



# 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

Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

National Marine Fisheries Service

Nez Perce Tribe

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**Coordinating Agencies**

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

Upper Columbia United Tribes

DATE: July 18, 2011  
TO: Members Advisory Group (MAG)  
FROM: Jann Eckman, Interim Executive Director  
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the July 12, 2011 MAG Meeting

## Members Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

1:30pm-4:00pm (pacific)

@ CBFWA Office, Portland, OR

[MAG Webpage](#)

Final Action Notes

**Attendees:** Doug Taki, SBT; Elmer Ward, CTWS; Scott Soult, KTOI; Dave Statler, NPT; Mark Bagdovitz, USFWS; Mike Faler, USFWS; Jann Eckman, Tom Iverson, Neil Ward, Dave Ward, Binh Quan, Patricia Burgess, CBFWA

**Phone/WebEx:** Jason Kesling, BPT; Lynn DuCharme, CSKT; Brian Marotz, MFWP; Edmond Murrell, SPT

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

**ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda**

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

**ITEM 2: Draft Action Notes from the May 17, 2011 MAG Meeting**

**Action:** The MAG approved the [May 17, 2011 action notes as final](#). No objections.

**ITEM 3: FY 2010-2011 CBFWA Work Plan Implementation Updates**

*Policy Directive 1: Participate in and support ongoing assessments.*

At the last Members' meeting, Jim Unsworth, IDFG, Members' Vice-chair, requested that the technical committee chairs or a representative from each committee provide a brief status report of their achievements and products at the summer Members' meeting.

Tom Iverson explained that the intent of having informal updates for the MAG today is not only for the MAG to be informed about the committees' activities but also to review the information and give feedback to the committee chairs about what information is pertinent and how it should be framed for presenting to the Members. The MAG was asked to listen to the updates with that intention.

Mark Bagdovitz expanded on Tom's comments stating that the MAG needs to give the committee chairs specific direction relative to what information is appropriate for the Members. Mark suggested that the updates be focused on what the committee has done over the last year and what some of the major resource and policy issues are, but not with the intent of having the Members resolve the issues. Mark suggested that a MAG meeting be scheduled prior to the Members' meeting to allow ample opportunity to provide feedback.

It was agreed that it would be beneficial at the Members' meeting if the updates were prefaced with a statement that any policy issues expressed in the committee updates are still in discussion at the committee level and if needed the committees

will move them up to the MAG level for further discussion, and then, if necessary, to the Members at a later date. Given that the committees will be giving updates regarding work on the monitoring strategies, Tom Iverson will provide an overview of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Reporting (MERR) plan prior to the updates. This will provide the Members with an understanding of the MERR plan, how it relates to the work the committees are doing, and what the committees offer to the process.

**Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC)**: Scott Soult, KTI, advised that the WAC has been focusing on staying active in the NPCC Wildlife Crediting Forum (WCF) discussions and related WCF report, the NPCC MERR plan, and the Regional Habitat Evaluations Procedures (HEP) team. Currently, the WAC members are working on the MERR plan and monitoring implementation strategies for wildlife and are continuing to craft appropriate high level indicators (HLIs) for wildlife and how those can be reported on a basinwide scale. In addition, Scott stated that there has been some concern within the WAC about how BPA is interpreting the Regional HEP team. The WAC is recommending funding for a three year work plan for the Regional HEP team, clarifying the side boards in a new contract to allow for future data collection, build justification for work and provide some stability, determine the funding level necessary, and assess BPA management buy-in.

Tom Iverson added that the HEP FY12 contract is currently being negotiated at this time and they are building in three year projections. The HEP project will be reviewed in the upcoming Category Review under Data Management and will probably be linked with the wildlife monitoring strategy and the Northwest Habitat Institute's Interactive Biodiversity Information System (IBIS) project.

**Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)**: Mike Faler, USFWS, reported that the resident fish managers have been focusing on developing RME implementation strategies for the MERR Plan. Mike provided an overview of previous efforts as well as the three-phase approach and timeline that the resident fish managers are using to complete the strategies. Between March and August 2010, strategies for white sturgeon populations in Zone 6, Snake River reservoirs, and the Upper Columbia River (Lake Roosevelt) were completed and submitted to the NPCC with the request that they be provided to the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) for use during the RME Categorical Review. Following the white sturgeon effort, resident fish managers began to update the strategy template to better accommodate the other resident fish focal species. Between November 2010 and February 2011, resident fish managers throughout the Columbia River Basin collaborated to ensure the template included the appropriate metrics for each of the focal species. From February to present, resident fish managers in the Intermountain, Mountain Columbia, Middle Snake, and Upper Snake provinces have either completed or are in the process of completing the exercise with a goal of making the draft basin-and province-level RME implementation strategies available to the NPCC for use during the Resident Fish Categorical Review that will begin in September 2011. Overall, the draft implementation strategies will be completed for 9 focal species in 7 provinces and 19 subbasins by the end of August 2011.

Starting in November 2011, the resident fish managers will initiate Phase II, at which time the province-level information will be combined to create a basinwide plan. Mike indicated the anticipated completion date is March 2012.

Phase III, data management sharing and reporting, is tentatively scheduled to begin in April 2012 and conclude by December 2012.

**Lamprey Technical Work Group (LTWG)**: Dave Ward stated that over the last

year, the LTWG has been very active. The group finished a review paper: [\*Translocating Adult Pacific Lamprey within the Columbia River Basin: State of the Science\*](#) (reviewed by the MAG earlier this year). The paper has gone out as a report to the Region and the group is trying to get it into a journal publication in an abbreviated format.

The subgroup's work on passage metrics, and standards for those metrics, is continuing. It is a multi-year effort taking baby steps. The subgroup will continue to provide updates along the way.

The LTWG has revisited the 2005 critical uncertainties document and is in the process of preparing a progress report on how things have gone since 2005 in clearing up some critical uncertainties. Since it has been six years, the LTWG expects to put out an updated critical uncertainties document. The LTWG received a request from the ISRP to put together a synthesis report on all the existing lamprey projects. The ISRP's report was generally favorable to the lamprey projects but thought that there was a real need for all the projects to be aware of what each other are doing, what the overall results are, and what is known about limiting factors and status of lamprey. The ISRP felt that the LTWG was the group to do that. The LTWG is also working on the lamprey monitoring strategy portion of the MERR plan. In the last meeting, the LTWG endorsed putting something together and requested Brian McIlraith, CRITFC, Christina Luzier, USFWS, and Dave Ward prepare the monitoring strategy for their review.

**[Fish Screening Oversight Committee \(FSOC\)](#)** (FSOC): Dave Ward stated that the FSOC held a continuing education passage and screening workshop in Yakima, WA in September 2010. In addition, the FSOC held several meetings discussing and eventually endorsing the National Marine Fisheries Service criteria for horizontal screens. Dave stated that the work will continue with the horizontal screen criteria in the form of updates, etc., and attention will turn to the effects of screening on lamprey and resident fish. Dave advised that the US Geological Survey, Willard, WA, is in the beginning stages of a project involving effects of screens on lamprey.

Dave added that the FSOC will hold a [Pacific Northwest Fish Screen and Passage Workshop September 13-15, 2011 Centennial Center, Cle Elum, Washington.](#)

**Anadromous Fish Monitoring Strategy:** Dave Ward reported that the work on the Anadromous Fish Monitoring Strategy is continuing. They are currently putting a document together from the tables that came out of the Skamania workshops into some context. The document started off being 8 or so pages and is now a large 40 page how-to type document instead of a simple overarching document. Nancy Leonard, NPCC Fish, Wildlife and Ecosystem M&E Report Manager, is the lead with Dave working with her on edits to the document. Since it has been nearly two years since the Skamania workshops, they hope to get the document completed soon.

**Coordinated Assessments (CA) Work Plan for Anadromous Fish:** Tom Iverson began his update by explaining that the anadromous monitoring strategy has tied together all the monitoring projects for anadromous fish. There are five steps in achieving coordinated basinwide assessments: 1) identify the high level indicators (HLI's), 2) coordinate monitoring in each of the regions so information collected is relevant at that high level, 3) coordinated assessments, i.e., aligning all the monitoring and determining how much information is reporting up to the HLI - this is the step currently underway with salmon and steelhead, 4) start building data management systems to manage the information, and 5) reporting, which is yet to be defined.

Earlier this year, a team of data specialists was hired through StreamNet for five months to work at 11 locations with the three state and six tribal fisheries agencies in the Columbia River Basin to identify the availability of the VSP indicators, obtain the indicators and metrics where they are readily available, determine and diagram the flow of data within each agency for each population of fish, help to identify gaps and needs in the data management capacity for sharing these indicators, and assist the agencies in developing strategies for sharing the indicators as part of their routine business practices.

