

Final Notes
Bear River Environmental Coordination Committee Meeting
June 21, 2006
Pocatello, Idaho

Commitments Made at the June 21, 2006 Bear River ECC Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All interested ECC members are invited to participate in a conference call regarding 2006 thermal imaging beginning at 9 a.m., July 11.
Mark Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide standard contract for consulting services to Colyer. Route annotated outline from statewide BCT Restoration Plan to ECC members for review and comment, including how ECC members may participate. Get in touch with Laef Wallen and NRCS regarding the Williams Creek Diversion project, for which funding was granted by the ECC during the 2005 review period. Update the ECC on whether this project is moving forward. Participate in a conference call (June 22, 2006) with Phil Damon of the BLM regarding fencing (with Claudia Conder and Deb Mignogno). Notify Davies of the outcome.
Lynn Van Every	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speak with steering committee for bearriverinfo.org (USU Water Lab) about storing thermal imaging data (at their next meeting, July or Sept. 2006).
Eve Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forward contact information for USU video group to Stenberg for possible filming of Cove decommissioning. Revise Oneida Site Plan to address possible conflict at Redpoint campground (i.e., insufficient access). Complete and distribute Oneida Site Plan for 30-day review by the ECC. Revise and redistribute Grace/Cove Site Plan. Request outline of Kackley Spring Restoration Feasibility Evaluation and Site Plan from Ken Theis. Also request that Theis prepare a scope and a work plan with alternatives before proceeding.
Deb Mignogno	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forward contact information for Channel 12 to Stenberg for possible filming of Cove decommissioning.
Dave Teuscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact firm conducting thermal imaging to inquire about coverage of the following areas: 1) Wyoming border to Smith's Fork, 2) Smith's Fork to Hobble Creek, 3) Dahle's project to Idaho border. Forward annotated outline from statewide BCT restoration plan to Mark Stenberg
Warren Colyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact thermal imaging firm and verbally commit Trout Unlimited for additional coverage. Email request to Stenberg for use of ECC funds expended on thermal imaging as matching funds for a grant proposal to provide additional thermal imaging coverage on the Bear River.

Decisions Made at This Meeting:

- Approve Colyer's request to use the ECC's thermal imaging expenditure as a match for grant money to cover gaps in thermal imaging coverage subject to PacifiCorp review.
- Approve Davies' request to use a portion of the remaining 2006 habitat enhancement funds to remove the old calf-wire fence in the Cove Fencing project area, at a cost of no more than \$2,000.
- Agreed to fund IDFG's land acquisition proposal for the Georgetown Wildlife Management Area – McCammon addition using \$20,000 in 2006 land and water acquisition funds, subject to approval of a management plan for the property.

ECC Members Present

Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp
Pat Koelsch, Bureau of Land Management
Deb Mignogno, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Jim Mende, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Marv Hoyt, Greater Yellowstone Coalition (half-day)

Others Present

Damien Miller, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Eve Davies, PacifiCorp
Glen Pond, PacifiCorp
Corey Lyman, US Forest Service
Dave Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Claudia Conder, PacifiCorp
Paul Wackenhut – Idaho Department of Fish and Game (for subcommittee meeting)
Louis Wasniewski – US Forest Service

Participating By Telephone

Warren Colyer, Trout Unlimited
Mary Lucachick, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Review of Notes and Agenda

An information item on recent Union Pacific derailments at Dingle was added to the agenda at the request of Lynn Van Every. Review of agency contacts was removed.

Notes were approved with comments from Hugentobler and Stenberg.

Review of Commitments

Commitments from the April 2006 ECC meeting were reviewed. Stenberg noted that since language on land and water acquisition was available in the meeting notes, it will not be necessary to draft additional language as noted in the commitments.

In regard to Cove decommissioning, Mignogno asked whether decommissioning would be filmed. Davies and Mignogno offered to provide contact information to Stenberg for groups that could film decommissioning (Davies – USU, Mignogno – Ch. 12).

In regard to Cove fencing, Stenberg told ECC members that a fencing monitoring and exclusion agreement is under development. Koelsch asked whether the agreement would allow landowners to opt out after 10 years. Stenberg said the plan is for agreements to last for the life of the hydro license.

Updates

Land Trust MOA

Stenberg told the ECC that changes are being made to the MOA with Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust. He will keep ECC members posted. Mignogno said the land trust's lawyer has issues with the MOA related to the trust's nonprofit status.

Thermal Imaging

Stenberg said that plans for thermal imaging work are proceeding and asked whether agencies have temperature probes in and ready.

