



**COLUMBIA
BASIN
FISH & WILDLIFE
AUTHORITY**

DRAFT

DATE: April 7, 2003
TO: Wildlife Committee (WC)
FROM: Carl Scheeler, Chair
SUBJECT: Action Notes for April 1, 2003 Wildlife Committee Meeting

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

Wildlife Committee Meeting
April 1, 2003
CBFWA Office - Portland, Oregon

Draft Action Notes

Attendees: Carl Scheeler (CTUIR); Matt Berger (CCT); Paul Ashley (WDFW); Jessica Wilcox, Dorie Welch, and Lee Watts (BPA); Maureen Smith (USFWS); Angela Sondenaa and Loren Kronemann (NPT); Robert Walker (NWPCC); Greg Sieglitz (ODFW); Tracy Hames (YN); and Neil Ward and Frank Young (CBFWA).

By Phone: Mary Terra-Berns and Gregg Servheen (IDFG); Anders Mikkelson (CdAT); Terry Luther (CTWSRO); Joann Hunt (NWPCC); Ray Entz (KT); Mary Verner (UCUT); and Jess Wenick (BPT).

Time Allocation:	Objective 1. Project Recommendations	20%
	Objective 2. Regional Issues	70%
	Objective 3. Annual Report	10%

ITEM 1: Review of Precious Lands Draft Management Plan

Discussion: Angela Sondenaa reviewed the essential elements of the Precious Lands Draft Management Plan and responded to questions.

ACTION: The WC found the Precious Lands Draft Management Plan to be consistent with the CBFWA OM&E Guidelines.

ITEM 2: Discussion of Wildlife Crediting

Discussion: The discussion was framed around a draft letter to the NWPCC developed by Carl and Frank as a “strawman”.

ACTION: The WC directed Frank to revise the draft letter to focus on supporting the Council's efforts to separate the crediting issue from current discussions on capitalization of fish and wildlife acquisitions and to offer the assistance of CBFWA in working with BPA to describe how wildlife acquisitions will be guided by subbasin planning and how crediting for wildlife benefits on anadromous fish land acquisitions will be handled.

ITEM 3: Discussion of Recent Actions by BPA to Alter Project Work Statements

Discussion: Frank explained that CBFWA had received complaints that BPA COTRs were imposing unilateral changes in the scope of some anadromous fish projects. BPA has denied that this is occurring. Frank requested that WC Members provide him with examples if there are such instances of unilateral changes being imposed for wildlife projects.

ACTION: The WC directed Frank to send out a request to Committee Members to provide examples of any changes in scope imposed by BPA in a standard format which would list changes relative to schedule, dropping of or alteration to tasks, problems associated with conversion to accrual accounting, project number and a category for "other".

ITEM 4: Addendum to CBFWA OM&E Guidelines for Wildlife Proposals

Discussion: Paul reviewed Draft WDFW Operations and Maintenance Whitepaper with the WC. He explained that it was derived primarily from the CBFWA OM&E Guidelines and was intended as an update of the O&M portion of the Guidelines to be used as a guide for possible future fixed-cost contracts with BPA for O&M. The WC felt that it was premature to develop such a document prior to exploring other contracting vehicles for O&M funding with BPA, such as an O&M Trust Fund for each agency.

ACTION: The WC agreed that Paul should revise the draft O&M Guidelines to include only the Funding Principles and a listing of only those activities that are clearly enhancements and would not qualify for O&M funding.

ITEM 5: Discuss Merits of Conducting Annual Review of Wildlife Project Accomplishments for Inclusion in a CBFWA Annual Report

Discussion: Neil Ward described the process that the RFC is using to review the resident fish projects by reviewing one quarter of them every three months. During this review project leaders make a half-hour presentations of their accomplishments with half-hour questioning periods. Neil stated that the intent was to provide a written summary of the accomplishments of resident fish projects for incorporation into the Annual Report that CBFWA is contracted to prepare. Neil further explained that the Annual Report would focus on results and is intended for a general audience so it would contain mostly graphics and easily understood narrative to reach the broadest readership possible. Carl recommended exploring the feasibility of creating a page on the CBFWA Website for reporting wildlife project data where it would be accessible to all.

ACTION: The WC decided to conduct a review of wildlife projects comparable to that of the RFC with the first review scheduled for May 20-21 in Spokane. Frank will work with Paul to determine which projects will be reviewed and make arrangements for site visits to nearby projects for WC Members. Greg Sieglitz was asked to take the lead in working with CBFWA's Web Technician to explore the feasibility of establishing a web page for reporting wildlife project data and report back to the WC at the May 20-21 meeting.

ITEM 6 Review Terrestrial Guidance Document – A Technical Guide for Developing Wildlife Elements of a Subbasin Plan

Discussion: Paul explained that the document was intended for use as only an assessment tool for subbasin planners and was not intended to impose a methodology on those who did not wish to use the recommended approach. There was agreement that the Guide developed by Carl A. Scheeler (CTUIR), Paul Ashley (WDFW), William Blosser, David H. Johnson (WDFW), Jimmy Kagan (ONHIC), Catherine Macdonald (TNC), Bruce G. Marcot (USFS), Thomas A. O'Neil (NHI), Peter J. Paquet (NWPC), Drew Parkin (NWPC), Elizabeth Roderick (WDFW), Phil Roger (CRITFC), Angela Sondena (NPT), and Scott Soult (KTI) was a useful tool for integrating the needs of wildlife into subbasin plans and would have been more useful if it had been available much earlier before subbasin planning had proceeded to its current state where decisions on assessment approaches have already been made for most subbasins.

ACTION: The WC agreed that the Guide should be posted to the CBFWA Website and clearly labeled as Not a CBFWA Product.

ITEM 7: Demonstration of the CBFWA Vegetation Transect Spreadsheet Program

Discussion: Paul demonstrated the Spreadsheet Program which he had developed under CBFWA's BPA Contract for use by wildlife managers conducting HEPs. There was general agreement that the Program would be very useful.

ACTION: The WC directed Frank to place the CBFWA Vegetation Transect Spreadsheet Program on the CBFWA Website.

ITEM 8: Date and Location of Next Meeting

ACTION: The WC established the following meeting schedule: May 20-21, Spokane; June 17-18; July 22-23; and August 19-20 with site visits and project accomplish summaries to be presented at each meeting.