



October 12, 2000

TO: Anadromous Fish Committee (AFC)

FROM: Gary James, Chair  for

SUBJECT: Draft Action Notes for October 3, 2000 AFC Meeting in Portland.
If there are no objections within five days, these actions will be considered approved.

Attendees: Gary James (CTUIR, Chair), Howard Schaller (USFWS), Bob Foster (WDFW), Ron Boyce (ODFW), Patty O'Toole (CTWSRO), John Palensky (NMFS), Bert Bowler (IDFG), Joe Peone (CCT), and Brian Allee, Tom Giese and Tom Iverson (CBFWA).

By Phone: Paul Kucera and Dave Statler (NPT), Bruce Eddy (ODFW), and Shaun Robertson (CTWSRO).

Time Allocation:

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| CBFWA Members Coordination Contract* | |
| <i>Objective 1. FY 2001 Project Renewal Process</i> | <i>15%</i> |
| <i>Objective 2. Rolling Province Review</i> | <i>10%</i> |
| <i>Objective 3. FY 2000 Project Adjustments</i> | <i>50%</i> |
| <i>Objective 4. Watershed and Subbasin Assessment and Plan</i> | <i>0%</i> |
| <i>Objective 5. Coordinate Program Amendments</i> | <i>0%</i> |

* Not all AFC agenda items support the objectives identified in the coordination contract.

ITEM 1: Discuss Possible Changes to Today's Agenda

Three items were added to Agenda Item 4: Warm Springs Tribe request, Lewis Conservation District request and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife request. Also, under Agenda Item 5, a discussion of the recent Northwest Power Planning Council (NWPPC or Council) FY 2001 funding decisions was added.

Action: Additions were made to the agenda. Agenda was approved. *The action items have been arranged to reflect the order of discussion at the meeting.*

ITEM 2: Election of New Chair

The current term for the chair and vice-chair of the Anadromous Fish Committee (AFC) was scheduled to expire in September. The selection of a new chair triggered a lengthy discussion about the AFC's viability in the future of the Fish and Wildlife Program. As the program moves to a subbasin/province based decision making process, what role will the standing committees have? It was suggested that the committees would be pivotal in providing a regional perspective as well as addressing topic specific issues like fish passage or artificial production. This concern has been discussed in the other standing committees with no resolution. It may be pertinent to have this discussion at the next Members meeting.

Action: Gary James and John Palensky were nominated to continue on as chair and vice-chair. Both accepted the nomination. The motion to maintain the current chair and vice-chair for one year was approved.

ITEM 3: Selective Harvest Technologies

The most current agenda was handed out for the Innovations in Harvest and Production in the Columbia River Basin Workshop Planning for Abundance in 2001. This workshop is scheduled for October 4-5, 2000 at the Sheraton Airport Hotel. Several of the AFC members indicated that they were going to attend the workshop.

Action: No Action.

ITEM 4: Within Year Budget Modification Requests

With the most recent NWPPC decisions on the FY 2001 budget, it is unclear how much money is available in the Anadromous Fish Placeholder. The AFC recently sent three funding recommendations to NWPPC for project modifications (CRITFC Kelt Study, ODFW/WDFW Spawning Below Four Lowermost Dams and fund the OWT project) that resulted from the August 16, 2000 AFC meeting. The question was raised as to how these recommendations affect the current requests? Also, how many other requests have AFC sent over to council in the past year and what were the requirements to get AFC approval? It was decided that each request would have to be reviewed and approved based on their merits. In light of the recent NWPPC funding decisions, and decisions scheduled for next week, there is no way to determine how much funds are available in the Anadromous Fish Placeholder.

Action: Tom Iverson will create a table for the AFC to track all budget modification requests.

ITEM 4a: **The Idaho Model Watershed** has requested a reallocation of \$152,000 from Project Number 200000500 (Protect Bear Valley Salmon and Steelhead Spawning Habitat in the Upper Salmon Basin) to the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Assessment effort. Bert Bowler presented the request to the AFC. The Bear Valley Project resulted in the retirement of a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) grazing allotment that appraised for \$152,000 less than the forecasted budget. These funds could be transferred to the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Assessment (Projects 199202603, 199306200 and 199401700). The funds would be used to provide oversight and guidance in the development of tools and analyses that enhance the fundamental understanding of river systems. Questions were raised as to whether this money is actually available, since the Bear Valley project has been completed and the remaining funds should have been returned to the Anadromous Fish Placeholder. Also, there is not a clear scope of work or list of tasks where these funds would be assigned.

