



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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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 government agencies:

Burns Paiute Tribe

Coeur d'Alene 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 Department of 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

DATE: October 18, 2007
TO: Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)
FROM: Mike Faler (Chair)
SUBJECT: Action Notes for the October 11, 2007, RFAC Meeting

Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC) Meeting October 11, 2007 Portland, OR

Final Action Notes Approved on 11/6/07

Attendees: Joe Maroney (KT), Sheri Sears (CCT), Lawrence Schwabe (BPT), Christine Mallette (ODFW), Mike Faler (USFWS), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

Phone: Tom Rien (ODFW)

Time Allocation:	Objective 1. Committee Participation	100%
	Objective 2. Technical Review	0%
	Objective 3. Presentation	0%

ITEM 1: Review Agenda

Three new items (i.e., Item 3 - Critical Project Funding Needs, Item 9 - Lake Roosevelt Forum Conference Update, and Item 10 - StreamNet Update) were added to the agenda.

ITEM 2: Approve May 15, 2007 and July 31, 2007, RFAC Meeting Action Notes

Action: The Action Notes were approved with no modifications.

ITEM 3: Critical Project Funding Needs – Update

Tom Iverson provided an update regarding the Members Advisory Group's (MAG) request of the CBFWA staff to analyze the available funding for FY 2008-2009 to determine funding recommendations for data management projects within the context of other critical program needs. Tom indicated that this assessment will inform the MAG as they develop recommendations to the Members regarding pilot projects to initiate to implement the Data Management Strategy and inform MAG recommendations to the Members regarding the other outstanding budget allocation decisions for FY07-09.

To perform this analysis, Tom indicated that input from each CBFWA member, with outstanding critical project funding needs for work proposed during the FY07-09 Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funding cycle, will be essential. Tom requested the RFAC members to review attached spreadsheet and to provide comments to tom.iverson@cbfwa.org by Friday, October 19, 2007.

ITEM 4: Election of a New Vice Chair

On October 1, 2007, Mike Faler became the Chair of the RFAC thus, leaving the Vice Chair vacant. As a result, the RFAC sought volunteers for the Vice Chair position.

Action: Sheri Sears was selected as the new Vice Chair.

ITEM 5: Independent Scientific Advisory Board's (ISAB) "Non-native Species Impacts on Native Salmonids and Guidelines for Use of Non-native Fishes in Resident Fish Substitution Projects Review"

In June 2007, the Northwest Power Planning Council (NPCC) endorsed the ISAB's proposal to conduct a review with the following tasks and objectives:

- Review and describe biological impacts and risks to native salmonid populations from non-intentionally and intentionally introduced species
- Review and describe the current status of management actions taken towards reducing or eliminating such impacts (e.g., brook trout and lake trout eradication efforts)
- Recommend strategies for protecting against or eliminating invasive species
- Recommend scientific guidelines for using resident fish substitutions

The ISAB intends to initiate this review as soon as possible in order to submit the report no later than Fall 2007, to inform the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's program amendment process. Neil Ward provided the RFAC with an update and discussed a CBFWA coordinated meeting with the ISAB to discuss the native and non-native resident fish substitution program, the state of ecosystems to support native and non-native fish populations, the role of resident fish habitat work, and efforts to manage predation by non-natives and inter-breeding with non-natives throughout the entire Columbia River Basin. Unfortunately, the NPCC could not provide an update regarding the outstanding questions for which the ISAB is still seeking answers; however, NPCC staff has indicated that those questions would be available on Tuesday, October 16, 2007.

Action: The RFAC recommended that until a list of questions is available, the RFAC should not commit to participating in the October 26, 2007, ISAB meeting. The RFAC directed Neil Ward to obtain the list of questions from the NPCC and to forward them to the RFAC at which point the RFAC would decide who should participate in the meeting.

ITEM 6: Amendment Strategy Workshop-Update

Neil Ward provided an update regarding the amendment workshop that was to be convened in Polson, MT, September 17, 2007. Topics discussed included: 1.) resident fish loss assessments, 4.) amendment measure and strategy templates and 3.) formula development for equating resident fish to lost anadromous fish. Neil indicated that the completion date for the resident fish loss assessments and amendment measure and strategy templates is November 30, 2007. In addition, Neil indicated that the MAG accepted the RFAC's recommendation that a formula could not be developed based on the inability to assign values to variables such as cultural losses.

ITEM 7: Resident Fish Loss Assessment and Fish Crediting

During the July RFAC meeting, Brian Marotz described the process that the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP) used to develop resident fish loss statements as well their fish crediting procedure that allows the agency to utilize capital funding to protect resident fish habitat. The RFAC decided to use the MFWP's procedures as a foundation from which the committee would develop a loss assessment process that would be submitted for consideration during the NPCC's amendment process. The RFAC continued to discuss and further develop the procedure.

Action: The RFAC approved the following procedure for assessing lost resident fish habitat due to inundation resulting from the operations of hydro-facilities.

1. Identify the number of surface hectares, at the high-water mark, of mainstem river lost to inundation by the creation of a reservoir.
2. Identify the number of surface hectares, at the high-water mark, of tributary stream habitat lost to inundation.
3. Identify the length of stream blocked by road construction around a reservoir.

The RFAC recommended providing a resident fish loss assessment presentation to the MAG during the November 20, 2007, MAG meeting.

ITEM 8: Amendment Measure and Strategy Exercise

Due to time limitations, Neil Ward was not able to lead the RFAC in an exercise in which the meeting participants would complete the draft measure and strategy template for each focal species in the subbasins for which the managers have management responsibilities. Instead, Neil advised the RFAC that he would prepare the draft templates and distribute them to the managers seeking their assistance to complete the documents. Neil indicated that due to the nature of this exercise (i.e., policy nature of identifying measures and strategies) he would not be able to complete the documents for managers. Neil indicated that the templates would be distributed during the week of October 15, 2007, with a due date of November 30, 2007.

ITEM 9: Lake Roosevelt Forum Conference

Neil Ward briefed the RFAC on the upcoming 2007 Lake Roosevelt Forum Conference. Neil indicated that the RFAC has been requested to convene a session. The session will consist of two sub-sessions (i.e., native trout and non-native fish in the Intermountain Province). Neil is working with the managers in the Intermountain Province identify potential speakers. The RFAC is encouraged to attend the conference. For more information, please visit www.lrf.org/conf.

ITEM 10: StreamNet Update

Joe Maroney briefed the RFAC on the status of the StreamNet Statement of Work relative to meeting the needs of data management for resident fish in the Columbia River Basin. Joe will be indicated that he will be able to provide a more detailed description of StreamNet's deliverables during the next RFAC meeting

ITEM 11: Next Meetings

October 24, 2007 RFAC Teleconference to discuss ISAB's questions regarding fish substitutions and meeting with ISAB on October 26, 2007

October 26, 2007 RFAC Meeting to prepare for 10/26 ISAB Meeting

Tuesday, November 6, 2007 in Spokane, WA at 10:00 – 4:00 - Location to be determined