

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 WRC

6. KLAMATH RIVER ABOVE IRON GATE DAM, POST-DAM REMOVAL**Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

Discuss regulatory options for sport fishing in the Klamath River after the removal of Iron Gate, Copco No. 1, and Copco No. 2 dams.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Previous discussion | May 19, 2022; WRC, Redding |
| • Today's discussion | Sep 15, 2022; WRC, Arcadia |
| • Potential WRC recommendation | Jan 12, 2023; WRC, Los Angeles area |

Background

To restore historic fish passage, four dams on the Klamath river – Iron Gate, Copco No. 1, Copco No. 2, and J.C. Boyle – has been proposed for removal. All but the J.C. Boyle Dam are located in California. In late Aug, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — the federal agency that regulates hydroelectric dams — issued its final environmental impact statement, with its staff recommending the commission approve the application to remove the J.C. Boyle, Copco No. 1, Copco No. 2, and Iron Gate dams from the Klamath River. If the application is approved, decommissioning could begin as early as 2023 on the smallest dam and in 2024 for the three larger dams.

DFW anticipates proposing new sport fishing regulations for the areas above Iron Gate Dam, with the goal of having regulations in effect once the dams are demolished. With the potential for the dams to be removed in the relatively near future, it is important to have the conversation now about what sport fishing regulations may be necessary.

Today, DFW will provide an update on the dam removal process and timing, and WRC will discuss potential sport fishing regulations for that section of the Klamath River above Iron Gate Dam.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. DFW presentation (to be provided separately)

Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)