



August 6, 2003

TO: Resident Fish Committee (RFC)

FROM: Neil Ward

SUBJECT: Revised Draft Action Notes for the July 29-31, 2003, RFC Meeting

If there are no objections within five days, these actions will be considered final.

Resident Fish Committee Meeting

July 29-31, 2003

Whitefish, MT

Attendees July 29: Dave Ward (ODFW), Richard LeCaire (CCT), Mattie Allen (SPT), Joe Maroney (KT), Vaughn Paragamian (IDFG), Brian Marotz (MFWP), Sue Ireland (KTOI), Jim Dunnigan (MFWP), Clint Muhlfeld (MFWP), Ron Morinaka (BPA), Lawrence Schwabe (BPT), Mark Maskill (USFWS), Ron Peters (CDAT), Barry Hansen (CSKT), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

July 30: Dave Ward (ODFW), Mattie Allen (SPT), Joe Maroney (KT), Vaughn Paragamian (IDFG), Brian Marotz (MFWP), Sue Ireland (KTOI), Clint Muhlfeld (MFWP), Ron Morinaka (BPA), Lawrence Schwabe (BPT), Ron Peters (CDAT), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

July 31: Dave Ward (ODFW), Mattie Allen (SPT), Joe Maroney (KT), Vaughn Paragamian (IDFG), Brian Marotz (MFWP), Clint Muhlfeld (MFWP), Ron Morinaka (BPA), Ron Peters (CDAT), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

By Phone: July 29: Charlie Holderman (KTOI)

July 30: Robert Walker (NWCC), Charlie Holderman (KTOI), Gary Barton (USGS), Bob Hallock (USFWS), Lynn DuCharme (CSKT)

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

Draft Action Notes

ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda

Item 7 (Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' Fish Crediting for Fisheries Easements) and Item 8 (Colville Confederated Tribes' Emergency Request) were added to the agenda.

ITEM 2: Update on the Status of the RFC Charter

Neil Ward and Dave Ward indicated that the RFC Charter was reviewed and approved by the MMG. The Charter is currently being reviewed by the Members.

ITEM 3: Development of an Analytical Framework for Spill Evaluation

During the July 24, 2003, Members Management Group (MMG) meeting the MMG directed the RFC to develop an analytical framework to evaluate the biological effects of actions, prescribed by the Northwest Power Planning Council's Mainstem Amendments, on resources associated with Hungry Horse and Libby reservoirs and the associated tailwaters. The MMG requested that the RFC provide a progress report during the August MMG meeting.

An ad hoc workgroup (Dave Ward, Clint Muhlfeld, Brian Marotz, Ron Peters, and Neil Ward) met on Wednesday, July 30, 2003 to develop a strategy to address the MMG's request. Neil emphasized that the expectations of others in the region is that the eventual study would include measurable parameters that could be used to show correlations between hydro-operations and resident fish population trends. Participants acknowledged the need to initially develop questions to guide the development of a framework design; however, due to time limitations, the workgroup was unable to fully develop a set of questions. Participants agreed to submit their comments to Neil for distribution to the rest of the workgroup. Brian Marotz recommended including Jim Dunnigan, Grant Grisak, and Greg Hoffman as members of the ad hoc workgroup.

ITEM 4: "Rules of Order" for RFC Meetings

Dave Ward led the RFC in a review of the rules of order that will be used by the RFC per the Charter.

ITEM 5: 2004 Western Division American Fisheries Society (AFS) - Management of Resident Fish in the Columbia River Session

The 2004 Western Division AFS is scheduled for February 29th - March 3, 2004 in Salt Lake City. The theme of the meeting is "Native Fish Management: Policies, Politics, and Practicalities." Dave Ward provided an update on his progress towards arranging a session titled "Management of Resident Fish in the Columbia River Basin." The focus of the session will be projects associated with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). The papers that will be presented during the session include:

- *Hydroelectric Development and Operations in the Columbia River Basin: Mitigation for Impacts to Resident Fish:* Neil Ward
- *Kootenai River White Sturgeon Conservation Aquaculture: Past, Present, and Future:* Sue Ireland
- *Burbot on the Brink, or, Not a lot of Lota:* Vaughn Paragamian
- *Actions to Conserve Native Fish in the Upper Columbia River Basin in Montana:* Clint Muhlfeld
- *Trial and Tribulations: Bull trout BiOp Requirements in the FCRPS:* Mike Faler

