



**COLUMBIA
BASIN
FISH & WILDLIFE
AUTHORITY**

July 19 2002

TO: Resident Fish Committee
FROM: Neil Ward, Resident Fish Analyst

SUBJECT: **REVISED** Draft Agenda for the July 24-25, 2002, RFC Meeting

Resident Fish Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 24, 2002
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)
@
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Office
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT

Conference Line (503) 229-0191 x7099

And
Site Visits
Thursday, July 25, 2002

Revised Draft Agenda

ITEM 1: *Introductions and review of the agenda*

10:00 - 10:15am

ITEM 2: *Elect a new Vice Chair*

10:15 - 10:45am

Joe Maroney's term as Chair is due to expire at the end of September at which time Dave Ward will become the new Chair. As a result, the RFC is in search of a new Vice Chair. The RFC will seek nominations and subsequently elect a new Vice Chair during this meeting.

ITEM 3: *Review new guidelines for within-year budget modifications*

10:45 - 11:30am

Neil Ward will provide a review of the DRAFT new guidelines for within-year budget modification requests. In addition, Neil will lead a discussion focused on defining an urgent need and significant changes/increases.

- ITEM 4:** *Develop review groups to review the technical merits of resident fish proposals submitted for funding consideration in the Mainstem and Systemwide Province*
11:30 - 12:00pm
- During the August 7-8, 2001, RFC Meeting, the RFC agreed that a review group would be assigned, based on expertise and experience, to perform technical reviews of proposals submitted for funding through the Provincial Rolling Review. The review group will review and report their findings to the RFC for approval pending a management review by the full RFC. Table 1 is a compilation of resident-fish-oriented proposals (proposals are available on the CBFWA website) submitted for funding consideration in the Mainstem/Systemwide Province. The ISRP comments and the project sponsor's responses to the ISRP comments will be available on the CBFWA website by the week of August 5, 2002. Comments will be due to Neil Ward no later than Friday, September 13, 2002.
- For purposes of consistency with past reviews, the project reviews should be performed by implementing the same criteria (Table 2) used by the subbasin review teams. *Reviews will be provided, in an anonymous fashion, to the RFC prior to the next meeting.*
- 12:00 - 1:00pm** **Lunch**
- ITEM 5:** *ODFW and BPA update on the status of Project 199405400*
1:00 - 1:15pm
- Dave Ward and Ron Morinaka will provide an update on the funding situation with Project 199405400 in the Columbia Plateau, Blue Mountain, and Middle Snake River Provinces.
- ITEM 6:** *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements*
1:15 - 2:15pm
- The NEPA applies to all activities that the BPA funds, authorizes, or carries out. Representatives from BPA will provide a review of the process that is required to ensure coverage. Attachment 1 has been provided by Ron Morinaka to aid in our discussion.
- ITEM 7:** *Update on resident fish conditions in Montana*
2:15 - 2:45pm
- Brian Marotz will update the RFC on the results of fish and gas saturation monitoring associated with the recent flood control spill emergency at Libby Dam and Clint Muhlfeld will provide a review of the recent developments on the Flathead River Native Species Project.
- ITEM 8:** *Identify a date and place for the next meeting*
2:45 - 2:50pm
- ITEM 9:** *Review itinerary for site visits*
2:50 - 3:00pm

Resident Fish Committee Meeting – Site Visits
Thursday, July 25, 2002
5:45 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

	Activity
Item 1 – 5:45 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.	Meet at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Headquarters (where RFC met on July 24) at the south end of the east parking lot. Transfer personal gear to vehicles.
Item 2 – 6:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.	Drive to Emery Creek (above Hungry Horse Dam) and visit the recently completed Emery Creek Project. Over a mile of road was removed to reclaim the original band-width and meander pattern in Emery Creek, an important spawning tributary to Hungry Horse Reservoir. The project arrested a head cut that was causing intermittent migration barriers. We will discuss stream restoration techniques, erosion control, riparian revegetation and our experimental side channel design for improving juvenile rearing habitat.
Item 3 – 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Travel the length of Hungry Horse Reservoir and see it at full pool elevation and visit fish passage improvement projects at road crossings. For those of you familiar with this project, you will notice the progress of the revegetation projects. These passage projects reclaimed 16% more spawning and rearing habitat for fish in Hungry Horse Reservoir and are contributing more wild recruits to the population.
Item 4 – 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Travel to Harrison Creek.
Item 5 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Arrive at Harrison Creek below Meadow Creek Gorge and transport sampling gear to South Fork Flathead River. The trail is about 1/4 mile down about 400 feet of elevation, so wear good traction for carrying gear.
Item 6 – 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Depart from Harrison Creek and visit, by raft, the South Fork sampling reach, where MFWP have compiled a long-term monitoring data set of westslope cutthroat population trends. You will have the opportunity to see genetically pure westslope cutthroat in one of the most intact, connected populations in existence. If equipped (you might consider bringing a mask and snorkel to view bull trout staging areas), you can see staging bull trout in pools along the tour. Food and soft drinks will be provided for lunch and light supper (do not claim per diem for meals provided).
Item 7 – 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Arrive at S. Fork Bridge (only one) above hungry Horse Reservoir. Run vehicle shuttle and load gear.
Item 8 (a) – 9:00 p.m. – Friday morning	Camp at takeout. Bring sleeping bags and overnight needs. One large tent will be set up (or make other transportation arrangements for the return trip immediately following the completion of the float (Item 8 (b))). If you desire, dinner can be obtained at an outfitter's camp a few miles upstream. Since beverages and food are expensive or nonexistent in the backcountry) make sure you purchase your essentials Wednesday night. Be prepared! Those camping will return to Kalispell Friday morning.
Item 8 (b) – 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Return to Kalispell.

