

Release Notes for Pisces version 2.7

Release Date: **June 19, 2008**

We are pleased to announce the latest release of Pisces, version 2.7. While much of this release was dedicated to reports and maintenance aimed at helping Pisces run more efficiently on the back end, there are a couple of important new features that will affect contractors directly (and positively): the entering of accrual estimates will now take place in Pisces; the updated FY09 work elements and metrics are now available for those preparing their Statements of Work (SOWs), and milestone templates have been incorporated into Pisces for easy addition to SOWs.

Pisces is a web-enabled software application aimed at helping BPA and its Fish & Wildlife program participants track and manage projects throughout the Columbia River Basin. Pisces allows contractors and BPA project managers to collaborate on project definition and ongoing project management over the internet.

New features in Pisces version 2.7 include:

1. Accrual Estimate Entry

For the past several years, BPA has asked its contractors to report unbilled work and purchases at the close of the fiscal year, so expenses can be accounted for properly. This year, Fish and Wildlife Program contractors will enter their accruals directly in Pisces, rather than submitting a hard copy report.

Pisces will send a notification to the accrual contact for each organization in August, when accrual estimates should be prepared. Instructions for entering accrual estimates in Pisces, as well as guidance about how to prepare accurate estimates, will be posted at <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/contractors/reporting/accruals.aspx>.

2. Updated Work Elements, Metrics and Guidance for FY09

We've just completed our annual work element review. Updated work element definitions, metrics, and guidance are now available for those preparing FY09 Statements of Work (SOW). (FY08 SOWs are not affected by these changes.)

Based on contractor and staff feedback, we made the following changes:

- We added a new work element, [WE# 192 Law Enforcement](#) to cover activities intended to reduce illegal take of Columbia Basin fish & wildlife and to enforce habitat rules and regulations on 1855 Treaty reserved mainstem and tributary areas.
- We added a metric for "# of structures" under [WE# 30 Realign, Connect, and/or Create Channel](#).
- We added a metric for "# river miles treated" under [WE# 40 Install Fence](#).
- In response to a concern that the metric under [WE# 47 Plant Vegetation](#) for acres treated does not capture a potentially wide disparity in number of plants or plant density, we are now asking that contractors use the Deliverable Specification field of the SOW to capture these details.
- The definition for [WE# 53 Remove Vegetation](#) has been updated to clarify that often vegetation removal involves removing exotic, noxious, invasive, or non-native plants,

naturalized plants, or undesirable weeds. (When maintaining facilities includes annual removal of weeds, etc, use [WE# 22 Maintain Vegetation](#).)

- Definitions for [WE # 38 Improve Road](#) and [WE# 33 Decommission Road/Relocate Road](#) have been updated to include similar work on trails. We also added some new metrics under [WE# 33 Decommission/Relocate Road](#): "# miles new road in riparian area", "# miles new road in upland area", "# miles new trail in riparian area", "# miles new trail in upland area". Under [WE# 38 Improve Road](#): We added "# trail miles treated in riparian area" and "# trail miles treated in upland area".
- We updated the definition for [WE# 188 Provide Public Access/Information](#) to emphasize that this WE should be used when building new roads or trails for access purposes, and for standard road or trail maintenance activities.
- [Hatchery O&M WEs](#): Extensive changes were made for hatchery metrics and guidance to refine egg, juvenile, and adult release data. If you use WEs 56, 59, 60, 61, 63, 64, 66, or 176, please familiarize yourselves with the changes in Pisces under "Manage Metrics". Also note that while the work elements allow lumping of work done in multiple locations, if your work is in multiple subbasins (e.g., rear in one subbasin but release in another), you should create separate work elements for each subbasin.
- [WE# 181 Create, Restore and/or Enhance Wetland](#): While we did not make any changes to the work element itself, we are encouraging contractors to use the Work Element Description field to indicate what type of wetland is to be enhanced, such as an inland saline marsh, coastal salt meadows, or an irregularly flooded salt marsh, etc.
- [RM&E and Data Management WEs](#): [WE# 159 Submit/Acquire Data](#) was renamed "Transfer/Consolidate/Regionally Standardize Data". Work element definitions were revised for [WE# 156 Develop RM&E Methods and Designs](#), [WE# 157 Collect/Generate/Validate Field and Lab Data](#), [WE# 158 Mark/Tag Animals](#), [WE# 159 Transfer/Consolidate/Regionally Standardize Data](#), [WE# 161 Disseminate Raw & Summary Data and Results](#), and [WE# 162 Analyze/Interpret Data](#). New Focal Area definitions for several of these were also added. Users of these WEs should become familiar with the changes by checking the appropriate background pages and Pisces metrics.

3. Template Milestones

- In addition to automatically adding required and recommended milestones to SOWs, Pisces will now offer additional suggested milestones for users to choose from if they wish.
- Each kind of milestone has its own properties:
 - **Required** milestones will be auto-added to the SOW; users can't edit/delete (note: there are relatively few of these).
 - **Recommended** milestones will be auto-added to the SOW, but users can edit/delete.
 - **Suggested** milestones will not be auto-added, but will be available from a pick list. Users can edit/delete.

