



COLUMBIA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY

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Coordinating and promoting effective protection and restoration of fish, wildlife, and their habitat in the Columbia River Basin.

The Authority is comprised of the following tribes and fish and wildlife agencies:

- Burns Paiute Tribe
 - Coeur d'Alene Tribe
 - Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
 - Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
 - Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
 - Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation
 - Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
 - Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 - Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
 - Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
 - National Marine Fisheries Service
 - Nez Perce Tribe
 - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall
 - Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Coordinating Agencies**
- Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
 - Upper Columbia United Tribes
 - Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

DATE: January 14, 2009
TO: Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC)
FROM: Ken MacDonald (CBFWA)
SUBJECT: January 6, 2009 WAC Teleconference Action Notes

January WAC Teleconference
 January 6, 2007
 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

The support material and reference documents for the meeting will be posted at
<http://www.cbfwa.org/committees/Meetings.cfm?CommShort=WAC&meeting=all>

Draft Action Notes

Attendees: Ken MacDonald, Paul Ashley (CBFWA)
By Phone: Aren Eddingsaas (SBT), Carol Perugini (SPT), Alan Wood (MFWP), Nate Pamplin (WDFW), Angela Sondenaa (NPT), Kathy Cousins (IDFG), Doug Calvin (CTWSRO), Michael Pope (ODFW), Carl Scheeler (CTUIR), Tom O'Neil (NHI), Lynn Ducharme (SKT).

Time Allocation:	Objective 1. Committee Participation	100%
	Objective 2. Technical Review	%
	Objective 3. Presentation	%

ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda

ACTION: The agenda was approved as written.

ITEM 2: Approve December 2 WAC Teleconference Action Notes

ACTION: The December 2, 2008 Action Notes were approved as written

ITEM 3: Criteria Guidelines for New Acquisitions

Discussion: The group reviewed the draft guidance for sponsors to follow if they are proposing new acquisitions during the wildlife project review. Several edits were made including replacing the word criteria with guidance as the document is not meant to provide criteria to rank projects, but guidelines the sponsors could use so there is some consistency in project narratives.

ACTION: The suggested edits were incorporated. Ken MacDonald completed his task to distribute the guidelines to the WAC on January 6, 2009.

ITEM 4: HEP Work Plan

Discussion: Paul Ashley, Regional HEP coordinator led the discussion. Paul first went through his "white paper" describing inconsistencies he has found in some HEP resurveys. The bottom line is due to some inconsistencies and the back-log of resurveys no one, the managers, BPA or the Council, truly knows the status of the crediting ledger. Getting consistent information in a timely manner will be important to update the credits BPA should receive for projects and to assist the proposed Wildlife Crediting Forum.

Paul then described three proposed HEP funding alternatives for FY09 and beyond:

- Alternative 1- status quo,
- Alternative 2 – status quo plus a full time assistant and contract with NHI complete CHAP pilot work in the Willamette. The primary advantage of Alternative 2 is the Willamette pilot work with CHAP would be completed so a decision could be made in the future on whether to apply CHAP to the Willamette in the future and HEP reports would be completed in a timely manner. This alternative may not reduce the backlog of needed HEP work but would at least allow timely production of the HEP reports.
- Alternative 3 – Alternative 2-plus add a temporary field crew leader. This alternative would allow the HEP team to reduce the back-log of surveys and provide information necessary to keep the crediting ledger current.

The alternatives were discussed by the group. Several WAC members were concerned that Alternatives 2 and 3 would diminish the project managers' responsibilities and funding for HEP on their properties. Paul answered that the alternatives assumed the same level of effort and involvement by project managers, just more projects would get the surveys and reports completed in a consistent, timely manner.

There was also some concern that HEP was being viewed of could be viewed as the only monitoring necessary for wildlife projects. It was stressed and will need to be continually stresses that HEP is not monitoring the effectiveness of projects towards meeting their habitat objectives but is the accounting tool to measure progress towards mitigation as expressed in the loss statements.

The Salish-Kootenai Tribe expressed that HEP be performed for Libby and Hungry Horse in order to allow consistent expression of losses and credits with the rest of the Basin. HEP for Libby and Hungry Horse is not currently in any of the alternatives.

ACTION: The WAC recommends CBFWA pursue implementation of Alternative 3. Due to the time required to advertise and select an assistant the BOG process will not allow Alternative 2 or 3 to be implemented this year therefore CBFWA staff need to explore if other options are available to get Alternative 2, or 3 implemented in 2009.

ITEM 5: Next WAC Meeting

Discussion: It appears wildlife project sponsor presentations to the ISRP under the wildlife project review will occur March 3 and 4, 2009 and a WAC Meeting may be appropriate at that time

ACTION: WAC members should "pencil-in" a WAC meeting either the afternoon of March 4 or March 5. Ken MacDonald will stress to Lynn Palensky the need to work with project sponsors to establish a schedule for presentations as soon as possible.