



**COLUMBIA  
BASIN  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AUTHORITY**

**DRAFT**

DATE: August 25, 2005  
TO: Decision Framework Workgroup  
MMG  
FROM: CBFWA staff  
SUBJECT: DRAFT Action notes from August 24, 2005 Decision Framework Workgroup (DFW) Meeting

**If there are no objections with 8-days, these actions will be considered final.**

Decision Framework Workgroup Meeting  
August 24, 2005  
CBFWA Office, Portland Oregon

**Draft Action Notes**

**Attendees:** Dick Stone (WDFW), John Palensky (NOAA-F), Pete Hassemer (IDFG), Dave Ward (ODFW), Jaime Pinkham (CRITFC), Doug Marker and Patty O'Toole (NPCC), Karl Weist (NPCC-Or), Greg Delwiche and Bob Austin (BPA), and Brian Lipscomb and Tom Iverson (CBFWA)

**By Phone:** Dave Statler (NPT), Keith Wolf (CCT), Doug Taki (SBT), and Ron Peters (CdAT)

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

**ITEM 1: Update on FY2007-2009 Project Selection Process**

Patty O. provided an update on the current status in the development of a guidance document for the upcoming project selection process. The NPCC staff will be presenting the guidance document to full council for approval at the September NPCC meeting in Spokane, Washington.

**Discussion:** The guiding principles for the selection process are:

1. Initiate a review of entire program
2. Multi-year recommendations
3. Bifurcate review of the Program (Provinces and Systemwide)
4. Use Bonneville PFR funding figures
5. Develop a planning target funding figure
6. Consider Bonneville's proposed 70/25/5 distribution of funding
7. Province by province allocations
8. Local review and prioritization
9. Development of Guidance Document

**Discussion Continued:** The NPCC staff is feeling pressure to begin the solicitation process as soon as possible in order to have recommendations at the start of FY 2007. The greatest burden on the selection process design is defining the level of intensity and duration of the ISRP review. Currently the ISRP is requesting a minimum of six months to complete a full review of the Program. It is currently anticipated that the solicitation will begin no later than November 15, 2005 with proposals due around February 15, 2006, (90 days).

Doug M. provided a brief update on the Program amendment process. The Program amendment process will focus on developing province level and regional level biological objectives. The NPCC staff will be completing their All-H Analyzer effort at the end of September. This effort will lay the foundation for a call for recommendations. The AHA project will establish a foundation to develop biological objectives for each salmon and steelhead population. The NPCC will rely on other methods to develop objectives for resident fish (e.g., CBFWA resident fish status report) and will rely on the wildlife crediting ledger as wildlife objectives.

**ITEM 2: Update on CBFWA Member action at August 2-3, 2005 meeting in Bozeman, MT**

**Discussion:** Tom I. provided background on the Member's action. At the August 2-3 meeting, NOAA Fisheries, BPA, and NPCC representatives requested assistance from CBFWA in developing and implementing processes to address recovery planning coordination, subbasin plan implementation, and regional integration of subbasin plans. The CBFWA Members requested that the Decision Framework Workgroup develop a proposal for integrating the project solicitation process with the amendment process and recovery planning through the development of an Integrated Regional Management Plan. A table was presented to the Members that attempted to demonstrate the schedule and processes and possible alternative schedules. CBFWA staff updated the table and provided a working draft to the Workgroup for discussion.

**ITEM 3: Develop CBFWA proposal for presentation to Members**

**Discussion:** The Workgroup agreed to work from the draft material prepared by CBFWA staff. The Workgroup edited and updated the objectives and critical elements to best represent the current anticipated schedules (see below). Once the materials

were updated, the Workgroup discussed the best scenario for CBFWA integration of the processes and the development of an Integrated Regional Management Plan. It became quite clear that a strong regional desire to implement the locally developed subbasin plans is driving the current schedules and are unlikely to be very flexible to support additional planning activities at this time. However, it is also evident that a regional planning exercise could fit within the existing schedules and the development of a regional plan could drive the end result of both the project selection process and the Program amendment process.

