

**Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority**  
**Annual Work Plan Grant No. 00020620 - 26, Project No. 1989-062-01**  
**FY 2011 Annual Report**  
**April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012**

# **Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority**

## **Annual Work Plan**

### **Fiscal Year 2011**

### **Annual Report**

**April 13, 2012**

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*CBFWA will be the leading regional voice advocating for the fish and wildlife of the  
Columbia River Basin and the ecosystems on which they depend.*

*-CBFWA Mission*

## **Introduction**

The state and federal agencies and Indian Tribes of the Columbia River Basin are the legally recognized managers of the fish and wildlife resources, through federal and state statutes, treaties, and court actions.

In 1987 these federal and state agencies and Indian tribes with fish and wildlife management responsibilities in the Columbia River Basin joined together to form the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA). The purpose for the CBFWA was to provide a forum to coordinate their efforts to protect and enhance the fish and wildlife resources of the Columbia River Basin in the implementation of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) Fish and Wildlife Program (Program). By coordinating the fish and wildlife agencies and tribal activities regarding the various planning and implementation activities in the Program, CBFWA complements the consultation and coordination responsibilities of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the NPCC under the Northwest Power Act.

While originally consisting of all nineteen recognized fish and wildlife management agencies and tribes in the Columbia River Basin, the CBFWA membership was reduced to fourteen members during the 2011 contract period. The Kalispel Tribe and Spokane Tribe withdrew from CBFWA in 2005, and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Colville Tribe withdrew during the development of the 2010 CBFWA Work Plan. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife withdrew for the FY2011 contract period while the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribes joined CBFWA starting in 2011.

The CBFWA Membership during the FY2011 contract period included:

- 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 of Oregon
- Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation of Idaho
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

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The CBFWA operates under a consensus based charter approved by the Members (available at [http://www.cbfwa.org/committee\\_main.cfm](http://www.cbfwa.org/committee_main.cfm)). The Charter summarizes the principles, functions, structure, and outlines the organization's objectives:

1. Provide interagency fish and wildlife management coordination.
2. Provide a centralized, regional entity for Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program coordination.
3. Coordinate activities between CBFWA and the land and water management authorities of the Columbia River Basin.

The Charter also identifies the policy and technical level working groups that support its implementation. No communication is transmitted under CBFWA letterhead without full consensus approval by the membership.

The CBFWA "Members" are the state agency directors, federal agency regional directors and the chairs of tribal governing bodies or duly authorized representatives of such directors or chairs. The Members establish policy direction. The Members meet several times annually to discuss and reach consensus on issues of common concern facing the fish and wildlife managers in the Columbia River Basin. The Members direct the activities of the Executive Director, staff and its committees.

The Members Advisory Group (MAG) consists of senior managers active in Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife management. They assure that the policies and directives of the Members are carried out, provide guidance to the technical committees, and make recommendations for policy-level consideration.

The CBFWA has technical committees to provide technical analyses and recommendations to the Members or the MAG. The committees receive their assignments and receive oversight from the MAG.

The Executive Director manages the coordination of the policy, administrative, and technical activities while interacting with the NPCC and BPA to facilitate the implementation of the Members recommendations. The Executive Director oversees CBFWA staff.

### **FY2011 Work Plan**

In developing the FY2010 Work Plan, the CBFWA Members implemented a comprehensive review of the role and functions that the CBFWA organization can serve for the Columbia River Basin's fish and wildlife managers as well as others in the region. With the completion of the 2009 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, FCRPS Biological Opinions, 2008 Columbia River Fish Accords, and Endangered Species Act recovery plans, the members of CBFWA agreed that their coordination efforts should primarily focus on the implementation and evaluation components of adaptive management.

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To effectively implement this shift in focus and capitalize on the expertise and authorities of the fish and wildlife agencies and tribes, the Members adopted the following policy directives, committing each member's staff and directing CBFWA to:

1. Participate in and support ongoing assessments of the status of the species and implementation of strategies and actions to help determine if protection, mitigation, and enhancement efforts are successful in the Columbia River Basin;
2. Maintain a "Status of the Resources" (SOTR) website and annually prepare a written report summarizing the current information provided on the website; and,
3. Monitor and report on activities of key regional forums where policies, programs, and actions that affect fish and wildlife are planned and implemented.

These policy directives represented a significant change in how CBFWA does business and what work it accomplishes. With the shift in emphasis to the implementation and evaluation phase of adaptive management, the fish and wildlife agencies and tribes wanted to ensure that their decisions related to the Program are supported by the best available scientific information. Accordingly, they committed to assist in the development and implementation of monitoring frameworks for resident fish and wildlife, consistent with the framework recently developed for the Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring Strategy (ASMS). As these frameworks have been implemented, CBFWA is better positioned to make the necessary information for all species available through the Status of the Resource Project.

