

CBFWA
New Directions Work Plan
October 1, 2004
Final

On May 2, 2003 the Members' adopted the following CBFWA Mission Statement and work plan.

CBFWA will be the leading regional voice advocating for the fish and wildlife of the Columbia River Basin and the ecosystems on which they depend.

To carry out this Mission, the Members recommended that the fish and wildlife managers and staff focus efforts on the following six areas for 2005. This work plan was reviewed in August 2004 and the tasks for 2005 were revised.

1. Support and Information Transfer
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The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) was established to champion consensus responses of fish and wildlife managers to regional fish and wildlife issues. The CBFWA intends to continue to pursue the organization's core activities that are essential to fostering consensus through traditional methods as well as an enhanced interactive website.

Objective: Assist the fish and wildlife managers in developing consensus positions on regional fish and wildlife issues.

Strategy: Implement existing CBFWA core functions.

- *Task - Communicate with the members.
- *Task – Coordinate and facilitate various CBFWA committee/group activities.
- *Task – Advocate consensus positions of the membership.
- *Task – Provide technical support to membership.
- *Task – Support/facilitate tribal relations.
- *Task – Administer CBFWA contracts.
- *Task - Manage CBFWA staff.
- *Task – Maintain and operate CBFWA office.
- *Task – Maintain existing and enhance features of CBFWA website.

2. Funding Diversity

Although over 500 fish and wildlife projects are funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in an effort to implement the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NWPC) Fish and Wildlife Program (Program), other desirable projects are denied funding annually due to Program limitations and BPA breadth of responsibility. Consequently, the fish and wildlife resources of the region could be better protected and

managed if additional funding sources were used to implement activities not traditionally funded by the BPA. CBFWA operations are supported largely through BPA Program funds and consequently may not be stable.

Objective: Seek additional funding for CBFWA activities from sources other than BPA.

Strategy: Increase amount of contracts managed through CBFWF.

- *[Done] Task* – Prepare brief and concise summary of services CBFWF can offer to our Members and their constituents.
- *Task* – Inform Members of CBFWF’s contracting advantages through presentations to Members’ contracting staff and Tribal Councils.
- *Task* – Participate in community events, such as environmental workshops, and regional forums.
- *Task* – Promote CBFWA at meetings, such as those of the NPCC, CRITFC, UCUT, power and/or community meetings, when appropriate.
- *[Done] Task* – Incorporate project and budget databases into the CBFWA website.

Strategy: Submit proposals for alternative funding.

- *Task* – Examine web sites for grant opportunities.
- *Task* – Look for funding opportunities in the Environments Grant-making Foundation Handbook, and other sources.
- *Task* – Track Congressional appropriations for new funding opportunities.
- *Task* – Examine existing programs.
- *Task* – Meet with foundations and non-profits to provide information about CBFWA and its mission.
- *Task* - Coordinate with Members and staff to develop ideas.
- *Task* – Prepare and submit applications.

Objective: Coordinate funding opportunities for Members and regional project sponsors.

Strategy: Provide a central location for information on funding opportunities.

- *Task* – Maintain web page with links to funding opportunities.

3. Project Review and Management Decisions

Through CBFWA, all agencies and tribes with statutory responsibility for fish and wildlife management in the Columbia River Basin will provide a unified description of fish and wildlife needs and their implementation, at a regional scale. The description of needs would be accomplished through data compilation, analyses, and manager review at the provincial scale in a manner that supports comparisons between provinces among geographic (subbasin & province), species (anadromous/resident/wildlife), and functional (4 Hs) areas. This can serve as a basis for consensus recommendations on projects and budgets.

Objective: Develop a regional management plan for the fish and wildlife resources, expressing the fish and wildlife managers' position on importance, sequence and rate of implementation of activities to benefit the resource.

Strategy: Develop a Resource Status Report as a part of the Annual Report detailing the condition of fish and wildlife and its habitat in the Columbia River Basin.

- *Task* - Compile information from draft subbasin plans and other existing sources.
- *Task* – Summarize and evaluate the results.
- *Task* – Seek fish and wildlife manager approval of the report.

Strategy: Evaluate alternative approaches or strategies to improve condition of fish and wildlife and its habitat.

- *Task* – Compile relevant information.
- *Task* – Evaluate and discuss with fish and wildlife managers.
- *Task* – Seek managers' approval for report.

Strategy: Ensure coordination of management plan contents with other fish and wildlife processes, such as CSMEP/PNAMP, US v. Ore., subbasin planning, BiOp recovery planning, etc.

- *Task* – Pursue results from other processes.
- *Task* – Discuss results with fish and wildlife managers on regular basis.

Objective: Facilitate decision making towards providing unified positions on fish and wildlife project implementation.

Strategy: Evaluate fish and wildlife needs, Program measures, and projects within and among provinces from a regional standpoint.

- *Task* – Establish measures and analyses to evaluate the success of and identify the urgency of protective or restorative actions.
- **Task* – Engage in the subbasin planning efforts to include a regional perspective.
- **Task* – Provide an annual recommendation to the NWPCC and BPA regarding allocation of program funding and sequence of project implementation

Strategy: Communicate needs of fish and wildlife to a variety of audiences.

