

Policy Directive # 1: The Members of Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA Members) recognize the need to coordinate their policies and activities among co-managers in the Columbia River Basin for effective implementation of on-the-ground actions benefiting fish and wildlife and their habitats. Therefore, the Members direct CBFWA staff to facilitate technical and policy committees and workshops for Members to exchange perspectives and information related to policy, technical and scientific interests to support fish and wildlife management in the Columbia River Basin.

Forums: The CBFWA forums provide a unique opportunity for state, federal, and tribal fish and wildlife managers in the Columbia River Basin to collaboratively address regional issues related to the operation and mitigation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) and other important issues that affect their management efforts. The CBFWA Members will meet, and when appropriate, take consensus action on critical policy recommendations informed by technical committees and related to our mutual interests to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats in the Columbia River Basin. CBFWA committees include: Members Advisory Group (MAG), Anadromous Fish Advisory Committee (AFAC), Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC), Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC), Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC), Fish Screen Oversight Committee (FSOC), and ad-hoc committees established as necessary to address specific topics of common interest. CBFWA Members will also host workshops on specific issues as necessary or as requested.

Guiding Principles: The purpose of this coordination is to implement scientifically sound actions resulting in on-the-ground benefits for fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The Members commit to fully participate in scheduled meetings of the policy, technical, and scientific forums within CBFWA and provide each other an opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on individual or allied policies, programs and activities in which they have a mutual interest. The technical committees may conduct analyses or providing peer-reviews of analyses by CBFWA Members or by others whose intent is to inform policies or actions that affect fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Deliverables:

- 1) Consensus technical and policy recommendations from the fish and wildlife managers on issues related to protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the Columbia River Basin. Technical and policy recommendations will be developed through the chartered committees of CBFWA.
- 2) An updated CBFWA website supporting a Fish and Wildlife Directory, Fish and Wildlife Calendar, meeting agendas and related documents.
- 3) Foundation for equitable Members' participation in regional activities.

Policy Directive # 2: The Members of CBFWA recognize the efficiency of a shared central staff with policy and technical expertise to assist Members with issues related to fish and wildlife management in the Columbia River Basin. Therefore, the Members direct CBFWA staff to monitor and report on activities of key regional forums where policies, programs, and actions that affect fish and wildlife are planned and implemented. The Members may designate CBFWA to participate, communicate, or represent a consensus position by the Members in one or more of the forums.

Areas of Emphasis: Key regional forums may include, but not be limited to, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council), US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Columbia River Mitigation forums, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP), Washington Governor's Monitoring Forum, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and other relevant forums.

Guiding Principles: CBFWA staff will participate in these forums as assigned to keep the Members informed of activities affecting fish and wildlife resources in the Columbia River Basin. If explicitly agreed upon by the Members and according to the CBFWA charter, CBFWA staff may communicate or represent a consensus position by the Members. Individual Members may request assistance from CBFWA staff to formulate their position in these forums through the exchange of perspectives and information.

Deliverables:

- 1) Information updates and analyses for the CBFWA Members on current activities of various forums within the Columbia River Basin that may impact Members' interests.
- 2) Coordinated Member participation in the Council's 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program implementation.
- 3) Coordinated input from the agencies and Tribes to implement a basinwide fish and wildlife monitoring framework.

Policy Directive # 3: The Members of CBFWA recognize the need to report the integrated status of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the Columbia River Basin relative to goals and objectives defined by the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, the Basin's fish and wildlife managers, and others. The agencies and Tribes intend to consolidate this information to support multiple processes and programs affecting fish and wildlife. Therefore, the Members direct CBFWA staff to maintain a "Status of the Resources" (SOTR) website and annually prepare a written report summarizing the current information provided on the website.

Audience: The SOTR report will target, as its primary audience, persons and organizations responsible for policies, programs, and projects that affect Columbia Basin fish and wildlife and their habitats. Examples may include: federal, state, and local legislators and policy-makers, rate payers, government agencies and private businesses whose activities affect fish and wildlife and their habitats, local stakeholder groups and non-governmental organizations promoting business, environmental or fishing/hunting interests.

Guiding Principles: The SOTR report will complement, but not replace, reports by fish and wildlife managers and others in the region for other purposes. The Members of CBFWA commit to materially contribute to the development of the SOTR report, as necessary, to ensure its content is factually accurate and is useful in informing its audience about the general health of fish and wildlife and their habitats relative to restoration and enhancement goals. The report will also describe ongoing actions to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat.

Deliverables:

- 1) Up-to-date Status of the Resource website.
- 2) Annual Status of the Resource report.
- 3) Coordinated input from the agencies and Tribes to support the development and reporting of high level indicators (HLIs) for Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and performance indicators for the FCRPS Biological Opinions.
- 4) Coordinated recommendations for improving information flow for all data reported in the SOTR.

Position Statement regarding funding distribution in response to June 9 letter from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA): The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) Members recognize the importance of implementing the Policy Directives identified here and support the completion of the associated deliverables and tasks. The Members designate CBFWA staff to successfully carry out these tasks which necessitates a centrally located, competent, reliable and retainable staff with sufficient capacity and expertise in Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife issues. Staff activities will be based on annual work plans and other specific assignments related to the implementation of the Policy Directives. Therefore, adequate funding should be secured for a five to ten year period to coincide with the existing forums addressing priority fish and wildlife issues in the Columbia River Basin.

Historically, funding has been provided by BPA and through individual contributions from the Members specific to their responsibilities beyond the impacts of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). The Members expect this relationship to continue with adequate BPA funding to support coordination tasks and deliverables identified for each Policy Directive. Because the Kalispell and Spokane tribes chose to withdraw from membership in CBFWA, a single BPA contract for Columbia Basin fish and wildlife manager coordination is no longer practical. While the option of dividing the available funding equally among the 19 agencies and Tribes remains, it does not address the varying funding needs of individual fish and wildlife management entities that base their requests on specific work elements, objectives and tasks.

BPA, with Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) support, has limited available funding for fish and wildlife coordination specifically, to \$2.4 million plus an annual cost of living adjustment of 2.5%. This decision reflects a shift in the BPA funding process from establishing funding needs based on annually developed work statements to providing funding based on past program components and coordination dynamics.

Three alternatives for distributing coordination funding:

- 1) Historical - BPA contracts directly with CBFWF for CBFWA staff support and Member participation (travel, etc) in regional forums.
- 2) Distributed Funding Model - BPA contracts directly with CBFWA Members for coordination and participation. Members may then sub-contract with CBFWF to provide support for CBFWA staff. This would eliminate CBFWF contract with BPA and replace it with individual contracts to each Member
- 3) BPA contracts with CBFWF for CBFWA staff support only. BPA would develop individual contracts with CBFWA members for member participation (time and travel).