



# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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Coordinating and promoting effective protection and restoration of fish, wildlife, and their habitat in the Columbia River Basin.

The Authority is comprised of the following tribes and government agencies:

Burns Paiute Tribe

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

National Marine Fisheries Service

Nez Perce Tribe

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Coordinating Agencies**

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Upper Columbia United Tribes

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

DATE: August 12, 2009  
TO: Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)  
FROM: Neil Ward  
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the August 11, 2009, RFAC Meeting

**Resident Fish Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, August 11, 2009  
9:00am – 3:00pm PDT  
@ Upper Columbia United Tribes Office  
25 W. Main, Suite 434  
Spokane, WA 99201**

[RFAC Webpage](#)

## Final Action Notes

**Attendees:** Ron Peters (CDAT), Norm Merz (KTOI), Chad Abel (BPT), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

**Phone:** Christine Mallette (ODFW), Charlie Holderman (KTOI), Sheri Sears (CCT), and Jake Sellman (SPT)

<b>Time Allocation:</b>	Objective 1: Participation	100%
	Objective 2: Technical Review	%
	Objective 3: Presentation	%

**ITEM 1:** **Review and Approve Agenda**

**Action:** The agenda was approved with no modifications.

**ITEM 2:** **Approve Action Notes from the July 14, 2009 RFAC Meeting**

**Action:** Approval of the Draft Action Notes from the July 14, 2009 RFAC meeting was deferred until the September 24, 2009 RFAC meeting.

**ITEM 3:** **Resident Fish Loss Assessment Letter for Members Review**

Ron Peters led the participants in a review of the most recent edits to the draft resident fish loss assessment letter.

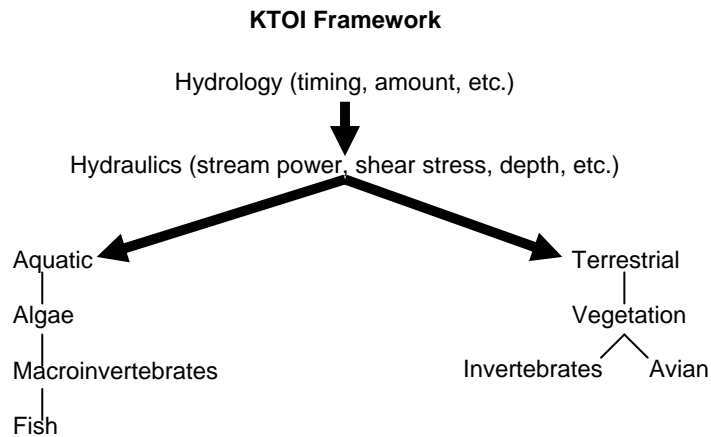
**Action:** *The draft resident fish loss assessment letter was approved to be presented, by Sheri Sears, to the Members on September 2, 2009.*

**ITEM 4:** **Resident Fish Losses: Development of Methodology to Assess Operational Losses**

The NPCC's Program contains the following objective to address resident fish losses: "Complete the assessments of resident fish losses resulting from the development and operation of the hydrosystem, when and where there is agreement on the appropriate methodology and prioritization of an assessment. As these are available, the Council will consider adopting the loss assessments into the Program." Ron Peters and Sheri Sears led the RFAC in a discussion regarding the development of an appropriate method to assess resident fish losses that are associated with the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System. Participants discussed the methodology that the KTOI is developing as well as that which was developed and has been implemented by

the MFWP.

Illustrated below, is the framework that the KTOI has created for the development of their Kootenai River Floodplain Ecosystem Operational Loss Assessment. Norm Merz described the development of this framework and how the KTOI envisions this framework will allow them to develop strategies to assess and mitigate losses of ecosystem function and produce a regional operational loss assessment framework.



In the 1986, MFWP completed the development of a method to estimate fishery losses to the Flathead system as a result of the completion of Hungry Horse Dam. To better understand the method, meeting participants reviewed MFWP's "Determination of Fishery Losses in the Flathead System Resulting from the Construction of Hungry Horse Dam." After having reviewed MFWP's method, the RFAC expressed concern that the applicability of the methodology to other areas of the basin was questionable. Although the methods could possibly be used to evaluate westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout losses, participants questioned whether estimating losses for other species (e.g., white sturgeon and kokanee) could be accomplished. Participants agreed that the first step for managers should be to identify the focal species and life history stages. Subsequently, discussions during the next meeting will begin with a review of the focal species and life history stages affected by hydro-operations. Neil Ward suggested that the merits of MFWP's method should be tested for bull trout elsewhere in basin. Christine Mallette volunteered to evaluate the method for determining bull trout losses associated with the operation of Bonneville Dam (Bonneville Reservoir). Christine suggested that WDFW should also participate in the effort. Neil indicated that he would contact Jim Uehara seeking WDFW assistance with this evaluation.

**ITEM 5: NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday, September 24, 2009**

**@ CBFWA Office**

**Portland, OR**

**9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. PDT**