**ACTION: Development of Presentation to CBFWA Members**

The Workgroup agreed to have CBFWA staff prepare a presentation that demonstrated the current schedule and processes, and then provides an explanation of how a regional planning effort, facilitated by CBFWA, could fit within those existing processes.

The draft presentation will be distributed late on August 25, 2005 for review by the Workgroup for input and comments and will be based on the attachments to these action notes.

**ITEM 4: UCUT Allocation Proposal**

At the previous DFW meeting, the Workgroup developed an initial attempt at applying the UCUT allocation proposal across the entire basin. The Workgroup briefly discussed the significant, current shortcomings with the initial draft (e.g., important elements are missing such as ESA impacts and required Hydro BiOp actions). The Workgroup also agreed that at this time, it is not in the interest of the CBFWA membership to develop a regional allocation proposal. At the last Members meeting, it was evident that a funding allocation discussion within CBFWA should wait until a regional plan has been developed to provide the foundation for the discussion. Tom I. will be attending a UCUT technical meeting in September to better understand the intentions of the allocation proposal and to brief the UCUT members on current status of activities within the Workgroup.

**Attachment 1. Draft objectives and elements for upcoming project selection process and Program amendment process.****DRAFT Objectives**

- To create a decision pathway and schedule that allows the Northwest Power and Planning Council (NPCC) the opportunity to select projects for Fiscal Year 2007-2009 based on an Integrated Regional Management Plan that identifies clearly articulated objectives (or strategies addressing prioritized limiting factors) and provides performance measures for achieving them while protecting, mitigating and enhancing fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin
- That integrates Subbasin Plans, ESA recovery plans, and other existing Federal, State and Tribal plans into a single unified plan for the basin
- Which supports a project selection process that puts projects on the ground for Fiscal Year 2007 with adequate ISRP review and local prioritization
- And results in a regional research plan, a Program-wide monitoring and evaluation framework, and a Program-wide coordination plan

**Critical Elements****Project Selection Process Development**

The NPCC will fully develop the project selection process which will provide a complete description of the solicitation process, the review process and the decision making process for each compartment within the Program culminating in a Project Selection Guidance Document. This document would be complete, with budget allocation by compartment and province, prior to project solicitation. NPCC staff will present a draft guidance document to full council for approval at their September meeting in Spokane, WA. It is anticipated that additional modifications will be made to the draft document following the September meeting.

Duration: 2 months

**NPCC/BPA Solicitation of Proposals**

The NPCC and BPA will jointly solicit proposals based upon the mutually agreed upon Project Selection Guidance Document allowing up to 90 days for proposal development and submission. It is anticipated that the solicitation will occur on November 15, 2005; although, if the guidance document is complete prior to that date the NPCC and BPA may choose to solicit projects sooner.

Duration: 2 months

**ISRP Review**

The ISRP review may not include province visits and proposal presentations. At this time, the assumption is that all projects will receive comprehensive reviews; if the reviews were scaled in some way (e.g., O+M projects and Art. Prod), projects may require a less intensive review. Due to the shortened schedule of the solicitation process, it is expected that the ISRP review will be slightly abbreviated in order to cover the full complement of projects within one fiscal year. A fix-it-loop process is unlikely except in exceptional circumstances that result in conditional recommendations by the ISRP. The details of the review process need to be developed to better understand the time requirement. A focus for the ISRP review is to realign the Program with the strategies and priorities within the newly adopted subbasin plans. NPCC staff expects to begin a new rolling province review process as early as FY 2008, in order to return to the slower, more deliberate and comprehensive reviews that include site visits, project presentations, and greater project sponsor/ISRP interaction.

Duration: 6 months

**Project Prioritization**

Local prioritization will occur within the provinces/subbasins and within various “programs” for the systemwide proposals. It is anticipated that CBFWA members will play an important role in the prioritization process as individual entities. CBFWA as an entity has not determined if it will engage in project prioritization at this time. The project prioritization will occur simultaneous to the ISRP review.

