

Final Notes
Bear River License Implementation
Environmental Coordination Committee Meeting
June 16, 2004
Grace, Idaho

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by project facilitator Tracylee Clarke with the following ECC members present:

Monte Garrett, PacifiCorp, Environmental Coordinator
Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Mary Lucachick, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Jim Capurso, U.S. Forest Service
Warren Colyer, Trout Unlimited (for Scott Yates)
Scott Christensen, Greater Yellowstone Coalition (for Marv Hoyt)
Blain Newman, Bureau of Land Management
Jim Mende, Idaho Department of Fish and Wildlife
Larry Dickerson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (for Deb Mignogno)

Present by Proxy:

Jena Borovanski, Idaho Rivers United (Proxy to Greater Yellowstone Coalition)

Others Present:

Scott Pratt, Eve Davies, and Kelly Holt, PacifiCorp
Miriam Hugentobler, Project Coordinator
Patrick Koelsch, Bureau of Land Management
Michelle Weidner, SWCA Environmental
Jeff Seamons, Citizen of Preston, Idaho
Rob Bundy, Bear Lake Wildlife Refuge (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

Not Present:

Hunter Osbourne, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Susan Roseborough, U.S. Park Service
Charlie Vincent, American Whitewater

Decisions Made at this Meeting

- Previous work in the Smith Fork and Thomas Fork of the Bear River by Matt Campbell of Idaho Fish and Game will be included in the analysis of genetic samples of Bonneville cutthroat trout collected.
- Contractors will be used to gather more information on wetlands and PacifiCorp parcel ownership for developing plans for shoreline buffer zones.
- The Black Canyon working group will prepare a draft Black Canyon Monitoring Plan in time for the August ECC meeting.

Obligations Made at the June 16, 2004 ECC Meeting	
All	<p>Review revisions to recreation site plans (to be emailed by Garrett to the group by 6/23/04) and provide any comments to him by email or at the next meeting (email: monte.garrett@pacificorp.com)</p> <p>Consider overarching goals of shoreline buffer zones for discussion continued to the July ECC meeting.</p> <p>Review Cove Feasibility Study circulated by Garrett via email (6/18/04) and be prepared to discuss at the July meeting.</p>
Jim Mende	<p>Talk with IDFG State Representatives regarding the BCT Study Plan and report back to the group at the next meeting.</p> <p>Work with Michelle Weidner to incorporate comments received at this meeting into the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (BCT) Study Plan.</p>
Scott Pratt and Monte Garrett	<p>Work with Jim Mende in developing workscope and contract with IDFG for funding the genetics study portion of the BCT Study Plan.</p>
Monte Garrett	<p>Circulate consultant-prepared report on wetlands and riparian areas in the project area.</p> <p>Distribute Cove Feasibility Study to ECC (6/18/04) to begin the 30-day review period.</p> <p>Discuss use of matching funds on Bear Lake projects with PacifiCorp</p> <p>Work with Michelle Weidner to incorporate comments received at this meeting into the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (BCT) Study Plan.</p>
Michelle Weidner	<p>Revise BCT Study Plan and distribute to the ECC for review by July 7. Goal is to finalize the plan and file with the FERC by the end of July.</p>
Lynn Van Every	<p>Bring more information on thermal imaging (for aerial photos) to the July 14 meeting.</p> <p>Circulate Black Canyon Substrate Study photos to the group.</p>
Mary Lucachick	<p>Obtain standards for GIS data from Idaho State Land's GIS Repository to be included in scopes of work for contractors.</p>

Eve Davies	Oversee contractors in developing information for the shoreline buffer zone. Prepare conceptual maps for the shoreline buffer site plans at Grace/Cove, tentatively for the August ECC meeting.
Black Canyon Monitoring Plan Working Group: Lynn Van Every (chair), Jim Mende, Pat Koelsch, Charlie Vincent, Warren Colyer, Jim Capurso and Eve Davies.	Meet June 30 in Pocatello to work on drafting a monitoring plan for Black Canyon. Goal is to complete a draft of the plan in time for the August ECC meeting.

