

# **COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL EXECUTIVES**

## **FEDERAL FCRPS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: Opening Dialogue**

### **Facilitator's Meeting Summary August 1, 2001 Meeting**

The following are the facilitator's summary notes from the August 1st Regional Executives meeting. These notes are meant to capture the discussion points and action items that came out of the meeting. They are not meant to be a "record" of events. Instead, they are intended to both remind people of the discussion points and keep the process moving by highlighting action items. These notes should not be construed to be final policy statements of any agency or government. Corrections may be made at the next meeting. Meeting minutes will be available at a later date.

This meeting was called to begin discussions on the federal action agencies' "FCRPS Implementation Plan" for recovering salmon in the Columbia Basin. Meetings with federal, state and tribal representatives during the preceding week served as a basis for the meeting agenda. After a round of introductions the group was asked to identify some goals or expectations they had for the meeting. The following list was created:

#### Meeting Goals and Expectations:

- Establish a set of working principles that could guide the work of the group
- Identify and reach closure on a list of important Implementation Plan issues that needs further discussion
- Develop a process for resolving those issues listed as important
- Begin a successful dialogue among regional executives
- Make certain that tribal efforts and interests are recognized and supported, including cultural resources
- Find a way to include upriver interests in the discussions about fish, wildlife and energy
- Discuss the creation of a "partnership" between states, tribes and federal agencies in the implementation process
- Develop a process that includes consultation with tribes
- Clarify the various processes for deciding and implementing strategies for recovery
- Focus the discussion on the whole basin, not just the lower river.

As a first step, the federal agencies provided clarification about the context in which this dialogue and on-going work is occurring. They stressed that the Implementation Plan is the Federal Action Agencies' proposal for implementing the NMFS and USFWS 2000 Biological Opinions. They noted that it is a "living" document that will change as knowledge and experience in the region develops. Lorri Bodi, on behalf of the federal action agencies, said that this Plan covers those activities for which the federal government is responsible. If they are unsuccessful with the off-site and clean water actions in the plan, then they will fail under the NMFS BiOp. She acknowledged that to make it work, many more individuals and agencies would need to be involved. As she

said, “real recovery will require everyone working together”. (Note: a “roadmap” handout of related federal processes was provided to the group. If you have not seen it or received a copy, please contact BPA).

A question was asked from the group: How do we build a relationship so it works? If the federal agencies are commandeering the process, it will not work. So how do we move forward together constructively? How do we effectively integrate and coordinate all of the various efforts to promote salmon recovery—especially in light of the laws, authorities and treaties that currently exist?

From these questions, the group discussed and developed a list of principles that could serve to guide their work together. It is important to state here that a consensus process was NOT used to develop the list. Instead, this was an opportunity for this group of executives to share some of their ideals and standards that they feel would be important as they work together. What follows is that list:

#### Principles That Could Guide the Work of the Group

- Achieve the goals of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as well as a broader balance of multiple interests for natural resources in the Columbia and Snake River Basins
- Recognize and acknowledge the assets and limitations of all who are working together on this effort
- Make every effort to implement the BiOp and ESA
- Approach the work around implementation in a collaborative manner
- Include the spiritual and cultural connection of the tribes to salmon in the work of the larger group
- Recognize there are THREE sovereigns
- Recognize treaties, laws and authorities that already exist to guide the work together
- Exercise sound stewardship to reduce mortalities in the present, instead of allowing additional mortalities and assuming that they may be mitigated at a later date
- Create an implementation plan that is “Ours” (the whole table/region)
- Use existing processes rather than creating new ones: strengthen those that work, fix or remove those that do not
- Operate with clearly defined authorities, responsibilities and structures for decision making
- Clearly document any differences that may arise and make every effort to resolve them at a regional level.

The group agreed that this list, plus the guiding principles developed by the Columbia Basin Forum in 1999 should be captured and reviewed by members. It was acknowledged that spending a long time developing these principles runs counter to the overall goal of the group: to begin implementing actions that serve to recover endangered species as soon as possible.

**ACTION:** Members are asked to review these principles and those of the Columbia Basin Forum prior the next meeting.

The group spent time reviewing some of the issues that will be part of the on-going dialogue. (For details, please see the meeting notes). Issues included, but were not limited to:

- Integration & coordination of state/federal/tribal recovery efforts;
- Funding—sources, efficiencies, equitable and inclusive process;
- Roles & responsibilities;
- The need for governor/state involvement other than through the NWPPC;
- Performance standards and their relation to timelines/expectations;
- Relationship to NWPPC, CBFWA and other existing processes;
- Impacts on cultural resources and upriver interests;
- What is working, what is not and what is missing in salmon recovery efforts

#### Steering Committee Formed

To further the efforts of the group, a steering committee was formed. The role of the steering committee is to: collect issues from other members for meeting agendas; develop those issues for meetings; set agendas; establish time frames and set meeting dates; and determine if there is any additional work that needs to be done between or in preparation for upcoming Regional Executive's meetings. The steering committee is comprised of: Chad Coulter, Jim Litchfield, Joe Peone, Randy Settler or Don Sampson and Alex Smith.

ACTION: All members were asked to forward any ideas or suggestions for agenda topics to the Steering Committee via the following email: [federalcaucus@bpa.gov](mailto:federalcaucus@bpa.gov)

The Steering Committee will establish the date and time for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Silverberg,  
DS Consulting  
Meeting facilitator

### **GOAL STATEMENT of the COLUMBIA BASIN FORUM:**

Through the restoration of a healthy, functioning ecosystem, protect, mitigate and enhance populations of fish & wildlife in the Columbia River Basin. Do this to a level that, at a minimum, ensures survival and recovery of all listed species, provides for tribal harvest opportunities guaranteed by law & treaty, and takes into account the needs of people in the Northwest.

CBF 9/7/99

\*\*\*Changes or corrections to these notes may be requested at the next meeting\*\*\*

Thank you for your continued participation in these regional discussions