



# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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Final

DATE: March 15, 2010  
TO: Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)  
FROM: Neil Ward  
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the March 11, 2010 RFAC Meeting

**Resident Fish Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 11, 2010**  
**9:00am-3:00pm PST**  
**@ CBFWA Office Portland, Oregon**  
[RFAC webpage](#)

Final Action Notes

**Attendees:** Sheri Sears (CCT), Mike Faler (USFWS), Christine Mallette (ODFW), Nancy Leonard (NPCC), Tom Iverson, Neil Ward (CBFWA)

**Phone/ WebEx:** David Parrish (IDFG), Chad Abel (BPT), and Keith Kutchins (UCUT)

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

**ITEM 1:** **Review and Approve Agenda**  
The agenda was approved.

**ITEM 2:** **Approve Action Notes for the January 14, 2010 RFAC Meeting**  
**Action:** *The action notes for the February 18, 2010 RFAC meeting were approved.*

**ITEM 3:** **Overview of the “Columbia River Basin Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Reporting Plan”**

The NPCC is in the process of releasing its *Draft Columbia River Basin Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Reporting Plan* for public review and comment. The Strategic Plan focuses on the policy level of the NPCC’s research, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting needs, and consists of the mission, expectations, and general guidance for RM&E and reporting implemented under the NPCC’s Fish and Wildlife Program.

Nancy Leonard (NPCC) provided an overview of the plan and answered questions from the participants. The RFAC informed Nancy that efforts, facilitated by the CBFWA, were underway to develop resident fish implementation strategies that, according to the plan, could be appended into the plan following public and ISRP review. The RFAC participants informed Nancy that an effort is underway to develop an implementation strategy for white sturgeon in preparation for the upcoming Mainstem/Systemwide RM&E Categorical Review. Because the Categorical Review begins in June, Nancy indicated there would not be enough time for the white sturgeon implementation strategy to be reviewed by the public and ISRP. Subsequently, she indicated that the NPCC would not be able to endorse the implementation strategy prior to the start of the Categorical Review. Although the implementation strategy will not have been endorsed by the NPCC, Nancy suggested that project sponsors could

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

attach or reference the document as support material to their proposal. This is important for project sponsors of white sturgeon projects since the ISRP, during past solicitations, expressed a belief that there is a lack of coordination among white sturgeon managers and projects.

**ITEM 4: Mainstem/Systemwide Categorical Review: Columbia and Snake River White Sturgeon Update**

During the February 18, 2010, RFAC Meeting, participants directed Neil Ward and Christine Mallette to form an ad hoc white sturgeon workgroup to work on the RFAC's white sturgeon deliverable described in the recently approved CBFWA Work Plan. Neil and Christine provided the NPCC's updated timeline for its Mainstem/Systemwide RM&E Categorical Review as well as an update regarding the ad hoc white sturgeon workgroup's progress. Neil indicated that the workgroup's first meeting focused on providing participants with the essential background information (e.g., NPCC timeline, CBFWA workplan white sturgeon directive, review of products from the anadromous fish workshops, etc.). Also provided to the RFAC was the draft process and sideboards that the workgroup is developing for the purpose of facilitating the meetings during which the implementation strategies will be developed. Although the March 10 workgroup meeting was canceled, Neil indicated that he and Christine would be working with the group to reschedule the meeting within the next two weeks. The RFAC discussed how to reach out to include all sturgeon managers throughout the basin to join the workgroup in the development of white sturgeon implementation strategies. Neil noted that the Spokane Tribe of Indians and Jason McClellan with WDFW had been added to the workgroup. Sheri Sears said she would instruct Bret Nine to participate in the workgroup for CCT. The RFAC directed Neil and Christine to provide a progress report during the April 21, 2010 RFAC Meeting.

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

The RFAC continued to discuss an appropriate methodology for assessing resident fish losses resulting from hydrosystem operations. Participants discussed the metrics that Neil Ward developed for the operation tables that Sheri Sears provided during the February 18, 2010, RFAC Meeting.

**Action:** *The RFAC directed Neil Ward to continue to develop the metrics for the operations table but to focus his effort on the "Biological" variables. The RFAC directed Neil to develop a narrative as well as a more complete list of metrics and associated approaches to measure the metric and their corresponding references.*

**ITEM 6:**

**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 21, 2010**  
**CBFWA Office**  
**9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.(Pacific)**