



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 300 | Pacific First Building | Portland, OR 97204-1339
Phone: 503-229-0191 | Fax: 503-229-0443 | Website: www.cbfwa.org

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 fish and wildlife 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 Department of 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: November 18, 2009
TO: Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC)
FROM: Ken MacDonald, CBFWA
SUBJECT: November 18, 2009 WAC Teleconference Final Action Notes

Wildlife Advisory Committee Teleconference
November 18, 2009
CBFWA Office, Portland, Oregon

The support material for the meeting is posted at:
http://www.cbfwa.org/committee_wac.cfm

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Ken MacDonald (CBFWA)

By Phone: Malcolm Anderson (NHI); Nancy Leonard, Peter Paquet (NPCC); Carl Scheeler (CTUIR), Carol Perugini (SPT), Dwight Bergeron (MFWP), Nate Pamplin, John Pierce (WDFW), Michael Pope, James Noyes (ODFW); Aren Eddingsaas (SBT); Norm Merz, Scott Soultz (KTOI), Kyle Heinrick (BPT); Doug Calvin (CTWSRO)

Time Allocation:

Objective 1. Committee Participation	100%
Objective 2. Technical Review	0%
Objective 3. Presentation	0%

ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda

ACTION: The agenda was approved as written.

ITEM 2: Approve September 15-17 WAC Meeting Draft Action Notes

Discussion: In addition to approving the September 15-17 Draft Action Notes, it was noted that the June 24 Draft Action Notes had never been formally approved.

ACTION: The June 24, 2009 and September 15-17, 2009 WAC action notes were approved as written.

ITEM 3: Elect WAC Vice Chair

Discussion: Doug Calvin will take over WAC Chair responsibilities from Nate Pamplin. Scott Soultz was nominated to be WAC Vice Chair.

Several WAC members expressed their gratitude for the excellent work performed by Nate Pamplin as WAC Chair.

ACTION: Scott Soultz was approved to be WAC Vice Chair without objection.

ITEM 4: Brief Update – Wildlife Crediting Forum

Discussion: Peter Paquet (NPCC) briefed the WAC regarding the status of the Wildlife Crediting Forum (Forum). A letter has been sent to the fish and wildlife managers, BPA and utility customers asking entity representatives to serve

on the Wildlife Crediting Forum. To date only the utilities, BPA, ODFW, and WDFW have responded. Peter was asked to send out a quick reminder with the letter attached clarifying the intent of the letter and request as well as a timeline.

Peter is currently working to better define the process envisioned for the Forum. A contract has been executed with an independent facilitator (Parametrix). Over the course of the year, it is envisioned there will be 8 meetings, approximately once-per month in Portland, probably with teleconference support, but the meeting locations could be moved around as the process develops.

Right now there are three areas for the Forum to work on:

1. What is the current ledger? Peter noted the Program language is not open to debate but the baseline credit ledger needs to be established. Also it was clarified that the Forum would develop a ledger that tracks BPA's mitigation obligation (and what is intended by the 2:1 language in the Council's 2000 and 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program) along with tracking mitigation credits.
2. How will the credit "accounting" work from now on
3. Outstanding issues within the Program
 - Wildlife credits for fish habitat acquisitions
 - Wildlife settlement agreements

There is no firm date for the first meeting although it will be sometime after the start of the new year.

It was asked if background documents for the Wildlife Crediting Forum and issues could be made available.

ACTION: Peter Paquet agreed to post background documents on the Council's drop-box.

ITEM 5: Wildlife Monitoring Framework

Discussion: Nate Pamplin and John Pierce led the discussion and review of the first draft *Outline – FCRPS Wildlife Mitigation Monitoring and Evaluation Framework*.

Introduction – There was considerable discussion on the need to come to agreement and clearly define the role of HEP within the framework, both the "accounting" role and the role the HEP surveys play or could play in providing important habitat data. The HEP surveys provide important historical data, which should not be over-looked, continue to provide useful data, and may be of valuable use as the wildlife program transitions into a more ecological approach to monitoring. The introduction should also discuss reporting and data management.

Ecological Integrity Assessment (EIA) – The EIA approach as described in the outline was discussed at length. In summary, the Habitat portion would be universal for all wildlife projects. By using consistent vegetation classifications and definitions of the various ecological systems across the basin there could be common attributes and ranking criteria. The common attributes (for like systems) and ranking criteria would allow for consistency in the assessment and reporting (although specific

methodologies could vary) and form the basis for establishing desired habitat conditions within project management plans and assessing current conditions. An example EIA for 'Intermountain Shrub Steppe was discussed. (See table 4 in *FCRPS Wildlife Mitigation Monitoring and Evaluation Framework: Ecological Integrity Assessment*). WDFW is in the process of developing EIAs for ecological systems within the State that may be of use for similar systems across the basin but EIAs for all the ecological systems across the basin will need to be developed. Several WAC members commented that the science behind the EIAs needs to be clearly cited and the final tables completely vetted.

The species component of the EIA would not necessarily be universal to all projects but can be built into EIAs for specific areas as needed depending upon a manager's objectives.

Action Effectiveness – Once again, it was stressed by members of the group that the role HEP and HEP surveys may play now and in the future needs to be articulated. Projects that have an action effectiveness component would likely have a more detailed Desired Condition articulated, against which to judge the effectiveness of a particular management action.

In general, the group felt the framework was a good start, but needed significant further discussion before there could be consensus agreement. There is also a need to discuss the framework with NHI to see how that project does or can support the framework.

ACTION: Nate will re-draft the framework outline based upon today's comments. The second draft will be circulated, by next week, among a sub-group consisting of Doug Calvin, Scott Soultz Michael Pope and Aren Eddingsaas. The sub-group will provide comments and work with Nate as necessary before the second draft is distributed to the full WAC.

John Pierce will send Ken MacDonald for posting any DRAFT EIAs that may be available for the group's review.

The WAC will meet face-to face December 16, 2009 to discuss the draft outline and have a technical review of the details involved with the EIA tables. The hope is a consensus framework can be presented to the ISRP for an informal review at the ISRP's January 22, 2010 meeting.

ITEM 6: Next WAC Meeting

ACTION: **The next WAC meeting will be December 16, 2009 from 8:30-4:00 at the Northwest Power and Conservation Council meeting room in Portland, Oregon.** While WebEx will be available, this is intended to be a face-to-face meeting given the depth and complexity of the discussions.