



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 government agencies:

Burns Paiute Tribe

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Colville 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 Department of 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

Upper Columbia United Tribes

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

DATE: August 3, 2007
TO: Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)
FROM: Jim Uehara (Chair)
SUBJECT: Draft Action Notes for the July 31 – August 1, 2007 RFAC Meeting

RFAC Meeting July 31, 2007 Whitefish, MT 59937

These notes will be approved as final at the next RFAC Meeting

Draft Action Notes

Attendees: Joe Maroney (KT), Brian Marotz (MFWP), Dawn Anderson (MFWP), Sheri Sears (CCT), Ron Peters (CDAT), Joel Tohtz (MFWP), Bill Daigle (MFWP), Jim Uehara (WDFW), Barry Hansen (CSKT), Kris Homel (MSU-Bozeman), Neil Ward (CBFWA)

Time Allocation:

Objective 1. Committee Participation	100%
Objective 2. Technical Review	0%
Objective 3. Presentation	0%

ITEM 1: Review Agenda

Item 9 (i.e., StreamNet SOW-Resident Fish Needs) was added to the agenda.

ITEM 2: Approve May 15, 2007 RFAC Meeting Action Notes

The May 15, 2007 Action Notes will be approved as final at the next RFAC meeting.

ITEM 3: Election of a New Vice Chair

On October 1, 2007, Mike Faler will become the Chair of the RFAC thus, leaving the Vice-Chair vacant. As a result, the RFAC will seek candidates and subsequently elect a new vice chair.

ACTION: The RFAC decided to delay selecting a new Vice-Chair until its next meeting.

ITEM 4: Resident Fish Loss Assessment and Fish Crediting

Brian Marotz described the process that the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP) used to develop resident fish loss statements as well their fish crediting procedure that allows the agency to utilize capital funding to purchase and protect resident fish habitat. The RFAC discussed the potential of using comparable procedures elsewhere in the basin to assess resident fish losses that are a result of hydro-development and operations. See ITEM 6 for associated action.

ITEM 5: Independent Scientific Advisory Board's (ISAB) Non-native Species Impacts on Native Salmonids and Guidelines for Use of Non-native Fishes in Resident Fish Substitution Projects Review

In June 2007, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) endorsed the ISAB's proposal to conduct a review with the following tasks and objectives:

- Review and describe biological impacts and risks to native salmonid populations from non-intentionally and intentionally introduced species
- Review and describe the current status of management actions taken towards reducing or eliminating such impacts (e.g., brook trout and lake trout eradication)

efforts)

- Recommend strategies for protecting against or eliminating invasive species
- Recommend scientific guidelines for using resident fish substitutions

The ISAB intends to initiate this review as soon as possible in order to submit the report no later than Fall 2007, to inform the NPCC's program amendment process. Due to time limitations, this item could not be discussed in detail. Neil Ward has contacted Erik Merrill (NPCC's ISAB liaison) to secure an opportunity to provide a coordinated presentation to the ISAB during their September 14, 2007 meeting in Portland. The focus of the presentation will be resident fish substitution program, the state of ecosystems to support native and non-native fish populations, the role of resident fish habitat work, and efforts to manage predation by non-natives and inter-breeding with non-natives throughout the entire Columbia River Basin.

ACTION: Neil Ward will be contacting RFAC participants to assemble a group of presenters for the meeting.

ITEM 6: Joint CBFWA Committee Amendment Strategy Workshop-Update

4:45-5:30

Jim Uehara and Neil Ward provided an update regarding the amendment workshop that was convened in Spokane from July 24-25, 2007. Jim and Neil informed the participants that the workshop participants advised the RFAC to develop a: 1.) process for assessing resident fish losses throughout the Columbia River Basin, 2.) formula to compute the annual number/harvest of resident fish required to equal the annual anadromous fish losses due to hydro-development and annual operations. The RFAC discussed the proposed strategy and measure exercise of the CBFWA amendment; however, concerns were expressed that the MAG did not direct the committee to develop strategies and measures.

ACTION: Neil Ward will develop a draft memo, for the RFAC's review and eventual submittal to the MAG, which describes the RFAC's proposed process for addressing resident fish losses.

ACTION: Neil Ward will develop a draft memo, for the RFAC's review and eventual submittal to the MAG, which describes the RFAC's conclusion that a formula to compute the annual number/harvest of resident fish required to equal the annual anadromous fish losses due to hydro-development and annual operations could not be developed.

ITEM 7: ISRP Lake Roosevelt Kokanee Program Review

5:30-5:50

On July, 18, 2007, the ISRP released the *Lake Roosevelt Kokanee Program Review*. The ISRP concluded that there is no scientific justification to continue artificial production of kokanee for stocking Lake Roosevelt or programs to develop and support naturally produced kokanee. However, the ISRP suggested that if it could be conclusively demonstrated that the entrainment problem was controlled or significantly reduced, if the walleye population was significantly reduced and managed, and if drawdown levels were reduced or managed, then artificial production and/or support of natural production of kokanee could be-reinitiated. The ISRP found that kokanee production for experimental stocking in Banks Lake is justified

ACTION: The RFAC recommended that the STOI, WDFW, CCT should contact the RFAC if they would like the RFAC to comment on the ISRP report.

ITEM 8: Amendment Measure and Strategy Exercise

The RFAC did not initiate the exercise in which the meeting participants were scheduled complete the draft measure and strategy template for each focal species in the subbasins for which the managers have management responsibilities due to uncertainties associated with the assignment.

ACTION: Neil Ward will seek clarification from the MAG during the August 2007 meeting.

ITEM 9: StreamNet SOW – Resident Fish Needs

The RFAC discussed the types of resident fish data that should be available through StreamNet. The participants agreed that trend data (e.g., abundance, redd counts, density) and

fish distribution data should be priorities for the StreamNet project. In addition, the RFAC suggested that consideration should be given relative to creating a tribal resident fish data coordinator position at StreamNet in which the individual would be responsible for collecting data from the tribes throughout the Columbia River Basin.

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