

CBFWA Statement to the NPCC
FPC Oversight Board Reactivation
NPCC Boise Meeting
March 13, 2007
2:30 pm

The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) values a collaborative working relationship with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) in the implementation of the fish and wildlife program in general and specifically as it pertains to guidance of the the Fish Passage Center (FPC). CBFWA sees two opportunities today to strengthen that relationship.

1. CBFWA requests that the NPCC not act today to reactivate the FPC Oversight Board (Board) but instead schedule a meeting with the tribes and fish and wildlife managers to discuss the role and responsibilities of the Board.
 - a. In reviewing the March 2, 2007 memo from John Shurts and Jim Ruff to the NPCC members we have identified the following issues that we would like an opportunity to discuss with you:
 - i. Oversight Board Membership: We question whether the current proposal to populate the Board with 4 state fish and wildlife manager representatives and 2 tribal representatives provides an equitable balance between the sovereignties charged with managing the regions fish and wildlife. We also have questions about the process the NPCC intends to use to recruit and select Board members. We believe the fish and wildlife managers should play an important role in the process.
 - ii. Technical Advisory Committee & Mainstem Peer Review Group: We question whether the current proposal to establish and rely on a Mainstem Peer Review Group to fulfill the role of the Technical Advisory Committee is consistent with the program. We believe the purpose and responsibilities of any group charged with providing scientific assessments of FPC products need to be better defined.
 - iii. FPC Manager Performance Review: We question whether the proposal to involve the NPCC in the performance management of the FPC manager is legal under Oregon State Labor Laws. Our initial review indicates that sharing of personnel actions may not be allowable under these laws.
 - iv. Scope of Work of the FPC: We are concerned about language in the memo that appears to restrict the role and responsibilities of the FPC. We do not support any effort to narrow the current scope of work of the FPC.

- 2. CBFWA requests that the NPCC endorse and forward project proposal 200732100, entitled “*CBFWA Fish Passage Technical Services*” to BPA as its recommendation for implementation under the Fish and Wildlife Program.**
 - a.** This proposal is consistent with the 2003 Mainstem Amendment to the Fish and Wildlife Program and addresses the following issues:
 - i.** It creates the needed management structure to implement recommendations from the FPC Oversight Board as they are developed.
 - ii.** It describes in detail the scope of work and contract deliverables for the FPC as contemplated in the 2003 Mainstem Amendment and as is currently being implemented by the FPC.
 - iii.** It expands the current staff to include expertise in resident fish and reservoir operations, as recommended by the fish and wildlife managers and contemplated in the 2003 Mainstem Amendment.
 - iv.** It is structured to complement and can be readily integrated with the current CBFWA coordination contract to implement to the Fish and Wildlife Program as called for in the March 2, 2007 memo.