



# 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

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:** March 3, 2010  
**TO:** Members Advisory Group  
**FROM:** Brian Lipscomb, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Final Action Notes for the February 22, 2010 MAG Teleconference

**Members Advisory Group (MAG) Teleconference**  
**Monday, February 22, 2010**  
**1:00pm-4:00 p.m. PST**  
**@ CBFWA Office Portland, OR**  
[MAG Webpage](#)

Final Action Notes

**Attendees:** Elizabeth Gaar, NOAA; Brian Lipscomb, Jann Eckman, Tom Iverson, Neil Ward, Patricia Burgess, CBFWA

**Phone/WebEx:** Phil Roger, CRITFC; Lynn DuCharme, CSKT; Brad Houslet, CTWS; Lance Hebdon, IDFG; Brian Marotz, MFWP; Dave Statler, NPT; Tom Rien, ODFW; Carol Perugini, SPT; Bill Tweit, WDFW; Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS; Chad Colter, USRT

**Time Allocation:**

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

**ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda**

Elizabeth Gaar, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), requested time for an update and brief discussion on Snake River Recovery Planning. Dave Statler, Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), requested an update on the consensus/signature process for transmitting the annual work plan (AWP) and budget.

**Action:** The MAG approved the draft agenda with additions as requested: the Snake River Recovery Planning update to follow Item 5 Work Plan Implementation and the update on the consensus/signature process for the AWP and budget to be discussed under Item 5 Work Plan Implementation. No objections.

**ITEM 2: Change of Officers**

Brad Houslet, CTWS, passed the MAG Chair gavel to Elizabeth Gaar, NOAA. Brian Lipscomb advised that the Member representative scheduled to rotate into the Vice-chair role this year is a member of the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT); however, the specific UCUT Tribal member to assume the Vice-chair role is yet to be confirmed. Brian stated that he has been in discussions with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT); however, since they are still in the process of approving the work plan, they are unable to confirm whether they would be willing to do the MAG Vice-chair duties for 2010.

**ITEM 3: 2010 Meeting Schedule**

Throughout 2009, at the request of Brad Houslet, the MAG met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday

of each month from 1-4pm, instead of the third Tuesday from 9am-12pm.

- Does the MAG want to maintain the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday afternoon schedule for 2010?

Chair Elizabeth Gaar proposed that the monthly MAG meetings be changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of each month from 1-4pm. Under this schedule the upcoming MAG meetings would fall on March 9<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Action:** The MAG moved to change the MAG teleconferences to the second Tuesday of each month. No objections.

**NOTE/Meeting Dates Reconsidered:** **At the end of the meeting, the MAG reconsidered the second Tuesday as that is also the same day as the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) meetings. To avoid possible conflicts for Members wishing to attend the Council meetings, the MAG decided that the best dates for the March and April MAG teleconference would be :**

**Tuesday, March 16, 2010 1-4pm**

**Tuesday, April 6, 2010 1-4pm**

**Chair Elizabeth Gaar stated that the meeting schedule for the remainder of 2010 will be determined at the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

**ITEM 4: Draft Action Notes from the December 16, 2009 MAG Meeting**

**Action:** The MAG approved the action notes from the December 16, 2009 MAG Meeting as final. No objections.

**ITEM 5: Work Plan Implementation**

**Update on the signatures/consensus for transmittal of the annual work plan (AWP) (requested by Dave Statler at the beginning of the meeting):** Brian Lipscomb advised that signatures have been received to date from Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTI), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Burns Paiute Tribe (BPT), Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (YN), and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Signatures are expected to be received from the NPT, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation (CSKT), and NOAA. The CCT anticipate the request to go before their Tribal council next week. Brian anticipates that the remaining signatures are in the works.

Brian confirmed that CBFWA staff met recently with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to review the work plan and budgets. Brian stated that BPA staff have worked with CBFWA staff to put everything into PISCES in draft form and have agreed to combine the two contracts into one work plan (AWP & Data Management) so CBFWA is in place and ready to move forward pending the final signatures on the transmittal. Brian stated that he has initiated conversations with Lance Hebdon, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and Tony Nigro, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), relative to contracting with their entities and he does not anticipate any problems in that regard.

**Work Plan Implementation:** Chair Elizabeth Gaar began the work plan implementation discussion by explaining that the Work Plan Implementation topic will be a regular agenda item on future MAG meetings. At each upcoming meeting, the MAG will review and update the status of each CBFWA Policy Directive with opportunities for next steps.

