




**COLUMBIA  
BASIN  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AUTHORITY**

March 18, 2003

TO: Resident Fish Committee (RFC)

FROM: Neil Ward 

SUBJECT: Draft Action Notes for the March 12-13, 2003, RFC Meeting

Resident Fish Committee Meeting  
March 12-13, 2003  
Sunriver, OR

**Attendees** March 12: Dave Ward (ODFW), Clint Muhlfeld (MFWP), Lawernee Schwabe (BPT), John Arterburn (CCT), Charlie Holderman (KTOI), Mike Faler (USFWS), Al Hemmingsen (ODFW), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

March 13: Dave Ward (ODFW), Clint Muhlfeld (MFWP), Lawernee Schwabe (BPT), John Arterburn (CCT), Charlie Holderman (KTOI), Al Hemmingsen (ODFW), Chris Brun (CTWSRO), Dave Close (CTUIR), Dave Wolf (CTUIR), Tom Geise (CBFWA), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

**By Phone:**

March 12: Robert Walker (NWPPC), Ron Morinaka (BPA), Jay Hesse (NPT), Scott Everett (NPT), John Skidmore (BPA), and Tom Rein (ODFW)

March 13: Robert Walker (NWPPC), Ron Morinaka (BPA), Jay Hesse (NPT), Ron Peters (CDAT), Jeff Ziller (ODFW), Kevin Kappenman (CRITFC), and Tom Rein (ODFW)

<b>Time</b>	Objective 1. Project Recommendations	0%
<b>Allocation:</b>	Objective 2. Regional Issues	0%
	Objective 3. Annual Report	95%

**ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda**

No new items were added nor were there changes to the exiting agenda.

**ITEM 2: Review Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA) Biological Risk Assessment Team (BRAT) Request**

In 2002, the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) completed a stock assessment of the Snake River Hells Canyon white sturgeon population through Project 199700900, titled “Evaluate Potential Means of Rebuilding Sturgeon Populations in the Snake River Between Lower Granite and Hells Canyon Dam.” Specific tasks and activities included in the 2003 proposal recommend reconvening the BRAT that was assembled during 1996. In an effort to minimize costs, the BPA’s Contracting Officer’s Technical Representative for this project has suggested that the BRAT could be composed of RFC participants that participated on the 1996 BRAT and subsequently facilitated through the RFC. As a result, the NPT requested the RFC to assemble a BRAT for the purpose of addressing new information and management issues associated with the Snake River Hells Canyon white sturgeon population.

**ACTION:** Jay Hesse, Scott Everett, and Neil Ward will organize a 2003 BRAT that will likely convene during the RFC’s May Meeting. Neil will contact RFC participants to either solicit their participation or identify an individual from their entity that would be able to participate.

**ITEM 3: Status Report of Subbasin Planning Assessment Techniques Related to Resident Fish**

John Arterburn described his experiences using EDT for resident fish in the San Poil River Subbasin. John discussed the merits and limitations of EDT as an assessment technique for resident fish and suggested that resident fish managers would find the results useful; however, due to the amount of effort and time required to develop the model, the likelihood of using EDT for resident fish in the Intermountain Province is low due to funding and time limitations.

**ITEM 4: Create an ad hoc RFC Charter Workgroup**

Dave Ward led the committee in a brief discussion about the merits of developing an RFC Charter and subsequently requested that individuals volunteer to participate as members of an ad hoc workgroup that will be responsible for developing a Draft Charter for review during the RFC’s May meeting. The following RFC participants volunteered to assist in developing a Draft RFC Charter for full committee review: Dave Ward, Mike Faler, John Arterburn, and Neil Ward

**ITEM 5: Project Reviews**

Through the Rolling Provincial Review, the RFC reviewed and recommended projects for funding based on the scientific soundness of the proposal and the benefits that would be realized by implementing the work. The RFC believed that the next logical step was to provide overview during the implementation of these projects. As a result, the RFC initiated a project performance review in which project sponsors presented their

accomplishments as they related to the objectives that the RFC approved for funding. The following projects were reviewed:

**Project 198605000:** White Sturgeon Mitigation and Restoration in the Columbia and Snake Rivers

**Project 199405300:** Bull trout Assessment - Willamette/McKenzie

**Project 199405400:** The Population Structure of Bull trout in the John Day River and Abundance of Bull Trout in Mill Creek/Characterize the Migratory Patterns, population Structure, Food Habits, Abundance of Bull trout from Subbasins in the Blue Mountains

**Project 199701900:** Evaluate the Life History of Native Salmonids in the Malheur Basin

**Project 25053:** Evaluate Bull Trout Movements in the Tucannon and Lower Snake Rivers

**Project 25093:** Characterize Genetic Differences and Distribution of Freshwater Mussels

Results from these studies will appear in the RFC's 2003 Annual Report, which will be available in December 2003.

**ITEM 6: Next Meeting**

**May 2003**

(Either the week of May 12<sup>th</sup> or May 19<sup>th</sup>)

**Idaho**

(Potential locations: Lewiston (Hells Canyon), Boise, Ketchum, Pocatello)

**Projects that will be reviewed:**

**199201000 – SBT**

**199815600 – SPT**

**199501500 – SPT**

**199701100 – SPT**

**200007900 – SPT**

**199800200 – IDFG**

**198709900 – IDFG**

**199700900 – NPT**

**198740700 – NPT**

**199501300 - NPT**