

WCTU Conservation Committee conference call
February 11, 2010 (7:00Pm – 8:30)
Meeting notes

This evening's WCTU Conservation conference call included representation from the vast majority of WCTU Chapters. Those participating included: Ric Abbett, Bill Abrahamse, Dick Burge, Rosendo Guerro, Sharon Lance, Sam Mace, Bart Madison, Dennis McMahon, Alan Moore, Bill Robinson, Don Schluter, Paul Sparks, Bob Stroup, Bruce Treichler, Terry Turner, Bob Vadas, Jim Wilcox.

Action items from this evening's conference call:

- WCTU to develop response to the proposed King County safety rule associated with existing and planned Large Wood Placement projects (deadline: February 19)
- WCTU to endorse Wild Fish Conservancy letter to WDFW regarding IHNv outbreak among Quileute system winter steelhead and the status of the Snider Creek broodstock program
- WCTU to actively partner with Save Our Wild Salmon and others in Working Snake River of Washington Project
- WCTU to submit letters to Senators Cantwell and Murray regarding the breaching of the four lower Snake River dams (Sam to provide draft to Bill)
- Bill Abrahamse to contact Rob Masonis regarding Rob's availability and willingness to represent WCTU as a member of the Environmental Caucus with input to the Puget Sound Partnership
- Paul and Ric to develop testimony opposing consolidation of WDFW and State Parks with DNR
- Paul and Bart to draft shellfish aquaculture policy based on the draft finfish aquaculture policy for Oregon and Washington.

Specific direction from Bill Abrahamse regarding WCTU expectations when WCTU members share WCTU-sanctioned conservation agenda items with others:

- WCTU Conservation Committee sub-committee chairs are the WCTU subject matter experts
- Do not communicate the ongoing work of WCTU Conservation Committee sub-committees unless you have prior approval from the sub-committee chair to do so.
- Communicate your desire to work on one or more WCTU sub-committees directly with that committee's chair

The 2010 WCTU-sanctioned Conservation Committee sub-committees and their chairs:

- **Climate Change – impacts to trout and salmon** (Jim Wilcox)
- **Wild Steelhead Coalition** (Dick Burge)
- **Columbia / Snake River Salmon Recovery** (Sam Mace)
- **Chehalis Basin Flood and Hydro Projects** (Ric Abbett)
- **Elwha River trout and salmon recovery** – dam removal, new hatchery (Bill Robinson)
- **Hatchery Reform** (Paul Sparks)

Potential WCTU-sanctioned Conservation Committee subcommittees:

- Puget Sound Partnership / Environmental Caucus (possibly chaired by Rob Masonis)
- North Cascades Conservation (to be presented during March 13 Executive Board Meeting in Auburn)

WCTU Conservation Committee sub-committee updates:

- **Climate Change – impacts to trout and salmon** (Jim Wilcox)
 - This will be the topic of the WCTU Spring Meeting panel discussion
 - Potential panel members to be proposed to Jim
 - Invitations will be sent once this sub-committee is satisfied with the list of potential panel members
- **Wild Steelhead Coalition** (Dick Burge)
 - WDF steelhead management
 - IHNv infection in Quilyute system
 - Hatcheries
 - WCTU endorsement of IHNv letter to WDFW
- **Columbia / Snake River Salmon Recovery** (Sam Mace)
 - Judge Redden requiring NOAA to provide science-based solutions to Columbia River salmon recovery
 - NW Power Planning Council Conservation Plan – Power from four lower Snake River dams can definitely be replaced by other sources
 - Western Division of American Fisheries Society critical of Obama plan to recover Columbia River salmon
 - Working Snake River of Washington Project:
 1. Seeking partnerships
 2. focus on issues that impact people and fish
 3. Pressure needed on Senators Cantwell and Murray
- **Chehalis Basin Flood and Hydro Projects** (Ric Abbett)
 - Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority still seeking \$2.3 million from Legislature to continue their Chehalis Basinwide Investigation to identify and study all potential Chehalis Basin flood risk mitigation projects.
 - Bruce Treichler (Thurston County representative on WCTU Chehalis Basin Committee represents TU during monthly Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority and Chehalis Basin Partnership meetings.
 - Centralia and Chehalis to contract with attorney to oppose FEMA’s preliminary, revised Chehalis Basin floodway / floodplain maps for Lewis County. These maps, if approved as presented will have significant implications to Centralia and Chehalis infrastructure, businesses and residents.
- **Elwha River trout and salmon recovery** – dam removal, new hatchery (Bill Robinson)
 - Bill to work with Rob to schedule a WCTU conference call to discuss the many Elwha River issues and WCTU positions on each
 - Bill will coordinate a WCTU-hosted face-to-face meeting with NOAA, WDFW, Olympic National Park to ensure that all are on the same page as we move forward to restore Elwha River salmon and trout.
- **Hatchery Reform** (Paul Sparks)

- Concerns regarding WDFW transferring state-operated hatcheries to others and the impacts of this action to Washington's ongoing hatchery reform efforts