**Policy Directive 1: Assessment Timeline (Tom Iverson)**

- Review/Confirm timeline for the coordination/development of assessments

for anadromous fish, resident fish, and wildlife.

Tom Iverson walked the MAG through a draft [Assessment Timeline](#) presented for coordinating and developing the assessments. Tom began with the assessments for anadromous fish. Tom requested feedback from MAG members for proper context and description and verification on timing.

After considerable discussion, the MAG requested that CBFWA staff clarify the contents of the timeline by providing “sideboards” of the assessments to begin to define the work plan.

**Action:** The MAG directed CBFWA staff to create a 2-3 page “sideboards” document that clearly describes the how/what of anadromous assessments and then send that out for MAG review (no later than Monday, March 1) with comments requested back March 5 for final review and adoption at the March MAG meeting. No objections.

Tom Iverson provided a brief review of the resident fish and wildlife sections of the [Assessment Timeline](#).

**Action:** Based on the discussion held regarding the anadromous assessments, the MAG directed that the resident fish and wildlife committees also produce a “sideboards” document describing the how/what of resident fish and wildlife assessments and send the “sideboards” document out for MAG review and comment with intent for the MAG to do a final review and adoption at the March MAG meeting. No objections.

**Policy Directive 2: Status of the Resource (SOTR) (Neil Ward)**

- Update on recent edits.
- Timing of printed summary report.
- Presentation outline for April 20 Directors and Tribal Chairs meeting.

Brian Lipscomb stated that the SOTR report webpage has been developed over the last several months with updated information incorporated by subbasin and we are about to go live with the information for anadromous fish organized by ESU and DPS instead of subbasin.

Brian stated that in the last conversation with the Members they agreed that a summary of this SOTR report should be an integral and focal part of the April 20<sup>th</sup> Directors and Tribal chairs meeting.

Chair Elizabeth Gaar advised that NOAA would like to see a type of edit prompting population by the Members (e.g. distinguishing between hatchery and natural origin fish). Neil Ward explained that as he understands it, the edit NOAA is interested in is a modification to one of the pages, not a wholesale change to the document. Neil stated that a wholesale change at this point will delay the release.

Neil Ward explained that the information is continually being updated on the [SOTR website](#) and Neil reminded the MAG members that they have access to the SOTR website and report. (Access the [SOTR website](#) by selecting "**Status of the Resource**" from the top menu bar of the [CBFWA Home Page](#). To access the report, select "**Resources**" on the bottom left of your screen and a drop down menu will appear; select "**Printed Report.**")

Brian Lipscomb advised that CBFWA staff will email out the link to the report for MAG review. At the March teleconference, MAG members can provide any additional feedback relative to edits for next year. At that time we will contemplate the timeline and development of the edits, and possibly a draft presentation for initial MAG review with intent to finalize it at the April MAG teleconference for

the April 20<sup>th</sup> Directors and Tribal chairs meeting.

Chair Elizabeth Gaar stated that the Federal Caucus group is extremely interested in status reporting and that she will flag June as a potential meeting date with the Federal Caucus coordinator. Chair Gaar added that they may have a Federal Register notice out at that time calling for five year status reviews in the spirit of incoming new data.

**Policy Directive 3: Eyes and Ears (Brian Lipscomb & Tom Iverson)**

- Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council)
- Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP)
- Other

**Council Updates (see the [Council website](#) for review of the February Council agenda and accompanying documents):**

--Brian Lipscomb advised that the Council recently reviewed and approved several projects and one of note requiring some coordination is a project under the YN to do status and trend assessment for habitat work. This has implications relative to status and trends of habitat across the Basin so it may lead to more standardized methodologies. Brian will provide updates as this process continues.

--Brian advised that in follow-up from the monitoring framework workshops, the Council discussed basinwide tagging assessments. Brian added that Dave Ward, CBFWA, has been working with Jim Geiselman, BPA Environmental Engineer, and Jim Ruff, Council Manager, Mainstem Passage and River Operations, to assess the current tagging projects and efforts including PIT-tagging, coded wire tagging, and acoustic tagging. The intent is to try to realize an assessment of those tagging efforts and the development of a framework and strategy for what the tagging efforts inform relative to monitoring; then fill in the basinwide perspective to what is known as the Monitoring and Evaluation Research and Reporting (MERR) document, which is anticipated to be put out for public comment by the Council next month.