Duration: 3-4 months

**Recommendations to NPCC**

Recommendations from the province level workgroups and the regional workgroups for M&E, Research, and Coordination will be forwarded to Council by mid-July 2006.

**Public Review of Recommendations**

Once the ISRP reviews and local prioritization efforts are complete, the NPCC staff will combine the reviews and produce a draft budget recommendation. The draft recommendation will be released for public review and presented to the Fish and Wildlife Committee for review.

Duration: 3 months

**NPCC Recommendation**

The current goal is to provide a NPCC recommendation prior to the end of the fiscal year.

**BPA contracting**

Once recommendations are provided by NPCC, BPA will issue a decision document and contract for the proposed work. In the past, BPA has requested 90 days to establish or renew contracts.

Duration: 3 months

**Province Planning Workshops**

Using the recent NPCC AHA effort and CBFWA resident fish status review as a base, province level workgroups would develop biological objectives and action plans for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of fish and wildlife **populations** in the Columbia River Basin. CBFWA would facilitate workshops to develop regionally consistent population based plans based on existing subbasin plans, ESA recovery plans and other Federal, State, and Tribal fish and wildlife management plans. CBFWA facilitated workgroups would also be established to develop systemwide program plans: Research Plan, Basinwide Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, and a Program Information Management and Coordination Plan. These plans should be completed prior to project prioritization.

Duration: 3 months

**Integrate Province Plans to create Integrated Regional Management Plan**

CBFWA would facilitate the integration of the province level action plans, combined with systemwide program plans to form the Integrated Regional Management Plan. The intent of integration would be to submit a Program amendment recommendation in response to the NPCC call for recommendations. The Integrated Regional Management Plan may also be used as a basis to submit CBFWA project recommendations into the project selection process.

Duration: 3-4 months

**Recovery Plans**

NOAA has requested recovery plans for all salmon and steelhead ESUs in the basin by December 31, 2005. Existing recovery plans for bull trout and sturgeon have been incorporated into subbasin plans.

**NPCC All-H Analyzer Project**

The NPCC staff is currently working on a project to build a web based model for the development of biological objectives for salmon and steelhead. The project is building a common database that accumulates subbasin plan habitat data, HGMP data, US v Or harvest data, and NOAA Biological Opinion smolt survival data. This data will be input into the All-H Analyzer model developed by Mobrand Biometrics. A test run will be complete for salmon and steelhead populations by September 30, 2005. It is anticipated that NPCC staff will use the draft outputs from this project as a basis for the initial Draft Program amendment.

Duration: 1 months

**Develop Guidance Document for Program Amendment**

NPCC staff will develop a guidance document that explains the purpose and scope of the upcoming program amendment process. The document would 1) explain what function and purpose the province level biological objectives will serve, 2) explain how subbasin plans and other information have been or should be used to develop province level objectives, 3) establish a common vocabulary for the amendment process, 4) describe what assumptions have been made for habitat, hydro, harvest and hatchery interactions, and then 5) present derived or example objectives for anadromous and resident fish.

Duration: 3 months

**Issue Request for Recommendations**

The NPCC will issue a request for program amendment recommendations as required by Section 4h of the Power Act. It is currently anticipated that the NPCC will begin the amendment process in January 2006.

Duration: 3 months

**Public Review of Recommendations**

The Power Act requires public review of and comment on program amendment recommendations before proceeding to amendments. This is the period where the NPCC staff begins to formulate the Draft Program Amendment. If CBFWA submits a Program amendment recommendation, it is likely that that would be used as a base for developing the NPCC Draft Program Amendment.

Duration: 2 months

**Public Review of Draft Program Amendment**

The NPCC releases their draft amendment for public comment.

Duration: 2-3 months

**NPCC Adopts Program Amendment**

The NPCC would adopt the final program amendment which would include biological objectives at the province level, with findings and responses to comments.

Duration: 2-3 months

Table 1. Draft schedule of processes for project selection and Program amendment processes.

