

What's an "ECC"?

The Bear River PacifiCorp Hydroelectric Project License Settlement Agreement

March 8, 9, and 10, 2005

Sponsored by the
Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bear Lake
SWCD, Caribou SCD, and Franklin County Fish
and Game Association

Presentation Contents

- Background
 - FERC Relicensing Process
 - Settlement Agreement Negotiations
 - Focus: Bonneville cutthroat trout and river/stream/wetland ecosystems
- Settlement Agreement Provisions
 - Studies
 - Conservation, Easements, Land Funding
 - Others
- Project Prioritization
- How to apply for funding



Background

- U.S. hydroelectric projects need a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to operate.
- These are generally 30-50 year licenses.
- PacifiCorp needed to be relicensed.
- Utilities are required under several laws to coordinate with State and Federal resource management agencies during the licensing period.

Background

- PacifiCorp worked with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Trout Unlimited, Idaho Rivers United, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, American Whitewater, and others to produce the August 2002 Settlement Agreement and resulting license conditions.

Background

- The signatories of the settlement agreement formed the Bear River Environmental Coordinating Committee (ECC)
- The ECC works together to implement the conditions in the settlement agreement.



Background

- Many conditions of the settlement agreement focused on the restoration of Bonneville cutthroat trout and their associated habitat, including:
 - the river
 - its tributaries
 - its wetlands
 - and its riparian areas

