



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

Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

National Marine Fisheries Service

Nez Perce Tribe

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Coordinating Agencies

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

Upper Columbia United Tribes

DATE: January 23, 2011
TO: Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC)
FROM: Kyle Heinrick, Chair
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for January 19, 2012 WAC Teleconference Meeting

Wildlife Advisory Committee Conference Call
January 19, 2012
CBFWA Office - Portland, Oregon

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

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Kyle Heinrick (Chair, BPT); David Byrnes (BPA); Scott Soult (KTI); and Tom Iverson (CBFWA).

By Phone: Tom Elliot (YN); Aren Eddingsaas (SBT); Gregg Servheen (IDFG); Paul Dahmer (WDFW); Philip Key (BPA); Laura Robinson and Nancy Leonard (NPCC); Tom O'Neil (NHI); and Paul Ashley (CBFWA).

ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda

Discussion: The meeting started late. Gregg chaired the first two agenda items; then Kyle took over as chair. Tom recommended adding an agenda item to discuss BPA PISCES Work Element definitions as a new agenda item 3.

ACTION: The agenda was approved as written with one modification; BPA PISCES Work Element Definitions was added as a new Agenda Item 3.

ITEM 2: Review and Approve as Final July Draft Action Notes

ACTION: The WAC approved the November 3, 2011 Action Notes as final with no modifications.

ITEM 3: BPA PISCES Work Element Definitions

Discussion: On Friday January 13, 2012 the BPA Work Element Review Team sent out an email requesting help in reviewing, and possibly revising, work elements (WE) and their associated metrics for FY13 (see WAC website for email request). At last year's meeting in Montana, a WAC member expressed frustration over use of the WEs in regards to wildlife projects. The group agreed to send a response to BPA notifying their intent to review WEs associated with wildlife projects. The WAC will not be able to respond by the stated deadline of January 31, but will expedite a review.

ACTION: The WAC agreed to direct the Chair to send an email to BPA to notify them that we will review WEs and provide feedback as soon as possible. The WAC will perform their individual review prior to the next WAC meeting, and will combine their comments at that meeting to forward to BPA.

ITEM 4: Review Initial Draft of the BPA Land Management Handbook

The draft BPA Land Management Handbook is not ready for review; however, BPA provided the latest draft of the Land Management Plan Template for review today. The Template will be a chapter in the Handbook. Philip has the lead for this draft document within BPA, and no review has occurred internally yet. Philip Key provided an overview of the latest draft of the template. He was able to incorporate redline mark-ups provided by Tracy Hames and Tom along with others' suggestions recorded during the July 2011 WAC meeting in Salem.

The Handbook needs to balance three audiences: 1) habitat managers need for guiding their on-site actions, 2) BPA needs for tracking their investments in habitat, and 3) public review, so it is clear what is going on at a particular property. The public participation part of the management plan is very important to assist and streamline the NEPA requirements for any ground disturbing activities. Also, because the public is not involved in project selection, it is important to be able to provide some public information on how a property will be used and managed.

The plan will not determine what is going to be funded, but everything that is going to be done on the property should be included in the plan. The plans will need to be updated as appropriate, particularly as the project moves through various phases. Phil emphasized that development of the Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy (WMIS) will help provide guidance for appropriate project level monitoring. The effort to develop the WMIS is an important effort in these regards.

