



January 25, 2001

TO: Wildlife Committee
FROM: Carl Scheeler *Franklin R. Young* for
SUBJECT: Draft Action Notes for January 22-23, 2001 Meeting

If there are no objections within five days, these actions will be considered approved.

**Wildlife Committee Meeting
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. January 22, 2001
8 a.m. to Noon January 23, 2001**

**CBFWA Conference Room
2501 SW First
Portland, Oregon
(503) 229-0191**

Draft Action Notes

Attendees: Jenene Fenton (WDFW), Joe DeHerrera (BPA), Michele Beucler, David Leptich, Pat Cole and (IDFG), Tracy Hames (TN), Jess Wenick, Amos First-Raised III and Daniel Gonzalez (BPT), Ken Rutherford, Susan Barnes and Greg Sieglitz (ODFW), Robert Matt (CDAT), Kelly Singer and B.J. Kieffer (STI), Robert Walker (NWPPC), Steve Judd and Matt Berger (CCT), Maureen Smith (USFWS), Scott Soultz (KTOI), Terry Luther (CTWSRO), and Frank Young (CBFWA).

Phone: Stacey Stovall (KT) and Reggie Premo (SPT)

Time allocation: Objective 1. FY 2001 Renewal Process 20%
Objective 2. Rolling Province Review and Subbasin Summaries 70%

Item 1: Presentation of Boundary Creek Management Plan

Discussion: Pat Cole presented the Boundary Creek Management Plan and responded to WC questions.

Action: The WC determined that the management plan was consistent with the O&M Guidelines.

Item 2: Review of High Priority Projects.

Discussion: The WC reviewed only those projects that proposed direct habitat protection through acquisition, easement or lease. They assessed the potential benefits to wildlife and the appropriate allocation by BPA for wildlife mitigation credit for such benefits.

Action: The Committee determined that, for projects proposed primarily for the benefit of aquatic resources, any benefits to wildlife should be credited against secondary losses.

The Committee determined that projects 26, 27, 39, 55, 54, 73, 84, 94, 52, and 91, which are proposed primarily for the benefit of aquatic resources (wildlife credits apply to secondary losses) will provide significant benefits to wildlife.

The Committee also determined that Project 53 has substantial wildlife benefits and that projects 16, 42, 43 and 58 fail to meet one or more of the first three “gatekeeper” criteria and were not further ranked.

The Committee recommends that Project 61 be restricted to the acquisition of the Rick Paige Ranch. With this modification the project would primarily benefit aquatic resources but would also provide significant benefits to wildlife.

Item 3: Discussion of Proposal to Reactivate Habitat Committee

Discussion: The WC reviewed the draft Habitat Committee Charter and made the following recommendations:

Purpose: The Habitat Committee would act as a regional forum to assure aquatic and terrestrial components of habitat restoration proposals are integrated and balanced.

The Committee would be open to all CBFWA Members with habitat restoration expertise.

Role:

1. Coordinate among anadromous fish, resident fish and wildlife habitat managers to develop an integrated methodology for applying the standards (developed by the Wildlife Committee) to evaluate the appropriateness of crediting benefits of watershed projects against the wildlife losses ledger for hydrosystem construction.
2. Guide development and management of trust funds for land and water acquisitions.
3. Develop acquisition guidelines.
4. Develop protocol for standardizing habitat data collection.
5. Develop ecological performance standards for watershed restoration.

Action: Carl will present the above to MMG and get their feedback on the level of support by RFC and AFC managers. Based on this feedback the WC will decide whether to invest time in modifying the draft charter.

Item 4: Future Role of Wildlife Committee

Discussion: The WC outlined the following as a possible future role for the Committee.

Purpose: Act as a regional forum to assure consistency in approaches to wildlife mitigation activities.

Role:

1. Develop standards for data collection for monitoring, evaluation and research activities.
2. Oversee HEP activities to assure standardized approach.
3. Provide technical review for RVI used in species substitution for exchanges, gains and stacking without models.
4. Oversee reintroduction and supplementation activities to assure consistency in approach.
5. Oversee secondary and operational loss assessments.
6. Advise on restoration of ecological function.
7. Act as a forum for discussion of crediting and modeling methods.

Item 5: Discussion of Implications of Crediting Language in Council's Amended Program

Discussion: Many expressed a concern that the Council decision to provide credit for construction and inundation losses at 2:1 for the remaining losses only will produce unintended consequences. If implemented as stated it would penalize areas where mitigation activities have been most aggressive and reward (double the losses to be mitigated) in areas where the least mitigation has occurred.

Action: An ad hoc Crediting Work Group was formed to meet with BPA and Council staff to develop a more equitable interpretation of the Council's Program language on crediting. Work Group members are: Carl Scheeler, Maureen Smith, Jenene Fenton, Susan Barnes and Scott Soult.

Item 6: Update on Lake Creek Acquisition

Discussion: Robert Matt reported that the CDAT are no longer pursuing this acquisition and that the Tribe will develop a proposal for the transfer of funds allocated for this project.

Item 7: Update on the Regional Data Management Committee

Discussion: Carl presented a summary of Committees progress to date. The Committee is considering development of a central website that would have links to all agencies' databases.

Item 8: Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be March 6, 2001 in Spokane where the funding recommendations from the Regional Team for projects in the Mountain Columbia Province will be reviewed.