-- Brian advised that there was a lengthy conversation relative to the Hatchery Supplementation Review Group (HSRG) report. In addition, Rob Walton and Rob Jones, NOAA, provided a briefing on hatchery issues from NOAA's perspective. Brian noted that the Council was fairly sensitive to the fact that not everyone was going to embrace or actually implement the HSRG recommendations yet and that it was still being contemplated by many across the Basin.

-- Brian advised that Patty O'Toole, Council Program Implementation Manager, provided an update on the multi-year action plans (MYAP) and subbasin plans. Brian provided a summary of Patty's update stating that she has been working with an intern over the last several months developing an extensive database informing a set of MYAPs that are now being automated and placed on a website, analogous to the SOTR. As a result, Brian stated that he thought that CBFWA is quickly approaching the need for a conversation between the CBFWA Members and the Council and BPA relative to the role of TAURUS and the new website the Council is building. From a synchronization and coordination perspective, Brian added that he could see potential confusion if a coordination conversation doesn't occur. This might become a point of conversation that we could promote at the April 20 Directors and Tribal Chairs meeting.

Chair Elizabeth Gaar recommended follow-up on the MYAPs. Brian stated that he will request that Patty O'Toole and Tony Grover, Council Fish and Wildlife

Division Director, provide a presentation to the MAG at the March meeting.

-- Brian advised that he and Rob Walton, NOAA, provided an update to the full Council on the work plan which overall was very well received. The Council commended the Members in their efforts.

-- Brian advised that the Council announced that Bill Booth, Idaho Council Member, will be the chair for Fish and Wildlife Committee, Melinda Eden, Oregon Council Member, will continue as chair for the Power committee until they work through the finalization of the Power Plan, and Rhonda Whiting, Montana Council Member, will assume the chair of the Public Relations committee. These changes will be effective with the March Council meeting.

-- Brian stated that the Council adopted the [6<sup>th</sup> Northwest Power Plan](#) and that it is available online for review. Brian stated that at the March MAG meeting, he will provide an update regarding, as he understands it, the contemplation to establish a committee consisting of the agencies and Tribes, the Customer Groups, and BPA relative to operational uncertainties of the system to allow for better projections for power from the hydro power system and power from other sources.

**Wildlife Crediting Forum:** Tom Iverson advised that the Wildlife Crediting Forum is progressing and a presentation was provided to the Council on crediting and the Habitat Evaluation Project (HEP) methodology. Two meetings have taken place; there are nine scheduled for the year. Tom stated that it would be advantageous for the facilitator to get additional guidance from the participants on setting agendas, etc, and an email has been sent to Peter Paquet, Council Manager, Wildlife & Resident Fish, suggesting a Steering Committee to help the facilitator, similar to the anadromous fish workshops as it really helped to make the meetings more productive. The next Wildlife Crediting Forum meeting is set for March 17 and the Wildlife Advisory Committee meets March 16.

**Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP):** Tom advised that the data management leadership team that has been working on data management issues primarily related to the FCRPS BiOp is a subcommittee of PNAMP. BPA has approached that group to help them prioritize their data management funding (i.e., the 500K placeholder for the BiOp). Within that group there's been a lot of discussion about priorities. The group wants to get into setting standardized protocol requirements across the Basin helping BPA set some data reporting requirements for their contracting processes. We've tried to move that over into the anadromous fish workshops we are facilitating for assessments to build this into a larger conversation with the agencies and Tribes more heavily engaged.

Brian concluded the Item 5 discussion and updates advising that if there are any forums or activities that the MAG members are aware of that they would like CBFWA staff to establish a connection with to please send an email or call us and let us know. In addition, please let us know if there are any items you would like more information on and we'll schedule a presentation for your agency or Tribal government. Brian extended that invitation to the Upper Snake River Tribes (URST) and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) as well.

**Added Item: Snake River Recovery Planning Update**

Chair Elizabeth Gaar, NOAA, advised that NOAA is earnestly working on Snake River ESU's and DPS recovery plans. The management unit level is updating the Southeast Washington Snake River Salmon Recovery Board plan. In Idaho, the Idaho National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office has been coordinating with IDFG and to some degree with Tribal members and the Governor's office. In



Oregon, NOAA is working on the management unit plan with the help and coordination of the Grand Ronde watershed folks. NOAA will take these components and add a module summarizing an estuary recovery plan, a module summarizing hydro, and possibly a new module to explain NOAA's approach to hatcheries analyses to complete a Snake River level recovery plan.