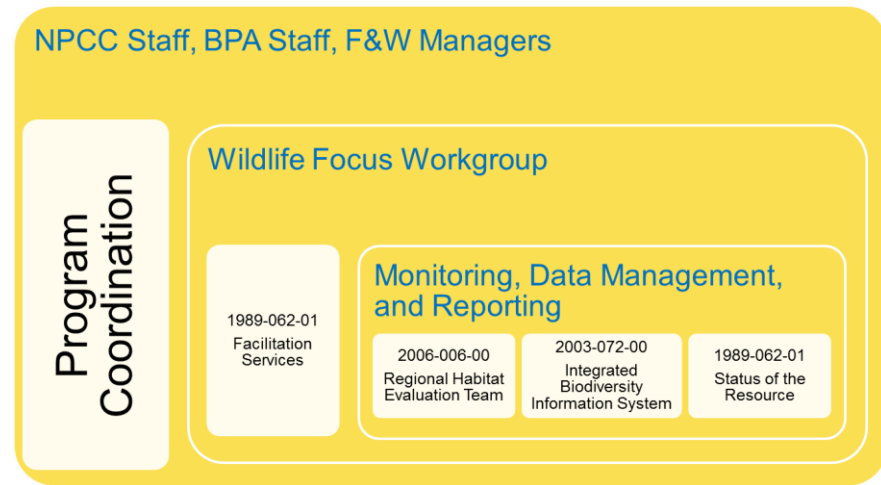
The Handbook will go out for review sometime in late-Spring. It is currently an internal BPA product and has not had a lot of time budgeted for its development. If there are any further comments, please forward them directly to Philip Key at pskey@bpa.gov or 503/230-3000.

ITEM 5: Discuss WAC Transition to Wildlife Focus Workgroup and 2012 Work Plan

Discussion: Kyle, Paul, Tom O. and Tom I. presented a Wildlife Program Framework to the ISRP earlier this week in the context of the Data management and Program coordination project review process (see diagram below). The three wildlife related projects coordinated their presentation: Kyle presented an overview of the WMIS; Paul presented a Regional HEP Team (RHT) overview; Tom O presented the NHI proposal for IBIS, and Tom I presented the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Foundation) proposal for coordination of the wildlife focus workgroup. Paul emphasized the need for a regional data base for all the HEP data that has been collected over the past 25 years. Paul is very concerned that the HEP

data is going to be lost if we do not bring it all together into a regional data base. Tom O. presented a proposal to expand IBIS and develop a regional data base for both HEP data and GIS data. Tom O. also included integrating the RHT into his project in the future and integrating with the fish habitat monitoring projects.

Wildlife Program Framework



The CBFWA is going to modify their charter to no longer include the technical work groups that have provided support for the Fish and Wildlife Program for the past 25 years. As of April 1, 2012, there will only be 10 remaining members of CBFWA and they can no longer financially support the technical workgroups. The Foundation is proposing to continue facilitating the technical workgroups, dependent on individual agencies and tribes’ willingness to provide funding to support the facilitation services. Tom I provided a graphic representing the funding for FY12 for each of the work groups; the Wildlife Focus Workgroup will only have about ¼ FTE support. This results in fewer meetings and less staff support for developing products. A FY12 work plan will be developed to ensure that the work group optimizes their work with the reduced staff support.

The ISRP preliminary review will be released by February 8. The WAC may want to consider a coordinated response for the Wildlife Framework projects. The next WAC meeting will be scheduled after release of the ISRP review but prior to the project sponsors’ response due date.

ITEM 6: Discuss WDFW and Other Comments on WMIS

Discussion: The initial Draft WMIS was completed in time to support the wildlife data management projects submission to NPCC for their categorical review. Since releasing the initial draft, WDFW was able to provide reviews of the WMIS and sent written comments to Tom. Paul briefly discussed the WDFW comments but they were developed by others within the agency. Their comments emphasize the need for holistic monitoring that supports

both habitat and species monitoring – the current draft does not emphasize species monitoring. The WMIS also needs to be expanded beyond the F&W Program in order to tie together other large scale M&E habitat programs.

The WAC will discuss the WDFW and other comments in detail at their next meeting.

ITEM 7: Next WAC Meeting

The next WAC meeting will be either February 13 or 14, 2012 from 12:30 to 5 pm at the CBFWA offices in Portland, Oregon. This will be a work session, so in-person attendance is encouraged. Agenda items will include: 1) Review Wildlife Focus Workgroup FY2012 Work Plan, 2) Review preliminary ISRP comments on data management and Program coordination, 3) Review PISCES Work Elements and develop coordinated comments to BPA, and 4) Review comments and edit the WMIS. It is anticipated that the agenda will be modified as the meeting date draws near.

A meeting announcement and support material will be sent out two weeks prior to the meeting.