



# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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FINAL

DATE: April 21, 2010  
TO: Resident Fish Advisory Committee (RFAC)  
FROM: Neil Ward  
SUBJECT: Final Action Notes for the April 21, 2010 RFAC Meeting

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

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 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

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

## Resident Fish Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, April 21, 2010 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Pacific) @ CBFWA Office, Portland, OR [RFAC webpage](#)

### Final Action Notes

**Attendees:** Mike Faler (USFWS), Christine Mallette (ODFW), Chad Abel (BPT), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), and Neil Ward (CBFWA)

**Phone/WebEx:** Brad James (WDFW)

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

**ITEM 1:** **Review and Approve Agenda**

The agenda was approved with no additions.

**ITEM 2:** **Approve Action Notes for the January 14, 2010 RFAC Meeting**

**Action:** *The action notes for the March 11, 2010, RFAC meeting were approved.*

**ITEM 3:** **Appoint a New RFAC Chair**

Because the Confederated Coleville Tribes (CCT) has withdrawn from the CBFWA, the CCT (Sheri Sears) can no longer chair the RFAC. Subsequently, the RFAC requested ODFW, the current Vice-Chair, to serve as the interim Chair until October 1, 2010. In addition, the RFAC nominated the BPT to serve as Vice-Chair. The BPT (Chad Abel) was unable to commit to the position but did express interest. Chad informed the participants that he needed to seek approval from management before committing.

**Action:** *The ODFW committed to serving as interim Chair until October 1, 2010.*

**ITEM 4:** **Overview of the “Columbia River Basin Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Reporting Plan” (MERR Plan)**

The NPCC is in the process of finalizing the *Draft Columbia River Basin Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Reporting Plan*. The Strategic Plan focuses on the policy level of the NPCC’s research, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting needs, and consists of the mission, expectations, and general guidance for RM&E and reporting implemented under the NPCC’s Fish and Wildlife Program. Neil Ward provided an update and discussed the MERR Plan.

**ITEM 5:** **Mainstem/Systemwide Categorical Review: Columbia and Snake River White Sturgeon Update**

Neil Ward and Christine Mallette presented the draft White Sturgeon

Implementation Strategy for the Bonneville Management Unit. Participants reviewed the worksheet and provided comments. Neil informed participants that a blank template for the Lake Roosevelt population was sent to the Spokane Tribe and that he was preparing templates for the Kootenai, Hells Canyon, and the remaining Idaho reservoir populations. Christine indicated that ODFW and WDFW would be completing the templates for the other Zone 6 management units as well as developing one for the McNary Management Unit. Neil indicated that that goal was to have drafts completed for all the management units/populations by mid-May and that the documents would be available for the managers to use during the Categorical Review.

**ITEM: 6      Resident Fish Losses: Development of Methodology to Assess Operational Losses**

The RFAC continued to discuss an appropriate methodology for assessing resident fish losses resulting from hydrosystem operations. Due to time limitations, the discussion was cut short. However, Neil Ward informed the participants that during his research to define the metrics and ranges in the operation tables provided by Sheri Sears, he discovered a paper from 1996 that estimated the relative impacts to resident fish in the Columbia River from various proposed operating strategies. Neil suggested that the RFAC invite the author (i.e., Dave Geist) to participate in the next RFAC meeting.

**Action:**      *Neil Ward will contact Dave Geist to request his participation during the May meeting.*

**Next Meeting:**      *Date to be determined.*