

Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority
Presentation to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council
February 10, 2010

What did the Members of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) complete?

- A comprehensive review of the role and functions of Members and staff;
- Five year planning horizon with a one year budget and workplan;
- Significant change in type of work, shifting from planning to implementation and assessment; and,
- Right sized the organization to perform the work, making appropriate adjustments to staffing and member effort.

Why the change at CBFWA?

- 1) The region has recently completed several significant planning efforts in the Columbia River Basin:
 - The need for coordination among the agencies and Tribes has shifted to implementation and evaluation;
 - The co-managers want to utilize their expertise to establish cohesive assessments for use in evaluating the effectiveness of action implementation; and,
 - Providing information through the Status of the Resource Report has become a priority for the agencies and Tribes.
- 2) Regional coordination efforts through CBFWA will now emphasize implementation and evaluation components of adaptive management:
 - Of course adequate resources must be provided to implement these plans;
 - However, the Members recognize the role CBFWA can play in delivering useful technical, science-based products to assess the focal species and strategies to mitigate, restore, and enhance them;
 - CBFWA's role will include participation in regional efforts to establish and apply appropriate standards, measuring techniques and metrics to provide consistent, repeatable status assessments at the regional scale;
 - Facilitation and coordination of status assessments of species, strategies, and actions necessary to reach success; and,
 - Avoid inefficiencies and duplication of effort.
- 3) CBFWA will continue planning efforts related to resident fish and wildlife:
 - Participate in development of Resident Fish Loss Assessment protocols and implementation; and,
 - Participate in development of Wildlife Operational Loss Assessment protocols and implementation.

How will CBFWA implement its new direction?

To implement our role in effective adaptive management in the Columbia River Basin, the Members of CBFWA, at the Director and Tribal Council level, are guiding the work through the following Policy Directives:

- 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;
- maintain a “Status of the Resources” (SOTR) website and annually prepare a written report summarizing the current information provided on the website; and,
- monitor and report on activities of key regional forums where policies, programs, and actions that affect fish and wildlife are planned and implemented.

What will be accomplished under the new work plan?

- CBFWA will annually report the status and trends of anadromous and resident fish in the CRB for each population and provide roll-up summaries on the Status of the Resource website;
- CBFWA will report the wildlife monitoring defined framework elements and progress towards meeting the wildlife goals of the Fish and Wildlife Program;
- CBFWA will annually report the FCRPS project configuration modifications and operations applicable to the FCRPS Biological Opinions and the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program on the Status of the Resource website;
- CBFWA will develop and submit, to the NPCC, methodologies to quantify construction and inundation impacts and operational impacts, due to the FCRPS, for native resident fish and their habitat;
- CBFWA staff and Members will provide an up-to-date Status of the Resource website;
- CBFWA staff will develop an annual Status of the Resource Report; and,
- CBFWA staff will provide information updates and analyses for the CBFWA Members on current activities of various forums within the Columbia River Basin.

Are the CBFWA members done evaluating CBFWA’s role in regional coordination?

- The CBFWA workplan is designed to be revisited every year, with six month check-ins;
- The agencies and Tribes will assess implementation of the CBFWA workplan and evaluate metrics for success; and
- Adjustments will be made each year to ensure priority work is being addressed and the CBFWA organization remains right-sized.