



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 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: April 20, 2009

TO: Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)

FROM: Sheri Sears (Chair)

SUBJECT: Draft Agenda for the April 28, 2009 RFAC Meeting

Resident Fish Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 28, 2009
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Pacific)
@ CBFWA Office, Portland, OR

Teleconference Number: 503/229-0449 ID: 871334

WebEx w/Integrative Teleconference:
Select: [WebEx LogOn 4-28-09 RFAC Meeting](#)
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[Draft Agenda](#)

ITEM 1:
10:00-10:05am

Review and Approve Agenda

ITEM 2:
10:05-10:10am

Approve the March 17-18, 2009 Draft Action Notes as Final

ITEM 3:
10:10-10:30am

Review the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council's (NPCC) Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program 2009 Amendments - Update

During the March RFAC meeting, the RFAC tasked Neil Ward with contacting the NPCC to obtain clarification regarding the following Fish and Wildlife Program language:

“Complete the assessments of resident fish losses resulting from the development and operation of the hydrosystem, when and where there is agreement on the appropriate methodology and prioritization of an assessment. As these are available, the Council will consider adopting the loss assessments into the Program.”

Meeting participants expressed uncertainty regarding the meaning and intention of some of the words or phrases. Specifically, the RFAC expressed concern that they were unsure whether “these” refers to methodology, assessment, or both. In addition, participants indicated that there is a need for clarification regarding the phrase “when and where there is agreement on the appropriate methodology and prioritization of an assessment.”

Neil will provide an update based on his discussions with the NPCC staff.

ITEM 4:
10:30-11:00am

NPCC/Independent Scientific Review Panel's (ISRP) Development of an Environmental Risk Assessment Method for Resident Fish

Neil Ward will lead the RFAC in a discussion regarding the NPCC/ISRP's efforts to develop an environmental risk assessment method for resident fish. Per the 2009 amendments, “all proposals for ongoing or new resident fish substitution projects that involve or might involve a non-native species should include an environmental risk assessment of potential negative impacts on native fish species. The Independent Scientific Advisory Board recommended a template for such an environmental

assessment. Starting with that template, the Council will work with the ISRP and the appropriate fish and wildlife agencies and tribes to develop the final environmental risk assessment template. In developing the appropriate template, the Council will consider the criteria currently being used by managers to assess the consequences of substitution in the light of the Program's subbasin and basinwide objectives."

ITEM 5: Resident Fish Losses: Development of Methodology to Assess Losses

11:00am-4:00pm

The 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program amendments provide the following objective to address resident fish losses: "Complete the assessments of resident fish losses resulting from the development and operation of the hydrosystem, when and where there is agreement on the appropriate methodology and prioritization of an assessment. As these are available, the Council will consider adopting the loss assessments in the Program." During the March RFAC meeting, representatives from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP) and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe of the Flathead Reservation (CSKT) briefed the RFAC on the methods that they have used for assessing resident fish habitat lost due to the construction of hydroelectric facilities and subsequent inundation of mainstem and tributary habitats. To assess habitat losses in the Flathead Subbasin, the MFWP and CSKT implemented an approach that was linearly-based. The RFAC discussed the merits of this approach and in the process expressed concern regarding area, as well as length, lost due to inundation. Participants agreed that the comparison of results from tests using the linear and area protocols would be required before a decision could be made regarding the best methodology for estimating inundated habitat.

Sheri Sears volunteered to identify inundation losses using a linear and area approach, for a test area (i.e., Rufus Woods), based on the metrics presented in Table 6 of the 1998 Technical Report for Fisheries Mitigation and Implementation Plan for Losses Attributable to the Construction and Operation of Libby Dam with the addition of a linear weighting system for area and an option to add focal species and habitat types. Sheri will present her results to the RFAC and lead the committee in a discussion regarding the process that she used, difficulties she encountered, and the next steps.