



# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 300 | Pacific Center Building | Portland, OR 97204-1339  
Phone: 503-229-0191 | Fax: 503-229-0443 | Website: [www.cbfwa.org](http://www.cbfwa.org)

DATE: March 2, 2010  
TO: Ad hoc White Sturgeon Workgroup  
FROM: Neil Ward  
SUBJECT: Draft Action Notes for the March 1, 2010 White Sturgeon Workgroup 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

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

## Ad hoc White Sturgeon Meeting Monday, March 1, 2010 1:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Pacific) @ Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (via WebEx)

### Draft Action Notes

**Attendees:** Neil Ward (CBFWA)

**Phone/WebEx:** Christine Mallette (ODFW), Jim Uehara (WDFW), David Parrish (IDFG), Blaine Parker (CRITFC), Brad James (WDFW), Dave Statler (NPT), Mike Parsley (USGS), Sue Ireland (KTOI)

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

**ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda**

No additional items were added to the agenda.

**ITEM 2: Review of the NPCC's Categorical Review**

The NPCC's "RM&E and Artificial Production Categorical Reviews: Describing Planning Phase and Critical Phase" guidance document was provided as an introduction to the NPCC's Categorical Review process. The NPCC's upcoming Mainstem/Systemwide RM&E Categorical Review will include existing white sturgeon projects as well as new proposals that address known gaps. **NOT** included in this review are white sturgeon projects in the Blocked Area. The WDFW/Spokane Tribes and Kootenai Tribes of Idaho projects will be reviewed during the Geographical Review which will likely occur in early-2011. Due to a limited amount of time, Neil Ward only provided an overview of the NPCC's RM&E Categorical Review; however, Neil suggested that workgroup participants should review the document to become more familiar with the finer details of the Categorical Review process.

**UPDATE:** *Project sponsors of Accord projects will not be required to resubmit their proposals. Per discussions with NPCC staff, it does appear that the call for proposals will be delayed until early-June. The NPCC is finalizing the process and its associated sideboards and anticipates releasing the information in the upcoming weeks.*

**ITEM 3: Review of the CBFWA's Work Plan White Sturgeon Deliverable**

The Members of the CBFWA recently approved the CBFWA's work plan for the period of April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011. The CBFWA Members recognize the role CBFWA can play in delivering useful technical, science-based products associated with protection, mitigation and enhancement of the Columbia Basin's anadromous and resident fish, and wildlife. The CBFWA Members decided the organization's role will include participation in regional efforts to establish and apply appropriate standards, measuring techniques, and metrics to provide status assessments. The

Members have directed CBFWA staff to participate in and support ongoing assessments of the status of the species and implementation of strategies and actions to help determine if protection, mitigation, and enhancement efforts are successful in the Columbia River Basin. Included in that work plan are the following white sturgeon-oriented deliverables:

- CBFWA will annually report, on the Status of the Resources Project's website, the status (i.e., distribution, abundance, habitat, and genetics) and trends of white sturgeon in the Columbia and Snake rivers.
- CBFWA will annually report, on the Status of the Resources Project's website, the status (i.e., distribution, abundance, habitat, and genetics) and trends of white sturgeon in the Kootenai Rivers.

The CBFWA's Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC) recently directed Neil Ward to organize an Ad hoc White Sturgeon Workgroup to review the tasks that the RFAC developed to achieve the deliverable as well as develop a process and timeline for completing the tasks. Listed below are the tasks that the RFAC developed:

- Develop management questions and performance indicators
- Identify data gaps and uncertainties
- Develop agreed upon monitoring framework
- Prioritize monitoring requirements
- Develop data management, data sharing, and reporting (for the Status of Resources Report)
- Policy/management approval
- Submit to NPCC and ISRP (for use during Categorical Review)

**ITEM 4: Developing a Columbia Basin Monitoring Strategy for White Sturgeon: Workshop Process, Sideboards, and Products**

During 2009, CBFWA staff helped facilitate anadromous fish-oriented meetings in an attempt to develop a basin-wide strategic plan for monitoring. Prior to initiating sub-regional workshops, CBFWA staff, working with others in the region, developed a process and sideboards for the workshops. From the existing process and sideboards, Neil Ward presented a modified process and sideboards taking into consideration the monitoring needs for white sturgeon. In addition, Neil provided a few examples of the results from the workshops. Due to time limitations, the participants were only able to review the Draft Goals and did not have an opportunity to review the sideboards or the products from the workshops.

**ACTION:** *Blaine Parker, Dave Statler, and Christine Mallette volunteered to review and edit the Process and Sideboard document as well as Monitoring Analysis documents that were provided for consideration. Results from these reviews will be provided to the entire workgroup no later than Monday, March 8, 2010. The workgroup will review and discuss these documents during the March 10, 2010 meeting.*

**ITEM 5: Timelines and Deliverables**

Due to time limitations and the need for additional information, a timeline with associated deliverables was not developed.

**ITEM 6: Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, March 10, 2010  
10:00am – Noon (Pacific)**