Review and Approve Meeting Notes

Notes from the May 19, 2004 meeting were approved with changes from Lynn Van Every and Charlie Vincent. Jim Mende requested a final change to the April meeting notes. The April notes will be revised and redistributed to the group.

Project Update – Monte Garrett, Environmental Coordinator, PacifiCorp

Recreation Site Plans

Garrett said he had not yet received comments from ECC members on the recreation site plans distributed at the May ECC meeting. He noted that some revisions will be made, based on a field visit by PacifiCorp and BLM held on the previous day (6/15/04). He will distribute the changes to ECC members by Wednesday, June 23. Comments on the recreation site plans may still go to Garrett, but he noted that time was short, as construction is scheduled for completion by the end of summer.

Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (BCT) Study Plan

A revised draft of the BCT Study Plan (dated 6/14/04) was distributed to ECC members (see Attachment A-1: BCT Restoration Study Plan).

Jim Mende said that broodstock is a sensitive issue with his agency (IDFG). He would like to see broodstock addressed in the plan to the minimum extent needed for FERC. He indicated that ECC oversight of other components of the BCT Study Plan are also being questioned. Garrett said the Settlement Agreement includes broodstock development, and there is latitude in the Settlement Agreement and License Order regarding study development, so the ECC should talk this out. Mende said he will speak with IDFG state representatives in Boise about the broodstock study, and other studies in the BCT Study Plan, and report back to the ECC next month.

Broodstock Development

Warren Colyer said he had obtained Wyoming's methods for broodstock management (see Attachment A-2: Bear River Cutthroat Brood Stock History and Maintenance and a set of bulleted notes).

Colyer said there are two known "pure" populations of BCT:

- Raymond Canyon population off the Thomas Fork (isolated, now not migratory)
- Lake Alice

Colyer said he's not sure an intact system will be found in Idaho and that the best genetic resources for broodstock will probably be in Wyoming.

Capurso said he thought it would be an appropriate use of ECC funds to analyze genetic samples collected by Colyer on the Thomas and Smith Forks because they may be used in our efforts to develop broodstock(s). If the Thomas Fork and Smith Fork genetics are similar to the populations in our project area, we may be able to use the Wyoming Game and Fish Bonneville cutthroat trout broodstock in the action area.

Capurso suggested it may be appropriate to develop more than one broodstock for the project area, dependent upon genetic study findings. He noted that Teuscher and Campbell (researchers) are currently analyzing differences between BCT in different areas of the Bear River. Garrett asked why develop more than one broodstock? If the goal is to come up with the best for the area, why develop more than one? Capurso responded the ECC could approach broodstock development in 1 or 2 ways: develop a Heinz 57 variety stock that would be used for all projects in the area and hope that the environmental factors within specific drainages will select for traits that benefit the population within that particular drainage OR develop a number of stocks dependent upon the population genetic traits identified in the genetics studies. This decision would be made by the ECC as more information is available.

Dickerson (USFWS) asked how soon the broodstock will be needed.

Capurso noted that supplementing BCT in areas where rainbow trout are present won't work. There will have to be stream treatments to remove all the fish, and then replace with BCT (for example, below Oneida). Broodstock would be needed to accomplish this.

Patrick Koelsch said it will be difficult to find pure strains of BCT in Idaho. Colyer noted that to restore BCT, connectivity must be restored. And with that comes the danger of hybridization.

Dickerson asked whether it has been decided that this (development of broodstock) is wanted or a good thing.

Garrett said that development of broodstock is scheduled for years 5-8. Prior to that, a lot of baseline data will be gathered. Decisions have not yet been made.

Capurso said thanks to PacifiCorp and this funding we have the opportunity to do the BCT restoration right.

Koelsch warned of the need to just get out there and do something. He said his group had worked in an area to improve habitat for Yellowstone cutthroat trout and when the project was complete, brook trout and rainbows moved in and took over the habitat.

