



# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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**Final**

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

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Colville 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 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:** November 18, 2009  
**TO:** Members Advisory Group  
**FROM:** Brian Lipscomb, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Final Action Notes for the November 16, 2009 MAG Teleconference

**Members Advisory Group (MAG) Teleconference**  
**Monday, November 16, 2009**  
**1:00-2:10 p.m. PST**  
**@ CBFWA Office Portland, OR**  
[MAG Webpage](#)

Final Action Notes

**Attendees:** CBFWA Chairman Elmer Ward, CTWS; Brian Lipscomb, Jann Eckman, Tom Iverson, Ken MacDonald, Neil Ward, Trina Gerlack, Patricia Burgess, CBFWA  
**Phone/WebEx:** Jason Kesling, BPT; Lynn DuCharme, CSKT; Paul Ward, YN; Charles Brushwood, CCT; Gary James, CTUIR; Alan Byrne, IDFG; Lance Hebdon, IDFG; Elizabeth Gaar, NOAA Fisheries; Tom Rien, ODFW; Doug Taki, SBT; Carol Perugini, SPT; Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS; Bill Tweit, WDFW

**Time Allocation:**  
Objective 1: Participation 100%  
Objective 2: Technical Review 0%  
Objective 3: Presentation 0%

**ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda**  
MAG Chairman Brad Houslet, CTWS, was not available to attend the meeting; the Members' Chair, Elmer Ward, CTWS, chaired the meeting on Brad's behalf.

**Action:** The MAG approved the draft agenda as presented. No objections.

**ITEM 2: Draft Action Notes from the October 19, 2009 and October 26, 2009 MAG Teleconferences**

**Action:** The MAG approved the draft action notes from the October 19, 2009 and October 26, 2009 MAG Teleconferences as final. No objections.

**ITEM 3: MAG Review of Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) Response to CBFWA Resident Fish Loss Methodology Recommendations**

**Background:** On October 13, 2009, the CBFWA received a [response from Steve Crow, Council Executive Director](#), regarding the [letter that CBFWA submitted to the Council](#) in which the Members recommended a method to assess the quantity of resident fish habitat inundated due to the construction and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). In the Council's letter, the CBFWA was informed that "the Council intends to develop a methodology in a public process that will include independent scientific review of what we assume will be various proposed methodologies." Steve Crow indicated that the Council's "Fish and Wildlife staff is working with Council members to determine our next steps in this process."

**Discussion:** Neil Ward stated that the Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC) anticipated that once the methodology was received by the Council, it would be reviewed by the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) and Independent Scientific

Review Panel (ISRP) and then be released for public review and comment. The Council's response was a simple statement of thanks and a vague reference to a public process during which the Council would consider the recommendation along with others received and would communicate the progress of that process.

Neil advised that the RFAC did not draft a follow-up response to the Council instead they drafted a [memo to the MAG](#) requesting the MAG's review and direction.

Rather than send another comment letter, the MAG suggested that Brian Lipscomb contact the Council to initiate a conversation to thoroughly assess the situation and inquire as to the Council's expectations and anticipated timeline. After speaking with the Council, Brian will report back to the RFAC at their meeting scheduled on December 15th.

CBFWA staff will provide follow-up to the MAG at the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. If the RFAC still feel a response is warranted after Brian's discussion with the Council, they will draft a recommended response for the MAG's review at the December MAG meeting.

**ITEM 4: MAG Review of Staff Prepared New Directive #1**

**Background: During the Executive Session on October 29, the CBFWA Members resolved by consensus: Policy Directive #1 and the description of associated forums, principles, deliverables and tasks need to be revised.**

The need for revisions is based upon the Members placing a high priority on improving the status of fish and wildlife resources in the Columbia Basin.

**The Members direct CBFWA staff to participate in and support ongoing assessments of:**

- 1) The status of the species, and
- 2) implementation of strategies and actions, in order to help determine if efforts are being successful.

Utilizing the technical expertise and information of its Members and staff, CBFWA can help hold the region accountable for achieving success in fish and wildlife management, including ensuring that responsible entities are adequately fulfilling their fish and wildlife mitigation obligations. This effort necessarily involves helping establish and apply the appropriate standards, measuring techniques and metrics to provide the status assessments. The CBFWA recommendations to the Council on the Fish and Wildlife Program should form the basis for implementing Policy Directive #1.

**The CBFWA staff is directed to draft revisions to the Forums, Guiding Principles, Deliverables and Tasks for Policy Direction Number One in order to conform to the new Policy Directive Number One language. The Members direct that an emphasis be placed on:**

- The importance of producing valuable deliverables, not just exchanging information;
- the avoidance of duplications and other inefficiencies in the forums;
- the making of sound technical foundations on key issues is a top priority when trying to achieve consensus on political and policy issues. Technical assessments of status, implementation and progress towards success are the top priority. Members can chose to make policy recommendations on any issue, and those recommendations

can be made by CBFWA with the consensus of Members, or by Members on an individual or group basis without “CBFWA” endorsement per se.

**Discussion:** Brian Lipscomb explained that at the Members work session on October 29<sup>th</sup>, CBFWA staff presented the three policy directives to the Members with targeted questions as to whether or not the tasks and deliverables contained within the policy objectives represented the essential coordination elements that all the Members needed. Brian advised that upon reviewing it from that perspective, the Members determined that Policy Directive #1 needed to be rewritten. The Members drafted their own executive session notes; the information contained in the MAG agenda under this item is an excerpt of those session notes. As stated in the session notes, the Members directed CBFWA staff to focus on the participation and support of assessment of status of the species, and implementation of strategies and actions, to help determine if efforts are being successful. The Members directed CBFWA staff to rewrite Directive #1 and bring it back for their consideration on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Brian provided an overview to the MAG on where CBFWA staff is with the rewrite of Directive #1. Brian explained that from the standpoint of an assessment, there's four essential pieces: 1) Identification and agreement of reporting matrices including the management questions answered by each, 2) the monitoring framework and strategies to assure data is collected in a coordinated manner, 3) the data management framework to assure data is available (when, who, how), and 4) an agreed upon assessment method (when, who, how). Brian added that the CBFWA amendment recommendations worked from this perspective.

Brian walked the MAG through a worksheet using Mid-Columbia Steelhead DPS as an example. The MAG provided some feedback for Brian but did not express any objections or heartburn to the overview Brian provided. As a result, Brian stated that although the work is not yet completed, he believes that CBFWA staff is on the right track from the standpoint of determining deliverables for assessment, what those deliverables should look like over time, and the conversation that will need to take place to lay out how to get the deliverables done.

Brian stated that he will be talking one-on-one with CBFWA Members and is scheduled to have a detailed conversation with Chairman Elmer Ward and Rob Walton, NOAA, this week. Following those conversations, CBFWA staff will finalize the assignment for the Members' review at their executive session scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

***Upcoming Meetings:***

**Members December Executive Planning Session:** Wed, Dec 2, 2009, 10am-3pm @ [Embassy Suites Portland-Airport](#) 7900 NE 82nd Avenue, Portland, OR

**MAG December Meeting:** Mon, Dec 21, 2009 1-4pm (via WebEx)

**Council Meeting(s):** Dec 8-9, 2009, Portland, OR, Jan 12-14, 2010, Portland, OR

***Meeting adjourned.***