

**Final Notes**  
**Bear River Environmental Coordination Committee Meeting**  
**August 16, 2006**  
**Grace, Idaho**

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<b>Commitments Made at the August 16, 2006 Bear River ECC Meeting</b>	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interested ECC members meet at the Cove site Sept. 13 (based on construction) to review the need for fish salvage and discuss methods. Backup date Sept. 6.</li> <li>• Provide comments on the Oneida site plan to Eve Davies by August 31.</li> </ul>
Mark Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check to see whether IDFG projects funded by the ECC have been used as matches.</li> <li>• Prepare a spreadsheet of amounts available for matches. Provide to Warren Colyer.</li> <li>• Redline edits to ranking forms and email to Funding Proposal subcommittee members.</li> </ul>
Eve Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a cost estimate to Sagebrush-Steppe or Deb Mignogno for weed control on the Gilbert property to meet state law.</li> </ul>
Dave Teuscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask Ryan whether he can perform georecification of the Idaho thermal imaging data.</li> </ul>

**Decisions Made at This Meeting:**

- Stenberg and other ECC members will share facilitation duties.
- Continue meeting notes in their current format
- Email may be used for consensus votes, given a 2-week window for replies.

**ECC Members Present**

Mark Stenberg, Environmental Coordinator, PacifiCorp  
 Jim Capurso, U. S. Forest Service  
 Charlie Vincent, American Whitewater  
 Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
 Mary Lucachick, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation  
 Warren Colyer, Trout Unlimited

**Others Present**

Glen Pond, PacifiCorp  
 Eve Davies, PacifiCorp  
 Buffi Morris, PacifiCorp  
 Cory Lyman, U. S. Forest Service  
 Dave Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
 Tony Brown, SWCA  
 Kelly Holt, PacifiCorp  
 Deb Mignogno, Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust  
 Claudia Conder, PacifiCorp  
 Miriam Hugentobler, Project Coordinator

### **ECC Members Not Present**

Damien Miller, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Hunter Osborne, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
Jim Mende, Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Marv Hoyt, Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
Susan Rosebrough, National Park Service  
Kevin Lewis, Idaho Rivers United  
Blaine Newman, Bureau of Land Management

### **Review of Notes and Agenda**

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

- ECC meeting facilitation
- The ECC's position on a proposed new dam on the Bear River Narrows (Twin Lakes)
- Cove decommissioning and fish salvage

Notes from the June 2006 ECC meeting were accepted without changes. Commitments from the June meeting were reviewed. All were completed.

### **ECC Meeting Facilitation**

Stenberg offered to facilitate future ECC meetings and asked whether anyone else would like to take on or share facilitation duties. Van Every offered to facilitate occasionally. Stenberg said that would be helpful, especially when there are controversial issues. Colyer offered to facilitate occasionally as well. Stenberg suggested that Mende may be willing to facilitate as well.

### **Twin Lakes**

Colyer told ECC members that the proposed new Twin Lakes dam project seems to be gathering momentum and there has been a great deal of positive press on the project in Logan and Preston. Colyer said he would like further discussion by the ECC on the ECC's stance on the project and possible future action. He said Trout Unlimited will be meeting in the near future to strategize regarding the project. Colyer said ECC members have perhaps the greatest leverage with FERC on the project. Stenberg said he has requested that someone with PacifiCorp in Portland track the Twin Lakes project and provide additional support. Colyer suggested that ECC members again file letters with FERC stating their positions, as it would be better to stop the project sooner than later. He said he would also would like the ECC (as a group) to consider writing another position statement letter to FERC. This discussion will be added to the ECC's October agenda.

### **New Substation (Information Item) – Glen Pond**

Pond told ECC members about PacifiCorp's planned construction of the new Caribou substation in Soda Springs and presented a map showing the proposed location of the

new facilities. Pond said the new substation will address the need for power to the south. He said the substation will provide more reliable service and will accommodate added demand from new growth. The planned new substation will replace an existing station. Pond said some BLM land will be involved. Plans for the new substation, which is proposed for completion in 2008, have not yet been approved, he said.

### **Format of Meeting Notes**

Stenberg asked ECC members whether ECC meeting notes need to be as detailed as they currently are. He suggested changing the format to 3-4 page summaries. ECC members decided to continue with detailed notes.

