



# 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 fish and wildlife 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

Upper Columbia United Tribes

**DATE:** November 19, 2010  
**TO:** Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC)  
**FROM:** Scott Soultz, Chair  
**SUBJECT:** Final November 15, 2010 WAC Meeting Action Notes

## Wildlife Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, November 15, 2010

10:00am-5:00pm (Pacific)

CBFWA Offices, Portland, Oregon

The support material for the meeting is posted on the [WAC webpage](#).

## Final Action Notes

**Attendees:** Doug Calvin (CTWSRO); Paul Dahmer (WDFW); Tracy Hames (YN); Carol Perugini (SPT); Angela Sondena (NPT); Laura Tesler (ODFW); Tom O'Neill (NHI); David Byrnes (BPA); and Tom Iverson and Paul Ashley (CBFWA)

**By Phone:** Scott Soultz (Chair, KTOI); Kyle Heinrick (Vice-Chair) and Jason Kesling (BPT); Richard Tveten (WDFW); and Aren Eddingsaas (SBT)

### **ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda**

**Discussion:** Tom I suggested adding a new agenda item following Agenda Item 2. The topic is a habitat restoration manual that WDFW is developing for their BPA funded projects. WDFW has requested time on the agenda to describe their effort and request assistance from their co-managers.

**ACTION:** The agenda was approved as written with one modification, addition of a new Agenda Item 3: Discussion of WDFW's development of a habitat restoration and maintenance manual.

### **ITEM 2: Review and Approve as Final September Draft Action Notes**

**ACTION:** The WAC approved the September 14, 2010 Action Notes as final with no modifications.

### **ITEM 3: WDFW Upland Habitat Restoration and Maintenance Manual**

**Discussion:** Richard Tveten described a recent effort by WDFW to capture the accumulated knowledge within their department from 25-30 years of BPA mitigation activities. WDFW is writing an "Upland Habitat Restoration and Maintenance Manual for BPA Wildlife Mitigation Lands." The focus of the manual is primarily on shrub-steppe and grassland cover types. The goal of the manual is to capture and disseminate the collective wisdom of WDFW staff and their associates that is not currently available in existing publications. The manual will

serve as a practical how-to guide for the various restoration scenarios and conditions that are known to occur on BPA mitigation projects in eastern Washington. Case studies will also be provided.

WDFW is currently conducting initial interviews, data collection and research. It is expected that a preliminary draft will be completed during the first part of 2011. The final manuscript is expected to be completed by the end of 2011. Richard agreed to share drafts of chapters as they are developed with the WAC for peer review and comment, as appropriate.

The WAC suggested modifying the title to be more specific to the vegetation cover types being discussed in the paper. Also, the WAC expressed a desire to help with this project. Richard's contact information is provided here:

Richard Tveten  
WDFW Restoration Ecologist  
360-902-2367  
[Richard.Tveten@dfw.was.gov](mailto:Richard.Tveten@dfw.was.gov)

**ACTION:** No action was taken on this item.

**ITEM 4: Elect Vice-Chair for the WAC for 2011**

Discussion: Doug Calvin has completed his tenure as chair of the WAC. The group thanked him for his generous service. Scott Soultis is now chair of the WAC and a new vice-chair was nominated. Carol nominated Aren Eddingsaas, who indicated interest in the future, but said he was not available to serve for the coming year. With the uncertainty in their agency's membership in CBFWA for the coming year, the state representatives were also hesitant to volunteer. Kyle Heinrick volunteered to serve as vice-chair for 2011.

**ACTION:** The WAC approved appointing Kyle Heinrick (BPT) as vice-chair of the WAC for the next year and advancing to chair of the WAC beginning in November 2011.

**ITEM 5: Review the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 2010 Report to Congress**

Discussion: Tom I made the WAC aware that the Council's annual report to Congress is available for public comment. There is a significant section that discusses wildlife mitigation in the report, and the co-managers may want to comment on how that section characterizes the work of the Wildlife Crediting Forum (page 22-23 of the report). The draft report is posted on the [Council's website](http://www.nwcouncil.org/library/2010/2010-12.htm) at <http://www.nwcouncil.org/library/2010/2010-12.htm>.

The WAC members agreed to review the report. If any agency or tribe submits comments to the Council, they agreed to send Tom a copy so that CBFWA staff could track them and possibly discuss them at a future meeting. There will likely not be another WAC meeting prior to the due date for comments on January 7, 2010; therefore, it is unlikely that

CBFWA will attempt to produce consensus comments on this section of the draft report.

