

COLUMBIA BASIN FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

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Date: December 5, 2012

To: CBFWA Members Advisory Group (MAG)

From: CBFWA/F Staff

RE: FY13 Activities and Options for CBFWA Future

To assist the MAG Members in their discussion of the Fiscal Year 2013 CBFWA Work Plan and Budget, CBFWA staff has prepared the following list of potential regional activities that may demand attention from Members. Following the list of potential FY13 activities are possible options for dealing with the diminishing CBFWA Membership.

Fiscal Year 2013 Activities

Most of the FY2013 regional activity will be based around data management, data sharing and reporting. These will be key themes in the Program Amendment process and BiOp remand process.

Program Amendments

The Program Amendment should focus on updating the Subbasin level goals and objectives, updating the list of measures within the subbasins, and possibly discussing and adopting regional elements such as the draft MERR Plan and BPA's data management plan. BPA has indicated that they are going to be more active in this amendment process, based on some preliminary posturing by BPA staff. This will require thoughtful initial recommendations by the agencies and tribes and dedicated effort to responding to the draft Amendment released in November.

- April 15, 2013 NPCC requests recommendations
- July 15, 2013 recommendations due to Council
- November 14, 2013 draft F&W Program released
- April 18, 2014 adopt final Program

Geographic Review

The Geographic review will begin on December 6, 2012 and end in the Fall of 2013. The 87 projects included in this review are the habitat-based projects in the anadromous areas of the basin. Most of these projects have a FCRPS BiOp RPA association, and about half are included in a Fish Accord. Members may want some help in organizing site visits and presentations to the ISRP; although Council staff will provide some assistance.

Coordinated Assessment Project

The CA project is going to proceed in developing a prototype data exchange network. Work will emphasize figuring out specifically who needs what data, arranging linkages that support sharing the 4 VSP indicator data, and developing data sharing agreements so the owners of the data have control over where the data ends up. BPA and NOAA will likely fund ongoing facilitation of the work. BPA is funding data stewards to support participation by the tribes.

Columbia River Hatchery Effectiveness Evaluation Team (CHREET)

Latest word is that this likely will not begin in FY2013, may begin in FY2014.

Wildlife

BPA will focus primarily on sub-regional wildlife settlements. Likely not much activity for the Wildlife Crediting Forum (WCF) except for status updates of the Regional HEP Team. It is possible that some elements of the WCF Report may be proposed to be added to the F&W Program through the amendment process, which may require WCF discussion. Continued development of the Wildlife Monitoring Strategy will likely be delayed until after the Program Amendment process, unless a wildlife manager proposes to submit the draft as a Program Amendment.

PNAMP Committees (*Steering Committee, Data Management Leadership Team, Habitat Data Sharing workgroup, Coordinated Assessments, Remote Sensing Workgroup*)

With BPA funding data stewards positions at the tribes, and CBFWA representation possibly disappearing from these workgroups, it will be expected that the agencies and tribes receiving BPA regional coordination funding start taking a more active role in the PNAMP workgroups.

Options for the CBFWA/F future

- 1) Status Quo minus BPT, SPT, and ???
 - Build work plan based on available budget as pledged by remaining members
 - Columbia River coordination role: eyes and ears for remaining members
 - Assist with tasks listed above
 - Project level support to Members for individual project work plan development, analysis and reporting assistance
 - Funding would determine staffing level

- 2) Remaining Members withhold BPA Regional Coordination Funding but maintain membership
 - Members' dues would be required (currently \$750/year)
 - Meet only by request of Members, meeting costs paid from dues
 - CBFWA charter would be considered in hibernation until needed

- If a Member had a pressing issue, Member or MAG meeting could be initiated
- CBFWF would maintain CBFWA archive and contacts

3) Full membership withdrawal, terminating charter

- Members' meeting in Feb/Mar to officially terminate charter
- Remaining CBFWA archive to StreamNet Library/Historical Society
- CBFWF staff to provide individual contract services to former Members as requested to assist with items listed above or others tasks