For contract year 2011 (April 2011 through March 2012), the CBFWA members carried forward the 2010 Policy Directives and continued to evaluate their implementation.

### **Summary of Activities for FY2011**

#### **Members:**

The Members continued to focus their efforts at the technical level forums. The Members reviewed the work and products of the technical committees and determined that the Policy Directives continued to be relevant and a priority. The Members met 7 times during the FY11 contract period, with an average attendance of 19 participants (Table 1), to review implementation of the Policy Directives by the technical committees, address internal policy issues, and to approve the FY12 CBFWA Work Plan.

The FY12 Work Plan will carry forward the Policy Directives as originally written; however, the Members significantly changed the CBFWA charter and the role that the technical committees will serve in the future. In August, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Confederated Tribes of the Salish and Kootenai, and Nez Perce Tribe notified the Members that they were considering withdrawing from CBFWA at the end of the contract year. The Members realized if that materialized, that the CBFWA budget would not be sufficient to support the technical committees in the future.

With the development of the FY2013-15 funding proposal, the Members were able to explore alternative models for providing the technical-level coordination that had been historically provided through CBFWA. After significant discussion, it was determined that the Foundation should be separated from the CBFWA in order to propose continuation of the technical level

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committee facilitation by Foundation staff, outside of the CBFWA umbrella. The goal is to invite all of the agencies and tribes back to the technical level committees for coordination and continue development of program evaluation tools.

The Members approved and adopted as final 'Project 1989-062-01: Program Coordination and Facilitation Services Provided through the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Foundation' and the 'Draft Synopsis of Lamprey-related Projects Funded through the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.' Both documents were submitted to the NPCC for their review.

The CBFWA Membership for FY 2012 will consist of 10 members; although, non-CBFWA members continue to participate at most CBFWA meetings.

**Members Advisory Group:**

The MAG represents CBFWA members' senior-level fish and wildlife managers. The MAG held 10 meetings during this contract period with an average attendance of 16 member and non-member participants (Table 1). The MAG directed the committees on implementation of the Policy Directives, and reviewed the committee-level work as necessary. The MAG started the contract period with a meeting between BPA staff, NPCC members, and NPCC staff to coordinate the CBFWA efforts over the course of the ensuing year. The MAG also balanced participation funding needs among the members, including an attempted Budget Oversight Group budget modification request to meet potential budget shortfalls. The BPA advised how the CBFWA contract line items could be adaptively managed; subsequently, a BOG amendment was not required.

The MAG re-created a subgroup to address the future coordination needs of CBFWA and to provide guidance to Foundation staff for preparing their 2013-2015 funding request. The subgroup recommended dividing the coordination work into seven separate proposals (Status of the Resources Report, Anadromous Fish Work Group, Lamprey Technical Work Group, Fish Screen Oversight Committee, Resident Fish Work Group, Wildlife Work Group, and CBFWA). The MAG reviewed the associated budget estimates for each objective and approved Foundation staff submitting the proposal to the NPCC for review.

The MAG reviewed the work of the technical committees and approved the Draft Synopsis of Lamprey-related Projects Funded through the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program for Members review and approval. The MAG also reviewed and approved the SOTR Survey.

The most significant work from the MAG during this contract period was the restructuring of CBFWA and the Foundation through modifications to the CBFWA Charter. The CBFWA charter was redrafted to remove the technical committees and restructure the linkage between the CBFWA membership and the Foundation staff. These changes were made to support the Foundation proposal submitted for NPCC and BPA consideration for FY2013-2015 funding.

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**POLICY DIRECTIVE #1**

*...participate in and support ongoing assessments...*

**Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring Strategy Development:**

Through the ASMS, the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Action Agencies and fishery co-managers have agreed to the necessary monitoring to provide data to answer key management questions related to Viable Salmon Population (VSP) parameters and began the discussion for key habitat and hatchery effectiveness assessments. The anadromous fish managers, in partnership with CBFWA and PNAMP, began the next step to identify gaps in data management and sharing capacities currently limiting the efficiency and effectiveness of data reporting, and establish strategies to close these gaps.

The Coordinated Assessments workgroup met 23 times at CBFWA, and an additional 17 times offsite with an average attendance of 13 participants. The work group continued its progress towards a data exchange network. The workgroup developed a systematic approach for sharing data to support ongoing, consistent assessments of anadromous fish in the Columbia River Basin. The work group approved the Columbia River Basin Collaborative Data Sharing Strategy for Salmon and Steelhead Population Abundance and Productivity Indicators. The strategy was submitted as context to the ISRP for review of data management projects in the NPCC's categorical review. The workgroup is now working on a common data exchange template for sharing data consistent with the final Strategy.