The participating agency and tribes were asked to develop Data Sharing Strategies to identify gaps and needs for data management necessary to support sharing the HLIs and supporting metrics, at the population scale, using a defined data exchange template (DET).

The CA Planning Group is currently combining the individual data sharing strategies into a unified Basin-wide Data Sharing Strategy that can be used to inform the NPCC's Data Management Category Review. It is hoped that the draft Basin-wide Data Sharing Strategy will be available for Members' review at the August meeting. A workshop is planned for September with the intent of gaining regional approval on the basinwide strategy for salmon and steelhead. Data management systems in the future will need to be prepared in a way to bring in the resident fish data.

***Policy Directive 2: [Status of the Resources \(SOTR\) Update](#)***

Neil Ward reported that the SOTR first quarter updates, and 2011 annual report, were released in June. The [2011 annual report](#) is available on the website and can be printed out directly from the website. Neil reported that the number of copies printed this year was much less than in previous years, however, an ample supply was printed and copies will be available to the Members at the August meeting.

Looking forward, the second quarter update will contain extensive updates to the wildlife section. The hatchery update is usually released in the second quarter but won't be released until the third quarter this year. Over the next quarter, CBFWA staff will start creating the external user forums to get input from other users of the SOTR.

***Policy Directive 3: Regional Activity***

Fish and Wildlife Program Implementation Update: *Eyes and Ears*

**Category Reviews:** Tom Iverson advised that the NPCC is just about to complete the RM&E categorical review. In April, they adopted the Category A projects, in June they approved the Category B projects, and on the agenda at the NPCC meeting scheduled for today, is the assessment of the ocean research projects, slated for approval in July.

The NPCC is launching the [Resident Fish and Blocked Areas](#) and [Program Coordination and Data Management](#) Category Reviews beginning September 1, with proposals due November 22, and ISPR review and NPCC decision anticipated by spring of 2012. They are shooting for 3-5 year project recommendations but that will depend on the type of project and the supporting information. FY12 will be a bridge funding year for data management, for regional coordination and for those resident fish blocked area projects.

**Subbasin Plan and Biological Objectives:** Tom Iverson reported that the NPCC staff is in the process of filtering through the existing assortment of Program and Subbasin Plan objectives to determine a structure that would create numerical measurable objectives within a specified time frame and build a framework of

objectives for the Program. Tom said that where that review will lead is currently not known but he anticipates that there will be workshops scheduled to discuss biological objectives for the Program. In addition, the NPCC staff is planning a retreat this month to think about gearing up for the next Program amendment process.

[Wildlife Crediting Forum](#) (WCF): Tom Iverson stated that the WCF is wrapping up. A final report and a data table of currently understood wildlife management areas, parcels acquired, and habitat units were released. With that release, we now have a common table that can be used on the SOTR website (by way of a hover feature, users will be able to see actual information i.e., acres, HUs, priority species, etc., when viewing the BPA funded management areas).

[2011 NPCC Report to Northwest Governors on BPA Expenditures](#): Tom Iverson stated that it was his understanding that the NPCC would be approving the final report at their meeting taking place today. As directed by the MAG subgroup, Tom sent out 3-5 bullet points to the MAG for their consideration toward individual comments. Tom was also instructed to submit some specific non-controversial comments relative to confusion in the text.

[Columbia River Treaty \(CRT\) 2014/2024 Review](#): There are two upcoming information sessions: July 20 at CRITFC and August 3 at the Portland Airport Sheraton. The discussions will be focused on ecosystem function alternatives/considerations being evaluated. Both sessions are open to the public. For more information, call Matt Rea, Treaty Review Program Manager for the Army Corps of Engineers at 503/808-4750 or Nancy Stephan, Treaty Review Program Manager for the Bonneville Power Administration at 503/230-5296.

Washington Governor, Chris Gregoire, appointed [Phil Rockefeller](#), (Senator, D-Bainbridge Island), to the NPCC, replacing Dick Wallace as Washington NPCC Member. His appointment is effective July 1 and continues through Jan. 15, 2014.

