



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: November 5, 2009
TO: Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)
FROM: Neil Ward
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the November 3, 2009 RFAC Meeting

Resident Fish Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 3, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Pacific)
@ CBFWA Office
851 SW Sixth, Suite 300
Portland, OR

[RFAC Webpage](#)

Final Action Notes

- Attendees:** Sheri Sears (CCT), Mike Faler (USFWS), Christine Mallette (ODFW), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)
- Phone/WebEx:** David Parrish (IDFG), Norm Merz (KTOI), Brian Marotz (MFWP), Jake Sellman (SPT)
- ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda**
The agenda was approved with one addition (i.e., ITEM 3, Review and Discuss Letter from Steve Crow, NPCC).
- ITEM 2: Approve Action Notes for the September 24, 2009 RFAC Meeting**
Action: *The action notes for the September 24, 2009, RFAC meeting were approved.*
- ITEM 3: Review and Discuss NPCC's Letter of Response to CBFWA Proposed Resident Fish Habitat Loss Assessment Methodology**
On October 13, 2009, the CBFWA received a response from Steve Crow, NPCC Executive Director, regarding the letter that CBFWA submitted to the NPCC in which we recommended a method to assess the quantity of resident fish habitat inundated due to the construction and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System. The CBFWA was informed that "the Council intends to develop a methodology in a public process that will include independent scientific review of what we assume will be various proposed methodologies." Steve Crow (NPCC) indicated that the NPCC's "Fish and Wildlife staff is working with Council members to determine our next steps in this process." The RFAC reviewed and discussed the NPCC's letter and agreed it warrants a response since the NPCC have never indicated that they would be initiating such a process. In addition, the participants felt that the NPCC lacked a sense of urgency. The NPCC was neither able to describe the process nor provide a timeline.
- Action:** *Neil Ward will draft a memo, for the RFAC's review, highlighting the RFAC's concerns as they relate to the NPCC response. In addition, Neil will request that a discussion about the NPCC's response be added to the MAG agenda. The RFAC's memo will be provided to the MAG as support material for that agenda item.*
- ITEM 4: Status of RFAC Chair Assignment – Update**

Neil Ward informed the RFAC that due to staff issues, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe has withdrawn as RFAC Chair for the 2009-2010. Sheri Sears informed the participants that the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation could continue to chair the RFAC during the 2009-2010 period and that she would be their representative.

Action: *The RFAC appreciated and welcomed the Colville's offer. For 2009-2010, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the RFAC will be the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Sheri Sears) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Christine Mallette), respectively.*

ITEM 5: Resident Fish Habitat Losses Methodology: Members Approval and Next Steps

Sheri Sears and Neil Ward briefed the committee on the Members review and subsequent approval of the methodology that the RFAC developed for assessing resident fish habitat losses due to inundation as well as lead the group in a discussion regarding the NPCC's response letter (see ITEM 3).

ITEM 6: Resident Fish Losses: Development of Methodology to Assess Operational Losses

Participants continued to review and discuss the existing methods for assessing resident fish losses that are a result of Federal Columbia River Power System operations. Brian Marotz and David Parrish described the methods that MFWP and IDFG have used, respectively. The information that Brian and David described provided clarification regarding whether the methodology was used to assess fish lost due to inundation or fish losses due to operations. The methods that MFWP and IDFG implemented, allowed the agencies to quantify fish lost due to habitat that was inundated and not fish lost due to daily operations. Due to time limitations, the RFAC performed only a cursory review of the methods MFWP and IDFG used.

Action: *The RFAC directed Neil Ward to develop draft methodology, using the MFWP and IDFG reports as references, to quantify resident fish losses due to inundation from the Federal Columbia River Power System. The RFAC requested that the draft methodology be available for review during the December RFAC meeting.*

Action: *Brian Marotz and Norm Merz will compare the MFWP methods with those being developed by the KTOI in an attempt to develop procedures that could be used by others.*

Action: *Brian Marotz will provide Neil Ward with an electronic copy of MFWP's integrated rule curve report for distribution to the RFAC via email. In addition, the document is to be posted to the RFAC section of the CBFWA website.*

ITEM 7: Next Meeting – Tentative

**Tuesday, December 15
9:00am – 3:00pm
CBFWA Office
Portland, OR**