



# 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 fish and wildlife agencies:

Burns Paiute Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

National Marine Fisheries Service

Nez Perce Tribe

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

#### Coordinating Agencies

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

Upper Columbia United Tribes

DATE: April 14, 2011  
TO: Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)  
FROM: Neil Ward, CBFWA  
SUBJECT: Draft Action Notes for the April 7, 2010 RFAC Meeting

## Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC) Meeting

Thursday, April 7, 2010

10:00 a.m. – Noon (Pacific)

@ CBFWA Office

Portland, OR

[RFAC Webpage](#)

### Draft Action Notes

**Attendees:** Mike Faler (USFWS), Drew Harper (BPT), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

**Phone/WebEx:** Christine Mallette (ODFW), Dave Parrish (IDFG)

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

#### **ITEM 1: Review and Approve Agenda**

**Action:** The agenda was approved with no additional items being added.

#### **ITEM 2: Approve Action Notes for the October 5, 2010 RFAC Meeting**

**Action:** The action notes for the October 5, 2010 RFAC meeting were approved.

#### **ITEM 3: Discuss the Chair and Vice Chair Positions**

Effective April 1, 2011, the RFAC Chair position became vacant. In the past, the existing Vice Chair assumed the role of interim Chair (e.g., ODFW participated in this capacity following the departure of the CCT); however, due to staff changes, the BPT indicated a desire to remain as Vice Chair while their representatives become more familiar with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) Fish and Wildlife Program. Honoring their request, the USFWS volunteered to be the interim RFAC Chair. The RFAC discussed the scenario of the USFWS serving as the Chair until October 1, 2011, at which time the BPT will decide whether they are prepared to assume the role. The RFAC accepted the USFWS's offer to volunteer until at least October 1, 2011.

#### **ITEM 4: Review of the 2011 CBFWA Work Plan: RFAC Tasks**

Neil Ward provided a review of the 2011 CBFWA Work Plan. Neil indicated that the CBFWA Members recently approved the Work Plan and that it is a continuation of the objectives and tasks from the 2010 Work Plan. Included in the Work Plan are tasks requiring RFAC participation in region-wide workgroups that are developing research, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting strategies (i.e., implementation strategies) for focal species throughout the Columbia River Basin. Focal species for which strategies are being developed include white sturgeon, kokanee, redband trout, bull trout, cutthroat trout, as

well as resident fish substitution species. Following completion of the strategies, discussions will begin regarding data sharing and reporting. Neil reported that the anadromous fish managers are currently developing coordinated assessments for data management and reporting. Similar to the approach used to develop resident fish implementation strategy templates, the RFAC will likely use the products developed by the anadromous fish managers with the understanding that modifications will be required to accommodate existing differences between the management of anadromous and resident fisheries.

**ITEM 5: Implementation Strategies: Progress Report and Timelines**

In March 2010, the resident fish managers began to develop implementation strategies for the NPCC's Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Reporting Plan. The first strategies that were developed were for white sturgeon populations in Zone 6, the Snake River reservoirs, as well as the Upper Columbia River (Lake Roosevelt). Neil Ward indicated that efforts are underway to complete strategies for the Kootenai and mid-Columbia populations as well as update the existing strategies so that they conform to the template that is now being used for other resident fish. Neil indicated that he expects the white sturgeon strategy for the Kootenai and Upper Columbia to be completed/updated by August 2011. A completion date of August 2011 has been identified to ensure the strategies are available for use by the NPCC and Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) during the NPCC's Resident Fish Review tentatively scheduled to begin in late-2011. The strategies for the mid-Columbia River populations will be completed by late 2011.

Since October 2010, resident fish managers have been modifying the implementation strategy templates to better represent metrics that are associated with resident fish monitoring and evaluation, as well as reflect information provided by the NPCC and ISRP. Neil indicated that through several months of collaborative efforts with the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) organization, the format for the bull trout, redband/rainbow trout, westslope cutthroat trout, kokanee, and resident fish substitution species templates was finalized in February 2011. Since the end of February, the managers in the Intermountain and Mountain Columbia provinces have been completing their implementation strategies and are expected to review them April 26-27, in Spokane. Following the review of the strategies, Neil indicated that he and Keith Kutchins (UCUT) would prepare the final documents during May 2011 with an expected review period of June-July and a submittal to the NPCC in August, in time for use during the upcoming Resident Fish Review.

Neil reported that he has begun to contact managers in other subbasins, where BPA-funded efforts exist, in an effort to arrange meetings to discuss the Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Reporting (MERR) Plan and the potential for developing implementation strategies. Neil indicated that a meeting is scheduled for the Malheur Subbasin during the week of April 11 and that he will likely be meeting with representatives from the Owyhee Subbasin in early-May. Neil indicated that he had not heard back from managers in the Flathead, Deschutes, or Hood subbasins, where several BPA-funded efforts are currently being implemented. Neil also reported that he would be contacting representatives from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe within the next week to discuss potential dates to meet.

**ITEM 6: CBFWA Survey: Discuss RFAC Results**

For 2010, the Bonneville Power Administration required the CBFWA to conduct a survey of its members, as well as non-members, to evaluate involvement and satisfaction with the CBFWA coordination services. Included in the survey were several questions about the RFAC. Neil Ward reported that 23 respondents had participated in RFAC meetings during 2010. Of those 23, 16 were either satisfied or very satisfied with the meetings. Five of the respondents were neutral and two were dissatisfied with the meetings.

Neil indicated that another question asked participants to rate the value of the coordination services associated with the RFAC. Of the 22 respondents, 18 indicated the services were either valuable or very valuable. Four individuals indicated the services were not very valuable.

Mike Faler and Neil led the participants in a discussion regarding potential actions to improve the services provided through the RFAC. Because the CBFWA survey was not designed to thoroughly review each of the CBFWA technical committees, the RFAC discussed the value of conducting a survey for which the focus was solely on the RFAC. Participants agreed that such a survey could prove beneficial. Working with Mike, Neil will prepare a draft survey for his review. The expected date of administration would likely be July 2011.

**ITEM 7: Next Meeting**

A date for the next meeting was not identified. Because most of the managers are meeting routinely to prepare their implementation strategies, the RFAC will likely not meet again for a couple months. In the absence of meetings, the participants directed Neil Ward to provide, via email, monthly updates regarding NPCC Fish and Wildlife Program issues and CBFWA business that are pertinent to resident fish managers.