

Final Notes
Bear River License Implementation
Environmental Coordination Committee Meeting
July 20, 2005
Pocatello, Idaho

Commitments Made at the July 2005 ECC Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and provide comments on Grace-Cove Site Plan. 30-day review ends August 20.
Deb Mignogno, Eve Davies, Claudia Conder, Tom Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to develop conveyance agreement language. Report back to ECC at the August meeting.
Monte Garrett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the Black Canyon Monitoring Plan RFP. Add ERI, USU and ISU to bidders' list Write letter to IDFG to support FRIMA funding Develop "letter agreement" language
Black Canyon Subcommittee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate as needed in conference call for bidders on Black Canyon monitoring work, Monday, August 1.
Claudia Conder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer contract to landowner for proposed land purchase. Report back to ECC at the August meeting.
Eve Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send letter of landowner support for comment/approval. Send scope and schedule for McGregor Fencing Project to Monte Garrett Arrange for site review of the Grace-Cove project area with Mignogno and Hoyt.
Deb Mignogno	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the August ECC meeting
Mary Lucachick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Phil Rassier of the Idaho Attorney General's Office

Decisions Made:

- Develop a checklist for acquiring properties under consideration for conservation easements
- Offer contract to landowner for proposed land purchase.
- Develop conveyance agreement language.
- Hold a conference call for potential bidders on Black Canyon monitoring work.

ECC Members Present

Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Deb Mignogno, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Jim Mende, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 Pat Koelsch, Bureau of Land Management
 Warren Colyer, Trout Unlimited
 Marv Hoyt, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
 Hunter Osbourne, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
 Charlie Vincent, American Whitewater
 Mary Lucachick, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
 Monte Garrett, PacifiCorp

Jim Capurso, U.S. Forest Service
Bill Sedivy, Idaho Rivers United

Others Present

Dave Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Scott Grunder, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Scott, PacifiCorp
Eve Davies, PacifiCorp
Claudia Conder, PacifiCorp
Kelly Holt, PacifiCorp
Scott Christensen, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Greg Mladenka, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Tom Lucia, Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust

Recap and Review

Notes from June ECC meeting were accepted with changes from Charlie Vincent.

Updates

Black Canyon Monitoring RFP – Monte Garrett

Garrett told ECC members that the RFP for monitoring work in the Black Canyon is out for bid. However, the most recent revisions to the RFP have not yet been posted to the website. Garrett said he will work with PacifiCorp procurement to update potential bidders prior to the scheduled conference call to address questions from potential bidders. He noted that some may have dropped out of bidding because of the funding cap for the work. Garrett suggested adding wording to the RFP that bidders detail what can be done for the budgeted amount (i.e., may consider omitting certain tasks to meet budget). Garrett said he will notify all who received the bid announcement of the change. Garrett said the ECC will then review the proposals, and if none are adequate, the RFP will be revisited and reissued. Warren Colyer asked that Garrett include ERI on the bidders' list, as well as Utah State University and Idaho State University.

Thermal Imaging – Dave Teuscher

Teuscher said the thermal imaging work will start the week of August 8. He said Idaho Department of Fish Game will have a team on the ground, monitoring fish while the flights are underway. Deb Mignogno and Patrick Koelsch volunteered to participate, and Teuscher said he will call if he needs help. Teuscher noted that fish are now going up into the tributaries (due to water temperatures). He told ECC members that three of five Bonneville cutthroat trout tagged in the Cub River have died (two more since last tracking). Teuscher said efforts to recover the tags and determine mortality are underway.

Land Trust Agreement

Tom Lucia, a representative of Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust, was present to meet with ECC members. Garrett said he would like Lucia to meet with Eve Davies to begin

developing the proposed land trust agreement. Davies asked whether there was a lump sum payment upon conveyance of the land to the trust to support the management of the parcel in perpetuity. Lucia said yes. Therefore, the agreement should be in place prior to conveyance. Davies said she would like to use the site plans as a template for management of lands placed in the land trust. Mignogno asked whether the ECC would work out such details, or would the land trust work with the landowner. It was decided that before money is exchanged, details such as monitoring requirements, etc. would be worked out. Mignogno asked whether some money needed to be exchanged upfront in order for the land trust to serve as the ECC's agent. Lucia proposed an annual meeting between the land trust and ECC. Mignogno proposed developing a checklist for acquiring properties under consideration (steps for conservation easement process), and also putting an agreement in place to provide money to the trust for upfront studies (establishing baseline conditions, etc). Garrett said he supports the idea of developing a checklist.

Funding Update – Monte Garrett

Garrett presented an overhead of spreadsheets showing funding by task. Capurso asked whether the spreadsheets could be emailed to ECC members. Garrett noted that the spreadsheets are included in the Annual Report, but could be emailed at any time upon request.

Water Bank – Deb Mignogno

The ECC continued discussion on the creation of a water bank from the June ECC meeting. Mignogno told ECC members that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (or any organized group) can apply for a minimum stream flow/water rights.

Bill Sedivy said formation of a water bank would require an act of the state legislature. Van Every said he believed that the “rental pool” concept under consideration would be approved and governed by a local committee.

Hoyt said he is concerned about the year-to-year nature of water banks. He said he would rather focus on long-term projects that don't cause harm. Vincent said that if we don't claim water and use it, it will go downstream and be claimed anyway. Hoyt said to clarify, we are just changing the point of diversion.

Mary Lucachick and Sedivy suggested getting advice from State Attorney General's office – Phil Rassier – on the possibility of creating a water bank before hiring Attorney Jody Williams to complete the review. Sedivy suggested having a state agency contact the AG's office. Lucachick agreed to do this, Jim Mende volunteered to help.

Grace-Cove Site Plan – Eve Davies

The draft Grace-Cove Site Plan was presented to the ECC for discussion and comment. Mignogno asked for field review of the site. Davies agreed to arrange this for interested ECC members.

Hoyt said he would like to see a larger discussion among ECC members regarding management of PacifiCorp lands (based on grazing in the site plan and land management plan).

Davies noted that she would like to use this plan as the template for future plans, and asked for ECC members to review the plan with that suitability in mind.

Garrett noted that this presentation begins the 30-day review period.

Proposed August Agenda: Grace, Idaho, 9 a.m.

Update from Conder on proposed land purchase

Update from Mignogno on Conveyance Agreement language.

Update – Contact with State AG’s Office by Lucachick regarding water banking.

Comments/Discussion Grace-Cove Site Plan

RFP for Black Canyon Monitoring

Update on first thermal imaging flight

Update on funded projects

BCMP subcommittee meeting will be held on August 16th (note: this was later changed to the regular ECC meeting date)

Cove Update on filing of Agreement

The regular meeting was adjourned for signing of the Settlement Agreement for Cove Decommissioning.

In addition to ECC members and others listed above and present for the regular ECC meeting, the following individuals were present for the Cove Settlement Agreement signing ceremony:

Therese Lamb, PacifiCorp

Joe Kraayenbrink, BLM

Holly Harwood, PacifiCorp

Dave Eskelsen, PacifiCorp

Robert Mienen, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Wes Stumbo, U.S. Forest Service

Gary Burton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Representative, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Following opening remarks, the Cove Settlement Agreement was signed and copies were distributed.