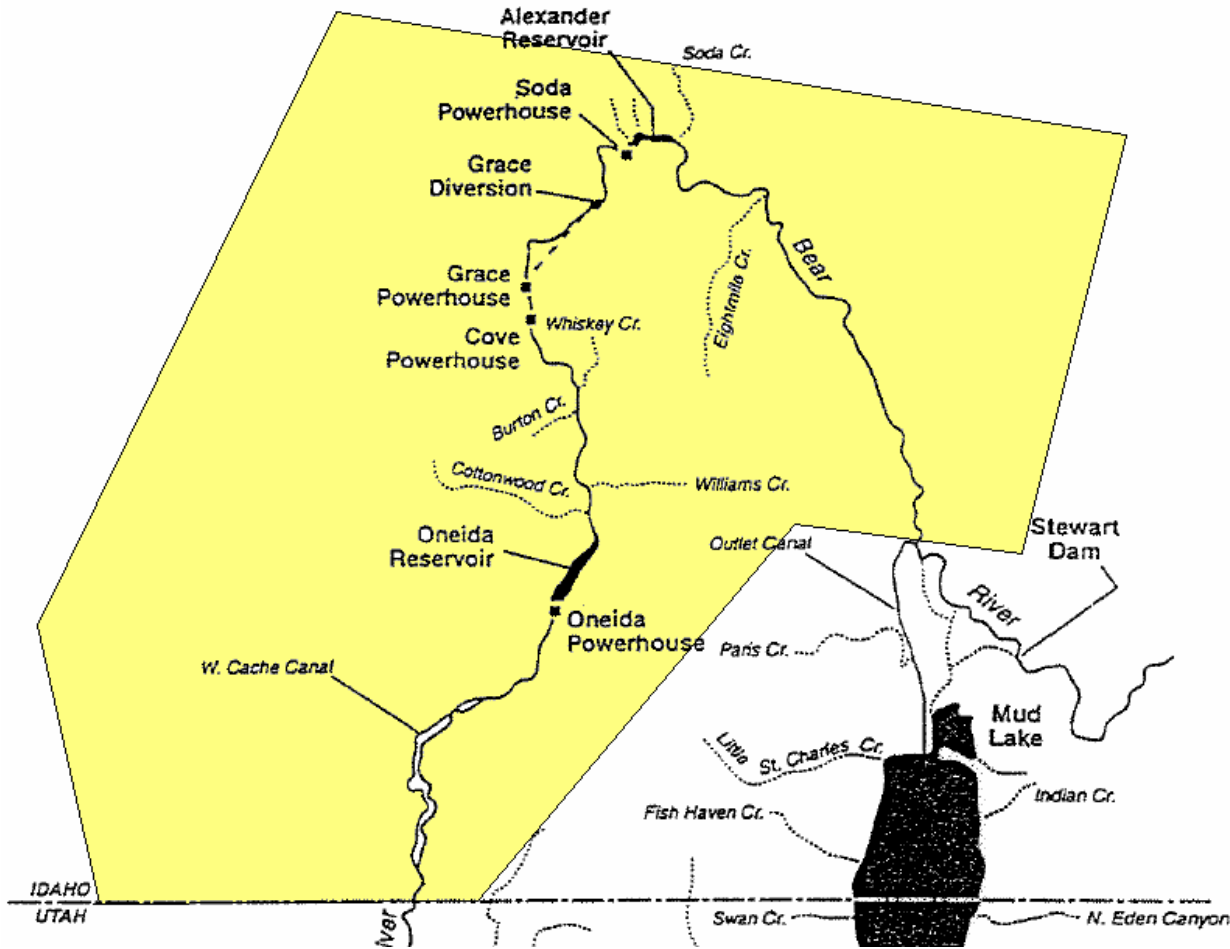


Background

- Bonneville cutthroat trout are the only trout species native to the Bear River Subbasin.
- They are currently considered a Species of Concern by the State of Idaho and Sensitive by USDA Forest Service.
- They live in segments of the Bear River and some of its tributaries.
- There's an interagency/interstate agreement to protect and restore their populations



ECC Action Area



- Projects proposed in highlighted area will receive priority consideration.
- Projects in the Bear River and tributaries in Idaho outside the highlighted area will also be considered, but funding must be approved by PacifiCorp.

Settlement Agreement Provisions

- Reality Check!
- The conservation opportunities provided by the Bear River Settlement Agreement to the public are completely voluntary.
- The intent of this presentation is to inform you of these opportunities in case you wanted to partake.
- In addition, this presentation is to inform you of the other activities and studies that are underway and will occur.

Settlement Agreement Provisions

- Preparation of a Bonneville cutthroat trout restoration plan (\$20,000)
- Analysis of Bonneville cutthroat trout genetic samples (\$40,000)
- Aerial photo and temperature imagery flight and analysis (\$125,000)
- Map of Irrigation Diversions to determine opportunity for screening, fish passage, and water conservation (\$13,000)

Settlement Agreement Provisions

- Funding provided for a 3-year radio-telemetry study of migratory Bonneville cutthroat trout (\$150,000).
- Led by IDFG
- This will provide information for the restoration plan.



Settlement Agreement Provisions

- Funding provided for a 3-year effort to determine the need and feasibility of developing a Bonneville cutthroat trout broodstock for reintroduction or supplementation in waters where habitat is adequate to support self-sustaining populations of BCT (\$300,000 initially) (\$100,000 annually to implement, if needed)



Settlement Agreement Provisions

- Funding is available for habitat restoration.
- River, stream, riparian, wetland restoration efforts (\$167,000/year starting this year)
- Funding primarily for inside action area, but ECC will entertain funding projects outside action area that could benefit resources in action area (migratory fish)

Settlement Agreement Provisions

- Prioritization of restoration projects will emphasize:
 - Benefits to native fish
 - Long-term effectiveness
 - Cost:Benefit
 - Project significance
 - Watershed perspective
 - Partnerships



Settlement Agreement Provisions

- Restoration Project Example:
 - Riparian Area Restoration
 - This may include:
 - Fencing riparian areas
 - Pumping water to livestock
 - Beveling back unstable stream banks
 - Planting native riparian vegetation



Settlement Agreement Provisions

- Restoration Project Example:
 - Water Diversions
 - This May Include:
 - Ditch Consolidation
 - Conversion from surface to ground water
 - Conversion from flood to sprinkler system
 - Rebuild structure to accommodate fish passage
 - Screen structure to keep fish from entering ditches



Settlement Agreement Provisions

- Funding is available for land and water acquisition from willing sellers (\$300,000/year)
 - This may include:
 - Land purchases
 - Land easements
 - Water purchases
 - Water use easements



Settlement Agreement Provisions

- Restoration and Land/Water Conservation Funding Application Procedure
 - Complete Application
 - You can consult your favorite resource management agency or organization for advice
 - Submit Application to ECC Coordinator Monte Garrett c/o 822 Grace Power Plant Road, Grace, ID 83241 Phone: 208-425-9200
monte.garrett@pacificorp.com

Settlement Agreement Provisions

- Whitewater releases with available water in Black Canyon and associated monitoring
- Establishment of minimum flows
- PacifiCorp Land Management Plan
- PacifiCorp Recreation Management Plan
 - Campground Funding
 - Traffic Safety Plan
 - Turn-around Loop
 - Law Enforcement
 - Dust Abatement
 - Upgrade Campground Facilities



Settlement Agreement Provisions

- Assistance to Caribou County for maintenance of recreation sites at Alexander Reservoir (\$3,000/year)
- Improvements to Put-in and Take-out Facilities at Black Canyon and Oneida Narrows
- Bear River Flow Information Phone and Website

