# COLUMBIA BASIN FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 250
Portland, Oregon 97204-1339


DATE: July 2, 2012

TO: Wildlife Focus Workgroup

FROM: Kyle Heinrick, Chair

SUBJECT: Meeting notes from June 21, 2012 Wildlife Focus Workgroup

Wildlife Focus Workgroup
June 21, 2012
CTUIR Office
Walla Walla Community College
Walla Walla, Washington

The support material for the meeting is posted at:

http://www.cbfwa.org/committee_wac.cfm

## Draft Action Notes

**Attendees:** Kyle Heinrick (Chair), BPT; Carl Scheeler, Nakiska Johnson, and Adrien Elseroad, CTUIR; Angela Sondenna, NPT; David Byrnes and Angela Tetnowski, BPA; Cory Langhoff and Malcom Anderson, NHI; and Paul Ashley and Tom Iverson, CBFWF

**By Phone:** Paul Dahmer, WDFW

**ITEM 1:** **Introductions and Approve Agenda**

Discussion: Carl requested that a topic be added under Agenda Item 6 to discuss the recent BPA funded fish habitat M&E project survey. No other modifications were suggested.

**ACTION:** Agenda was approved as written with the addition of a topic under Agenda Item 6 – BPA funded fish habitat M&E project survey.

**ITEM 2:** **Review and Approve as Final Draft Meeting Notes**

The group reviewed the meeting notes from May 7, 2012 Wildlife Focus Workgroup. No modifications were proposed. Angela asked if the vice-chair position had been filled; Tom responded that it has not.

**ACTION:** The meeting notes were approved as written.

**ITEM 3:** **Update on NPCC Resident Fish, Data Management, and Regional Coordination Funding Recommendations**

Discussion: The NPCC Fish and Wildlife Committee met on June 12 to discuss the NPCC staff draft recommendations for resident fish, data management and regional coordination. Tom summarized the current status of the reviews in relation to the wildlife managers' interests.

Data management project funding is directly relevant to the WFW. The development of the WMIS focused the wildlife managers on their data management need to support reporting high level indicators for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) Program. It is clear that NPCC is not going to make project specific funding recommendations in this review. The Council will recommend a suite of work and a group of projects to implement the work; however, they will rely on BPA COTRs to negotiate project specific funding levels for each project. The WMIS recommended that the NHI IBIS project manage the data necessary to report wildlife HLIs for the Program. The NPCC staff recommendation is to keep NHI focused on supporting GIS data layers to support the Program and to construct and manage a Regional HEP Team data base of all HEP data collected in the Program. It is imperative that wildlife managers contact NPCC members on the importance of wildlife data management support.

Regional coordination is also being reviewed in this process. It appears that NPCC will not be supporting facilitation services for tasks such as the Wildlife Focus Workgroup. Regional coordination funding will be used by CBFWA members to meet their needs; the facilitation services previously provided by CBFWA staff will likely be funded within the data management category but this topic has not been discussed by NPCC staff. The NPCC needs to hear from the fish and wildlife managers on the importance of facilitating the focus work groups to support coordinated data management. It is likely that facilitation of technical work groups will occur in the future on an ad-hoc basis using paid consultants.

**ACTION:** No action was taken on this item. It was suggested that the individual wildlife managers contact NPCC Members and staff and recommend appropriate data management and regional coordination funding to support wildlife activities.

**ITEM 4:** **Review 1st Iteration of BPA Land Acquisition Handbook**

Discussion: BPA is not prepared to share the current draft of the handbook at this time. Once the handbook is ready to share region-wide, the WFW will review the initial draft and provide comments; likely at the September WFW meeting.

**ACTION:** No action was taken on this item.

**ITEM 5:** **Update and Status of the Wildlife Monitoring Implementation Strategy (WMIS) Work Plan**

Discussion: Tom provided a quick update. We have been working on the WMIS for two and half years, based on the direction of the NPCC's draft MERR Plan. The November 11, 2011 initial draft WMIS has not been revised at this point. Tom has summarized comments received by the ISRP, Kalispel Tribe, and WDFW. Tom will work with Nancy Leonard, NPCC, over the next two months to revise the WMIS based on the comments received to date. NHI is also working on prototype reporting products to provide examples of how the high level indicators might be reported.