### **Thermal Imaging**

Stenberg updated ECC members on thermal imaging work. He said the company that conducted thermal imaging flights worked generally from the Wyoming border to Utah, beginning the week of July 24. He said the weather was ideal for the flights. He said the firm will calibrate the thermal imaging with temperature probes that were in place in the river and then perform corrections (geo-rectification). He said the bill for data collection was \$71,000. Colyer said the bill for the Utah section was \$16,000. Colyer asked Teuscher to speak with Ryan (ISU grad student) about doing the geo-rectification for the additional Idaho section. Colyer said Kirk (USU grad student) will do the Utah portion. Van Every offered IDEQ help with geo-rectification of the Wyoming section.

### **Cove Fencing**

In regards to the BLM parcel at Cove that would need to be fenced in order for the fencing project in this area to effectively exclude cattle from the river in this area, BLM has said it could not fence along the river without first conducting a NEPA process. They have said that if the lessee agrees, fencing can be installed outside the BLM portion. Davies said she is still waiting to hear back and when that happens, fencing of other areas can then go forward. She said there is agreement about the need for fencing and location is the remaining question. A tentative line has been marked on the ground and discussion is continuing.

### **Cove Decommissioning – Fish Salvage**

Stenberg told ECC members that draining of the Cove forebay is planned to begin Friday (October 19) and will take place slowly. Stenberg sketched the planned draining process and explained the stage at which fish may be stranded in small ponds of water on the east side of the forebay. He said Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has sampled in the area, and the fish likely to be stranded are not high-value fish. Based on these findings, Stenberg said fish salvage will not likely be necessary. Davies said fish stranding could, however, be a potential public relations problem and PacifiCorp should let people know the reason why the fish are not being salvaged, if that is the ultimate decision. Davies said if fish salvage is decided on, then it will be a much larger operation

than PacifiCorp typically conducts and it would be passed on to Teuscher to organize. Davies said logistics could be difficult. Vincent suggested siphoning fish over to the other channel. Capurso said that lowering the water level slowly would make impacts to fish insignificant. Interested ECC members were invited to meet at Cove to review situation on September 13 (Sept. 6 was selected as a backup date).

### **Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (BCT) Restoration Plan**

Stenberg distributed the proposed outline for the BCT Restoration Plan to ECC members. He said the next step will be annotation of the outline. He said decisions made by the ECC on key issues will be included before proceeding with drafting the plan (for example broodstock/ conservation hatchery). Capurso said it would be good to get it all on the table, but the ECC must continue to recognize that development of BCT broodstock/ conservation hatchery is ultimately an Idaho Department of Fish and Game decision. Stenberg said the ECC will make a recommendation to the IDFG. Regarding broodstock, Teuscher said he is changing his position on the need for BCT broodstock based on better understanding (addition data from the Malad area). He said he now thinks broodstock development may be beneficial. He said he has shared this opinion with higher-ups in his department, and discussions are ongoing. Teuscher said he still believes hatchery fish should not be put into the area above Stewart Dam or Nounan, where wild BCT are still doing fine.

Stenberg reviewed the outline with ECC members and accepted comments. Edits were incorporated into the outline by Stenberg as the discussion proceeded.

Teuscher suggested incorporating the state plan by reference (rather than copying) and adding new and more specific information obtained from ECC studies, such as diversions, thermal imaging, genetics, etc.

ECC members discussed the effects of IDFG stocking of rainbow trout. Teuscher suggested using a statement from state plan that IDFG's goal is to not damage native fish, including Bonneville cutthroat trout, through stocking of rainbow trout. He said this will be an ongoing balancing act for IDFG.

### **Oneida Site Plan**

Davies noted a change in the plan since the last ECC discussion, that is, PacifiCorp will begin closing dispersed recreation areas in the area to overnight use this fall, when the road is closed Sept. 15 for work by the BLM. She said PacifiCorp will notify news media and post signs.

Davies told ECC members that there were two more weeks left in the review period for the Oneida Site Plan, with comments due to Davies by August 31.

## **Adjourn**

The regular ECC meeting adjourned and was followed by a Funding Proposal Subcommittee meeting and a tour of the Cove decommissioning site.

## **October Agenda**

- Twin Lakes – consider filing with FERC another position statement letter from the ECC
- BCT Restoration Plan - How to proceed with synthesis

Next ECC meeting will be held October 11 at Grace.