Lower Granite adult trap at a 20% sampling level (ongoing).
- Complete development of a draft long-term study plan, including identifying any study issues that may require management or policy resolution prior to plan completion.

- The draft long-term study plan will be presented by the technical group to the *U.S. v. OR* parties at its August 16-17 meeting.¹
- The long-term study plan will also be presented to the regional Studies Review Work Group for review under the Corps' Anadromous Fish Evaluation Program.
- The technical group identifies specific transportation research fish needs and makes a request to the *U.S. v. OR* parties for these fish, as well as a change in priority level.
- The goal will be to have a agreed-upon long-term study plan completed by the October 15 *U.S. v. OR* meeting, at which time the parties agree on fish availability and priority level in the table for the transport research fish needs in 2008. At that time WDFW will provide a preliminary estimate of 2007 SR fall Chinook broodstock collection.
- The agreed-upon long-term transport study plan, or plans if unresolved study issues remain and an alternative study plan is developed, will be submitted to the ISRP for scientific review in the fall.

Attachment 1

¹ In 2006 the *U.S. v. OR* parties had asked that a final study plan be completed before they would consider moving the transportation research fish to a higher level in the *U.S. v. OR* production priority table.

Attachment 1

Final Schedule SR Fall Chinook Transportation Study 2008

July 11 – A Snake River (SR) fall Chinook Transportation technical group meeting in Lapwai, ID to discuss developing a plan to move forward with a SR fall Chinook transportation study in 2008 and out years.

Jay Hesse (NPT), Sharon Keifer (IDFG), Bill Muir (NMFS), Mark Schuck (WDFW), Brian Zimmerman (CTUIR), William Connor (FWS), Tom Rien (ODFW), Brad Smith (ODFW), Scott Dunmire (COE), Marvin Shuttters (COE).

August 15 - Corps assists with funding SR fall Chinook broodstock collection at LWG trap.

August 16-17 - Technical Group presents final plan to *U.S. v. OR* parties and recommends to regional parties to go forward with study in 2008 and out years.

August 18 – Distribute final plan to SRWG members for review.

August 29

- Fall Chinook Coordination Group Meeting at the Lower Granite Dam visitor center.

- a) Technical Group identifies transportation research fish needs.
- b) Technical Group requests surrogate fish from *U.S. v. OR* parties.
- c) Coordinate fish needs with hatchery managers.

September 4 - Approximate date to begin LWG trap broodstock collection at a sample rate of 18-20%.

October 15 – *U.S. v. OR* parties agree upon fish availability and priority table level for transportation research fish in 2008. WDFW provides preliminary estimate of 2007 broodstock collection.

October 31 – November 15 - WDFW provides second estimate of 2008 egg take.

November 1 – March 1, 2008 - Corps initiates and completes regional coordination, budgeting, planning, and acquisition processes needed to conduct study in 2008.