



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

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

National Marine Fisheries Service

Nez Perce Tribe

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Coordinating Agencies

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Compact of the Upper Snake River Tribes

Upper Columbia United Tribes

DATE: September 7, 2011
TO: Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC)
FROM: Scott Soultz, Chair
SUBJECT: August 25, 2011 WAC Meeting Final Action Notes

Wildlife Advisory Committee Meeting
August 25, 2011
CBFWA Office - Portland, Oregon

The support material for the meeting is posted at: http://www.cbfga.org/committee_wac.cfm

Final Action Notes

Attendees: David Byrnes (BPA) and Tom Iverson (CBFWA).

By Phone: Scott Soultz (Chair, KTI); Kyle Heinrick (Vice-Chair, BPT); Carl Scheeler (CTUIR); Dwight Bergeron (MFWP); Alan Wood (MFWP); Marc Gauthier (UCUT); and Tom O'Neill (NHI).

ITEM 1: Introductions and Approve Agenda

Discussion: The group reviewed the agenda. Since the Montana site visits have been delayed until September, it was suggested that the Montana Settlement presentation be deferred until the meeting in Kalispell at the end of September. Everyone agreed.

ACTION: The agenda was approved as written with one modification, to delete Agenda Item 4: MFWP Presentation on Montana Settlement.

ITEM 2: Review and Approve as Final July Draft Action Notes

ACTION: The WAC approved the July 26&27, 2011 Action Notes as final with no modifications.

ITEM 3: Update on August 24, 2011 CBFWA Members Meeting

Discussion: Tom provided an update from the Members meeting. The Members met to discuss the FY12 and Beyond Work Plan and Budget. CSKT and IDFG provided notice that they will be withdrawing from CBFWA at the conclusion of the contract period, March 31, 2012. MFWP had previously informed the MAG chair that they would be withdrawing as well. This will result in a reduction of \$300,000 to the CBFWA budget which will result in a loss of at least 2 FTE for central staff. The CBFWA Members will have to reconsider the role and function of CBFWA, since the current work plan cannot be implemented at that funding level. This could seriously impact the coordination functions that are currently provided through CBFWA. The Members will reach out to all the fish and wildlife co-managers to discuss what regional coordination functions are necessary to support their participation in implementation and development of the Fish and Wildlife Program. An emergency Members conference call will be convened in the next two to three weeks to determine a path forward.

It is expected that there will be a facilitated workshop in October with all the fish and wildlife managers to define regional coordination functions, and what mechanisms would be used to address those functions. The results of that workshop will guide project submitted for BPA funding through the Council's regional coordination review process. Tom volunteered to draft a description of the coordination function needed for the wildlife managers and will bring that description to the next WAC meeting in September.

ITEM 4: BPA Land Management Plan Template

David was encouraged by the comments on the template discussed at the last meeting. There is some concern that those comments have not been shared with BPA yet. David requested that everyone get their comments in to BPA as soon as possible, or encourage Tracy to get the combined comments to BPA by September 9. The internal BPA wildlife forum will be meeting in September to discuss the next steps, and the comments are needed to support that discussion. David expects to have a near final draft of the template by the end of September. Scott will contact Tracy to encourage submittal of the comments.

ITEM 5: Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy Update

Discussion: Scott began the discussion by reviewing the HLI Framework that was initially presented at the November WAC meeting (November 15, 2010 WAC meeting, Item 5: Draft Proposed Wildlife High Level Indicators Framework). Scott reminded the group that this is a first draft of a proposed framework, but would like to discuss these as potential indicators in order to keep the conversation rolling along. The group edited the excel table (attached to these notes).

Tom walked through an outline of a proposed Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy (WMIS). The Council's draft MERR Plan calls for Implementation Strategies that connect the monitoring projects funded through the F&W Program with reporting of high level indicators. We have two wildlife projects that will be going through the Council's Data Management Category Review this Fall, the Regional HEP Team and the NHI IBIS project. The WAC needs to demonstrate how these basin level monitoring projects tie to the individual wildlife projects and support reporting high level indicators for the Program. Show how or if data collected at the project level feed into high level indicators reported at the basin level – Council's HLI report, SOTR, etc. It is not clear with the wildlife projects that data collected by individual projects does feed higher level metrics. What this means is that we need basin level projects to support reporting HLIs for wildlife. Tom prepared an outline, based on the resident fish strategies but adapted for the wildlife projects.

The WAC agreed that the draft outline was a good approach for developing a monitoring strategy for the Council's review process. There was agreement that a regional level project would be necessary to support reporting HLIs for the Program. The WMIS will be useful to provide context and justification for the HEP and NHI proposals. Scott reminded Tom that the WMIS needed to demonstrate that the HLIs tie to the projects on the ground in some way.

ACTION: Tom will draft a first iteration of the Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy for review at the September WAC meeting.

ITEM 6: September Site Visits in Kalispell, MT

Discussion: The Montana site visits will occur on September 29-30, 2011. The first day will involve site visits and the second day will be a WAC meeting.

ITEM 7: Next WAC Meeting

The next WAC meeting will held in Kalispell, Montana on September 29-30, 2011. MFWP will provide a site visit to Montana Wildlife Settlement properties on Thursday September 29 from approximately 8:30 am to 5 pm and the WAC meeting will be held on Friday September 30 from 8 am until 1 pm at a location in Kalispell, yet to be determined. Agenda items will include: 1) Montana Settlement Presentation, 2) Land Management Plan Template Update, 3) Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy – review 1st Draft, and 4) Review wildlife coordination function description for NPCC's regional coordination project review.

A meeting announcement and support material will be sent out two weeks prior to the meeting.