- *Task* – Submit comments and testimony to NPCC and BPA.
 - *Task* – Present results and conclusions to utilities, hunting/fishing groups and environmentalists.
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4. Develop and Adopt a Decision and Policy Framework

The development of effective regional policies is vital to achieve the CBFWA vision. Efforts should focus on defining decision processes and evaluating existing policies relative to the overall policy framework for fish and wildlife resources. CBFWA will continue to review policy modifications proposed by other entities and recommend improvements based on analyses. CBFWA will assist its members in clarifying and resolving policy disputes as requested.

Objective: Develop a decision and policy framework identifying existing policies and defining regional roles and processes for F&W decision-making.

Strategy: Define roles and processes for regional fish and wildlife decision-making.

- *Task* – Consult with F&W managers and others regarding existing processes.
- *Task* – Evaluate and recommend changes to Members, as appropriate.

Objective: Evaluate policies and decisions and provide comments to minimize future risks/problems, correct inadequacies, and eliminate voids in the existing framework.

Strategy: Compile and analyze existing fish and wildlife policies that represent the regional policy history, experience, tribal treaties, and other statutory obligations.

- *Task* - Facilitate collection, summarization, and categorization, and review policies that affect fish and wildlife.
- **Task* – Conduct analyses of past decisions and policies to aid learning and adaptive management.

Strategy: Develop and recommend responses to initiatives and issue new policy recommendations per the results of the analyses.

- *Task* – Conduct analyses to identify future risks and solutions.
- **Task* – Facilitate fish and wildlife manager development of responses and new policies and coordinate their presentation and dissemination.

Objective: Clarify and facilitate resolution of policy differences as they arise in developing the F&W management plan and the decision and policy framework (see #3 and #4 above).

Strategy: Support the development of consensus among the CBFWA Members on key issues:

- *Tasks* - Compile the available technical information on the issue.
- *Tasks* - Develop white papers, summaries, and other technical analyses to provide understanding of the technical aspects of the issue.
- *Tasks* - Convene workshops, meetings, seminars or other opportunities for members to learn about the issue, share understandings, etc.

- *Tasks* - Where necessary facilitate discussions leading to consensus. (Members may choose to use other forums for developing consensus, using the information provided by the process)

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

The success of mitigation and recovery efforts under the F&W Program and Biological Opinions will be assessed through regional monitoring and evaluation. The fish and wildlife managers have an integral role in the assessment activities. These activities include the evaluation of current projects and the coordination of state and tribal input to federal monitoring and evaluation plans and contribute to an assessment of the overall success of the Council's Program relative to attaining mitigation objectives.

Objective: To assess the success of the F&W Program's mitigation and recovery measures.

Strategy: Conduct reviews of current F&W projects.

- *Task* – Conduct workshops or symposia at which project sponsors present their results.
- *Task* – Compile and, with Member approval, publicize the results.

Strategy: Develop an annual report assessing how implementation of the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program is contributing to meeting fish and wildlife resource goals and objectives.

- *Task* - CBFWA staff will work with the MMG to develop an outline and assign work for the development of the report.
- **Task* – Maintain a data base of BPA expenditures and costs, including those associated with projects, reimbursed expenses, and foregone revenues.

Strategy: Support collaborative efforts to coordinate and review agency/tribal input to basinwide RM & E activities.

- **[Done]Task* - Work with BPA and others to reach agreement on a FY 2004 Work Plan and to assure that the plan is funded.
- **Task* - For each work product, form teams with the required expertise and agency participation.
- **Task* – Coordinate managers' input to basinwide RME process.

Strategy: To review current strategy and program assessment models to improve modeling and measurement techniques.

- *Task* – Work through existing processes, ensuring project level linkages and identifying common monitoring elements, to foster basinwide data management and reporting.

6. Public Relations

The fish and wildlife managers agree that by expanding communications, and providing more strategic information to a variety of audiences, there is an opportunity to improve relationships and garner support of their expertise to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife in the CRB. A cooperative effort through CBFWA, based on public outreach, can successfully affect regional decision making.

Objective: Develop outreach program throughout the Columbia River Basin that will foster public trust and support of fish and wildlife initiatives.

Strategy: Develop informational materials to support CBFWA and the wise management of fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin.

- *Task* – Develop materials detailing benefits of the CBFWA both to the individual members and to the region generally.
- *Task* – Work with F&W managers to develop information on the local benefits of harvestable fish and wildlife populations.

Strategy: Initiate efforts that encourage positive contact between communities and fish and wildlife managers.

- **Task* – Develop education packet (e.g. brochures, organizational background, bios, information pertaining to CBFWA website, etc.) for release to the media contacts.
- *Task* – Contact and develop relationships with groups representing hunters, fishers, conservation and environmental interests.
- *Task* – Develop reliable, trusting relationships with key representatives of the media.

Strategy: Assist CBFWA membership in their individual efforts to enhance public outreach.

- *Task* – Develop materials that member representatives can use to inform their policy-/decision-makers about CBFWA.
- *Task* - Develop speakers bureau and present topical discussions to communities.
- **Task* - Act as hosts, sponsors, volunteers, presenters, moderators at regional fish and wildlife events.

An “ * ” indicates those tasks that already being done by CBFWA.