



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 300 | Pacific First Building | Portland, OR 97204-1339
Phone: 503-229-0191 | Fax: 503-229-0443 | Website: www.cbfwa.org

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

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

DATE: October 18, 2010
TO: Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC)
FROM: Doug Calvin, Chair
SUBJECT: September 14, 2010 WAC Meeting Final Action Notes

Wildlife Advisory Committee Meeting
September 14, 2010
CBFWA Offices
Portland, Oregon

The support material for the meeting is posted at: http://www.cbfwa.org/committee_wac.cfm

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Doug Calvin (Chair, CTWSRO); Paul Dahmer (WDFW); Carl Scheeler (CTUIR); Tracy Hames (YN); Carol Perugini (SPT); Gregg Servheen (IDFG); Jason Kesling (BPT); Tom O'Neil (NHI); and Tom Iverson and Paul Ashley (CBFWA)

By Phone: Scott Soultz (Vice-chair, KTOI); and Aren Eddingsaas (SBT)

ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda

Discussion: Tom I. announced that Jann Eckman will be serving in the role of acting Executive Director of CBFWA until the Members agree to fill that position.

The CBFWA staff is preparing the CBFWA FY11 work plan, essentially continuing implementation of the Policy Directives adopted for FY10. It is anticipated that the CBFWA Members will review and approve the FY11 CBFWA Work Plan at their September 28 meeting.

Scott has not completed his analysis for Agenda Item 3 and the group agreed to defer that presentation until a future meeting.

ACTION: The agenda was approved as written with one modification, deferral of Agenda Item 3 until a future meeting.

ITEM 2: Review and Approve as Final August Draft Action Notes

ACTION: The WAC approved the August 18, 2010 Action Notes as final with no modifications.

ITEM 3: Review Comparison Analysis of HSIs and ecological services

ACTION: Deferred to future meeting.

ITEM 4: Discuss Categories for Use in Expressing HLIs for Wildlife

Discussion: Tom O. discussed his efforts at identifying categories for summarizing wildlife high level indicators. He started by reviewing what others had done. If we are going to report out for the Program, we should try to meet the needs of others. His summary (posted for today's meeting) is gleaned from Washington and Oregon efforts.

Tom discovered a book that has already done this:

Inventory and monitoring of wildlife habitat; compiled and edited by Allen Y. Cooperrider, Raymond J. Boyd, and Hanson R. Stuart ; design by Shirley L. McCulloch; Published 1986 by U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management; For sale by the Supt. of Docs., U.S. G.P.O. in Denver, Co, Washington, D.C. (858 pages).

Tom O. reviewed some initial categories for consideration as high level indicators:

Change (Trend) in Focal Habitats, Change (Trend) National Vegetation types, Change (Trend) in Focal Species Populations , Number of listed species by state and federal , Change in Total Functional Diversity, Amount of Protected Land (breakout focal habitats/vegetation types), Amount of Connectivity which is established by State Conservation Strategies, Trend of Threats or Disturbances – fires, floods, invasive species. This is not an exhaustive list, but provides a place to start. Tom O. reiterated that we should discuss monitoring populations, even is if BPA does not intend to fund population monitoring. It is included in any wildlife monitoring plan.

The group discussed that measuring a species or habitat response at the project level is fairly straightforward; however, what are we hoping to measure at a higher level? We may need surrogates in-lieu of actual data. It is also important to track trends over time. There was considerable discussion about what we hope to monitor and report versus what HLIs may represent.

HLIs are intended as surrogates for functionality changes within BPA funded wildlife management areas. PISCES currently collects data on weed control and fire suppression. Could we add a survey tool in PISCES to capture HLI information that could be rolled up and reported each year? Weed control is a good indicator (surrogate) for condition/function of a property. We could build a few questions on the vegetative management work element in PISCES. For example: Q- What percent of your cover type is in native vegetation? A – increasing, stable, or decreasing.

HLIs for the region could be acquired from other sources that already collect and summarize data (fire, breeding bird surveys, landscape connectivity, conversion of habitat, etc.).

In order to collect data across all BPA funded projects, the system has to be easy, cost-effective, and repeatable. HLI monitoring is not a high priority for some managers. A monitoring team may be necessary to sample and validate information for high level reporting.

No actions were taken for this agenda item. The discussion left many participants head spinning. We will continue this conversation at a future meeting. In the mean time, Tom I., Tom O., and others will develop a draft framework that takes all this input into consideration.

ITEM 5: Wildlife Crediting Forum Update

Discussion: Tom I. handed out the draft road map document developed by the facilitator of the Wildlife Crediting Forum (Memo from Jim Rapp and Paul Manson on August 31, 2010 to the Wildlife Crediting Forum). The group discussed the purpose of the road map document and reminded each other that it was the agency and tribal representatives' idea to begin documenting the issues and impacts of the WCF conversations. There were many concerns regarding the characterization of many issues within the document. Everyone agreed that it would be in their best interest to provide detailed comments on the memo at the meeting tomorrow, or immediately following the meeting.

ITEM 6: Next WAC Meeting

The next WAC meeting will occur at the CBFWA offices in Portland, Oregon on October 6 from 2-5 pm, to coincide with the Wildlife Crediting Forum meeting. The primary agenda item will be to discuss wildlife area management plans and begin development of a plan template for BPA funded projects.

This meeting was subsequently rescheduled to November 15, 2010.

MEETING REMINDER: Wildlife Crediting Forum at Council Central Offices – Large Conference Room 851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100, Portland, Oregon 97204 - 503-222-5161 October 7, 2010 – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - This meeting has been rescheduled to November 16, 2010.