4. Optional SOW Validation Rule for Hatchery Operation Plans

- The SOW Validation Report will now check for [WE# 174 Produce Plan](#) when [WE# 176 Produce Hatchery Fish](#) or [WE# 61 Maintain Hatchery](#) are present.
- Work that results in hatchery fish being produced usually requires a hatchery operations plan, which should be covered under [WE# 174, Produce Plan](#).
- This SOW Validation rule is optional; we recognize there are instances when a plan may not be required under a contract that is also producing hatchery fish.

5. Move (Cut and Paste) Function for Work Elements

- The “move”, or cut and paste function is intended to help users working on large projects with multiple contractors who collaborate on the "project" SOW and then break apart the SOW into its individual pieces.
- It will also help BPA project managers who may have inadvertently canceled a pending contract requisition (CR) or contract change request (CCR), and need to move previously entered data (e.g. location, focal species, planned metrics, WE budgets, etc.) to a new CR or CCR. However, since moving a work element cuts (deletes) it from the source CR or CCR, Pisces only allows you to move work elements that were added to the source CR or CCR. For example, if your CCR adds one work element to a contract that already has seven work elements, the "Cut Work Element" will be available to you on the one new work element, but not on the other seven. This limitation is critical in order to preserve the integrity of the Issued contract. In our example, if you need to move the other seven work elements to a different CR or CCR, you'll have to use "Copy Work Element" and then re-enter Metrics, Location, or Focal Species information.
- To access this feature, right-click on the SOW tab's WE grid and choose "Cut Work Element" from the drop down right-click menu. Then go to the destination CR or CCR's SOW tab, right-click in WE grid, and select the "Paste Work Element" menu item.
- Only those with write permissions to the CR or CCR may cut and paste work elements, and only when the SOW is unlocked. Users who need to make changes after a SOW has been locked may contact fishsupport@bpa.gov.
- Although users cannot cut and paste work elements on Issued contracts, or contracts that don't belong to them, the copy and paste function is still available to enable “seeding” of WEs from one SOW to another. Also, when renewing a contract, COTRs can copy the previous year's work statement to the next year's contract.
- While we offer these features to help contractors get a start on their SOWs, the copy and paste function does not copy work element attributes like planned budgets and metrics from one year to the next. (The move, or cut and paste feature, does copy all attributes.) For most contracts, where work differs from year to year, we don't want contractors to copy work statements wholesale, but rather to be deliberate and thoughtful about planning and estimating the next year's budgets and metrics.
- The move function is not enabled for [WE# 5 Purchase Land](#) (a BPA internal use only work element) or [WE# 185 Produce Pisces Status Report](#).

6. View Canceled CRs and Voided/Terminated Contracts

This feature, which allows any user to view canceled CRs or terminated contracts, is primarily aimed at helping COTRs to find CRs or contracts that got canceled/voided/terminated (either on purpose or by accident), so they can move the associated work elements to another CR or contract. Previously, this required the development team to do manual fix on the back end.

7. New “Water Survey” attachment type

Water survey forms can now be uploaded to Pisces via the existing attachment functionality. This attachment type requires a work element association, and can only be associated with [WE# 5 Land Purchase](#), [WE# 82 Install Well](#), [WE# 92 Lease Land](#), [WE# 149 Install Pipeline](#), [WE# 150 Install Sprinkler](#), or [WE# 151 Line Diversion Ditch](#).

In the future, when you add one of the work elements listed above, Pisces will automatically add a required milestone reminding you to upload your water survey form. This milestone's description is:

"Attach a completed water survey form in Pisces. The water survey form is located at: <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/IntegratedFWP/WaterSurveyForm.doc>. The form should be completed by the contract manager or BPA project manager and attached in Pisces."

8. "Print" function now available from Cost Share tab

By contractor request, the cost share tab information can now be "printed" to PDF – and then emailed or printed to hard copy if desired – for sharing with colleagues who do not have a Pisces account.

9. Updated Township/Section/Range and HUC worksite properties

Worksites that did not have the Township/Section/Range worksite property information or were missing HUC properties have been updated. These properties will now show up in the Properties list on the Work Element Details window's Location tab.

Also, SOW Reports will now show HUC6 access information when it applies.

10. 2500 Character Limit on Milestone Descriptions

Sorry, the Milestone Description field is no longer a creative outlet for our aspiring novelists. (The Deliverable Specification field is still unlimited, however.) We encourage contractors to be concise in their milestone descriptions, which will help BPA managers reviewing SOWs. Keeping within 2500 characters ensures that milestone text displays properly; long milestone text often becomes truncated or garbled in the SOW report table format.

New and Enhanced Reports

- New Metrics - Work Elements Association report
- WE background page now linked from WE Usage report

End of Pisces version 2.7 release notes