



DATE: March 6, 2002
 TO: Resident Fish Committee (RFC)
 FROM: Joe Maroney, Chair
 SUBJECT: Draft Action Notes for the February 25, 2002, RFC Phone Conference

If there are no objections within five days, these actions will be considered final.

Attendees Dave Ward (ODFW), Joe Maroney (KT), Cam Sharp (WDFW), Jim Uehara (WDFW), Steve Thiesfeld (WDFW), John Andrews (WDFW), Pete Hassemmer (IDFG), Sue Ireland (KTOI), Roy Beaty (BPA), Ron Morinaka (BPA), Clint Muhlfeld (MFWP), Keith Underwood (STOI), John Arterburn (CCT), Robert Walker (NWPPC), Mike Faler (USFWS), Dave Statler (NPT), Vinny Pero (SPT), Kathie Titzler (CBFWA), Tom Iverson (CBFWA), Jann Eckman (CBFWA), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

By Phone:

Time	Objective 1. FY 2002 Renewal Process	0%
Allocation:	Objective 2. Rolling Province Review and Subbasin Summaries	0%
	Objective 3. FY 2001 Adjustments	75%

ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda

Item 3 (i.e., U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)/Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) within-year modification request for Project 200100700, *Evaluate Status of Coastal Cutthroat Trout in the Columbia River Basin above Bonneville Dam*) was added to the agenda.

ITEM 2: WDFW Within-year Modification Request for Project 199902400, Columbia Gorge Bull Trout Investigations

The WDFW requested a within-year modification of Project 199902400, *Columbia Gorge Bull Trout Investigations*. The modification represents an expanded scope that will allow for the study of bull trout presence and life history in the Bonneville Pool. The expansion in scope was requested by BPA and the work directly addresses the USFWS Biological Opinion for lower Columbia River bull trout.

The RFC reviewed and rejected (majority decision – USFWS supported the request) WDFW’s request for a transfer of \$57,000 from the Unallocated Reserve to Project 199902400 to allow for the expansion of the project’s

scope to include bull trout presence and life history investigations in the Bonneville Pool. The RFC cited that all requests for new projects and expansions of the scope of existing projects should be treated consistently. To date, all new projects or expansions of scope have been reviewed by CBFWA and the ISRP before being considered for funding. The RFC believes that granting increased funds for this expansion would circumvent this process, and therefore be unfair to other project sponsors.

Although the RFC acknowledges the sampling may serve a useful purpose, the RFC believes circumvention of the accepted process is unacceptable based on the premise that by granting this request a precedent would be set, allowing for scope expansions without the rigorous technical and management reviews that have been utilized during the Rolling Provincial Review.

Action: The RFC recommended that the WDFW submit the proposed work for consideration in the Mainstem/Systemwide Province on the basis that work that represents expanded objectives or new objectives should proceed through the Rolling Provincial Review.

Action: Due to the lack of consensus among RFC participants (USFWS objected to motion), the RFC requests that the MMG review and approve/reject the request during the March 14, 2002, MMG Meeting.

Action: Neil Ward will compose a memo that will be forwarded to the MMG highlighting the concerns that the RFC expressed; however, the RFC requested an opportunity to review the document before it is transmitted to the MMG.

ITEM 3: USGS)/WDFW Within-year Modification Request for Project 200100700, *Evaluate Status of Coastal Cutthroat Trout in the Columbia River Basin above Bonneville Dam*

Funding received for FY 2001 limited the principle investigators to the following objective: Document existing data on historical and current distribution and describe management practices that affect coastal cutthroat trout in the Columbia River Basin above Bonneville Dam. Receipt of funding for FY 2002 and 2003 was contingent upon findings obtained in FY 2001.

Based on the examination of literature/data, the USGS/WDFW found that the distribution of coastal cutthroat trout above Bonneville Dam is poorly documented and that current monitoring efforts are insufficient to allow determination of population status. The project sponsors proposed that their data justify full funding for FY 2002 and FY 2003 to determine the status of naturally reproducing populations of coastal cutthroat trout above Bonneville Dam.

Action: The RFC approved the request and recommended that the AFC should also review the request.

ITEM 4: Mainstem/Systemwide Province Program Summary Review Update

The NWPPC and BPA want input before the Mainstem/Systemwide Province solicitation is initiated that will help guide them in determining what projects will best address identified needs. During the February 15, 2002, MMG Meeting, participants decided that the AFC, the RFC, and the WC will each write a “gap paper” requesting Mainstem/Systemwide proposals that will offer guidance to BPA in addressing their request for “front end” project information.

Action: The RFC decided to submit their Mainstem/Systemwide resident fish concerns to Tom Iverson who has volunteered to draft the gap paper.

ITEM 5: Executive Session – Personnel Issues

Proceedings of this discussion may be obtained by contacting Jann Eckman.

ITEM 6: Next Meeting

The next RFC meeting is tentatively scheduled to immediately follow the APAC meeting scheduled for Friday, March 15, 2002, Spokane WA (see attachments).