



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 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

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

Upper Columbia United Tribes

DATE: December 10, 2010
TO: Members Advisory Group
FROM: Robert Walton, Members' Chair, Tom Iverson, CBFWA Staff
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the December 2, 2010 MAG Meeting

Members Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting
Thursday, December 2, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 11:30a.m. (Pacific)
@ CBFWA Office Portland, OR
[MAG Webpage](#)

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Christine Mallette, ODFW; Doug Taki, SBT; Tom Iverson, Dave Ward, Neil Ward, Binh Quan, CBFWA

Phone/WebEx: Robert Walton, Rob Jones, NOAA Fisheries; Jason Kesling, BPT; Lance Hebdon, IDFG; Dave Statler, NPT; Cristi Walker, SPT; Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS; Heather Ray, USRT

Time Allocation:

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

ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda

MAG Chair, Elizabeth Gaar, was not available to participate in the meeting. Members' Chair, Robert Walton, chaired on Elizabeth Gaar's behalf.

Action: The MAG approved the [agenda](#) with the modification to move Items 6 and 7 to follow Item 3. No objections.

Note: *The items are listed in the order discussed (Items 6&7 follow Item 3).*

ITEM 2: Draft Action Notes from the [August 12, 2010](#) MAG Teleconference

Action: The MAG approved the August 12, 2010 action notes as final. No objections.

ITEM 3: FY 2010 Member's Placeholder Request

The [Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation \(SPT\)](#) is requesting an additional \$4,000 in Members' travel funding to allow for their continued participation in regional coordination meetings, CBFWA meetings, and activities through the remainder of FY2010. The Members created a \$55,222 placeholder for Members' participation in the final 2010 CBFWA Work Plan and Budget. The funding for this request would be subtracted from the Members' placeholder.

Action: The MAG approved the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe request for an additional \$4,000 to be added to their FY 2010 budget. No objections.

ITEM 6: FY 2011 CBFWA Work Plan Status

Approval and signatures for the FY 2011 CBFWA Work Plan were due on November 15, 2010. Staff has received signatures from all but 5 Members. The Yakama Nation (YN), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation (CTWS), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have indicated no outstanding issues and advised that their signatures are in the process and should arrive soon. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) have abstained and indicated that they would be withdrawing from CBFWA on April 1, 2011. Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) is working on a budget issue related to charging overhead on their contract with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). It is likely that there will be an approximate \$16,000 impact on the CBFWA staff budget, which Tom Iverson indicated would not impact the ability of CBFWA staff to fulfill the 2011 Work Plan.

The [Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation](#) (SPT), [Burns Paiute Tribe](#) (BPT), and the [Shoshone-Bannock Tribes](#) (SBT), requested adjustments in their BPA funding allocation to ensure adequate funding for the Upper Snake River Tribes (USRT) organization in 2011. This resulted in a loss to the CBFWA budget of approximately \$66,000. CBFWA staff was able to compensate for this loss by removing the placeholder in the budget for an Executive Director and reducing some staff travel. It is anticipated that discussions over the next year will result in a new funding model and structure for regional coordination. At that time a source of funding for an Executive Director will be identified. The budget modifications requested by the USRT did not affect the ability of CBFWA staff and Members to complete the 2011 Work Plan as approved by the Members.

CBFWA staff will send the 2011 Work Plan and Budget to BPA on January 1, 2011, or once the remaining signatures have been received. The final budget request from BPA will be for \$1,189,834.

No action was necessary for this agenda item.

ITEM 7: FY 2012 Regional Coordination Discussion

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) RM&E Categorical Review process began last spring. Regional coordination projects were originally included in that review process; however, the CBFWA Members requested that regional coordination projects be removed from the process until they had more time to discuss a long term role and structure for regional coordination. The Council withheld regional coordination projects from review at that time anticipating review in November 2010. It now appears that review of those projects will begin in April 2011 with the review of data management projects.

