

Reply to: 1920

Date: April 18, 2014

BLM/FS/FWS/EPA/NOAA Fisheries-Memorandum

To: FS Supervisors and Regional Directors (Regions 1, 4, and 6)
FS Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain Research Station Director
NOAA Fisheries Branch Chiefs (West Coast Region)
BLM District/Field Managers (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana)
FWS Field Supervisors (Pacific Region)
EPA Office of Water Directors (Regions 8, 9, and 10)
EPA Operations Office Directors (Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Washington)
EPA Region Forest/Range Manager (Region 10)

From: Deputy Regional Executives
FS (Regions 1, 4, and 6)
NOAA Fisheries (West Coast Region)
BLM (Oregon/Washington, and Idaho)
FWS (Pacific Region)
EPA (Region 10)

Subject: Updated Interior Columbia Basin Strategy: A Strategy for Applying the Knowledge Gained by the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project to the Revision of Land Use Plans and Project Implementation

The purpose of this memorandum is to transmit to agency field offices the attached document titled "The Interior Columbia Basin Strategy: A Strategy for Applying the Knowledge Gained by the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project to the Revision of Land Use Plans and Project Implementation." This guidance replaces the prior Columbia Basin Strategy (2003) and the Aquatic and Riparian Aquatic Habitat Framework (2008).

A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Proposed Decision for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project were published in December 2000. The State Directors and Regional Foresters elected not to prepare a Record of Decision and instead chose to complete the Project through use of "The Interior Columbia Basin Strategy", herein referred to as "Strategy". The Strategy provides principles that incorporate the science data and resource information developed by the Project, as well as more recent science, into land use plans (FS land and resource management plans and BLM resource management plans) and project implementation. The Strategy identifies key principles that are relevant to future planning efforts including an update of ecological principles.

The Aquatic and Riparian Framework for developing and incorporating the aquatic and riparian habitat components of land use plans has been integrated into the updated Strategy. The Framework (Appendix 1) clarifies, interprets, and in some instances, enhances the principles



found in the Strategy. The Framework provides guidance and facilitates consistency among plans by promoting inclusion of several fundamental elements of riparian and aquatic conservation. The Framework describes the importance of and underlying expectations for those conservation elements, but allows flexibility in how they are addressed within individual plans. Responsibility for adopting management direction, including setting restoration priorities, rests with the agency officials responsible for approving the management plan.

The attached Strategy and Aquatic and Riparian Framework (Appendix 1) have been updated and should be used to amend and revise land use plans, as applicable, for FS and BLM within the Columbia Basin.

/s/

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Enclosure

cc: Interior Columbia Basin Interagency
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