NOAA is feeling their way along with regard to Snake River sockeye and fall chinook and will need to set up coordination and communication forums for the Snake Recovery Planning effort; not only in the roll-up but also in the development of the sockeye and chinook plan. There are a number of issues that the co-managers will want to communicate and work together on as we move forward. Mid November is the target date for having a product for some sort of review, which represents a fairly breathless, tough pace. Chair Gaar stated that she wanted to communicate this so the Members can take advantage of this opportunity. The co-managers will be asked to provide representation and participation in the roll-up level committee (i.e., roll up being ESU, DPS-wide) to help deliver this plan. Chair Gaar asked that the MAG members think about what type of participation and who they would like to have involved as we move forward. We would like to be identifying specific individuals representing specific entities within a month or so. Chair Gaar stated that she may put this on the March MAG agenda and provide a more formal overview.

**ITEM 6: CBFWA Charter Changes (Jann Eckman)**

Brian Lipscomb advised that the Members requested that the Charter amendments be clarified and provided as a recommended action at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. To accommodate their request, we will need to work through the changes with the MAG by the March meeting.

Brian cited the changes needed are with regard to the Members Executive Committee (MEC); Section III Objectives; and the PIT-tag Oversight Committee. In addition, with only two of the five members of the UCUTs remaining members of CBFWA at the moment, using UCUT as a way to organize and assure across-the-basin participation by the Tribes is probably not the most appropriate at this time. In the last couple years, the USRT organization was formed and needs to be recognized in the Charter. This may as simple as replacing UCUT with USRT and moving the CSKT to be grouped with the CCT and KTI. This would be a way to organize and assure participation and development of a quorum and seamless officer rotation.

With regard to the UCUTs, there are questions of whether or not coordination with UCUT needs to occur along with CRITFC and USRT. Brian stated that he frequently provides updates to the CRITFC and USRT Commission meetings. Brian stated that he has extended the same offer to UCUT for the past two years and they have declined without exception.

In order to facilitate the charter amendments, the MAG called for volunteer members for a subcommittee to work with CBFWA staff. Mark Bagdovitz volunteered. Anyone else wishing to volunteer was asked to contact Jann Eckman ([jann.eckman@cbfwa.org](mailto:jann.eckman@cbfwa.org)) & Brian Lipscomb ([brian.lipscomb@cbfwa.org](mailto:brian.lipscomb@cbfwa.org)) directly.

**ITEM 7: April 20, 2010 Directors and Tribal Chairs Meeting**

Brian Lipscomb reviewed an initial draft agenda and advised that the agenda will need to be distributed by April 6, after a final draft review at the March MAG

meeting.

The MAG members provided some feedback as follows:

Bill Tweit, WDFW, expressed concern about his Director being asked to approve the prior meeting notes. Bill stressed that the meeting content needs to be kept at a high level to ensure participation from a high level. Tom Rien, ODFW, echoed Bill's concern. Brian stated that he will consider some alternatives with regard to approval of the notes for discussion at the March MAG meeting.

Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS, stated that he thought that ODFW spoke up forcibly at the previous Members' meeting for executive session. Tom Rien, ODFW, confirmed ODFW's assertion.

"Discuss changes in 2010 CBFWA Work Plan, Direction, and Organization" listed under the Executive Session section should be changed to just a quick briefing on the work plan.

Brian stated that when he and Rob Walton, NOAA, provided their update at the February Council meeting, they extended an invitation to the Council Members to attend the meeting and it appeared that the Council members were in agreement to attend. Brian added that he will reach out to Greg Delwiche, BPA Vice-President for Environment, Fish & Wildlife, for his participation.

Brian asked MAG members to contact him with any additional edits that they would like to see to the agenda.

***Upcoming Meetings:***

See discussion under Item #3 above regarding the MAG 2010 meeting schedule.

**MAG March Teleconference:** Tues, March 16, 2010 1-4pm

**MAG April Teleconference:** Tues, April 6, 2010 1-4pm

**Directors/Tribal Chairs Meeting:** Tues, April 20, 2010 *Details Forthcoming*

**Council Meeting(s) 2010:** April 13-15 in Boise, ID & May 11-13 in Portland