

Final Notes
Bear River License Implementation
Environmental Coordination Committee Meeting
February 22, 2006
Pocatello, Idaho

Commitments Made at the January 2006 Bear River ECC Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send any outstanding invoices for habitat enhancement funds to Mark Stenberg • Review 2005 Annual Report (will be distributed for 30-day review by email next week). Comments due to Miriam Hugentobler by April 1. • Consider adopting a protocol for sharing of data gathered during ECC-sponsored studies. Stenberg will work on a preliminary model.
Mark Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange meeting with landowners regarding Cove fencing (with Eve Davies). • Meet with Idaho SHPO, report back to the ECC. • Notify ECC members of spillgate testing when date is finalized. • Develop a preliminary for the ECC's data sharing protocol. Report back to the ECC. • Resolve remaining questions about habitat enhancement funds prior to subcommittee meeting on March 23.
Miriam Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email long forms for habitat enhancement and land and water acquisition projects to subcommittee members. • Ensure that when the ECC meets to approve the funding proposal subcommittee's recommendations for funding, notice of a vote is included in the meeting agenda (April 5, 2006 meeting).
Dave Teuscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate available temperature data for Black Canyon among ECC member agencies and organizations. Goal is to pool and plot data.
Lynn Van Every	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with 401 permitting process for Cove decommissioning. Coordinate with Mark Stenberg and the ECC on final language for the permit. • Continue discussion with Gangemi regarding the use of artificial vs natural substrates for Black Canyon monitoring.
Eve Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange meeting with landowners regarding Cove fencing (with Mark Stenberg).
Funding Proposal Subcommittee (Mark Stenberg, Eve Davies, Deb Mignogno, Warren Colyer, Lynn Van Every, Jim Capurso, Marv Hoyt, Dave Teuscher)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project sponsors: Complete long forms for funding proposals. The review schedule is as follows: March 10 – long forms due to Miriam Hugentobler March 16 – long forms compiled and distributed to subcommittee members March 23 – Funding Proposal Subcommittee meets in Pocatello April 5 – ECC meets in Grace/subcommittee presents funding recommendations.

ECC Members Present

Mark Stenberg, Environmental Coordinator, PacifiCorp
Deb Mignogno, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Mende, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Marv Hoyt, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Jim Capurso, U.S. Forest Service

Others Present

Eve Davies, PacifiCorp
Buffi Morris, PacifiCorp
John Gangemi, Oasis Environmental
Kelly Holt, PacifiCorp
Dave Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Glen Pond, PacifiCorp
Greg Mladenka, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Miriam Hugentobler, Project Coordinator

By Phone

Charlie Vincent, American Whitewater (during Black Canyon discussion)

Review of Agenda

The following items were added to the day's agenda:

- Spillgate testing
- Annual report
- Project funding (escalation)
- Rocky Point Hydroelectric Project
- Fencing at Cove

Review of Meeting Notes

Notes from the January ECC meeting were accepted without changes.

Review of Commitments

Commitments from the January ECC meeting were reviewed and updated as follows:

- RFP for thermal imaging – Stenberg told ECC members that the RFP has been issued. IRZ was not included on the bidders' list.
- Fencing at Cove – Stenberg said meetings with landowners in the area have not yet been held.

- **Monitoring Forms** – Stenberg said forms are still in the discussion phase, and he may obtain help with this task from a contractor.
- **Trout Unlimited contract** – Stenberg said PacifiCorp has developed an outline agreement with TU, which replaces the old contract for habitat enhancement work. Stenberg asked for any outstanding invoices for habitat enhancement funds, so that they can be processed by the end of PacifiCorp’s fiscal year (March).
- **Minimum Flows** – Stenberg said updates are being provided on methods used to demonstrate minimum flows (deadband vs gage readings).
- **Sterility of Rainbow Trout** – Teuscher said the hatchery owner who is donating and stocking rainbow trout in the Black Canyon area is using temperature shock to sterilize the fish he is using. Teuscher said if protocols are followed, this method is 95 percent effective. IDFG is requiring sterile fish, and have discussed protocols with the hatchery owner. Capurso asked about controls IDFG has over private hatcheries in regard to disease control, etc. Teuscher said IDFG has no regulatory control; that is, the agency has no authority to go into the hatchery, but it can request disease certifications. Teuscher said this particular facility has never tested positive for Whirling Disease. He said he has talked with the hatchery owner, and stocking will not take place in 8-mile, above Alexander (the control reach), and stocking will be kept below Alexander in the Black Canyon area.
- **Funding proposal subcommittee** – Hugentobler will email long forms to subcommittee members. She will also ensure that when the ECC votes on funding recommendations, notice of a planned vote will appear on the meeting agenda.

Project Updates

FERC EA for Cove Decommissioning – Mark Stenberg

Stenberg told ECC members that the FERC EA has experienced a delay. He said the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) sent a comment letter on the Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) which stated that they believed PacifiCorp’s staff was not qualified to evaluate the significance of historic resources in the project area. Stenberg said that PacifiCorp had replied to the letter and thought the matter was resolved but it was not. He said the HPMP can’t be issued until clearance work is done, and Cove won’t proceed until the HPMP is in place. Stenberg said that SWCA is now under contract to do level II documentation on Cove. Hoyt said he did not want PacifiCorp’s internal problems to interfere with the decommissioning of Cove this year. Capurso asked whether there was anything ECC member agencies could do to assist. Hoyt asked whether a meeting with SHPO would be better than correspondence. Stenberg said he has scheduled a meeting with SHPO. Mende said ECC members as a whole would like to stay informed on this topic, and would like to offer help if it is needed. He stressed that the ECC does not want to see the project delayed. Stenberg said PacifiCorp still plans to put removal out for bid in mid March.

