



June 30, 2000

TO: Wildlife Committee

FROM: Michele Beucler

SUBJECT: Action Notes for June 21-23, 2000 Wildlife Committee Meeting in Boise

**If there are no objections in five days, these action notes will be considered final.**

**Attendees:** Michele Beucler, Stacey Stovall [phone] and Ed Bottum (IDFG), Haace St. Martin (BPT), Carl Scheeler (CTUIR), Maureen Smith (USFWS), Susan Barnes and Greg Sieglitz (ODFW), Frank Young (CBFWA), Paul Ashley (WDFW), Joe DeHerrera (BPA), Guy Dodson Sr. (SPT), B. J. Keiffer (STOI), Cathy McDonald (TNC), Tracy Hames (YN), Terry Luther (CTWSRO), Steve Judd and Matt Berger (CTCR), and Robert Walker (NWPPC), Scott Soultz (KTOI), Anders Mikkelson (SPT), Ray Entz (KT), Robert Matt (CDAT).

**Time Allocation:**

**CBFWA Members Coordination Contract\***

Objective 1. FY 2001 Project Renewal Process	100%
Objective 2. Rolling Province Review	0%
Objective 3. FY 2000 Project Adjustments	0%
Objective 4. Watershed and Subbasin Assessment and Plan	0%
Objective 5. Coordinate Program Amendments	0%

\* Not all agenda items support the objectives identified in the coordination contract.

**ITEM 1: Letter to NWPPC on Immediate Supplemental Funding for Underfunded Tier 1 Wildlife Projects**

**Discussion:** Michele reported that the letter has been sent and is a part of the briefing packet for the June 27-28 Council meeting in Hood River.

**Action:** A work group of Fred Olney, Bert Bowler and Ray Entz will track this letter and be available to respond to questions from the Council on this issue. \* As a point of clarification, Bob Lohn was not able to include the letter for the June Council meeting, and recommended to CBFWA staff the possibility of presenting the letter to the Fish 4 at their July Meeting in Spokane.

**ITEM 2: Discussion of BPA's Accounting for Expenditures by Project and HUs by Agency, Target Species and Dam**

Discussion: The budget information was found to be of limited use because it combined FY99 carryover with unexpended FY00 funds. Concern was expressed over how the HUs had been assigned and that lower Columbia and Snake river projects would soon be fully mitigated under the present accounting system.

**ITEM 3: Review of Project O&M Budgets**

Criteria:

1. Addresses wildlife mitigation
2. No increase in scope from FY00 proposal
3. Consistent with CBFWA O&M Guidelines
4. Consistent with NWPPC Program
5. Appropriate level of funding for O&M

Projects: Amazon Basin. \$13,250 may be available to return to WC for reallocation. Found to meet criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Burlington Bottoms. Budget increase is for controlling non-native plants and installation of water control structure. Found to meet criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Squaw Creek. Some concern expressed that some proposed instream work was primarily to benefit fish and not wildlife. Sponsor pointed out that much of work on Squaw Creek paid for with anadromous fish funds greatly benefited wildlife. Found to meet criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Scotch Creek. Budget greatly decreased from FY00 because scope reduced resulting in great reduction in enhancement activities. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Swanson Lakes. Budget increase reflects inflation rate. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Pend Oreille Wetlands. Budget increase reflects inflation rate. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Wanacut. Budget increase reflects inflation rate. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Grand Coulee. The addition of the task to study feasibility of reintroducing sharp-tail grouse found to be consistent with FY00 scope. Budget increase associated with new task and need to update management plan. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Hellsgate. Budget increase reflects inflation rate. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Willamette Basin. WC requested accounting of how large balance of unallocated funds would be spent during the remainder of the present contract period. Greg

Sieglitz provided the accounting to the satisfaction of the WC. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Yakama Riparian Wetlands. Budget increase reflects inflation rate. WC expressed concern that interest from Trust Fund may not be going to wildlife mitigation as required by their Contract with BPA. BPA is currently in discussions with YN over this issue. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Albeni Falls. Large increase in budget due to acquisition planning activities. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Lake Creek. Originally proposed in 1996 but not yet acquired. Deadline of June 30, 2000 for owner to make commitment or funds will come back to WC for reallocation. There may be carry-forward acquisition planning money available for use in FY01. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Southern Idaho. Concern was expressed over the high per acre O&M costs. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Pine Creek. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Logan Valley. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Rainwater. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Malheur. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Ladd Marsh. WC expressed concern over WRP role in this new addition and whether they would meet their obligations to restore hydrological connections. Robert Matt stated that he has found the WRP cannot be depended upon to meet their responsibilities once property is transferred. Concern was expressed over enhancement activities prior to completion of a management plan. Susan Barnes explained that this property adjoins the Wildlife Management Area and that the WMA is presently operating under a plan and that a management plan for the new acquisition is under development. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Tualatin. Acquisition nearly complete. Waiting for agreement on MOA. Tracey Hames expressed concern over in-lieu issue for both purchase and O&M. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Sandy River Delta. Found to be consistent with criteria. Approved for funding at level requested.

Lower Columbia Wetlands. \$15k request for new task on feasibility of removing dike initially rejected as benefiting only fish, but reinstated after deciding that removal of dike may restore wetland function and greatly benefit wildlife.

Irrigon. Susan Barnes reported that this project is being dropped and that \$24,394 will be returned for reallocation by the WC.

**ITEM 4: Acquisition Budget**

Discussion: The Committee attempted to balance the budget at \$14.5 using the following criteria: 1) proposal addresses wildlife mitigation and 2) is consistent with the NWPPC Program.

Action: The Committee developed budgets in the attached spreadsheet to be recommended to the Members for BPA funding. One budget is a "balanced" budget at \$14,898,631 and the other budget totaling \$29,944,503 is the full amount each agency requested under the project renewal process. There were no objections to these budgets going forward as Committee recommendations. As a condition of this recommendation, the OWC agreed that they would advocate that BPA credit all HUs from Oregon acquisitions against dams within the State of Oregon. The WC recommended that the Yakama Riparian Wetlands acquisition project proposal not be funded because the credits remaining in the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake rivers, as calculated by BPA, are insufficient to cover the proposed acquisitions. The Committee stated that this lack of funding approval was not a reflection on the merits of the proposed acquisitions.