

# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 250  
Portland, Oregon 97204-1339

DATE: May 18, 2012  
TO: Wildlife Focus Workgroup  
FROM: Tom Iverson, Facilitator for Kyle Heinrick, Chair  
SUBJECT: Meeting Notes from May 7, 2012 Wildlife Focus Workgroup

Wildlife Focus Workgroup  
May 7, 2012  
Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Foundation Office  
Portland, Oregon

The support material for the meeting is posted at:

[Wildlife Webpage](#)

## **Final Action Notes**

**Attendees:** Tom O'Neill, NHI; David Byrnes, BPA; and Paul Ashley and Tom Iverson, CBFWF

**By Phone:** Kyle Heinrick (Chair), BPT; Aren Eddingsaas, SBT; Carl Scheeler, CTUIR; Peter Paquet, NPCC; Anders Mikkelsen, CdAT; Lawrence Schwabe, GRT; Tom Elliott, YN; and Angela Sondenaar, NPT

**ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda**

Discussion: Kyle Heinrick was not able to attend the start of the meeting, so Tom Iverson facilitated today's meeting by agreement of all attendees. No modifications to the agenda were proposed.

**ACTION:** Agenda was approved as written.

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

Discussion: Tom I. reviewed the action notes from February 14, 2012 Wildlife Advisory Committee. No modifications were proposed for the action notes.

**ACTION:** The action notes were approved as written.

**ITEM 3: Update on CBFWA Restructuring and Impacts to CBFWF Staff**

Discussion: As of April 1, 2012 the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) membership has ten members. At this reduced level of membership, the CBFWA members can no longer financially support the technical committees that have historically been facilitated and funded through CBFWA. The CBFWA members have revised their charter to eliminate hosting the technical committees and have instructed CBFWF staff to pursue alternative funding models to support the ongoing existence of the technical committees. For FY2012, the CBFWA members will continue to support CBFWF facilitation of the technical committees in transition, but a new funding model for the committees is expected as a result of the Council's category review process for regional coordination.

The Wildlife Focus Workgroup (WFW) has been proposed to succeed the CBFWA Wildlife Advisory Committee. The 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program calls for coordination to support participation in focus workgroups on Program issues. The WFW will focus on wildlife planning and implementation for the Program. It is anticipated that all wildlife managers will be encouraged to participate, regardless of membership in any particular coordination group.

Tom I. reviewed the proposed work plan and schedule for the WFW for the next year (see table at end of these notes).

*After the meeting, staff realized that review of wildlife oriented work elements in PISCES was approved in the Feb 14 action notes but not included in the overall WFW schedule. This task will be added to the overall work plan with a staff analysis of work elements provided for the September meeting and a workgroup review of the work elements at the November meeting (see updated work plan and schedule at the end of these notes).*

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

**ITEM 4: Update on NPCC Data Management and Regional Coordination Project Review**

**Discussion:** The NPCC staff is preparing their draft project funding recommendations for the data management and regional coordination projects. The ISRP reviewed the projects and provided “Qualified” recommendations; which means no sponsor response is required; any ISRP concerns can be addressed in the BPA contracting process. We are now waiting for the NPCC staff recommendations for these projects.

Peter suggested that there will be continued support for the focus workgroups in the NPCC staff draft recommendations. It is expected that the draft recommendations will be provided publicly prior to the Council meeting. *(Tom I. was directed to attach the draft recommendations to these meeting notes; however, no draft recommendations have been released at this time.)*

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

**ITEM 5: IBIS Proposal to the Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative**

**Discussion:** The Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GLNCC) recently solicited proposals to support their effort to develop science and infrastructure for collaboration on landscape scale information sharing. Due to reduced funding, CBFWF staff has been searching for alternative funding opportunities. The GLNCC mission is very consistent with the historic and future efforts of CBFWF and the agencies and tribes within the Columbia River Basin.

CBFWF staff submitted two proposals for consideration by the GLNCC. One proposal would partner with NHI to develop GIS layers to support the IBIS library. These data layers would support GNLCC efforts to monitor habitats on a landscape scale, in addition to the expected benefits for the Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy (WMIS). A second proposal was submitted to develop a bull trout module for the Status of the Resource (SOTR) website. The GLNCC focus for the Columbia River Basin region is riparian areas. CBFWF staff met with GLNCC staff in early May and has scheduled another meeting for the end of May to discuss the proposals and a long term relationship for collaborating on conservation issues.