401 Permit for Cove Decommissioning– Lynn Van Every

Van Every said he is working with Cirrus Environmental on the 401 permitting process. He told ECC members that 401 conditions are now in draft form, and will put out for public notice within the next week (for public comment March 1). He said they will be finalized by April 1 and the permit issued. Van Every said he will be in touch with Stenberg in the next week or so about final language, and will circulate this to ECC members as well.

Grace Spillgate Testing

Stenberg provided the ECC with notice of upcoming spillgate testing at Grace. He told ECC members that FERC requires this testing every year, and every 5th year, it's a full test. He said this will be a 5-year test. Water is released, and the testing will last for about an hour. Stenberg said he will inform the ECC when the date is set. In reviewing results from 5 years ago, he said it looks like no ramp rates, etc. will be violated.

Rocky Point Hydroelectric Project

Capurso had requested time on the agenda to discuss the January 24, 2006 FERC notice of application accepted for filing and soliciting motions to intervene, protests, and comments for Rocky Point Hydroelectric Project. Mende said he spoke with Harriet Hensley of the Idaho State Attorney General's Office, and the action publicized was done as a "placeholder." He said there is no new activity on this project.

Mende asked if anyone had news on Twin Lakes. Van Every said he had heard the project had been moved up a half mile or so based on geotechnical study.

2005 Annual Report

Stenberg said a letter has been sent to FERC requesting a time extension for submission of the annual report. He said the draft annual report will be distributed to ECC members next week via email for a 30-day review. ECC members were asked to review and provide comments via email to Hugentobler, with a copy to Stenberg.

Black Canyon – John Gangemi

John Gangemi of Oasis Environmental, the contractor conducting monitoring work for the ECC in Black Canyon, gave a Powerpoint presentation on the preliminary results of baseline monitoring, which was completed in October 2005. Gangemi first summarized experimental design, study reaches, and methods. Details are included in the Black Canyon Monitoring Plan.

Results

Gangemi showed hydrographs of study area (above Alexander and below Grace) provided by Connely Baldwin of PacifiCorp. He presented temperature data for each reach, and discussed additional temperature data needs. He said additional data are available in the literature, and agencies have some additional data. Gangemi suggested placing HOBO data loggers in additional locations. Teuscher suggested adding Ryan's (graduate student conducting telemetry work in the area) temperature data. Teuscher

suggested pooling other ECC member organizations' and agencies' temperature data so that it could be plotted. Stenberg said ERI also has a data set. Teuscher said he would like to coordinate available temperature data and make better use of it. Gangemi noted that there is no HOBO in Reach 2.

Gangemi said channel survey data appears to show that Reach 3 is more promising than Reach 2 for fisheries.

Gangemi said the analysis of benthic invertebrate samples is due from the lab April 28 and he will follow with a report 4 weeks later.

Conclusions

Gangemi said it appears that change over time within sites will be more important than change between reaches, as there are significant differences between reaches under baseline conditions (hydrology, temperature, channel shape and structure, and biological community).

Capurso asked about the validity of using a reference reach, given differences between sites. Teuscher said change in climate may really influence things downstream, so it's good to have the reference reach.

Discussion Topics

Gangemi asked about switching to artificial substrates. He said he is currently using natural substrates and in some reaches he struggled to find substrate. Gangemi and IDEQ will discuss this further.

Gangemi asked if it's OK to share (i.e., publish) monitoring study design (not necessarily the actual data gathered) with others facing adaptive management. Van Every said the ECC should discuss protocols for sharing data. Teuscher compared the situation to having a graduate student conduct a project and then publish the results. Stenberg said he doesn't think sharing these data is a problem. According to the contract, he said, PacifiCorp paid for the data, but it belongs to the ECC. Stenberg said he would like the ECC to have a chance to review and interpret any data gathered before other outside parties do, as he doesn't want to be put into the position of having to respond to someone else's interpretation without having the work done too. Capurso referenced similar problems with the interpretation of the Feather River data by others, but added that he supports data sharing in general.

Gangemi noted that his report will not include a lot of interpretation. He said he plans to present the data and let the ECC draw its own conclusions, unless requested otherwise (that is, he is putting his former role as American Whitewater advocate aside).

Vincent said he wondered why other, similar studies have not been published widely or for years after studies were undertaken.

Van Every said if any ECC members plan to present information from ECC studies, they should bring it before the ECC first and discuss conclusions, as information obtained could possibly affect policy.

Stenberg suggested building a “straw man” and running some types of data sharing through it (such as telemetry and Black Canyon monitoring data), and making decisions based on that. Stenberg said he will do this. Van Every moved that the ECC discuss this further, as suggested by Stenberg, and then formalize at a future meeting.

In concluding his update on Black Canyon monitoring, Gangemi said a draft report has been completed (distributed by email to ECC members 1/31/06). Oasis will add a section on benthic invertebrates once the analysis of those data is completed by the lab and will then finalize the report. The final report is expected sometime in June. Gangemi said he will post the report to the website when it’s final but will not include the dataset.

ECC Funding Update

Stenberg presented updated funding spreadsheets to the ECC. The spreadsheets included revised totals, with escalation. Stenberg gave an explanation of escalation. Some questions still remained regarding habitat enhancement funds. Mignogno asked for those issues to be resolved before the project review, which is scheduled for March 17.

The ECC then adjourned to a Funding Proposal subcommittee meeting

Agenda for April 5 ECC Meeting– Grace, Idaho

Subcommittee presents ranking of proposals (VOTE)

Cove Fencing

Monitoring Forms

State Historic Preservation Office

How to handle release of data

Future agenda – update on Cove Removal Plan