



# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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**DATE:** January 19, 2010  
**TO:** Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)  
**FROM:** Neil Ward  
**SUBJECT:** Final Action Notes for the January 14, 2010 RFAC Meeting

Resident Fish Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, January 14, 2010  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
@ CBFWA Office, Portland, OR

[RFAC Webpage](#)

## Final Action Notes

- Attendees:** Sheri Sears (CCT), Mike Faler (USFWS), Christine Mallette (ODFW), and Neil Ward (CBFWA),
- Phone:** Jim Uehara (WDFW), David Parrish (IDFG), Chad Abel (BPT), and Jake Sellman (SPT)
- ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda**
- Action:** The agenda was approved with the addition of one additional item (i.e., Item 3: Strategic Work Plan Update)
- ITEM 2: Approve Action Notes for the December 15, 2009 RFAC Meeting**
- Action:** The action notes for the December 15, 2009, RFAC meeting were approved as final.
- ITEM 3: DRAFT CBFWA Work plan – RFAC Review**
- The draft CBFWA work plan includes several resident-fish-oriented directives for which the Members have requested the RFAC to review and provide comments. During the December 15, 2009, RFAC meeting, participants reviewed the objectives and tasks specific to the RFAC. Although some minor editorial corrections were made, no substantive changes occurred and the RFAC approved the resident fish section of the work plan. Following the RFAC meeting, Jim Uehara expressed concern, via email, regarding the bull trout and white sturgeon-specific objectives/tasks. Subsequently, Neil Ward provided an overview of the concerns that Jim expressed. On January 6, 2010, the work plan was approved. The resident fish section of the work plan, as was submitted by the RFAC, was approved.
- Action:** The RFAC decided that due to the number of elements included in the work plan for 2010, it is essential that the various objectives and associated tasks be prioritized. The RFAC agreed to prioritize the objectives/tasks during the February RFAC meeting.

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

**ITEM 4: Resident Fish Losses: Development of Methodology to Assess Operational Losses**

The RFAC continued to review and discuss potential methods for assessing fish losses due to construction and inundation associated with the FCRPS. The RFAC reviewed the comparison, between the MFWP and IDFG resident fish loss studies, prepared by Neil Ward. The RFAC agreed that the IDFG methodology for assessing fish losses, due to habitat inundation, could serve as a starting point for performing assessments throughout the Columbia River Basin and, where needed, the MFWP methods for addressing adfluvial westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout losses could be implemented.

Participants began to discuss developing a framework that would lead to assessing losses associated with the operations of the FCRPS. Participants agreed that to assess operational losses, an ecosystem approach may be the most appropriate course; however, participants expressed an interest, at this time, in focusing specifically on fish losses.

**Action:** The RFAC directed Neil Ward to prepare a document, for review during the next RFAC meeting, describing methodology for assessing lost resident fish habitat and resident fish losses due to inundation. In addition, the RFAC instructed Neil to contact the KTOI to see if Norm Merz would be able to attend the next meeting to discuss operational losses with the group.

**ITEM 5: Next Meeting**

**Thursday, February 18, 2010  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. PST  
CBFWA Office, Portland, OR**