Colyer noted that he recently found one of Ryan's fish (from the telemetry study) up Hobble Creek. He told ECC members that thermal imaging was also being planned for the Bear River in the Cutler Reservoir area by USU, concurrent with the ECC's planned imaging flight. Colyer said he (Trout Unlimited) was approached about cost sharing for conducting thermal imaging from the Idaho border to Smith's Fork. This cost sharing would consist of \$7,500 from Trout Unlimited and Colyer asked ECC members for approval to use money paid to Idaho Department of Fish and Game for telemetry or the upcoming thermal imaging as a match for a grant for thermal imaging the section of the Bear River between Cutler Reservoir and the Idaho border. Teuscher said he did not believe the telemetry work had been used as a match for any other projects. Colyer asked whether the ECC would like to cover additional sections that aren't yet covered, consisting of approximately 12 river miles at an addition cost of about \$4,500. Davies said she thought it would be important to cover the area from the Idaho border to Cutler Reservoir and fill in that gap. Van Every suggested contacting Utah Department of Environmental Quality about funding that work. Colyer asked for \$9,000 as a match for grant monies, and said this would cover gaps in coverage in Utah and Wyoming.

Mende asked if the ECC was maintaining a list of encumbrances for grant matches. Stenberg said no. Colyer said the ECC should discuss this later in the meeting. He said that some projects will soon expire and their match potential will be lost. He said the ECC should also find a way to get word out to people who could use the match.

The ECC voted on whether approve Colyer's request to use the ECC's thermal imaging expenditure as a match for grant money to cover gaps in thermal imaging coverage.

Consensus was reached to approve the request. Stenberg asked that Colyer put the request in writing and email a copy to him.

Mignogno asked what kind of documentation Colyer needed for the grant application. Colyer said a letter from the ECC. Colyer noted that he will be out for the next two weeks, beginning this afternoon. He asked whether a request to the thermal imaging consultant for additional coverage could wait. Teuscher said no and agreed to call the firm to inquire about coverage for the following areas: 1) Wyoming to Smiths Fork, 2) Smiths Fork to Hobble Creek, 3) Dahle's project to Idaho border.

Stenberg asked how the contract to cover gaps could be set up. Colyer said the money could flow through Trout Unlimited to thermal imaging firm. Colyer said he would call and verbally commit to the firm. Colyer asked whether Stenberg could provide a standard contract that Trout Unlimited could use for thermal imaging. Stenberg said yes.

Davies asked about ownership of the thermal imaging data. She noted that PacifiCorp will own the data, but wanted to know who would have access to it. Stenberg said he is still working on a data sharing protocol for ECC projects.

Questions were raised about what to do with the thermal imaging data. Mignogno asked whether IDEQ was serving as the ECC's repository. Van Every suggested using Utah State University's Water Lab web site, www.bearriverinfo.org. He agreed to bring the possibility up at the next steering committee meeting for Bear River Info.

Cove Decommissioning

Stenberg told ECC members that PacifiCorp has requested a rehearing on Cove to include the article on funding and clarification on two items 1) suspension of instream flows during decommissioning 2) how the end of the penstock will be sealed (a FERC question, answer has been provided). Stenberg told ECC members they will receive notice of the rehearing.

Stenberg said the August ECC meeting at Grace will include a Cove decommissioning site tour. Decommissioning will start during the first week of August. Stenberg said the area will be closed to public access during decommissioning.

Stenberg clarified that PacifiCorp has not accepted FERC's order regarding Cove because they cannot until the rehearing is complete. Stenberg told ECC members that he expects this to be resolved and that Cove decommissioning will proceed as scheduled.

Telemetry

Teuscher updated the ECC on the ongoing Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) telemetry study. He said a lot of fish have been tagged, and findings this year have been similar to last year: Eight-mile Creek (Nounan section) has the most activity. Right now, he said, fish are either in Eight-mile Creek or in the mainstem Bear River. Teuscher said Ryan (graduate student performing the study) is putting out more temperature probes to go with the temperature tags in the fish.

In regard to the genetics study, Teuscher said he has sent in 150 samples from fall and spring for analysis, the last being sent about two weeks ago.

Teuscher said there are still some unused tags, and Ryan is putting in out-migration traps and will try to tag more fish. Colyer noted that he has a trap on the Thomas Fork and said he will keep the ECC informed on this effort.

Cove Fencing

Davies discussed the possibility of using remaining habitat enhancement funds to remove the old calf-wire fence in this area while fencers are there installing new fence. Koelsch was asked to speak with the BLM about this issue. Davies said PacifiCorp could build the section of fence on BLM land and the BLM could then pay for it. She estimated the cost at about \$2,000). Koelsch said he will pass the proposal on to Phil Damon. Davies said fencing work in the area is proceeding quickly, and asked whether approval could be obtained. Davies said she did not want to leave an opening in the fence (on BLM land), which is intended to keep cattle from the Bear River. Mende offered to help expedite the request to BLM. Davies said the fence will be important to protect PacifiCorp land. She noted that she had sent an application for funding for the project to US Fish and Wildlife Service for "Partners" funding.

