



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: June 8, 2009

TO: Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)

FROM: Neil Ward

SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the June 4, 2009 RFAC Meeting

Resident Fish Advisory Committee Meeting
 Thursday, June 4, 2009
 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (PDT)
 @ CBFWA Office
 Portland, OR

[RFAC Webpage](#)

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Christine Mallette (ODFW), Sheri Sears (CCT), Mike Faler (USFWS), Ron Peters (CDAT), Chad Abel (BPT), Joe Maroney (KT), Norm Merz (KTOI), Scott Soultz (KTOI), Ken MacDonald (CBFWA), Brian Lipscomb (CBFWA, and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

Phone/WebEx: Dave Parrish (IDFG), Jake Sellman (SPT), and Deanne Pavlik-Gunkel (STOI)

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

ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda

The agenda was reviewed with an additional item added (i.e., ITEM 6: Review of Operational Loss Chart).

ITEM 2: Review and Approve April 28, 2009 Draft Action Notes

The Draft Action notes for the April 28, 2009 RFAC meeting were approved.

ITEM 3: NPCC/Independent Scientific Review Panel's (ISRP) Development of an Environmental Risk Assessment Method for Resident Fish

Included in the NPCC's amended Fish and Wildlife Program is the environmental risk assessment method for resident fish developed by the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB). 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 ISAB 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."

During the April RFAC meeting, an ad hoc committee was developed to review the template and provide recommendations to the RFAC. Unfortunately the ad hoc committee was not able to finish their review, thus Neil led the RFAC in a review of pages 46-50 of the ISAB's *Non-native Species Impacts on Native Salmonids in the Columbia River Basin Including Recommendations for Evaluating the Use of Non-native Fish Species in Resident Fish Substitution Projects* (<http://www.nwcouncil.org/library/isab/isab2008-4.pdf>). The following edits were recommended by the RFAC for consideration by the MAG and Members prior to submitting them to the NPCC.

1. Description of the proposed resident fish substitution project.
- c. replace “have you included” with Provide

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4. Distribution and abundance
 - a. delete “regionally, nationally, and”
 - b. delete “regionally, nationally, and”
5. Biology and life history
 - a-g. delete each section in its entirety

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6. Ecological factors and relationships with other species.
 - b. delete “nationally, regionally, and in the basin” and insert immediately after “effects) within the basin (regionally, if information is not available for within the basin).
 - c. delete “nationally, regionally, and in the basin” and insert immediately after “effects) within the basin (regionally, if information is not available for within the basin).

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12. Potential for eradication or control of a resident fish substitution species.
 - a. no edits were provided; however, the committee expressed an interest in continuing discussions regarding this question.
14. Input from co-managers and other affected agencies.

The RFAC expressed the belief that the steps described under 14 should take place during stage 2 (i.e., following the completion and successful review of the other assessment questions).

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Conclusions for Resident Fish Substitution Projects

“For all resident fish substitution projects that have been approved and implemented, each annual and final report should include a detailed reporting of the results of all monitoring and evaluation that was implemented for assessing negative impacts to native species.” The RFAC agrees that such monitoring is important. Participants stressed the need to include a comment that support for the concept of monitoring and that adequate funding must be made available, by BPA, to allow for sufficient monitoring to be performed.

ACTION: Sheri Sears will provide the RFAC’s recommendations to the Members Advisory Group (MAG) during their June meeting.

ITEM 4: Kootenai River Floodplain Ecosystem Operational Loss Assessment

The overarching goals of the Kootenai Tribes of Idaho’s (KTOI) Kootenai River Floodplain Ecosystem Operational Loss Assessment are to: 1) assess abiotic and biotic factors in determining a definitive composition of ecological integrity, 2) develop strategies to assess the mitigation losses of ecosystem functions, and 3) produce a regional operational loss assessment framework. Norm Merz (KTOI) presented their loss assessment concept that is based on incorporating hydrologic, aquatic, and terrestrial components into an operation-based assessment framework to assess ecological losses.

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

During the April RFAC meeting, Sheri Sears presented inundation loss assessments, developed using a linear and area approach, for Rufus Woods (please see http://www.cbfwa.org/committee_rfacs.cfm to view the documents that Sheri presented and

the RFAC discussed). The RFAC continued to discuss whether area inundated was the most appropriate way, rather than length, to estimate habitat lost due to inundation. The RFAC expressed concern that, depending on reservoir bathymetry, implementation of a length or area approach could result in an underestimate of the amount of habitat lost due to inundation. The RFAC decided that neither approach should be eliminated until each method is applied to other areas in the basin.

Christine Mallette presented inundation losses, based on the linear and area approaches, for John Day and Brownlee reservoirs. The RFAC compared the results and observations of Christine's effort with those for Rufus Woods and decided that managers should have the option to use either method.

ACTION: Sheri Sears will provide her presentation to the Members Advisory Group (MAG) during the June MAG meeting. Sheri will include both the area and linear approaches for calculating habitat losses associated with Rufus Woods. Sheri will identify the length and area of the mainstem Columbia River and tributaries that were inundated as well as identify the stream order of each tributary that was inundated. In addition, names will be provided for larger rivers that were inundated. Habitat gained indices will not be included in the discussion.

ITEM 6: Operation Loss Chart - Review

Due to time limitations, the RFAC was unable to complete this review. Subsequently, Sheri Sears requested that RFAC participants review the document (http://www.cbfwa.org/Committees/RFAC/meetings/2009_0604/ResidentFishOperationLossAssessment2009.doc) and provide their comments to her prior to the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

CBFWA Office

Portland, OR

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.