



# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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**DATE:** October 10, 2006  
**TO:** Wildlife Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** Tom Iverson, CBFWA staff  
**SUBJECT:** Draft Action Notes for October 10, 2006 Wildlife Advisory Committee 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
- Coeur d'Alene 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
- Upper Columbia United Tribes

## Wildlife Advisory Committee Meeting October 10, 2006

### Draft Action Notes

**Attendees:** Tom Iverson, CBFWA  
**By Phone:** Kathy Cousins (Vice-chair), IDFG; Loren Kronemann and Angela Sondena, NPT; Carl Scheeler, CTUIR; Candis Russo, NHI; and Michael Pope, ODFW

<b>Time Allocation:</b>		%
	Objective 2. Fish & Wildlife Regional Issues	100%
	Objective 3. Annual Report	%
	Objective 4. RM&E	%
	Objective 5. Other Business	%

**ITEM 1: Election of New Chair**

**Discussion:** Since there were only six representatives on the phone, the committee was uncomfortable selecting a chair and vice-chair at today's meeting. It was suggested that Tom I send out an email (with the distribution of these action notes) asking each member of the WAC two questions: 1) Nominations for chair and vice-chair, and 2) List of WAC members top priority issues for the committee to address over the course of the next year. Essentially the committee would like to understand the vision for the committee, both short term and long term, for each of the WAC members and try to knit those together to make the committee functional once again. If Tom I does not receive a response to these two questions, then he and Kathy will call each member to solicit a response. At the next meeting, the responses will be compared and an election will occur for the chair and vice-chair positions.

**ACTION: Query Members for Nominations and Vision Statements**  
With the distribution of these action notes, each WAC member will be asked to nominate a chair and vice-chair and to identify their priorities for guiding the committee over the next year.

**ITEM 2: Biological Objectives for the Fish and Wildlife Program**

**Discussion:** The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) has issued a request for comment on development of biological objectives for the Fish and Wildlife Program in order to evaluate the success of the program's activities over time. The CBFWA Members Advisory Group (MAG) has requested that the WAC provide guidance on how best to define wildlife objectives for the program. Currently, for the wildlife portion of the program, there is a clearly articulated set of objectives defined in the habitat unit ledger for construction losses. However, operational losses are yet undefined for the program. The WAC generally agreed that the objectives should be stated in HUs consistent with the current loss assessment. However, calculation of operational losses should begin in earnest to define the remainder of BPAs obligations for wildlife.

The committee was concerned that supporting the HU ledger would draw criticism from the Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP). The ISRP continues to call for additional biological monitoring and criticized the Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP) as insufficient for biological monitoring. Also, BPA is reducing the level of support for biological monitoring within habitat O&M budgets. It would be useful to better define the monitoring obligation that BPA may have when funding wildlife O&M.

Some concern was expressed regarding the metric data currently being obtained through the PISCES project administration software. Decisions are being made as to what information is useful for reporting metrics for the wildlife O&M projects, without involvement of the wildlife managers. The reporting "rules" are being implemented without interaction of the project sponsors. There is also no validation when the data is input into PISCES and reported as completed for each project.

**ACTION: Biological Objectives for Wildlife**

The WAC agreed that the best set of objectives is the currently agreed to HU loss ledger for construction of the FCRPS. The WAC would like to pursue definition and calculation of operational loss assessments for wildlife.

**ITEM 3: BPA In-lieu Evaluation**

**Discussion:** On October 6, 2006 BPA submitted comments to the Council describing a recent evaluation of in-lieu standing for ongoing projects. The evaluation identified a significant number of projects that were deemed in-lieu and another large number of projects demonstrated an "unreasonable" level of cost share. BPA intends to begin phasing out the in-lieu projects during the next three years

and reigning in the costs of the projects that appear to require (according to BPA) significant more cost share. The BPA letter is available on the CBFWA website under the News section on the main page:

<http://www.cbfwa.org/default.cfm>

**ACTION: Notify Members of In-lieu Position by BPA**

The WAC agreed that CBFWA staff should make members aware of the in-lieu evaluation by BPA and its potential impacts on wildlife projects.

**ITEM 4: Next Meeting**

**Discussion:** Kathy and Tom will request optimum meeting dates from WAC members and set a meeting to maximize attendance in the next month.

Agenda items will include:

- 1) Election of chair and vice-chair
- 2) Discussion of survey results on vision and purpose of WAC
- 3) Regional updates