



September 11, 2002

TO: Resident Fish Committee (RFC)  
 FROM: Joe Maroney, Chair  
 SUBJECT: Draft Action Notes for the September 11, 2002, RFC phone conference

**If there are no objections within five days, these actions will be considered final.**

**Attendees:**

**By Phone:** Dave Ward (ODFW), Yetta Jager, Robert Walker (NWPPC), Joe Maroney (KT), Mike Faler (USFWS) Neil Ward (CBFWA)

<b>Time</b>	Objective 1. FY 2003 Renewal Process	%
<b>Allocation:</b>	Objective 2. Rolling Province Review and Subbasin Summaries	100%
	Objective 3. FY 2002 Adjustments	%

Draft Action Notes

**ITEM 1: Review and approve**

No new items were added to the agenda.

**ITEM 2: Review RFC comments and sponsor responses for Project Proposals 198605000 and 35043 submitted for consideration in the Mainstem and Systemwide Province**

During the Monday, September 9, 2002, RFC Meeting, the RFC assigned Project 198605000 (excluding Objective 1 (Task 1b) to the "Urgent" category. Due to time constraints, the project sponsors were unable to address concerns that the RFC expressed relative to Objective 1 (Task 1b). The RFC reviewed the sponsor's responses for Project 198605000 and subsequently assigned Objective 1, Task 1b to the Urgent category (Table 1).

In addition, the RFC reviewed Proposal 35043 and assigned the proposal to the "Recommended Action" category (Table 1).

**Table 1:** The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority’s Resident Fish Committee’s comments and funding category recommendations for project proposals submitted for consideration in the Mainstem/Systemwide Province.

Proposal Number	Title and comments	Funding category <sup>a</sup>
199007700	<p><b><i>Northern Pikeminnow Management Program</i></b></p> <p>Results from this project clearly show that it is an effective management tool that has directly benefited salmon recovery efforts in the Columbia River Basin. The project’s cost effectiveness appears to remain stable or slightly increasing, further corroborating the effectiveness and importance of this project to salmon recovery efforts and the need to continue funding through 2007.</p>	U
198605000	<p><b><i>White Sturgeon Mitigation and Restoration in the Columbia and Snake Rivers Upstream from Bonneville Dam</i></b></p> <p>This project has progressed logically from research on the population status, life history, and habitat requirements of sturgeon through development and implementation of mitigation, management, and monitoring actions based on the research. The accomplishments of the project have been published extensively in peer-reviewed journals. The RFC commends the sponsors on developing an umbrella proposal for all sturgeon research in the basin. The proposal provides a clear description of accomplishments to date and provides a logical plan for completing the research objectives, evaluating mitigation actions, and monitoring population status through 2005.</p>	U
35002	<p><b><i>Determine Origin, Movements, and Relative Abundance of Bull Trout in Bonneville Reservoir</i></b></p> <p>The RFC acknowledges that the project’s objectives will aid with bull trout recovery efforts and is consistent with the goals of the NWPPC’s 2000 Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program and the USFWS Bull Trout Biological Opinion (2000). This project will collect some baseline data to help meet requirements 10.A.2.1, 11.A.2.1.c, and 11.A.2.1.d set forth in the FCRPS Biological Opinion for bull trout.</p> <p>The RFC recommends two years funding for Objective 1 to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of capturing bull trout in Bonneville Reservoir using various trapping techniques and suggests that various capture methods may be needed during the second year of the project if none of the capture techniques are effective. Subsequent funding (Objectives 2-6) should be contingent on results of Objective 1 (e.g., capture efficacy, distribution, and relative abundance information). At the end of two years, the RFC recommends that an RFC review of the results prior to the allocation of additional funds.</p>	HP (fund in part)
35028	<p><b><i>Evaluate White Sturgeon Nutritional Needs and Contaminant Effects Influenced by the Hydroelectric System</i></b></p> <p>Although the hydropower system has exacerbated the contaminant problem, it is not solely responsible. Significant cost share from contaminant sources would seem appropriate.</p>	RA
35042	<p><b><i>Evaluate the Effects of Prey Availability on Recruitment of White Sturgeon in the Columbia River</i></b></p> <p>White sturgeon upstream from Bonneville Dam are not listed as threatened, endangered, or sensitive; however, these populations have reduced productivity due to hydropower development. Some reservoirs upstream from Priest Rapids Dam no longer appear to support any reproduction. The project is</p>	HP

