



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

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead 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

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

DATE: October 6, 2010
TO: Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)
FROM: Neil Ward
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the October 5, 2010 RFAC Meeting

Resident Fish Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (Pacific)

@

CBFWA Office

Portland, OR

[RFAC webpage](#)

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Mike Faler (USFWS), Christine Mallette (ODFW), Chad Abel (BPT), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

Phone/WebEx: John Easterbrooks (WDFW)

Time Allocation:	Objective 1: Participation	100%
	Objective 2: Technical Review	0%
	Objective 3: Presentation	0%

ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda

Item 8, "Presentation and Review of the Draft Bull Trout Section of the SOTR," was added to the agenda.

ITEM 2: Approve Action Notes for the June 22, 2010 RFAC Meeting

Action: *The action notes for the [June 22, 2010 RFAC meeting](#) were approved.*

ITEM 3: Discuss the Chair and Vice Chair Positions

In April 2010, ODFW became the RFAC Chair. The ODFW committed to serving as the interim Chair until October 1, 2010, with the understanding that on October 1 they would provide their intentions regarding chairing the RFAC for 2010-2011. The BPT is currently serving as the interim Vice Chair. The ODFW informed the RFAC that they would serve as Chair until April 1, 2011. Effective April 1, 2011, the BPT will become the RFAC Chair.

ITEM 4: Columbia River Basin White Sturgeon Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation

Neil Ward and Christine Mallette provided an update regarding the strategies that have been developed and discussed the plans for completing the remaining strategies. In addition, Christine briefed the RFAC on the presentation that ODFW gave to the ISRP relative to their white sturgeon project proposal that was submitted for consideration through the Categorical Review.

Neil informed the RFAC that several white sturgeon implementation strategies have been completed and submitted to the NPPC with the request that they be provided to the ISRP for use during the Categorical Review. The NPCC agreed to make the documents available to the ISRP with the understanding that they

were to be used as context for the reviews and that the managers would be seeking a formal ISRP and public review in January 2011 when the remaining implementation strategies are available. Neil indicated that the remaining implementation strategies include those for the following areas: 1. Mid-Columbia River PUD reservoirs, 2. Lower Columbia River (below Bonneville Dam), and 3. Kootenai River. During the week of October 4th, Neil will be contacting the white sturgeon managers and researchers to arrange meetings to complete these strategies as well as to meet to develop monitoring and evaluation guidance for white sturgeon in the Columbia River Basin. During the development of the implementation strategies, workgroup participants identified a need to standardize sampling methodologies and data analyses. The goal of the workgroup is to be able to include the guidance document with the final white sturgeon implementation strategy.

The RFAC has requested that Neil provide a progress report, that includes timelines, during the December 7th RFAC meeting.

ITEM 5: Columbia River Basin Bull Trout Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Strategies

Neil Ward presented revised plans for initiating an effort to develop implementation strategies for bull trout in the Columbia River Basin. During the June 22, 2010 RFAC meeting, Neil and Mike Faler suggested that the Deschutes and Lower Columbia River Bull Trout recovery units would serve as “pilot” examples. After discussing the RFAC work plan with the Members Management Group and having received recommendations from those participants, Neil suggested that the RFAC consider drafting implementation strategies for the Deschutes, Hood, Malheur, and Clark Fork recovery units, locations in which there are existing BPA-funded bull trout monitoring projects. The NPCC’s Geographical, Resident Fish, and Resident Fish Substitution reviews are scheduled to begin in 2011. Similar to making the white sturgeon implementation strategies available to the ISRP, the availability of the bull trout implementation strategies should prove useful during the ISRP’s review of bull trout monitoring proposals. The RFAC agreed that the recovery units in which BPA-funded bull trout monitoring exists should be assigned a higher level of prioritization. To ensure implementation strategies are completed for all the recovery units in which BPA-funded bull trout monitoring exists, the RFAC directed Neil to contact the BPA to obtain a list of all the BPA-funded bull trout projects, including accord projects. Specific timelines/deliverables for all the recovery units have not been set. Neil indicated that he would provide Chad Abel (BPT) with the draft templates, for the Malheur Recovery Unit, by October 8th. Chad indicated that the bull trout managers and researchers in the Malheur were likely meeting in mid-November and they could possibly look at the first draft of the implementation strategy at that time. Neil indicated that he would contact Deschutes, Hood, and Clark Fork representatives this week and should have a draft timeline by October 15th. The goal of this effort is to have the implementation strategies available for review and use prior to the solicitation for proposals through the Geographic and Resident Fish reviews.

ITEM 6: Columbia River Basin Reservoir Fisheries Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Strategies

The RFAC briefly discussed the development of implementation strategies for reservoir/pond fisheries. The RFAC agreed the focus should be on those waterbodies at which resident fish substitution projects are implemented (e.g.,

Lake Roosevelt, Lake Billy Shaw, Nez Perce Tribe's put-and-take ponds, etc.). The RFAC directed Neil Ward to develop a framework and to update the templates so that they can accommodate the nuances associated with resident fish substitution programs in the various reservoirs and ponds in the Columbia River Basin.

ITEM 7: Columbia River Basin Rainbow/Redband trout and Cutthroat Trout Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Strategies

Neil Ward presented a proposed process to ensure draft rainbow/redband trout and cutthroat trout implementation strategies are available for use by the NPCC and ISRP during the upcoming solicitations. Neil suggested that the RFAC consider employing an approach similar to that being used for bull trout in that the initial focus will be those areas in which there is BPA-funded trout monitoring and evaluation. Subsequently, the initial areas would include the Malheur, Flathead, Kootenai, Coeur d'Alene, Pend Oreille, and Sanpoil subbasins. Specific timelines/deliverables for all these subbasins have yet to be set; however, Neil and Chad Abel indicated that they would work together to complete the Malheur templates this month. In addition Neil indicated that he would be in contact with representatives from the other subbasins and should have a draft timeline by October 15th. Similar to the bull trout effort, it is the RFAC's goal to have these products available for review and use prior to the Geographical and Resident Fish solicitations.

ITEM 8: Presentation and Review of the Draft Bull Trout Section of the SOTR

Neil Ward presented some examples of the draft bull trout section of the SOTR website. Earlier this year, the CBFWA developed an anadromous fish ESU/DPS section for the SOTR website. The CBFWA staff is using that section as the template for the development of the bull trout section. Neil indicated the CBFWA staff envisions the bull trout section of the SOTR to be available by late-winter or early-spring. This enhanced website will complement the bull trout implementation strategy exercise in that it will serve as the location at which bull trout population data will be displayed. Neil and Mike Faler will be working with other USFWS representatives, during the upcoming weeks, to ensure the website is developed through USFWS involvement and that the USFWS supports the effort. As the sections are developed for each recovery unit, CBFWA staff will be seeking reviews from the respective recovery unit teams to ensure the information that has been taken from the draft bull trout recovery plans, subbasin plans, "*5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation*," and other documents is still pertinent and accurate.

ITEM 9: Next Meeting

December 7, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
CBFWA Office