Capurso noted the ECC has expressed support for using genetic analysis funding to analyze genetic samples collected in the Smith Fork and the Thomas Fork of the Bear River. Those samples will be analyzed by Matt Campbell (Idaho Fish and Game). Garrett said PacifiCorp will support this as such information may lead to an appropriate broodstock for the Action Area.

Colyer said he is currently working in Water Canyon and Contal Creek and would be willing to collect samples in those areas. If wider sampling is desired, this could be done with a contract.

Garrett said no additional funding is being proposed. The funding, used outside the Action Area to provide for stock in the Action Area (as previously agreed) may result in subsequent cost savings in broodstock development.

Scott Pratt and Garrett will work with Mende to develop the contract with IDFG for the genetics sampling study. Garrett said it would be best for PacifiCorp to have a contract with IDFG, and they in turn could subcontract with Trout Unlimited (Colyer) for the Wyoming data. Colyer will also work with Matt Campbell to identify any data gaps.

Garrett said this work may exceed funding allocated for the genetics study. Any exceedence will come out of funding for other things, such as aerial photography.

Review of the Draft BCT Restoration Study Plan

Michelle Weidner (SWCA) received comments on the 6/14/04 draft (see Attachment A-1: BCT Study Plan). Comments were made on the goals of genetic sample analysis, methods of aerial photography, and the telemetry schedule.

Capurso passed around an example of aerial photos to see if that's what the ECC has in mind. Garrett suggested asking for prices from a firm that does aerial photos for 1) CIR and 2) thermal imaging.

Garrett noted that the ECC has until the end of July to finalize and submit the BCT Study Plan to FERC. Garrett and Mende will work with Weidner to incorporate comments received at the meeting, including the Wyoming broodstock development information. It will be distributed one week prior to the next meeting (by 7/7/04). Meanwhile, Mende will talk with his agency representatives regarding their concerns with the BCT Study Plan.

Lynn Van Every offered to bring more information on thermal imaging to the next meeting.

Matching Funds Proposal - Rob Bundy, Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Bundy met with the ECC to explore the possibility of using matching potential of ECC funding on Bear Lake projects. He gave a PowerPoint presentation on his proposed project at Bear Lake. After the presentation, there was a discussion of fish passage and Bear River vs. Bear Lake fish. Colyer said fish that leave Bear Lake and enter the Bear River are “lost,” as there is no spawning habitat for the fish in the Bear River below Alexander Reservoir. Colyer and Capurso said regardless of whether we pursue the possibility of matching funds, something needs to be done upstream. Bundy would like a response as soon as possible, but no later than December 2004. In response to a request, Garrett said he could serve as a spokesperson for the ECC, but any ECC member may talk with Bundy as needed to reach a decision. Garrett said he would speak with PacifiCorp about the company’s position on this. The ECC will put the matching funds issue on the agenda for next month, and will discuss Bundy’s proposal over the next couple of months, with additional input if possible from Dick Scully, (regional fisheries manager, IDFG). Capurso noted that the system should be treated in order for improvements to be effective.

Idaho State Land’s GIS Repository - Mary Lucachick

Lucachick inquired about the purpose of having the ECC’s GIS information on the Idaho GIS Repository’s site, rather than elsewhere. Pratt said it’s an access and format issue. Access, in that the ECC would like everyone in the group to be able to use the GIS data that will be gathered. And format, because the ECC will be requesting contractors to put data in a standard format.

Lucachick asked who will be collecting GIS data and whether it would be helpful to have someone from State Lands attend an ECC meeting.

Garrett said that if deliverables include GIS data, we should be sure that State Lands’ standards are included in the Scope of Work. Eve Davies noted that PacifiCorp also has internal standards for GIS data, and compatibility would be necessary.

Lucachick agreed to obtain the State Lands standards for inclusion into workscopes for studies that produce GIS products.