	complementary to planned restoration activities for white sturgeon conducted by states and tribes. Data provided will be useful in evaluation and interpretation of research and management activities involving release of hatchery and transplanted white sturgeon, interpreting reduced growth and recruitment in some reservoirs, and determining appropriate actions to restore reduced productivity (both planned and ongoing).	
35043	<p><b><i>Monitoring and Models for Adaptive Management of White Sturgeon Funding Category</i></b></p> <p>The end product may benefit white sturgeon. Significant benefits to some extent depend on the quality of model inputs and the current state of knowledge regarding sturgeon population characteristics. The model will be complementary to various forums and will likely provide the framework for organizing, in a collaborative, such forums which will be comprised of knowledgeable fisheries managers and sturgeon biologists working to identify and prioritize research and implementation projects.</p> <p>At a recent workshop more than 50 interested biologists and managers were enthusiastic about working together to develop a synthesis that addresses our current understanding of population biology, sampling techniques, conservation aquaculture, health management, genetics, status of geographic or reservoir-specific populations, and prioritizes or outlines research information gaps that impede recovery of white sturgeon populations and fisheries. Representatives from the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority and from Bonneville Power Administration agreed to help set up a web space and list-server that will allow sturgeon biologists from throughout the Basin to form working groups and contribute to the synthesis.</p> <p>Project sponsors have a demonstrated track record for publishing and presenting findings in a variety of peer-reviewed forums. Workshops will be scheduled to receive information and to review products developed. The end product will likely not be distributed initially due to the need to ground truth.</p> <p>Cost share shown is work that will be completed in finalizing a white sturgeon population viability analysis for Idaho Power Company. The project is complementary to planned restoration activities for white sturgeon conducted by states and tribes. Data provided will be useful in evaluation and interpretation of research and management activities intended to restore white sturgeon productivity.</p>	RA
35044	<p><b><i>Determine Effects of Contaminants on White Sturgeon Reproduction and Parental Transfer of Contaminants to Embryos in the Columbia River Basin.</i></b></p> <p>The obvious, easily recognized benefit is knowledge of parental transfer, which may assist in eventual broodstock selection. Less obvious is what to do about contaminants in general. Although the hydropower system has exacerbated the contaminant problem, it is not solely responsible. Significant cost share from contaminant sources would seem appropriate.</p>	RA
35059	<p><b><i>Rapid Detection of White Sturgeon Iridovirus in Spawning Fluids, Eggs, and Juvenile Tissues of White Sturgeon and <u>Project 35061</u>, Prophylactic Treatments for White Sturgeon Infected with the White Sturgeon Iridovirus (WSIV)</i></b></p> <p>The RFC questions the utility of the proposed work due in part to the following information that was included in Project 198806400: In cooperation with pathologists from the USFWS Dworshak Fish Health Lab and pathologists from Clear Springs Foods (Buhl, ID.), Project 198806400 has “developed and implemented non-lethal sampling procedures for detecting an endemic sturgeon</p>	DNF

	pathogen, White Sturgeon Iridovirus (WSIV). This development now successfully permits the examination of recaptured hatchery released fish and wild white sturgeon adults. Prior to this development, natural prevalence was undetectable. This collaboration provides great realized and potential utility, and is directly applicable by others for similar issues throughout the geographical range of white sturgeon.”	
35061	See 35059	DNF

- <sup>a</sup> Urgent (U) - These projects or tasks within a project are of urgent need. They will either have a direct impact on survival or protection of a key species or will protect investments made in this subbasin. These projects should be able to demonstrate an immediate cost if not funded (loss of habitat, impact on a population, etc.). An example might also include ongoing O+M costs.
- High Priority (HP) - These projects or tasks within a project are high priority within the subbasin. The project addresses a specific need within the subbasin summaries.
- Recommended Action (RA) - These are good projects that cannot demonstrate a significant loss by not funding this year. These projects should be funded, but under a limited budget could be delayed without significant loss.
- Do Not Fund (DNF) - This project is either technically inadequate or does not address a need within the subbasin summaries. These projects may be inappropriate for BPA funding.