**ITEM 4: CBFWA Business**

Jann Eckman provided a spreadsheet detailing [Members' FY11 Expenditures to June 30, 2011](#). For FY10, Jann reported that the Members spent 85% of their funding allocation, which is the best historical rate of utilization.

**ITEM 5: FY 2012 and Beyond Work Plan Development Issues and Schedule**

**Background:**

At the March meeting in Boise, ID, the Members directed the MAG to begin to focus efforts on developing a FY 2012 and beyond work plan. CBFWA staff developed bullets that were briefly reviewed by the MAG at the April MAG meeting: *Assumptions and Considerations for Developing the FY12 and Beyond CBFWA Work Plan and Budget* (posted under April 19 MAG meeting). Several questions remained unanswered at that time.

After the April 20 meeting with BPA and the NPCC, CBFWA staff updated the draft briefing paper: [CBFWA FY2012 and Beyond Work Plan and Development](#). Tom Iverson reviewed the updated briefing paper with the MAG to prompt discussion regarding the best course of action to develop the work plan and budget.

At the May MAG meeting, Chairman Taki directed CBFWA staff to email MAG members and call for volunteers to revitalize and populate the MAG subgroup. The subgroup was tasked with completing the assignment, as directed by the Members in the March 2011 meeting in Boise, i.e., to develop the draft CBFWA five year work plan and review the staffing levels to complete the work (see Item 9: [Members March 20, 2011 Draft Action Notes](#)).

- Discussion:** **MAG Subgroup Update:** Tom Iverson reviewed a [memo](#) from CBFWA staff to the MAG regarding the status of the FY 12 and beyond work plan and budget detailing the following information: The MAG subgroup met on June 21, 2011 to discuss the CBFWA 2012 and beyond work plan and budget. CBFWA staff reviewed their expectations for work in the coming years and the implications on the CBFWA budget. The subgroup requested that CBFWA staff edit the 2011 CBFWA Work Plan and Budget for FY12 and beyond with the following modifications:
- Maintain the current Policy Directives for the next two years (FY12-13), with the expectation that those directives will be modified for the FY14 work plan.
  - Adjust the descriptions under Policy Directive #1 to reflect where along the spectrum of activity (five steps towards achieving basinwide assessments) each Monitoring Implementation Strategy will be at the conclusion of FY12 and FY13.
  - For Policy Directive #2 and #3, add a task for informing local and sub-regional planning groups (providing regional context for regional and sub-regional decision making).
  - Add to Policy Directive #3 an explicit task of monitoring and reporting the status of the Columbia River Treaty discussions.

Tom reviewed a [table](#) showing the expended Members' participation funding for FY2008, 2009, 2010, a 2011 planned budget, and a preliminary FY2012 budget. Tom was not able to speak to all Members prior to today's meeting so some values are assumptions that have not been confirmed by the individual Members.

The Idaho Department Fish and Game (IDFG) advised that they will retain all their funds for FY12. In view of that decision, it is likely that IDFG will withdraw their membership effective with the FY12 contract. With the withdrawal of IDFG funds, and the reduced contributions by other Members, the total funding to support the central staff is approximately \$180,000 less than what is currently needed to implement the current work plan.

Given this set of circumstances, CBFWA staff cannot draft the next version of CBFWA work plan without the Members' explicit input. Each CBFWA Member needs to seriously consider what coordinated functions they need to optimize their participation in the Program, designate a value toward that level of commitment, and bring this information to the Members' meeting table.

The MAG scheduled a subgroup meeting for July 28 to discuss funding options for FY12 and Beyond based on this new information. Tom Iverson will develop funding alternatives for the subgroup to discuss. A MAG meeting is scheduled for August 10 to review the funding alternatives and prepare for the Members' meeting.

**ITEM 6:** [August 24, 2011 Members' Meeting Draft Agenda & Meeting Logistics](#)

The Members' meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24, 2011, 9:00am-3:00pm, at the [Best Western Plus, Coeur d' Alene Inn](#), Coeur d' Alene, ID. Call 1-800-251-7829 for reservations (request "[Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife group block](#)" for the \$105.00 rate before the August 8, 2011 release date).

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**MAG Subgroup**, Thursday, July 28, 1-3:00pm, Portland  
**MAG**, Wednesday, August 10, 1:30-4:00pm, Portland  
**Northwest Power and Conservation Council** Meeting(s): August 9-10, Spokane, WA; September 13-14, Astoria, OR.