- *Monitoring of Bull trout Populations in the Columbia Plateau Province using the EMAR Protocol*: Stephanie Gunckel
- *Non-native resident Fish in the Columbia River Basin: How habitat Directs Fisheries Management*: Joe Maroney

ITEM 6: Manuscript for Submission to *Fisheries* and Potential Formation of a Risk Assessment Team

Dave Ward and Neil Ward described the manuscript they intend to submit to the American Fisheries Society for potential publication in *Fisheries*. The paper, titled “Hydroelectric Development and Operations in the Columbia River Basin: Mitigation for Impacts to Resident Fish” describes the coordination and status of state, federal, and tribal resident fish research and management projects implemented in the Columbia River Basin through the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program and funded by the BPA.

ITEM 7: Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks’ Fish Crediting for Fisheries Easements

The MFWP and BPA have been negotiating an arrangement for the allocation of capital funds for Project 24012: *Riparian Habitat Preservation - Weaver Slough and McWenneger Slough* and Project 24023: *Purchase Conservation Easement from Plum Creek Timber Company (PCT) along Fisher River* which received a “fund recommendation” from the Northwest Power & Conservation Council (NWPPCC) during the Rolling Provincial Review. The RFC identified several issues that should be highlighted in a memorandum for distribution to the BPA and NWPPCC. First, the fisheries loss statement for the construction and operation of Libby Dam does not include losses incurred by the State of Idaho nor Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. The draft agreement between BPA and MFWP considers only inundation losses of habitat and does not include lost fish production. Second, the science for establishing fisheries credits and BPA’s obligation has not been reviewed or agreed upon by the region. Finally, the RFC views this arrangement as a one-time only agreement that should not set precedent for fisheries crediting elsewhere in the Columbia River Basin.

Action: Neil Ward will draft a letter describing the RFC’s position relative to crediting for fisheries habitat acquisition projects. The letter will be distributed to the RFC for a five-day review prior to submittal to the MMG.

ITEM 8: Colville Confederated Tribes’ Emergency Request

The CCT submitted a request for \$150,000 in emergency funding to purchase a new fish hauling truck to replace two vehicles that despite numerous repairs, continue to experience mechanical problems. In addition, the hauling tanks continue to leak despite repairs. Although the existing tanks could be replaced at a cost of \$40,000, the CCT expressed an interest in replacing the trucks to avoid the frequent mechanical repairs which are presently burdening their budget.

Due to the lack of an unallocated placeholder and a request from the NWPPCC to perform a formal review of the project, the CBFWA would recommend, based on previous requests of this nature, that the RFC limit its review to a technical assessment of the proposed request.

Although the RFC suggested that the CCT directly contact their COTR to discuss

the funding for the new vehicle, the RFC did indicate that they would review the technical merits. Unfortunately, the RFC could not complete the review during this meeting due to time limitations.

Action: Neil Ward will email the CCT's letter of request to the RFC for review. Following the review, Neil Ward and Dave Ward will draft a letter describing the RFC's position relative to the request. Following completion of the RFC's review, the letter would be submitted to Joe Peone (cc: Doug Marker, Mark Fritsch (NWPCC), Bob Austin (BPA) and the Chairs of the CBFWA's AFC, WC, and MMG).

ITEM 9: Election of a New Vice Chair

On October 1, 2003 Joe Maroney will become the Chair of the RFC, thus leaving the Vice Chair vacant.

Action: Clint Muhlfeld was selected as the new Vice Chair effective October 1, 2003.

ITEM 10: Date and Location for the Next Review Meeting

The next RFC Meeting is scheduled for

December 2-4, 2003

Sandpoint, ID

The final review will provide an opportunity for project sponsors to present results for projects implemented in the Intermountain and Columbia Gorge provinces. The following is a list of the projects that the RFC will review:

Habitat	Assessments
199500100	200102800
199001800	199700400
200103200	199501100
200201000	199902400
199004400	199502800
	199404300
	199404700
	199502700
	200200900
	200204300