



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 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: January 25, 2010
TO: Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC)
FROM: Doug Calvin, Chair
SUBJECT: January 20, 2010 WAC Meeting Final Action Notes

Wildlife Advisory Committee Meeting
January 20, 2010
@ NOAA Fisheries – Columbia Conference Room
Portland, Oregon

The support material for the meeting is posted on the [WAC webpage](#).

Final Action Notes

Attendees: Doug Calvin (Chair, CTWSRO); Scott Soultz (Vice-chair) and Norm Merz (KTOI); Carol Perugini (SPT); Angela Sondenaa and Loren Kronemann (NPT), Richard Whitney (CCT); Ray Entz and Matt Berger (KT), Tom O'Neil (NHI), David Byrnes and Buzz Cobell (BPA); Peter Paquet (NPCC); and Tom Iverson, Paul Ashley, and John Andrews (CBFWA)

By Phone: Carl Scheeler (CTUIR); Jim Noyes (ODFW); Gregg Servheen (IDFG); Aren Eddingsaas (SBT); John Pierce (WDFW); and Rex Crawford and Joe Rocchio (WANHP)

Time Allocation:		
Objective 1. Committee Participation		100%
Objective 2. Technical Review		0%
Objective 3. Presentation		0%

ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda

ACTIONS: Agenda was approved with the following modifications: BPA requested time on the agenda to review new guidance for appraisals, and this item was added as Agenda Item 3. Tom Iverson requested time on the agenda to discuss the Wildlife Crediting Forum and potential impacts on CBFWA staff, and this was added as Agenda Item 4. Tom O'Neil requested time on the agenda to discuss past efforts to develop and display habitat changes, and this item was discussed in the new Agenda Item 5, review of the Wildlife Monitoring Strategy. Scheduling the next WAC meeting is now Agenda Item 6.

It was also announced that Ken MacDonald will no longer be the WAC coordinator. Due to CBFWA's recent budget reductions, Ken has chosen to take a job with the US Forest Service. He will be leaving CBFWA at the end of the month.

ITEM 2: Review and Approve as final Draft Action Notes for November 18 and December 16, 2009 Wildlife Meetings

ACTION: Both sets of action notes were approved with no changes.

ITEM 3: New BPA Guidelines for Appraisals – David Byrnes and Buzz Cobell, BPA

Discussion: BPA's Fish and Wildlife Program has been experiencing a number of appraisals that are inadequate to support land acquisition or easement purchases. As much as 30% of appraisals that have been submitted have been inadequate or incomplete according to federal standards. This has frequently resulted in delays in the review process. In hopes of improving the review process through reducing time required for appraisal reviews (and removing a major bottleneck in processing acquisitions), BPA's real property appraisal group staff has developed a summary of definitions, references, and requirements. This document is intended to inform fish and wildlife project sponsors of the requirement standards appraisals (and appraisers) will be required to meet for appraisals prepared under the Program. The proposed effective date for these requirements is April 1, 2010. David Byrnes handed out an advance draft document dated January 18, 2010 for CBFWA members review and discussion. BPA plans to distribute the draft appraisal requirements to fish and wildlife project sponsors soon, for a 30-day review and comment period. WAC members requested that BPA extend the review time period to include the next scheduled WAC meeting and BPA agreed. BPA plans to meet with project sponsors during the comment period and welcomes any feedback for improving /understanding the requirements. The document is available on CBFWA's website under postings for this meeting. Written comments (emails) should be addressed to Steve Bottemiller, the primary contact for feedback on this document, with a copy to Jennifer Yarman, Fish and Wildlife Group administrative assistant. You may contact Steve by phone at 503-230-5541, or email: scbottemiller@bpa.gov. Jennifer Yarman's email is jayarman@bpa.gov.