Table 1 - Resident fish proposals submitted for funding consideration in the Mainstem/Systemwide Province

198605000	White Sturgeon Mitigation and Restoration in the Columbia and Snake Rivers Upstream from Bonneville Dam	ODFW
35042	Evaluate the Effects of Prey Availability on Recruitment of White Sturgeon in the Columbia River	USGS-CRRL
35043	Monitoring and Models for Adaptive Management of White Sturgeon	USGS-CRRL
35044	Determine Effects of Contaminants on White Sturgeon Reproduction and Parental Transfer of Contaminants to Embryos in the Columbia River Basin	OSU
35028	Evaluate White Sturgeon Nutritional Needs and Contaminant Effects Influenced by the Hydroelectric System	PSU
35059	Rapid Detection of White Sturgeon Iridovirus in Spawning Fluids, Eggs, and Juvenile Tissues of White Sturgeon	USFWS
35061	Prophylactic Treatments for White Sturgeon Infected with the White Sturgeon Iridovirus (WSIV)	USFWS
199007700	Northern Pikeminnow Management Program	PSMFC
35002	Determine Origin, Movements, and Relative Abundance of Bull Trout in Bonneville Reservoir	WDFW and YN

Table 2 - Technical and management criteria used by Subbasin Review Teams and the RFC for the purpose of performing project proposal reviews.**Technical Criteria**

1. Does the proposal demonstrate that the project uses appropriate scientifically valid strategies or techniques and sound principles (best available science)?	Y or N
2. Are the objectives clearly defined with measurable outcomes and tasks that contribute toward accomplishment of the objectives?	Y or N
3. Are the resources proposed (staff, equipment, materials) appropriate to achieve the objectives and time frame milestones?	Y or N
4. Does the proposal include monitoring and evaluation to determine whether objectives are being achieved (including performance measures/methods) at the project level?	Y or N
5. Will the proposed project significantly benefit the target species/ indicator populations?	Y or N
6. Does the proposal demonstrate that project benefits are likely to persist over the long term and will not be compromised by other activities in the basin?	Y or N
7. Does the proposal demonstrate that all reasonable precautions have been taken, to not adversely affect habitat/populations of wildlife, native resident and anadromous fish?	Y or N
8. Are there explicit plans for how the information, technology etc. from this project will be disseminated or used?	Y or N

Management Criteria

1. Does the proposed project address fish and wildlife related objectives, strategies, needs and actions as identified in the subbasin summaries?	Y or N
2. Does the project address an urgent requirement or threat to population maintenance and/or habitat protection (i.e., threatened, endangered or sensitive species)?	Y or N
3. Does the project promote/maintain sustainable and /or ecosystem processes or maintain desirable community diversity?	Y or N
4. Is there a cost-share for the construction/implementation and/or monitoring and evaluation of the project?	Y or N
5. Will the project complement management actions on private, public and tribal lands and does the project have demonstrable support from affected agencies, tribes and public?	Y or N
6. Will the project provide data critical for in season, annual and/or longer term management decisions?	Y or N
7. Will this project provide or protect riparian or other habitat that may benefit both fish and wildlife?	Y or N

ATTACHMENT 1

Appendix A. NEPA Questions and Answers

(to determine if additional NEPA analysis will be required for your project)

How do I know if NEPA applies to my project?

Since BPA is a federal agency, any project we fund, authorize, or carry out is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act. Almost all projects need to have one of the following NEPA documents before they are funded for anything more than planning work:

- * a categorical exclusion,
- * a supplemental analysis,
- * an environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI), or
- * an environmental impact statement (EIS) and record of decision (ROD).

In addition, most projects (including those that can be categorically excluded) will need some level of Endangered Species Act consultation, and many projects will need cultural resources surveys.

You should determine if your project is adequately covered by previous NEPA analysis. If you are already undertaking NEPA and Endangered Species consultation through another Federal agency, BPA can usually review and accept documentation of that process in lieu of going through a duplicative process. Please make us aware of this as soon as possible.

How do I know what level of NEPA analysis I will need?

Generally, watershed (fish habitat) and wildlife projects will need a supplement analysis for NEPA. BPA has already completed programmatic EISs on these types of projects, the Watershed EIS link is as follows:

http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/WatershedManagement_EIS0265

The process includes the project proponent filling out a detailed checklist that provides BPA NEPA staff with the documentation needed to assure that the project will be in compliance with the planning steps and mitigation BPA has committed to for these projects in the programmatic Environmental Impact Statements. Once we have the checklist and all of the items are either completed or committed to by the project proponent, BPA NEPA staff will prepare a Supplement Analysis.

For research and fisheries enhancement projects, the level of NEPA analysis is based on the potential for adverse impacts. Most research projects can be categorically excluded, while most fisheries enhancement projects will need an EA or possibly an EIS. It is best to check with Nancy Weintraub, Fish and Wildlife NEPA team lead, 503-230-5373, for a preliminary assessment of the level of NEPA required for your project if you have not yet done so.

What do I put down for NEPA costs?

BPA NEPA staff time is NOT charged to your project (so you do not need to include it in your cost estimate), but any outside contractor work will be. For example, if we will need to have a cultural resources survey done for the project and your agency does not have that capability, BPA will contract for these services. Other types of services we may need to contract for, depending on the project, the BPA staff availability, and the capabilities of your agency, include writer-editor services and/or environmental firm services for doing analysis and/or writing for EAs, EISs, and Biological Assessments under the Endangered Species Act. Nancy Weintraub can provide typical costs for these contracts. Note that cultural resources surveys and endangered species consultations are often required even if you are just doing a supplement analysis or your action is categorically excluded, so please consider whether you need to include these costs.