**Anadromous Fish Advisory Committee:**

The Anadromous Fish Advisory Committee (AFAC) did not meet during this contract period. The AFAC members participated extensively in the Coordinated Assessments Project and Lamprey Technical Work Group (LTWG). Members did not identify any impending issues that required convening the AFAC.

The Columbia River Basin LTWG, a subcommittee of the AFAC, met 8 times, with an average attendance of 12 members and non-members (Table 1). The LTWG completed a draft overview of lamprey translocation in the Columbia River Basin titled *Translocating Adult Pacific Lamprey within the Columbia River Basin: State of the Science*. The draft was reviewed and approved as final by CBFWA Members and submitted for publication in *Fisheries*. The LTWG also completed Phase II of drafting lamprey passage metrics, which consisted of determining which of the previously identified passage metrics are measurable with scientific rigor and quantify effects of the biological relevance. The LTWG began the third phase in this effort to develop and recommend basin-wide passage standards or objectives for metrics deemed as measurable and biologically relevant in Phase II.

The LTWG revisited the 2005 Critical Uncertainties Document. After reorganizing and simplifying the original document, the work group assessed progress recent and began development of a progress report. A request by the Independent Science Review Panel interrupted some of this work and the LTWG developed a Synopsis of Lamprey-Related Projects Funded through the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program which was submitted to the NPCC in March 2012.

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**Resident Fish Advisory Committee:**

The Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC) convened 3 meetings with an average attendance of 10 members and non-members (Table 1). However, CBFWA staff co-facilitated several meetings of resident fish focus work groups to support development of resident fish monitoring strategies that support the NPCC's draft MERR Plan. The efforts of the resident fish managers were focused on participating in regional processes to establish and apply appropriate standards, measuring techniques and metrics to provide consistent status assessments across the Columbia River Basin.

The resident fish managers completed their individual implementation strategies and submitted them to the NPCC for review. Strategies were completed for: 1) white sturgeon in the Columbia River Gorge, Snake Lower, Snake Lower Middle, Snake Middle, Upper Columbia, and Kootenai subbasins; 2) largemouth bass in the Pend Oreille subbasin; 3) freshwater mussels in the Upper Columbia subbasin; 4) bull trout in the Deschutes, Pend Oreille, Malheur, Flathead, and Kootenai subbasins; and 5) kokanee in the Banks Lake, Pend Oreille, Sanpoil, Spokane, Upper Columbia, Kootenai, and Clearwater subbasins. The resident fish managers also began a conversation on how to provide coordination in the future without CBFWA sponsored technical committees.

**Wildlife Advisory Committee:**

The Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC) held 12 meetings with an average attendance of 12 members and non-members (Table 1). The primary focus of the WAC was to develop an initial draft Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy. The strategy was completed and submitted to the ISRP as context for the NPCC's data management categorical review. The WAC provided support to members for their participation in, and completion of, a final Wildlife Crediting Forum Report. The WAC also worked closely with BPA to develop the Mitigation Lands Management Plan template.

The WAC provided oversight and coordination for the Regional Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP) Team. The group developed a three-year work plan, clarified side-boards on the BPA contract, identified future HEP data collection needs, and provided estimates for out-year funding levels.

**Fish Screening Oversight Committee:**

The Fish Screening Oversight Committee (FSOC) held 5 meetings with an average attendance of 12 members and non-members (Table 1). The FSOC (1) worked with the Farmer's Conservation Alliance (FCA) and NMFS to develop and approve criteria for horizontal screens such as those designed and placed by the FCA; (2) reviewed and endorsed the NMFS criteria for horizontal screens; and (3) sponsored the 2011 Pacific Northwest Fish Screen and Passage Workshop in Cle Elum, Washington.

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**POLICY DIRECTIVE #2**

*...maintain a "Status of the Resources" (SOTR) website and report...*

**Status of the Resources Project (SOTR):**

Through the SOTR, the CBFWA continued to improve accountability for regional fish and wildlife restoration efforts and provide an essential tool for adaptive management by: 1) providing a report to resource managers and rate payers around the basin; 2) interacting with fish and wildlife managers and regional data managers to increase collections of historic data sets not yet available via the Internet; and, 3) merging and loading data into the database for access via the website. We continued to develop, based on user input, the publicly accessible CBFWA SOTR website ([www.cbfwa.org/sotr](http://www.cbfwa.org/sotr)) which allows interactive selection of data from an integrated subset of historical and current fishery, environmental, and project information important to tracking the status of fish and wildlife populations, relative to existing biological objectives, in all subbasins. Data is presented in user-selected formats including graphics and data tables. The website service is functional on a year-round basis with information being updated quarterly.