Preliminary Shoreline Buffer Site Plan Overview – Grace/Cove Area – Eve Davies

Davies passed out a Preliminary Shoreline Buffer Site Plan Overview for the Grace/Cove Area (Attachment A-3) and discussed the location of the parcels, noting that boundaries are preliminary and will be tried in upcoming surveys. Davies noted that fencing would begin this year, as funds are available this budgeting period.

Davies said that cattle grazing may be used as a management tool to keep cattails under control around Kackley Springs, thereby expediting the flow of cool water for trout habitat in the Bear River and asked whether it would be desirable to completely fence off the spring from cattle.

Capurso said that in his experience cattle grazing has not been beneficial in wetlands and watersheds. Also, he noted, without fencing grazing must be actively managed. He suggested that the group decide on a desired future condition and make management decisions to achieve it.

Davies said conceptual maps for continued discussion of the shoreline buffer zone at Grace/Cove should be available by the August meeting.

Scott Christensen asked whether there were any other management tools for keeping the cattails down, aside from grazing, adding that he was nervous about leaving the door open for grazing. Davies said yes, other approaches are possible. Christensen asked whether grazing leases generated revenue for PacifiCorp. Davies said PacifiCorp is required by licensing agreements to provide for current practices, but can change management practices, adding that revenue from leases can help pay for management and monitoring.

Pratt suggested that more information on the parcels collect by contractors may allow for more informed discussion. Discussion was continued to the next meeting, ECC members were asked to give more thought to the issue (overarching goals) for next month.

Garrett offered to circulate to ECC members a consultant-prepared report on wetland and riparian habitat in the project area, which was brought up by Jim Mende.

Black Canyon Substrate Study PowerPoint Presentation - Lynn Van Every, IDEQ

Van Every gave a presentation to the group on the substrate study undertaken by IDEQ prior to the introduction of 80 cfs minimum flows in Black Canyon. Van Every said he had taken about 200 digital photos the area at 20 cfs and offered to make copies of the photos and distribute by CD.

Van Every said substrate surveys took place June 1-5, 2004. In addition, bug samples were taken the following Monday, although not as part of this baseline study.

Garrett said that with the preliminary outline for the Black Canyon Monitoring Plan complete, he'd like for the subgroup to get together and put together a draft Black Canyon Monitoring Plan for the ECC to review.

Capurso said that, based on the Feather River Study, ecological changes will be seen with whitewater releases. Everyone must be fully engaged in this issue and its monitoring because boaters will want to continue using the flows once they start. It will be up to the ECC to determine whether those flow-related changes are significant.

Garrett said that in order to proceed, the group will need to develop methodology for scopes of work, contracts, etc.

It was agreed that the work group would prepare a draft Black Canyon Monitoring Plan report for the ECC in time for the August meeting. (Work group members are Lynn Van Every (chair), Jim Mende, Pat Koelsch, Charlie Vincent, Warren Colyer, and Jim Capurso.) This will be discussed further at the July meeting. The subcommittee agreed to meet Wednesday, June 30 in Pocatello, ID.

Closing Comments – Monte Garrett and Tracylee Clarke

Garrett said ECC members should expect to receive a copy of the consultant-prepared Cove Feasibility Study from him by email within a few days (6/18/04). ECC members should be prepared to discuss the study at the July meeting.

ECC members agreed to hold the next ECC meeting on July 14, rather than the usual third Wednesday, in Grace, Idaho with the following agenda items:

Preparation and Planning – 1 hr.

Use of Matching Funds for Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge projects

(Proposal by Rob Bundy) – 1 hr.

Shoreline Buffer Zones, Eve Davies – 1 hr.

Black Canyon Monitoring Plan - 1 hr.

Cove Feasibility Study – 1 hr.

BCT Study Plan (including info on thermal photos) – 1 hr.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Attachment A: Handouts

A-1: Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Study Plan (6/14/04 Draft)

**A-2: Bear River Cutthroat Trout Brood Stock History and Maintenance, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Fish Division
(Also includes a set of bulleted notes)**

A-3: Preliminary Shoreline Buffer Site Plan Overview – Grace/Cove Area