Action: Since there is question whether these funds exist and exactly how they would be used, no action was taken on this request until further clarification is provided.

ITEM 4b: **The Confederated Tribe of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO)** have requested \$25,000 from the BPA for the purpose of conducting appraisals and related surveys for five habitat acquisition projects that are vital to comprehensive efforts to improve fish and wildlife in the John Day basin. Specifically, these projects will remedy “gaps” in current efforts to re-connect habitats and will protect essential river migration corridors for fish and wildlife. In return, water quality and re-connection of habitats for numerous threatened and endangered species as well as other upland and aquatic species in the John Day basin would vastly improve. These parcels are available for purchase and have a high priority within the tribe for protection and recovery of fish. These properties have been a top priority for fish and wildlife protection and recovery by Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) since 1971.

These activities are consistent with activities currently funded under the project titled Acquire Oxbow Ranch--Middle Fork John Day River (Project Number 200001500). Specific activities identified within that project include the type of surveys within the CTWSRO request for the same geographic area and subbasin. Funding for the project could be provided under the purview of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) COTR 10 percent rule. The AFC also supports the concept of the land acquisition as a potentially beneficial project that should be added to the list of high priority early actions to be considered by the NWPPC, similar to the Wapatox Project.

Action: A letter of recommendation for this request will be drafted and forwarded to Members Management Group (MMG) for consent mail.

ITEM 4c: **The Lewis Soil Conservation District (SCD)** has requested a change in scope for their project titled Little Canyon Creek Subwatershed Steelhead Trout Habitat Improvement Project (Number 199901400). The modification would add an educational objective and redistribute \$2,500 from best management practice implementation so the Lewis SCD could purchase equipment for the Nez Perce High School agriculture classes to raise steelhead for release into locations approved by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Action: The AFC supports this request. A letter will be drafted and forwarded to MMG for consent mail approval.

ITEM 4d: **ODFW** has requested an in-season budget modification to Project 198805305 (Northeast Oregon Hatcheries Planning and Implementation). With the NWPPC approval of the Nez Perce Tribe's Northeast Oregon Spring Chinook Master Plan, the level of activity for this project will be significantly higher than anticipated in FY 2000. Currently only one month of personnel time has been funded for co-manager input within this project. ODFW is requesting an additional \$170,000 to support working with the Nez Perce Tribe and other co-managers through Step 2 in the master planning process for Spring Chinook and Step 1 and 2 for Coho salmon. Washington Department Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) anticipates a similar request in the near future. Funding for the request should come out of the capital project placeholder similar to the Nez Perce request that was approved by AFC.

Action: The AFC supports this request. A letter will be drafted and forwarded to MMG for consent mail approval.

ITEM 5: Update on FY 2001 Draft Annual Implementation Work Plan (DAIWP)

At its September 20, 2000 meeting the Northwest Power Planning Council adopted the Council staff budget recommendations for FY 2001 projects. Council staff analyzed Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority's (CBFWA) project budgets and reduced the estimated FY 2001 needs by approximately \$16 million. They then applied newer estimates of unspent funds to be carried forward and other budget assumptions, which resulted in a projected budget surplus of about \$7.3 million.

The current process to "fix" projects is that projects sponsors work closely with their BPA COTR to re-apply the 7 criteria used by the NWPPC staff. If the project sponsor feels that any of those 7 criteria were inappropriately applied, and they can get agreement from their COTR, then the project

sponsor can request that NWPPC review their budget recommendation for that project. It is suggested that the first Quarterly Review (October 20, 2000) is the appropriate place to specific funding requests.

The AFC also discussed how to respond to the NWPPC at a policy level. The NWPPC decision appeared to completely disregard the CBFWA DAIWP recommendations. The group agreed that an in depth policy discussion of this topic would occur at the MMG meeting later today, and their discussion could wait for then.

Action: No action required.

ITEM 6: Update on Rolling Province Review

The project review for the Columbia Gorge and Inter-mountain Provinces are scheduled for next week. It is important that the CBFWA members have representatives at those meetings. Tom Iverson discussed the review process. The one concern was the budget balancing exercise. With the current NWPPC decisions, it is unclear how to balance the province budgets. The AFC agreed to rely heavily on the Province Budget Work Groups to develop the three-year work plans. The AFC will review the recommendations on October 31 through a conference call.

Action: The AFC will review and approve the province recommendations on October 31 from 9 am until noon.

ITEM 7: Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 31, 2000 in Portland. The meeting/conference call will be scheduled from 9 am until noon.

Potential agenda below:

- Review and approve the Columbia Gorge and Intermountain Province project recommendations and subbasin summaries.