One perspective is that it is unlikely that a status quo model of funding for CBFWA is going to last beyond 2011. WDFW and ODFW will be

withdrawing from CBFWA, leaving only 13 Members using their BPA regional coordination allocation to pay for the Status of the Resource Report and the coordination required for basinwide assessments. The decision to participate in CBFWA is now occurring at the highest level within the agencies and Tribes, and one question that is becoming difficult to answer is “why are agencies and Tribes that do not participate in regional coordination activities at CBFWA receiving a higher level of funding than those agencies and Tribes that participate in the consensus process managed through CBFWA?” The answer is that there has been confusion about the role of CBFWA staff versus the role of CBFWA Members in regional coordination. There has been a noticeable decrease in participation in regional coordination activities by non-CBFWA Members.

Lance Hebdon, IDFG, suggested that the MAG should work up a specific proposal for the long term role and funding for regional coordination for the Members consideration in February. Several agreed with this approach. It is clear that the CBFWA Charter will have to be modified to adjust to the withdrawal of WDFW and ODFW; therefore, we may consider other Charter changes at that time.

After further discussion, the group agreed that a small group of MAG representatives should develop a set of alternatives for the future role of coordination and funding that could be shopped with the CBFWA Members at the highest level. The goal of this effort would be to bring well defined decisions for the CBFWA Members to consider at their February meeting.

Rob Walton articulated three functions that make up regional coordination: 1) participation in the development and implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Program, 2) monitoring activities that affect fish and wildlife management in the Columbia River Basin (eyes and ears Policy Directive #3 in current work plan), and 3) data management and reporting of fish and wildlife information for the CRB (Policy Directives #1 and #2 plus data management).

Rob Walton and Elizabeth Gaar will take the lead in developing a few alternatives for the future role and funding of regional coordination, with the help of several MAG Members. Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS, Lance Hebdon, IDFG, Dave Statler, NPT, and Doug Taki, SBT, volunteered to help develop the scenarios and questions for the Members’ February meeting. Tom Iverson will help staff this effort.

ITEM 4:

FY 2010 CBFWA Work Plan Implementation Updates

POLICY DIRECTIVE 1: Participate in and support ongoing assessments.

NOTE: The CBFWA website has been revised to include links to each of the following regional assessment and monitoring strategies.

Coordinated Assessments Work Plan for Anadromous Fish Update:

The anadromous fish managers have been working towards development of priorities for data management projects that will be reviewed in the Council’s RM&E Categorical Review this spring. A workshop was held in

October to involve the field biologists in helping devise a strategy to develop priorities and adopt new business practices in how we manage and share key data. Three tasks resulted from the workshop: 1) develop a data exchange template for sharing three high level indicators, 2) develop data flow diagrams to demonstrate and understand how data is managed and shared for developing the three high level indicators, and 3) conduct a data sharing gaps, needs, and priorities survey to help set priorities for BPA funding and for individual agency and tribal investments in data management.

Data Exchange Template (DET) – The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), with BPA funding, is hiring temporary workers to assist the agencies and Tribes in implementing a data exchange template for representative anadromous fish populations they manage. This effort is the introduction and beginning of implementing new business practices for managing and sharing data within the agencies and Tribes. The DET effort will begin in January and the first iteration should be completed by June. The result of this effort will be a better understanding and consistent strategies within the agencies and Tribes for managing anadromous salmonid data.

Data Flow Diagrams – In conjunction with the completion of DETs, agencies and Tribes will be developing data flow diagrams to help map and understand how data “flows” from collection through reporting within high level indicators.

Gaps, Needs, and Priorities – In the next few months, a small group of managers are going to develop a survey for assessing the gaps, needs, and priorities of the agencies and Tribes for BPA funding for data management. This effort will rely on the work performed under the DET and data flow diagram activities, but the priorities need to feed the Council’s categorical review process that will likely begin in April. A pilot sub-region will be surveyed in January, with expansion of the effort to the rest of the basin in February. In March, all of these priorities will be combined into a basin-wide data sharing strategy that will help guide the Council’s efforts.