ECC members voted on whether to use a portion of the remaining 2006 habitat enhancement funds to remove the old calf-wire fence in this area, at a cost of no more than \$2,000. Consensus to proceed was reached.

Oneida Site Plan

Davies reviewed progress on the Oneida Site Plan with ECC members. An early draft of the first two sections of the plan was distributed to ECC members by email prior to the meeting. Desired future conditions and conflicts were reviewed and discussed.

In regard to public access, Stenberg noted that PacifiCorp discourages motorized public use of its land. He said PacifiCorp would like to prohibit ATV use on company land but enforcement is difficult. He said one problem identified at the Oneida site is that BLM has designated the road in Oneida Canyon as an ATV corridor. And Franklin County laws for the use of street-legal vehicles only do not apply to this road. He said PacifiCorp will sign PacifiCorp roads off the main road as "no motor vehicles." He said PacifiCorp would like Franklin County to adopt the Oneida Road as a designated public road, but the county has not agreed to do this.

Another element of the plan includes elimination of dispersed camping. Stenberg said PacifiCorp continues to support BLM development of an additional campground on Company land and would like to phase in elimination of dispersed camping. He said this would require development of an effective communication strategy. Davies said solid

support from the ECC would also be needed to accomplish this. Conder suggested having a group of graduate students survey the campgrounds to learn who the users are.

In regard to Redpoint Campground, Mignogno asked whether not enough access would be considered a conflict. Davies agreed to add this to the plan.

Davies reviewed the schedule for completion of the Oneida Site Plan with ECC members and said a draft of the plan would be distributed to the ECC for 30-day review in mid-July. Davies noted that the Grace/Cove Site Plan will also be redistributed, with minor revisions, rather than sending out an errata sheet as previously discussed.

Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (BCT) Restoration Plan

Stenberg discussed the upcoming BCT Restoration Plan with ECC members. He noted that the Settlement Agreement states PacifiCorp will prepare a BCT Restoration Plan and that \$20,000 is budgeted for this task. Stenberg said Idaho has recently prepared a statewide BCT restoration plan that the ECC's plan will tier off. He asked for input and suggested going around the table to get everyone's comments on what the plan should consist of. He asked whether any ECC members would like to take the lead on developing the plan. Hoyt suggested IDFG. Teuscher said he and Capurso worked together to develop the state plan. He said he believed there would be a lot of overlap between the state plan and this plan. Davies said the biggest problem would be keeping the scope down. Mignogno said she believed the diversion inventory information should be incorporated into the plan. Hoyt said he thought that level of detail – down to naming diversions – was too much and suggested that the plan simply state there will be work on diversions.

Stenberg asked ECC members what else they felt would be needed in the plan. Mende said that information the ECC is currently collecting such as telemetry data, thermal imaging, etc. should be incorporated with restoration measures proposed by the state. He said he believed that enough detail should be included to elicit comment, so that the ECC was not locked into specific objectives and thus miss opportunities that may arise.

Davies asked whether any ECC members would like to take more of a lead role. Colyer asked when the plan is due. Stenberg said December 2007. Colyer said he was interested, but would have to check his 2007 schedule and budget.

Mende noted that this work is not going out for bid, and there would be no RFP process. He said problems arose in the past when the ECC deviated from the RFP/bid process. He said the ECC should vote and document the reason why the RFP process was not being used. Stenberg clarified that the Settlement Agreement states that PacifiCorp would prepare the BCT Restoration Plan, but staff members just don't have the time and would likely pass it off to other PacifiCorp in-house personnel or a consultant. Stenberg said he envisions providing meeting coordination, etc. He said he expects that ECC experts will work together on the plan.

Stenberg suggested producing an annotated outline for the BCT Restoration Plan using the table of contents from the statewide restoration plan, then circulating it to ECC members for comment. It was agreed to add further discussion of the plan to the August meeting agenda.

Teuscher agreed to send the table of contents from the statewide plan to Stenberg. Stenberg will route it to the ECC for review and comment, and for the purpose of deciding where ECC members may chose to contribute.

Derailment (Information Item)

Van Every told ECC members that two train derailments had occurred in the Bear River near Dingle, ID in recent months. He said it seemed not everyone who should be in the loop were included in notifications (including PacifiCorp). Stenberg said PacifiCorp would appreciate a call when such incidents occur in the future.

Next ECC Meeting

August 16 – Grace, Idaho
8 a.m

Future Agenda Items:

Format of Meeting Notes

Publishing data from ECC funded studies– possible repository at USU water lab
BCT Restoration Plan (VOTE)

Matching funds discussion – keep track of matches and allocate. Do projects that leverage ECC-funded projects as matches need to be in the action area?

Agency contacts – compile by phone?

Follow-up to BLM-Cove Fencing discussion

Solicitation of Funding Proposals

Oneida Site Plan Update

Cove Site Tour

Land Trust

Upcoming Conference Call

Subject – thermal imaging

July 11, 2006