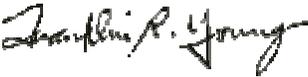




DATE: September 25, 2003
 TO: Wildlife Committee
 FROM: 
 Mary Terra-Berns
 for
 SUBJECT: Action Notes for September 23, 2003 Meeting in Lewiston, Idaho

Action Notes

Attendees: Loren Kronemann, Keith Lawrence and Angela Sondenaa (NPT); Maureen Smith (USFWS); Carl Scheeler (CTUIR); B.J. Kieffer and Kelly Singer (STOI); Ray Entz (KT); Richard Whitney and Donovan Antoine (CCT); Mary Terra-Berns (IDFG); Paul Ashley (WDFW); Tracy Hames (YN) and Frank Young (CBFWA).

By Phone: Mary Verner (UCUT); Anders Mikkelsen (Cd'AT); Robert Walker and Peter Paquet (NWPC); Greg Sieglitz (ODFW) and Amos First Raised (BPT).

Time Allocation:	Objective 1. Project Recommendations	30%
	Objective 2. Regional Issues	60%
	Objective 3. Annual Report	10%

ITEM 1: Review of Agenda

Discussion: Item 5 (election of Chair) was moved to immediately follow Item 3 to allow the new Chair to assume duties after lunch. No new items were added to the Agenda.

ITEM 2: Review of Tacoma-Trimble Area Management Plan

Discussion: Ray Entz gave a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted the primary components of the Tacoma-Trimble Area Management Plan and responded to questions from the WC.

Action: The WC found the Tacoma-Trimble Area Management Plan to be consistent with the CBFWA O,M&E Guidelines

ITEM 3: Update on the Crediting Issue

Discussion: Ray Entz said that the UCUTs agreed to go along with BPA's position of 1:1 credit on wildlife acquisitions only for FY 2004 in order to qualify for the use of capital funds under BPA's criteria and thereby get the wildlife acquisition portion of the Program moving again. The contract language does not allow going back and changing the crediting ratio used for FY 2004 funding at some future date. Mary Verner stated, however, that the UCUTs encourage continued dialogue by the WC on crediting and believe that the UCUTs have preserved the option to negotiate the use of alternative crediting ratios in the future through language in the agreements with BPA. Peter Paquet said that he believes that the UCUTs' action would set a precedent for the use of FY 2004 funds only. He further believes that BPA is willing to discuss other crediting ratios in the future and to discuss developing criteria that could be applied on a case by case basis to establish an alternative crediting ratio.

Peter requested that WC members provide him with any information documenting BPA funding actions that are inconsistent with past agreements such as reduction of funds for O&M or M&E activities.

ITEM 4: Election of Chair for FY 2004

Discussion: Mary Terra-Berns and Maureen Smith were nominated for chair in response to the request for nominations made prior to the meeting. There were no additional nominations.

Action: Mary Terra-Berns was selected as Chair and Maureen Smith was selected as Vice-chair. Frank Young presented a plaque to Carl Scheeler for three years of dedicated service as Chair of the WC. Carl congratulated Mary and Maureen and transferred the Chair duties to Mary for the remainder of the meeting. The WC agreed that, in future years, it would be desirable to have the Vice-chair ascend to the Chair position when their term expires, but did not wish to make it mandatory.

ITEM 5: Discuss Strategies for Establishing Trust Funds for Future Wildlife Mitigation

Discussion: Keith Lawrence, as Chair of the Trust Fund Subcommittee, asked Carl to provide some background on the purpose of trust funds and Robert Walker to discuss the history of the Montana, Washington and Dworshak agreements. It was generally agreed that trust funds greatly improve the managers' ability to accomplish acquisitions in a timely and cost effective manner, while assuring a reliable source for O&M funding. Maureen stated that it was unclear to her what the incentive would be for BPA to negotiate such agreements at this time. Others expressed concern over how the HUs would be apportioned among entities if HUs were used as the basis for the size of the trust fund. Some felt that it would be desirable to have agreements for each entity to avoid conflict among multiple trust fund managers.

Concern was expressed over the appropriateness of BPA's role in tracking

and assigning HUs of credit to the appropriate hydro-project for BPA-funded mitigation actions.

Action: The WC assigned the Trust Fund Subcommittee to develop criteria for the use of trust funds for wildlife mitigation and propose language for an amendment to the Council's Program that would transfer the accounting responsibility for wildlife crediting from BPA to the Council. The WC agreed that this action should not impede ongoing contract negotiations by individual members.

ITEM 6: Site Visits

Discussion: Paul Ashley conducted a site visit to the Schlee Property during the afternoon of September 23. On the following day Keith Lawrence and Loren Kronemann conducted a tour of the NPT wildlife staff offices at Lapwai, and the Six-mile and Cream Ridge properties. The tours were greatly appreciated by all who participated.

ITEM 7: Date and Location of Next Meeting. The WC decided to wait until there are sufficient issues for the agenda before setting the next meeting date. The meeting will likely be held in Portland.