



March 21, 2002:

TO: Wildlife Committee

FROM: Carl Scheeler

SUBJECT: Draft Action Notes for the February 26-27, 2002 Meeting at CBFWA

If there are no objections within five days, these action notes will be considered final.

**Wildlife Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 26, 2002
Wednesday, February 27, 2002
Portland, Oregon**

Draft Action Notes

Attendees: Daniel Gonzales, Jess Wenick, Lucas Samor and Amos First Raised III (BPT); Carol Perugini (SPT); Peter Paquet and Robert Walker (NWPPC); Matt Berger and Jim Smith (CT); Terry Luther (CTWSRO); Carl Scheeler (CTUIR); Loren A. Kronemann and Angela Sondenaa (NPT); Susan Barnes and Greg Sieglitz (ODFW); Maureen Smith (USFWS); Tracy Hames (YIN); Kelly Singer, Doug Wood (STOI); Mary Terra-Berns (IDFG); Roy Beaty (BPT); Ray Entz (KT) and Frank Young (CBFWA)

By Phone: Paul Ashley (WDFW); Anders Mikkelsen (CDAT); B.J. Kieffer (STOI).

Time Allocation:	Objective 1. FY 2003 Renewal Process	30%
	Objective 2. Rolling Province Review and Subbasin Summaries	70%
	Objective 3. FY 2002 Adjustments	0%

ITEM 1: Integration of the Terrestrial Component into EDT.

DISCUSSION: Peter Paquet described the Council's efforts to integrate the terrestrial component into EDT. Peter stated that the database is intended for use in subbasin planning and is set up to be updated continually as new information becomes available. There are 32 habitat types based on vegetative cover and species lists by subbasin. Peter demonstrated how to access the database on the Council's Website. The WC expressed concern that the scale of the database may be too coarse to show enhancements at the scale of most wildlife mitigation projects. Peter responded that these changes will show up as more enhanced acreage is accumulated.

ITEM 2: Logan Valley Draft Management Plan.

DISCUSSION: Dan Gonzales and Jess Wenick presented the mitigation plan and responded to questions. The plan is to use grazing and fire to rejuvenate the wet meadows. The WC suggested that fire would be the most effective technique. The WC was concerned that budget information was not included in the Plan. Dan responded that the budget was excluded at BPA's recommendation since there was insufficient information to make an accurate estimate of funding needs for future years. The WC acknowledged the uncertainty, but wanted to see the budget request submitted in the project proposal for FY 2003-05 before approving the plan. The WC also suggested attachment of study plans as appendices to the plan. The requested budget information was provided on the second day of the WC meeting.

ACTION: The WC determined that the Logan Valley Draft Management Plan was consistent with the CBFWA O&M Guidelines.

ITEM 3: Trout Creek Property Management Plan

DISCUSSION: Mary Terra-Berns presented the Trout Creek Management Plan and responded to WC questions.

ACTION: The WC determined that the Trout Creek Property Management Plan was consistent with the CBFWA O& M Guidelines.

ITEM 4: Regional HEP Team Proposal.

DISCUSSION: The WC discussed the proposal and reviewed the purpose of using HEP and how to be most effective.

ACTION: There was general support for the concept of a regional HEP Team and the use of CBFWA budget to support that effort. Frank is to send out another notice for the WC members to provide him with information by March 11 on their needs for help doing HEPs this field season so that Maureen Smith can complete the schedule.

ITEM 5: Crediting Discussion.

DISCUSSION: Susan Barnes described the appearance of the Crediting Subcommittee as a panel at the Council's February 5, 2002 Fish and Wildlife Committee Meeting. The panel was made up of Peter Paquet, Doug Marker, Bob Austin, Susan Barnes (as vice chair of WC), Billy Barquin and Scott Soultis.

- The panel discussed BPA's refusal to recognize the 2:1 ratio in the Council's Program and recommended implementation of the dispute resolution clause in Section 4 (i) of the Power Act. Larry Cassidy indicated that the referenced section was for very serious disagreements and the Council would have to develop a policy on how they would use this provision before using it. Susan requested a schedule for dispute resolution on the crediting issue.
- Billy Barquin stated that BPA is trying to force the Tribe to sign an acquisition agreement with the 1:1 ratio in it and they were about to lose the purchase. Bob Austin stated that they could leave the ratio out for now and insert the proper figure later when the disagreement is resolved allowing the purchase to go forward.
- Susan also pointed out that BPA had spreadsheets posted on their website that misapplied credits to multiple projects. Bob Austin said they would correct this.
- Susan said the BPA was intentionally delaying project implementation to save money and should be responsible for the cumulative losses that are not being addressed while BPA delays program implementation. Bob said BPA did not recognize the concept of annualization.

ITEM 6: Albeni Falls Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

DISCUSSION: Ray Entz explained that the Albeni Falls Monitoring and Evaluation Plan was ISRP was recommended as a model for other wildlife M & E work in the Basin. Ray stated that the purpose reviewing the Plan is to determine how it could be modified as a template for a regional M & E plan. He is proposing level II monitoring or the least amount of information needed to assure comparability across the region. Individual projects may need to collect additional information for site specific purposes. The technique would need to be scaled according to project size. Roy Beaty stated that the Albeni Falls Plan is a very good start and stressed the importance of integrating fish and wildlife into a regional M & E plan. Paul Ashley suggested a small work group to develop the plan further.

ACTION: Ray Entz (Chair), Mary Terra-Berns, Angela Sondena, Anders Mikkelsen, Greg Sieglitz, Paul Ashley, and Tracy Hames were appointed to the reactivated M & E Subcommittee to develop a regional M & E plan.

ITEM 7: Development of a Strategy to Support Future Funding for Wildlife Mitigation

DISCUSSION: Matt Berger argued that annualization was a part of the HEP process adopted by the Council and should be a part of the discussion in negotiations on the crediting ratio with BPA. Peter Paquet pointed out that the Council was not explicit about requiring the 2:1 ratio to be applied retroactively because there was language in the mitigation contracts that allowed for reopening and adjusting crediting. It was assumed that the parties would address crediting with this mechanism and apply the new ratio. It has turned out that BPA is opposed to doing this. Carl Scheeler expressed concern that by NMFS' failure to recognizing applicable RPAs for fish in wildlife mitigation acquisition proposals BPA will not fund new wildlife project proposals.

ACTION: The following assignments were made:

1. Peter Paquet will develop the first draft of a PowerPoint presentation on crediting for presentation to members agency policy-makers and Council members. As part of this presentation it was decided that a display of credits using the WC and BPA approach for an example project would be useful.
2. Susan will provide Frank with the format to distribute to the WC requesting information on MOAs, mitigation policies and examples of "problem projects" that were not funded because of BPA's failure to recognize the 2:1 crediting language.
3. Loren Kronemann will draft a letter to NMFS expressing the managers' concern over NMFS' failure to recognize RPAs in proposals for wildlife mitigation acquisitions.
4. Frank will distribute the COBRA HEP Model to the WC.

Susan will summarize the results of the Beak audit of the wildlife crediting approach using HEP and past Council actions on crediting.

ITEM 7: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 20, 2002 at the West Coast Hotel in Spokane.