

Output from July 29-30, 2009 CBFWA Summer Members Meeting Core Activities

According to the Members of Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority, CBFWA provides the following three primary benefits:

1) Forum for information exchange between fish and wildlife agencies and tribes:

- Forum for interaction between federal, state and tribal co-managers
- Build and foster relationships across Basin and across interest areas (networking)
- Opportunity to share technological developments (cross pollination)
- Inter-agency collaboration on shared priorities
- Facilitate efficiencies for monitoring and evaluation
- Ability to speak with one voice on fish and wildlife related matters
- Ability for collective bargaining for the purposes of protecting fish and wildlife resources

2) Technical and policy analysis by experienced and knowledgeable staff shared by fish and wildlife management agencies and tribes:

- Cost effectiveness of shared staff resources
- Reduced workload for individual agency and tribal staff
- Institutional memory of experienced staff
- Specialized staff to focus on specific topics related to the Fish and Wildlife Program
- Technical assistance to support agencies, tribes and other member organizations in fish and wildlife related matters (e.g., assistance with establishing Upper Snake Tribes compact)
- Provides regional perspective on fish and wildlife issues
- Ability to monitor activities beyond the geographic jurisdiction of each individual manager's authorities
- Unbiased perspective between co-managers on fish and wildlife processes occurring within CRB

3) Status of the Resource Report:

- Readily available source of uniformly reported fish and wildlife information within the Columbia River Basin
- Public outreach on success stories

Unique topics that are discussed by the agencies and tribes primarily at the CBFWA table:

- Wildlife losses and mitigation
- Resident fish losses and mitigation
- Lamprey losses and mitigation
- Non-listed anadromous salmonid mitigation
- Integrating listed anadromous fish issues and processes with these other fish and wildlife resources (holistic ecosystem perspective of individual actions)