*Tom followed up with Peter, and this topic will be added to the Wildlife Crediting Forum agenda for December 2, 2010.*

**ACTION:** No action was taken on this item.

**ITEM 6: Wildlife High Level Indicators Framework**

**Discussion:** The WAC has been working on how best to report High Level Indicators (HLIs) for wildlife in the Columbia River Basin for the past year (Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy). Tom I and Tom O worked together to develop an HLI framework for approval by the WAC based on those conversations. Tom I presented the framework.

The Northwest Power Act requires the Council to submit an annual report to Congress that demonstrates the “effectiveness of the fish and wildlife program.” The Council has recently developed the Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Reporting Plan to begin to organize and address how to best report program effectiveness. The Council also has an HLI website at

<http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/hli/Default.htm>.

The draft HLI framework presented at today’s meeting describes three sets of HLIs: Vegetation Cover or Habitat Type, Focal Species, and Habitat Units.

- 1) Vegetation Cover and/or Wildlife Habitat Type is the most practical means of measuring general wildlife health due to the large number of species to be monitored and their highly migratory behavior. The suggested habitat types came directly from the Council’s Subbasin Plans and represents the most cited habitat types. There will need to be others added to address individual subbasins that may be more strongly represented by a different focal habitat.

For each dominant cover type, a few HLIs would be reported that are appropriate for that cover type that captures Status and Trends of the cover type, Protection Status, Biodiversity, Primary Stressors, and Protection/Restoration Actions.

These few HLIs for each cover type would be updated every five years on a rotating basis, and provided in an annual report such as the Status of the Resource Report. If the HLIs are chosen well, they should support high level decision making for determining future investments for wildlife improvements in the Columbia River Basin.

These HLIs could support the Council’s watershed health indicator and possibly their non-native species distribution indicator.

- 2) Focal Species HLIs are more difficult to capture for wildlife; however, no major wildlife mitigation or protection program does

track status and trends of focal species. A few examples are presented in the initial framework, but the specific list needs refining. It is currently dominated by birds and should include invertebrates and other endemic populations. Some of that data may be available through EPA. The Council has identified an interest in species that are strongly associated with salmon.

These HLIs would support the Council's abundance over time of wildlife critical species that have a strong association with salmon, functional critical wildlife species diversity over time, and state agencies bird species diversity and breeding pair counts indicators.

- 3) Habitat Units are the currency for evaluating the implementation of the Program's primary wildlife mitigation strategy: land acquisition and protection. The Wildlife Crediting Forum is essentially performing a quality control and assurance exercise with the BPA crediting ledger and that ledger will serve as the HLI for this mitigation strategy for the Program.
- 4) These HLIs support the Council's wildlife habitat units acquired relative to loss by dam, amount of land protected for fish and wildlife, and amount of land receiving actions aimed at improving habitat for fish and wildlife indicators.

The WAC had many comments and input into this framework. For example, benchmark conditions should be identified to measure these HLIs against in order to understand where we are compared with a desired future state. Also, better reference to Subbasin Plans and management plans would help set the context for many of these HLIs. Some thought needs to be dedicated to developing reporting methods to support change detection within these HLIs or them to provide useful information for future decision making.

The WAC asked Tom I, Tom O, and Scott to work up the next iteration of this framework considering their comments and suggestions. The general framework helps organize and focus the necessary HLIs for wildlife in the Columbia River Basin. Some specific examples will be very helpful to demonstrate how data can be used from individual projects and presented in a regionally appropriate indicator.

Laura Tesler requested assistance in working up examples of this HLI framework for the Willamette River Basin.

**ACTION:** The WAC asked Tom I, Tom O, and Scott to develop the next draft of this framework with examples and present it at the next WAC meeting in January 2011.

**ITEM 7: Wildlife Area Management Plan Template**

At the July WAC meeting, BPA requested that the co-managers consider developing a Wildlife Area Management Plan template for use across BPA funded mitigation properties. BPA's interest is to help address

NEPA requirements on actions they fund. They are also interested in assuring that these management plans are useful for the property managers in day to day operations. The WAC agreed to take a first shot at developing a template and then working with BPA to ensure usefulness for all parties.

