



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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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 fish and wildlife agencies:

Burns Paiute Tribe

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Colville 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

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

DATE: May 06, 2009
TO: Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC)
FROM: Ken MacDonald (CBFWA)
SUBJECT: May 5, 2009 WAC Teleconference Final Action Notes

WAC Teleconference May 5, 2009 CBFWA, Office - Portland, OR

The support material is posted at http://www.cbfwa.org/committee_wac.cfm

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Ken MacDonald (CBFWA), Lynn Palensky (NPCC)
By Phone: Carol Perugini (SPT), Nate Pamplin (WDFW), Michael Pope (ODFW), Tom O'Neil (NHI), Tracy Hames (YN), Ray Entz (KT)
Time Allocation:

Objective 1. Committee Participation	100%
Objective 2. Technical Review	%
Objective 3. Presentation	%

ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda

ACTION: The agenda was approved as written.

ITEM 2: Approve January 6 WAC Meeting Draft Action Notes

ACTION: The January 6, 2009 Action Notes were approved as written

ITEM 3: Wildlife Programmatic Review

Discussion: Lynn Palensky (NPCC) provided an update on the wildlife programmatic review. Project sponsors have their responses to ISRP comments or questions. The final ISRP report is due May 19. The Council staff is currently working on a decision framework in preparation for the Council decisions on the projects. Linda Hardesty (ISRP) will present the ISRP review at the June Council meeting.

The Council's Fish and Wildlife Committee will be meeting June 18 to receive staff wildlife project recommendations. The Committee will then bring recommendations to the full Council for decision at the July Council meeting. The Council is moving to make the July decisions to meet BPA contracting timelines and limit the need for bridge funding.

Council staff is and will be working with BPA to provide joint recommendations to the Council and if a joint recommendation cannot be made, at least the staff can inform the Council about the outstanding issues. The Council and BPA staffs are reviewing the projects now starting with the projects ISRP rated as "meet scientific criteria". Those projects are being reviewed to compare the project costs with past project cost and identify any new work elements to better understand any changes in the proposed budgets, identify the necessary on-going work and have the ability to "set-aside" new work for when funding may be available assuming a static BPA

budget. The Council staff is trying to understand the nature of any cost increases to better determine if a recommendation below the requested amount would hurt projects integrity especially if the ISRP rated a project as meeting criteria.

A comment was made that it appears the funding recommendations will be made for 2010-2012. Early in the process, it was stated that there was a desire to put the wildlife projects on a longer-term funding path with potential implementation check-ins for the Council, but projects not under go formal ISRP in three years. Lynn responded that they have not settled on a three year budget recommendation and still have a goal to set longer-term funding commitments. They still need to have the discussion regarding frequency and duration of performance check-ins vs. timing on science review.

Another comment was if Council staff is comparing 2010 project budget requests with 2009 budgets assumes the FY2009 budget was adequate to implement the management plan when the historic budget may be the result of earlier funding/budget compromises or decisions. Lynn responded mainly looking at the 2010 costs and increases due to BPA start of year budget and the desire to keep wildlife funding static. BPA is looking to trimming the existing RM&E projects and any savings in RM&E could be used to fund other work.

Lynn was asked to provide the WAC with where the wildlife program was in regards to the Council's 70-15-15 policy and she indicated she would provide the information.

ITEM 4: Wildlife Crediting Committee

Discussion: The Council adopted the CBFWA amendment recommendation to form a wildlife crediting forum. An initial meeting between CBFWA, Council and BPA to begin discussions to form the committee was canceled and there do not appear to be plans to re-schedule the meeting in the near future. Nate went through an outline of his initial thoughts of topics that need to be considered when discussions to form the committee commence including the membership, work plan, dispute resolution principles etc. Additional thoughts were provided by the WAC.

ACTION: Ken MacDonald, with Nate Pamplin, will prepare a white paper for the Members of CBFWA outlining the WAC thoughts regarding the formation and operation of the wildlife crediting forum. The paper is being developed to be used as a starting point for CBFWA Members when the wildlife crediting forum discussions begin. Ken and Nate will prepare the document for WAC review using Nate's outline plus the additional points mentioned during the meeting. The document will be discussed at the WAC teleconference scheduled for June 3 and presented to MAG at their June meeting. Also, a letter will be drafted from CBFWA to BPA and NPCC suggesting a meeting to kick-off the formation of the Committee and establishment of guidelines.

ITEM 5: SOTR Review

Discussion: It was hoped that the draft SOTR would be available for review during the meeting. Unfortunately, it is not ready to be released for internal review just yet. Ken MacDonald showed the WAC the pages with the types of wildlife program information to be reported. The WAC was informed the SOTR will be released for internal 30-day CBFWA Member review soon.

ACTION: When the SOTR is released to the Members for the 30-day review Ken will assure the WAC members are notified.

ITEM 6: 2009 WAC Work Plan

Discussion: The CBFWA technical committees had been asked to review with the MAG an assessment of the new Fish and Wildlife Program compared with the CBFWA

consensus recommendations, and provide MAG with thoughts on a the technical committees' work plans for the remainder of the year.

Ken MacDonald and Nate Pamplin briefly discussed the briefing they prepared for MAG regarding the comparison of the CBFWA recommendations with the final Program. The majority of the discussion centered on the potential WAC work plan and topic areas.

Three work topics of elements were identified for the WAC

1. Wildlife program categorical review
2. Wildlife crediting forum
3. Operational Losses and Wildlife RM&E

All WAC members have been involved in the programmatic review, which is scheduled to conclude with Council funding recommendations at the July Council meeting (see Item 3).

The WAC agrees that the wildlife crediting forum will be a priority topic for WAC attention (see Item 4).

The WAC agreed that at present given the limited new funds from BPA for wildlife, further WAC work this year to explore the applicability of using the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho's "pilot" for assessing operational losses across the Basin may be a low priority at this time. The committee felt that further work to develop a wildlife RM&E framework is probably timely and a priority including further discussions around the UCUT approach as a potential model for others.

ACTION: For actions regarding the wildlife crediting forum see Item 4.

Further WAC work with operational losses as a committee will be tabled for now however the WAC begin work on a wildlife program RM&E framework. To that end the WAC has scheduled a three day meeting to be hosted by the Kalispel Tribe in Usk, WA, August 18-20. The meeting will include presentations on potential monitoring approaches and tools, field trips to learn more about the UCUT program and hopefully culminate on recommendations for further actions. Ken MacDonald will work with Ray Entz, Nate Pamplin, and Tom O'Neil to develop meeting agenda and work out logistics.

ITEM 7 Next WAC Meetings

ACTION: June 3, 2009 Teleconference 10:00am-12:00pm (Pacific)

August 18-20, 2009 in Usk, Washington

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