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May 4, 2004

To: Council Members

From: Peter Paquet, Manager, Wildlife & Resident Fish

Subject: Discussion of Memorandum of Potential Crediting Method for Fish Habitat Projects

Staff will provide a brief discussion of the method being developed to address the issue of how to address the crediting of fish habitat projects so they may be acquired using capital funds. This is a very simple approach that relies on using linear miles of anadromous fish habitat inundated by the construction of the Federal Columbia River Projects. In its simplest form it assumes the following:

- The mainstem habitat inundated was high quality habitat
- The total number of linear miles of habitat lost in the mainstem and Columbia and Snake Rivers is xxxx miles.
- A total of xxxx miles of tributary stream habitat will be protected.
- BPA would receive credit for the number of miles of tributary habitat purchased on a 1:1 basis.
- The mitigation credit derived using this approach could be increased, but not decreased, based on actual measurement of existing fish habitat value above the estimated percent.

Initial calculations on the miles of mainstem habitat lost will be discussed. Also, it is important to note that the question of reduced productivity of habitat will not be addressed using this method, but can be determined at a later date.