The WAC discussed the role of management plans. If a manager moves on, BPA and the agency or tribe need to know that the successor can operate the property according to its original intent. It is important that these management plans are flexible and useful for the area managers, not used to check a box on a list and then put on a shelf. The management plans should contain measurable goals and objectives with actual plans for evaluation of success. Public outreach should be part of the plans, although the primary purpose of the properties is to meet agency or tribal priorities.

The WAC identified minimal requirements:

- Should provide staff the ability and guidance to manage the property.
- Do not need to include budgets
- Should not be too explicit to stymie creativity
- Management plans should be updated on a regular basis to address adaptive management and emerging issues.
- The plan should include goals, objectives and actions.

The WAC reviewed several “Table of Contents” from existing plans and determined that the Yakama Nation plans would be a very good starting point for a template (modifications to YN TOC underlined).

A. Background and Description of Property (purpose and mission)

- 1) Location
- 2) Property securing method
- 3) Property history
- 4) Current environmental setting
- 5) Cultural resources
- 6) Agency/Tribal context

B. Goals, Objectives, and Actions to achieve purpose and mission  
(one to one linkage between goals and actions)

- 1) Management Goals
- 2) Management Objectives
- 3) Management Actions

C. Operation and Maintenance

- 1) Water management
- 2) Vegetation management
- 3) Wildlife management
- 4) Fish management
- 5) Infrastructure management
- 6) Public access management

D. Restoration Actions planned above and beyond O&M

E. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 1) Habitat and vegetation monitoring
- 2) Wildlife populations
- 3) Hydrologic monitoring
- 4) Analysis

F. Reporting

- 1) BPA
- 2) Agency/Internal
- 3) Public/News releases

G. References/literature cited

**ACTION:** The WAC requested that we invite BPA to the next meeting to review and discuss this template. Please send comments on this draft template to Tom or incorporation into the next iteration for review at the January WAC meeting.

**ITEM 8: Wildlife Crediting Forum Update**

The Wildlife Crediting Forum was cancelled for tomorrow in order for BPA, Council staff, and others to discuss and improve access to the HU data in the PISCES data base. The latest version of the “Roadmap” memo was sent out for participants review, but Council staff has only heard from BPA and the customer groups with comments on the draft memo.

The WAC was reminded that the purpose of the memo was to capture the full discussion on each of the topics, and that currently the memo is not capturing important nuances of the past year’s conversation. The WAC discussed the memo briefly and identified several areas of concern:

- 1) The memo refers to the WCF agreeing to focus on settlements, when in fact it was determined that whether or not there were settlements, the same level of technical work would need to be completed to accurately assess the status of the BPA wildlife mitigation program.
- 2) The Willamette Settlement has taken a prominent role in the

memo, when in fact it was only discussed briefly during the WCF.

- 3) In Table B-1, the Tier 3 projects were identified as more appropriately linked to operational losses caused by the FCRPS by the fish mitigation subgroup, yet this nuance is not captured in the memo.
- 4) On page 7, Section F, the memo suggests that alternate metrics can be used for settlements (acres instead of HUs), but misses the point that the negotiated acres were derived out of HEP and CHAP analyses. HU calculations will likely be necessary to support acreage negotiations in any settlement.
- 5) At the last WCF meeting, the co-managers requested that Table K-3 be removed from the memo as it is not relevant to the 2:1 crediting discussion.
- 6) Pre-act mitigation is still discussed in the memo with no discussion on the how it was handled in the development of the original ledger. This was research that was supposed to have been done months ago.

This is only a sampling of the concerns, but the bottom line is that the agencies and tribes need to review this memo and provide their perspective to the facilitator and Council staff to ensure that the memo captures the full context of the conversation for the past year.

**ACTION:** The WAC agreed that it should be a priority for individual co-managers to review this memo and provide comments and feedback prior to the next WCF meeting. Providing feedback at the meeting will not suffice, as most of the co-managers' comments provided at the last meeting are not captured in the current version of the memo.

**ITEM 9: Next WAC Meeting**

The next WAC meeting will tentatively occur at the CBFWA offices in Portland, Oregon on January 13, 2011. If a Wildlife Crediting Forum meeting is scheduled in January, the WAC meeting date will be adjusted to coincide with that meeting.

**MEETING** **Wildlife Crediting Forum**  
**REMINDER:** **[Location To be Determined – Not at Council offices]**  
**503-222-5161**  
***December 2, 2010 – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.***