Update on Resident Fish Monitoring Strategies:

Through the Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC), resident fish managers and researchers have begun to develop monitoring and evaluation implementation strategies for the resident fish throughout the Columbia River Basin. Select white sturgeon projects were included in the RM&E and Artificial Production Categorical Review that started in June 2010, and as a result, the managers elected to focus their initial efforts on the development of white sturgeon implementation strategies. Those efforts began in March and resulting draft implementation strategies, for select management units, were submitted to the Council and the Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP) in August for use as additional context during the review of the project proposals. Several white sturgeon implementation strategies are currently being developed for use in the upcoming Resident

Fish Categorical Review that is scheduled to begin in early 2011.

With the Resident Fish Categorical Review scheduled to start in early 2011, several managers have expressed a desire to complete draft implementation strategies for other focal species for which proposals will be submitted for review. These managers have suggested that the additional context could prove useful to the Council and ISRP during the reviews. Subsequently, efforts are underway to complete implementation strategies for kokanee, redband/rainbow, bull trout, resident fish substitution fisheries, as well as several warm and cool water species. Despite having proposals that will be reviewed during the upcoming categorical review, some managers have elected to not prepare draft implementation strategies at this time. They have indicated that they would prefer to first observe the process of developing the pilot strategies, as well as waiting for the MERR Plan to become more fully developed and approved.

Update on Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy:

The Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC) has been working on a monitoring strategy for the past year. At their last meeting a draft framework was adopted for reporting high level indicators (HLI). The framework has three areas of indicators: 1) Wildlife Habitat or Vegetation Cover Type, 2) Wildlife Species, and 3) BPA land acquisition strategy monitoring (Habitat Units (HU) Ledger). The goal of this framework is that development and reporting of these HLIs should not require any additional monitoring on BPA funded wildlife areas. The data currently being collected and reported fit within the current vegetation types in the framework. We would rely on national databases for reporting on actual wildlife population indicators (i.e., Christmas bird counts). Tracking of the BPA HU ledger would help evaluate the implementation of the Program to address measured losses by the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). A regional wildlife data management/reporting project will be required to track and maintain the high level indicator data in order to make it available for annual reporting. The goal of the WAC is to identify the priority project needs and submit them through the review of data management projects in the Council's categorical review.

Update on Lamprey Monitoring Strategy:

The Lamprey Technical Workgroup (LTWG) met in October in Astoria. One focus of the meeting was to review and begin updating the "Critical Uncertainties" document first distributed in 2005. The LTWG recently completed a draft review paper on lamprey translocation, which will be forwarded to the Anadromous Fish Advisory Committee (AFAC) for review. The LTWG is also moving forward with development of technical recommendations for lamprey passage metrics and standards. The development of a Lamprey Monitoring Strategy, to eventually be included as part of the Council's MERR Plan, has also begun. The strategy will be based primarily on the Tribal Lamprey Restoration Plan and the USFWS' Lamprey Conservation Initiative.

Update on Fish Screening Oversight Committee:

The Fish Screening Oversight Committee (FSOC) recently hosted a workshop on fish passage in Yakima that was well attended. The FSOC is currently helping to facilitate revisions on National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) screening criteria to include horizontal, flat-plated screens, developed by the Farmers Conservation Alliance. The FSOC anticipates working on criteria for lamprey passage in the future.

POLICY DIRECTIVE 2: [Status of the Resources \(SOTR\)](#)

No updates were reported for the Status of the Resource project. Work continues in updating and improving the SOTR website. The Council is working on a High Level Indicator (HLI) report that is anticipated to be presented to the Fish and Wildlife Committee for their first review at the December 14-15 Council meeting. The Council is relying heavily on data from the SOTR for their report.

POLICY DIRECTIVE 3: Monitor Activities that Affect Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Management**Council RM&E and Artificial Production Categorical Review:**
(<http://www.nwcouncil.org/news/2010/11/6.pdf>)

The monitoring and hatchery projects began their review process in the spring of 2010. The sponsor responses to the initial ISRP report were due on November 15. The final ISRP report will be provided to Council on December 16 and the Council will be deliberating on funding decisions in January and February, with final recommendations to BPA in February and March.