The SOTR websites received 9,539 hits during this contract period.

**CBFWA Website:**

In addition to the collaborative effort in developing the SOTR website, the CBFWA website contains information pertaining to the NPCC's Program, historic project activities, project reviews and recommendations. All meeting agendas, action notes, and reference materials for CBFWA's committees are posted on the committee pages at [www.cbfwa.org](http://www.cbfwa.org). The CBFWA maintains an extensive fish and wildlife directory, a calendar of fish and wildlife meetings, conferences, a list of current fish and wildlife jobs, and historical proposal data for the Program from 1996 to 2009.

The CBFWA website currently houses websites for Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring Strategies, Lamprey Monitoring Strategies, Resident Fish Monitoring Strategies, and Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy (<http://www.cbfwa.org/MSMain.cfm>). In addition, the website maintains the BPA Project Archive website (BOG, Project Solicitation 07-09, Budget Tracking, Review Cycles) at <http://www.cbfwa.org/SVArchive.cfm>.

The CBFWA website received 24,871 hits during this contract period.

**POLICY DIRECTIVE #3**

*...monitor and report on activities of key regional forums...*

**Other Regional Meetings:**

CBFWA Members and staff participated in over 105 meetings of other key regional forums including: NPCC, PNAMP, StreamNet Steering Committee, BOG, Wildlife Crediting Forum, USFWS Lamprey Conservation Initiative Steering Group, and others (see Table 1).



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Table 1. Summary of meeting attendance related to the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority Annual Work Plan.

Meetings	Participants	# of Mtgs	Attendance Average #	Non-Members in Attendance	CBFWA Members in Attendance
Members (MBRS)	136	7	19	10	126
Members Advisory Group (MAG)	160	10	16	3	157
MAG Subgroup	21	3	7		21
Anadromous Fish Advisory Committee (AFAC)		0			
Lamprey Technical Work Group (LTWG)	94	8	12	58	36
Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC) - White Sturgeon	29	3	10	19	10
Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC)	138	12	12	47	91
Fish Screening Oversight Committee (FSOC)	58	5	12	28	30
Coordinated Assessments Work Group	288	23	13	179	109
Status of the Resources (SOTR)	6	1	6	3	3
Miscellaneous Meetings	13	3	4	5	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>13</b>		
CBFWA Website hits	<b>24,871</b>				
SOTR Website hits	<b>9,539</b>				
<b>Attendance at other Key Regional Forums</b>	<b># of meetings</b>				
	<b>1st Quarter</b>	<b>2nd Quarter</b>	<b>3rd Quarter</b>	<b>4th Quarter</b>	
AFS 141st Annual Meeting Seattle WA		3			
AFS Annual Meeting Wyoming Colorado				1	
AFS Meeting Oregon				2	
BPA PIT Plan Work Session		1			
Budget Oversight Group (BOG)	1	2	3	2	
Burns Paiute Tribe Meeting	1				
CHaMP Workshop			1		
Columbia River Treaty Meeting		1			
Coordinated Assessments (PNAMP, StreamNet and NOAA) <i>These meetings are in addition to CA Work Group meetings listed above.</i>	9	5	3	0	
FCRPS BiOp Hearing in Federal Court Portland OR	1				
Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC)	1				
Fish Passage Center Oversight Board - NPCC Portland OR		2		1	
Federal Caucus Meeting			1		
Future of Our Salmon Conference CRITFC Portland OR	2				
Habitat Data Sharing (PNAMP)	2	3	6	8	
Intermountain Province Site Visits		1			
Kootenai White Sturgeon Recovery Team Meeting Spokane WA		1			
Northern Idaho Wildlife Managers Meeting	1				
Northwest Wind Energy & Wildlife Workshop - BPA Portland OR	1				
NPCC Meetings (including F&W Committee)	6	5	3	4	
NPCC Taurus cbfish.org Proposal Form Training and project presentations			2	2	
Pacific NW Fish Screen & Passage Workshop Cle Elum, WA		1			
PNAMP Steering Committee Meeting and DMLT	1	2	2	1	
PNAMP ISTM and Effectiveness Monitoring				2	
StreamNet Steering Committee Meeting	1	1		1	
USFWS Lamprey Identification Workshop		1			
USFWS Resident Fish Managers Meeting				2	
Wildlife Crediting Forum (and subcommittees)	2				
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>105</b>

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