For MAG review and discussion.

DRAFT DISCUSSION BULLETS
April 11, 2011

Assumptions and Considerations for Developing the FY12 and Beyond CBFWA Work Plan and Budget

Assignment:

The Members assigned the MAG to develop a draft CBFWA five-year work plan and review the staffing levels necessary to complete the work. The current MAG Subgroup's work is consistent with the direction of the assignment.

Assumptions:

The expectation of the Members is to work with other co-managers, federal agencies, and Northwest Power & Conservation Council (NPCC) and demonstrate that the CBFWA organization is adds value to ongoing regional processes. The following regional processes are areas where Members may use CBFWA to coordinate their efforts:

- Development of Monitoring Implementation Strategies to support Council's MERR Plan
- Subbasin Plan Updates with Biological Objectives
- 2013 BiOp Check-in Report (if assistance from BPA is requested)
- 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program Amendments
- 2016 BiOp Status Report

CBFWA will prepare a five year work plan that outlines the priority work and describes how it should be funded.

There may be some additional funding through the data management review, but the regional coordination funding appears fixed for the foreseeable future (e.g., for the next five years).

According to the 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program, all entities and organizations receiving funding for NPCC's F&W Program coordination activities must develop a work plan detailing the coordination elements, objectives, deliverables, and budget.

The June 9, 2009 letter from BPA regarding regional coordination specifically cites Section 839b(g)(3) of the Northwest Power Act authorizing BPA to contract with sovereigns to provide input into the development and implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Program.

The Council and BPA policies will need some alignment for the Categorical Review.

The CBFWA Members will continue participation in the F&W Program, help assess and monitor the fish and wildlife resources, carry out the policy directives, and continue working on the technical aspects of the Status of the Resources.

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Considerations:

The Policy Directives and work will likely remain the same through 2013, which are focused on developing basin wide assessments and identifying high level reporting to evaluate the success of the programmatic strategies.

In 2013, the work will likely shift to evaluating the available information to implement a regional assessment of the current strategies and produce a high level strategy document for the next Program Amendment Process.

The co-managers could take interest and support BPA's development of BiOp reports and metrics, and agree on how data will be provided for their analyses.

Reporting should include status reports on co-managers' work, monitoring and evaluation procedures, and evaluation of the implementation of the Plan (BiOp Implementation Plan, Fish Accords, Fish and Wildlife Program).

The Members agreed that it is important to define a clear role and mission statement for the SOTR. The SOTR mission statement should define the purpose and the audience for the report.

The ED position will be considered during the development of the CBFWA work plan for FY 2012 and beyond. The current policy directives are focused on technical issues and the current staffing appears to be working well.

Drivers:

Funding – the MAG needs to discuss their anticipated funding allocations to confirm assumptions about CBFWA funding levels for the next five years.

Priorities – the MAG could discuss how the CBFWA work plan is sequencing priorities over the next five years (e.g., much of the work in FY2010 focused on anadromous fish, in FY2011 resident fish and wildlife efforts will be maturing and demanding greater attention).

Alignment with other efforts – the MAG could discuss the unique role of CBFWA within the myriad of other reporting systems being developed (e.g., Taurus for project implementation, possibly MYAP website for Subbasin Plan tracking, CHaMP for habitat effectiveness monitoring, etc.).