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

**ITEM 6: Nominate and Select Vice-chair for Wildlife Focus Workgroup**

Discussion: Kyle has committed to serve as Chair for the rest of 2012. We need a vice-Chair to serve as Chair in 2013. The role of vice-Chair is to review agendas and action notes and to serve as the Chair in the Chair's absence (like today). Tom Elliott expressed some interest in possibly co-chairing with his co-worker Dave Blodgett. Tom E. will discuss this possibility with Dave and Tom I. and provide an update at the next WFW meeting.

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

**ITEM 7: Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy (WMIS)**

Discussion: It is time to develop the next iteration of the WMIS. The WMIS has been reviewed by the ISRP; WDFW presented their comments at the last WAC meeting; and Nancy Leonard has also received comments from Ray Entz. The workgroup discussed the usefulness of the WMIS and its potential to provide biological high level indicators within the Columbia Basin.

While the group agreed with the ISRP that a comprehensive plan for reporting is not useful if the data collection and management is not funded; there was agreement that some evaluation of how much information is available and how much would be necessary to adequately report HLIs is warranted.

Tom I. will revise the WMIS incorporating the ISRP, WDFW, and Kalispel comments. The draft will be sent to the WFW to provide further edits and comments and the next iteration of the report will be presented at the Pocatello meeting in September. On this same schedule, Tom O. will develop some prototype reports to demonstrate actual implementation of the WMIS – reporting of high level indicators for wildlife habitat. In Tom's efforts, some evaluation should be made as to the quantity and quality of data necessary to adequately report the draft HLIs. Tom will report on habitats within the Willamette Subbasin because it is a data rich area. Tom will be able to evaluate how much data is necessary to adequately report various HLIs, and then transfer that information to other subbasins.

A work plan for drafting the next iteration of the WMIS will be provided at the June WFW meeting.

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

**ITEM 8: Review 2012 Regional HEP Team Schedule**

Discussion: The final draft of the RHT for the summer of 2012 is available on the website for this meeting. Paul wants to ensure that any new BPA acquisitions that may close before October 1, 2012 have a survey scheduled for this summer. There is some flexibility in the schedule to survey some Tier 2 fish project later in the summer, as time allows.

David discussed a concept for compliance monitoring that is being discussed at BPA. They are developing a model for conducting site visits on properties with BPA purchased conservation easements to determine if attributes that were purchased are actually being realized, both for wildlife and fish projects. In addition to getting a review of the conditions of the property, they would also have a way of looking at compliance with the conservation agreements.

Paul has reserved time in August to implement and evaluate BPA's proposed compliance monitoring protocols on a pilot basis.

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

**ITEM 9: Next Meeting**

The next meeting will occur in Walla Walla on June 21-22, 2012. The WFW will meet on Thursday afternoon from 1:30 -5:00 pm at the Walla Walla Community College, 500 Tausick Way, Water and Environment Center, Room 2083, with a site visit at the Rainwater property on Friday from 7:00 am – 2:00 pm. There are accommodations for camping on the property, so the WFW members should plan on a group campout Thursday night. Details for the meeting will be sent out prior to the meeting. Call Tom with questions.

Potential agenda items for this meeting include: 1) Review 1<sup>st</sup> iteration of the BPA Land Acquisition Handbook, 2) Update on status of WMIS work plan, and 3) Update on other Columbia River Basin activities. During the site visit, the WFW will assist in implementing an actual HEP survey on the Rainwater property.

### 2012 Wildlife Focus Workgroup Work Plan

Task Name	Start
<b>Rainwater Site Visit and WFW meeting; Walla Walla, WA</b>	<b>June 21-22, 2012</b>
Review 1st iteration of BPA Land Acquisition Handbook	
Update on status of WMIS and development of prototypes	
Site visit to Rainwater mitigation property (CTUIR host)	
<b>Legacy Springs Site Visit and WFW meeting; Pocatello, ID</b>	<b>September 26-28, 2012</b>
WMIS prototype review, WMIS update recommendations	
2014 Program Amendment planning	
Staff analysis of wildlife focused PISCES work elements	
Site visit to Legacy Springs (SBT host)	
<b>Conference Call, CBFWF offices</b>	<b>Thu 11/15/12</b>
HEP Team Report	
WMIS next iteration	
2014 Program Amendment planning	
Group review and discussion of wildlife focused PISCES work elements	
<b>Conference Call, CBFWF offices</b>	<b>Tue 2/12/13</b>
2013 Wildlife Focus Workgroup planning	
2014 Program Amendment planning	