ITEM 4: Wildlife Crediting Forum Discussion

Discussion: The first meeting of the NPCC's Wildlife Crediting Forum occurred yesterday. The meeting focused on identifying issues related to habitat crediting in BPA's wildlife mitigation program. Some assignments were made to CBFWA staff, but the authority for those assignments was not clear. The WAC suggested that Peter work with Brian Lipscomb to determine what assignments should be delegated to CBFWA staff (primarily Paul Ashley) to support the Forum. It appears that USFWS will be developing a presentation on the HEP methodology as it is intended to be used and that Paul will be developing a presentation on the HEP methodology as it is applied for BPA's mitigation program. The WAC requested that Paul provide his presentation in advance to the CBFWA members for their review. The WAC will schedule their next meeting on the day before the next Forum meeting so they can preview the presentation and coordinate their strategy for participating in the Forum.

ACTION: No action was taken.

ITEM 5: Revised Draft Wildlife Monitoring Strategy and Deliberations

Discussion: The WAC discussed the intentions and purpose of the draft strategy document. Concern was expressed that too much emphasis was placed on

the Introduction and HEP in the current draft. It was suggested that the document needs to stay at the 30,000 feet level and describe how data can be presented and compared at a higher scale and not be prescriptive in how data should be collected or analyzed. Tom reminded the group that the wildlife strategy is intended to fit within the Council's Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Reporting Framework (MERR) presented to Council last week. Tom will request an electronic copy of the MERR framework to post on the CBFWA website for today's meeting. WAC members mentioned the need to refine the RME strategy, such as, cost effectiveness, program specific elements (habitat/biotic response) and condense current HEP discussions. Database needs were discussed and Ray offered a UWMEP web-based database mockup.

The focus of today's meeting is to edit the "Consistent Reporting" section of the wildlife strategy. The project level reporting should be driven by the management objectives identified in project management plans. Those plans need clear, measurable objectives that are consistent and compatible with other management plans within the Fish and Wildlife Program (i.e., Subbasin Plans, etc.). In this way, provincial metrics could be easily extracted from project level reporting without requiring additional effort by project managers. Tom O. provided a presentation on how habitat condition has been reported at subbasin and provincial scales during the Subbasin Planning process.

Scott took notes and modified this section of the report as follows (refer to attached RME consistent reporting document dated January 15, 2010 to follow all track changes to original document):

CONSISTENT REPORTING (Multiple Scales)

- Project level reporting to inform adaptive management
 - Trends in ecological objectives and/or Desired Future Conditions established in the management plans
 - Trends in wildlife species response established in management plans
 - Specific Action Effectiveness where appropriate
 - Credited project HUs?
- Provincial
 - Number of habitat communities meeting ecological objectives and/or Desired Future Conditions
 - Status of ecological conditions and/or Desired Future Conditions of habitat and wildlife communities within the province
- Basin
 - Council HLIs
 - Annual Total minimum estimated and credited Habitat Unit (HU) acquired summed across all key species and dams
 - Cumulative HU to-date summed across all key species and dams
 - Proposed New – Cumulative acres of cover types summed from cover types across all key species and dams

- Proposed New – Wildlife response by cover type/DFC/Priority habitats and/or species (to be discussed)
- Total projects meeting ecological objectives and/or Desired Future Conditions in Basin
- HUs credited, outstanding by facility (possible delete and use Council HLI as above)

ACTION: The WAC formed a writing subcommittee to develop a first draft of the FCRPS Wildlife Mitigation Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy. The subcommittee members include Scott S., John P., Matt B., and CBFWA staff. The subcommittee will report progress at the next WAC meeting.

ITEM 6: Next WAC Meeting

ACTION: The next WAC meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2010 from 1-5 pm at the CBFWA offices in Portland, Oregon. Draft agenda and support materials will be distributed prior to the meeting. Draft agenda items include 1) review presentations for Wildlife Crediting Forum, 2) strategize on participation in Wildlife Crediting Forum, 3) provide an update on Wildlife Monitoring Framework development, and 4) draft responses to the appraisal guidelines discussed under Agenda Item 3 above.