The NPCC has requested comments on a draft HLI report (available at: http://www.nwcouncil.org/library/report.asp?docid=681). Currently, the only wildlife HLI is a reporting by dam of lost HU's and mitigated HU's **The wildlife managers need to review and provide comment on the NPCC HLI draft report by July 13, 2012.** The WMIS will be the mechanism for describing how to manage and analyze data to report wildlife high level indicators in the future.

Currently the SOTR provides the best reporting of HLIs for wildlife in the context of the NPCC's Program.

Tom reviewed the individual ISRP comments on the initial draft of the WMIS. These comments will be incorporated in the next iteration of the WMIS.

Cory and Malcom of NHI discussed the potential for developing prototype reports for wildlife HLIs.

**ACTION:** Tom and Nancy will incorporate all available comments on the initial draft WMIS and will provide the next iteration of the WMIS for the September WFW meeting. NHI will develop some prototypes for reporting HLIs for the September meeting, also.

**ITEM 6:** **Update on Columbia River Basin Activities**

Discussion: **Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP)** – PNAMP is facilitating a Habitat Data Sharing Leadership Team to explore how to share fish habitat data among various interest groups. A spin-off of the HDS Team is a Macro-Invertebrate Work Group. This group is looking at the relationship of macro-invertebrates to fish productivity and habitat quality to determine if macro-invertebrates may be good indicators of fish habitat quality.

**BPA has recently sent out a survey to all habitat M&E projects -** Carl described a large Excel spreadsheet that was sent around to BPA project sponsors for BPA to design and implement a new approach for monitoring habitat restoration efforts. It appears that BPA is trying to link individual tasks in PISCES to specific set of monitoring protocols. Carl highly recommended that the wildlife managers check-in with their fish habitat project leaders and provide comment back to BPA on this effort before the end of July.

**NPCC Geographic Reviews -** The NPCC will begin geographic reviews next Spring. The reviews will focus on anadromous fish habitat projects, but will include other projects that are funded within each anadromous subbasin. There will likely not be any open project solicitations for the Program in the future.

**BPA Integrated Program Review (IPR) -** BPA is currently undergoing a program review process to input costs into their FY13-15 rate case hearing. BPA performs this type of review prior to establishing their wholesale electricity rates. The draft material for the IPR is available at: http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/Finance/IBR/IPR/index.cfm. Fish and Wildlife costs consist of 9% of the BPA's total annual revenue requirements. BPA is characterizing the Program as being "fully mature." New fish and wildlife mitigation projects will only be funded as existing projects are completed or are closed out. Tom recommended that the wildlife managers inform their policy staff that this process is open. There will be fish and wildlife cost meetings in July and all comments on BPA FY13-15 costs are due on August 10, 2012.

**ACTION:** No action was taken on these items.

**ITEM 8:** **Review Regional HEP Team Survey Protocols and Prepare for Site Visit**

Discussion: The group discussed logistics for tomorrow's site visit. The Regional HEP team reserved a survey transect near the campsite for anyone interested in participating in a HEP survey.

**ACTION:** The group made plans for the cookout, campout and site visit.

**ITEM 9: Next Meeting**

The next meeting will occur in Pocatello, Idaho on September 26-28, 2012. The WFW will meet on Thursday morning from 9:00 am -4:00 pm, with a site visit of recent SBT properties on Friday from 7:00 am – 11:00 am. Details will be sent out prior to the meeting. Call Tom with questions.

Potential agenda items for this meeting include: 1) Review 1st iteration of the BPA Land Acquisition Handbook, 2) Review and Comment on next iteration of WMIS, and 3) Update on other Columbia River Basin activities.

## 2012 Wildlife Focus Workgroup Work Plan

| Task Name | Start |
|---|---|
| **Legacy Springs Site Visit and WFW meeting; Pocatello, ID** | **September 26-28, 2012** |
| WMIS prototype review, WMIS update recommendations | |
| Review 1st iteration of BPA Land Acquisition Handbook | |
| Staff analysis of wildlife focused PISCES work elements | |
| Site visit to Legacy Springs (SBT host) | |
| **Conference Call, CBFWF offices** | **Thu 11/15/12** |
| HEP Team Report | |
| WMIS next iteration | |
| 2014 Program Amendment planning | |
| Group review and discussion of wildlife focused PISCES work elements | |
| **Conference Call, CBFWF offices** | **Tue 2/12/13** |
| 2013 Wildlife Focus Workgroup planning | |
| 2014 Program Amendment planning | |

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