It is anticipated that the RM&E categorical review for data management and regional coordination projects will begin in April with final recommendations expected sometime next Fall.

The Resident Fish and Blocked Area Categorical Review is also expected to begin this spring; although an exact schedule has not been released for that review at this time.

Wildlife Crediting Forum:

The [Wildlife Crediting Forum](#) continues to meet and is currently discussing a summary report of their conversations over the past year. Although the forum charter has expired, it is expected that the Council will extend the charter for six months in order to allow the forum participants to continue discussion of key issues and developing a summary document that captures those discussions.

A data base is being constructed from the forum's efforts that will help feed the Status of the Resource Report's reporting of wildlife activities for the Program. Data is being reviewed and confirmed at the parcel level to support analyses for the forum discussion issues. The resulting data base will become the best available information on BPA funded wildlife mitigation actions.

Council Multi-year Action Plans:

<http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/lf/background.htm>

On November 22, 2010 the Council requested input on their efforts to summarize and capture amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Program that were submitted in 2009. The Council has developed a data base that captured each of the recommended measures, strategies and limiting factors. The Council requests initial comments on these Multi-Year Action Plans by January 31, 2011.

Draft 2010 Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Annual Report to Congress <http://www.nwcouncil.org/library/2010/2010-12.htm>:

The Council has requested comments on their Draft 2010 Annual Report to Congress. CBFWA staff has not reviewed the document, except to highlight the inclusion of a wildlife section to the WAC for their review. Comments are due on the draft report by January 7, 2011.

BPA/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Update on 2014/2024 Columbia River Treaty Studies

<http://www.nwcouncil.org/news/2010/11/1.pdf>:

On November 9, 2010, the BPA and USACE presented an update of the Columbia River Treaty studies to date. The Phase 1 studies are complete and preparations for the Phase 2 studies are underway. There is a [website](#) that posts all of the current information for this review.

Tom Iverson asked the MAG Members to consider whether CBFWA staff should be directed to attend the Sovereign Policy Group meetings; currently CBFWA staff is not attending any meetings regarding this issue.

2012 BPA Rate Proceeding <http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/ratecase/2012/>:

BPA has formally initiated their 2012 Rate Proceeding. It appears that there will be an 8.5% increase in their wholesale rates primarily to support maintenance and refurbishment of facilities. The MAG requested that CBFWA staff find out what part of this increase in rates is due to fish and wildlife.

2010 Supplemental FCRPS Biological Opinion for Salmon and Steelhead:

The plaintiffs filed briefs on October 29, 2010 requesting that Judge Redden declare the supplemental BiOp illegal. The defense will file briefs on December 23 in response to those claims. It is expected that a hearing will be held early next year, but no hearings have been scheduled at this point.

ITEM 5:**Mitchell Act Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – Update (Rob Jones, NOAA)**

Rob Jones, NOAA Fisheries, provided a brief update of the status of the development of a draft EIS for Mitchell Act hatchery programs. Public comment is due on December 3, 2010. NOAA will review the comments and determine the next steps from there. NOAA hopes to move ahead with the NEPA process concurrently with ESA authorization process for

hatcheries. This will require a collaborative process that is far better than has been employed to date, and NOAA is committed to better coordination.

For more information, go to: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Harvest-Hatcheries/Hatcheries/MA-EIS.cfm>.

ITEM 8: Winter Member's Meeting

The MAG agreed that the Members' meeting should be held in February 2011. CBFWA staff will poll the Members for the best date. There was a suggestion that the meeting be held in Boise, since the incoming chair is from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe and IDFG is the likely candidate for being the next vice-chair.

Potential agenda items include: 1) FY2010/2011 Work plan updates and accomplishments, 2) explicit direction and decisions on regional coordination, 3) CBFWA charter revisions, and 4) Columbia River Treaty presentation and discussion.

It is important that the meeting attract the highest level policy participation possible.

Upcoming Meetings:

Northwest Power and Conservation Council Meeting(s) 2010: December 14-15, 2010 in Portland, Oregon