

Final Notes
Bear River Environmental Coordination Committee Meeting
February 14, 2007
Pocatello, Idaho

Commitments Made at the February 14, 2007 Bear River ECC Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and reply to Colyer’s draft ECC public comment letter on Twin Lakes. Coordinate approval to sign, as appropriate. • Review and provide comments on the revised Oneida Site Plan by Feb. 28. Plan will then be made final.
Mark Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email Cove Decommissioning Powerpoint presentation to interested ECC members. • Request “Conservation Criteria” from Teton Land Trust/Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust. Distribute to Funding Proposal Subcommittee members. • Request a copy of Matt Campbell’s Powerpoint presentation to the ECC.
Miriam Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Draft 2006 Annual Report for routing to ECC for 30-day comment by Feb. 21. • Email request for photos for the 2006 Annual Report to ECC members. • Provide ECC member contact list to Frank Shrier
Dave Teuscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send a copy of the Georgetown Management Plan to Eve Davies. • Coordinate with Stenberg regarding McCammon purchase.
Frank Shrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceed with draft Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Restoration Plan.

ECC Members Present

Warren Colyer, Trout Unlimited
 Jim Capurso, U.S. Forest Service
 Jim Mende, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 Marv Hoyt, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
 Arn Berglund, Bureau of Land Management
 Hunter Osborne, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
 Damien Miller, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp
 Greg Mladenka, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Others Present

Matt Campbell, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 Dave Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 Eve Davies, PacifiCorp
 Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp
 Buffi Morris, PacifiCorp
 Tony Brown, SWCA
 Deb Mignogno, Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust
 Brent Nichols, Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust
 Tom Lucia, Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust

Mike Whitfield – Teton Regional Land Trust
Gary Ratzlaff – Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust
Bill Davidson, Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust
Steve Smith – Idaho Soil Conservation Commission
Dick Sculley – Idaho Department of Fish and Game (afternoon)
Kent Clegg - Landowner

Participating by Telephone

Mary Lucachick, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
Rob Cavallaro – Teton Regional Land Trust

Recap and Review

Notes from the December ECC meeting were accepted with changes from Capurso. Action items from the December ECC meeting were reviewed and have been completed. Stenberg told the ECC that approximately 75 percent of the thermal images of the Bear River obtained during flights last summer are now available and have been sent to USU's bearriverinfo website for archiving. Davies and Stenberg said they have spoken with Theis regarding Kackley Springs since the last ECC meeting and he has submitted a draft of his report. The draft report was circulated by email to ECC members.

Consensus Vote by Email

One consensus vote was held by email since the December ECC meeting: approval for Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust to proceed with the Cove bypass reach conservation easements.

Funding Proposal Ranking Meeting

Stenberg noted that the funding proposal subcommittee will meet March 21 at IDEQ to rank 2007 funding applications.

Spectrum of Working Relationships Review

Stenberg distributed forms from the facilitated discussion held during 2006 regarding the ECC's spectrum of working relationships. Stenberg asked that ECC members review goals for the coming year and include Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust.

Twin Lakes' Proposed Oneida Narrows Dam – Warren Colyer

Colyer told ECC members that scoping meetings and a public comment period for Twin Lakes Canal Company's proposed Oneida Narrows dam are scheduled for March. Colyer said he had prepared a draft comment letter to FERC from the ECC regarding the proposal and distributed it to ECC members for review prior to this meeting. Osborne said FERC representatives are coming to consult with the Shoshone-Bannock tribe in March and he would like more information about the proposal. Osborne said the proposal is not in line with the tribe's natural river policy. He said that restoration of native fishes is a goal of the tribe and the proposal is not in line with that goal. Capurso asked whether Osborne and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe were aware that the project proponent has been presenting a representative of the Utah Shoshone-Bannocks expressing support for the project.

Teuscher noted that Twin Lakes is planning a project tour March 13, and a public scoping meeting March 14. He said the project still appears to be on timeline. Colyer said he welcomes comments or suggestions from ECC members regarding the draft letter. He said he would like to have a letter from the ECC signed and ready for the public comment period. Capurso said it should not be a problem for ECC members to get approval to sign the letter, as Colyer's draft letter is similar to the previous letter regarding the proposal from the ECC to FERC, which has already been approved. Colyer said that the impetus for the letter is to let FERC know that Twin Lakes has not worked through issues of concern to the ECC.

McCammon Acquisition Update – Dave Teuscher

Teuscher told ECC members that it appears this planned land acquisition will go forward. He said the project will be up for approval at a meeting in March, and the planned purchase will close after that. Davies asked whether a Management Plan had been prepared for the property. Teuscher said there is an existing Management Plan for Georgetown, and this acquisition would fall under that. Teuscher said he will provide a copy to Davies. Davies said grazing, including trespass grazing, might be a problem on the property.

Revised Oneida Site Plan – Eve Davies

Davies noted that the revised draft Oneida Site Plan is currently out to ECC members for 30-day review. ECC members should provide comments on the plan directly to Davies. Approximately two weeks remain in the comment period, and after that the report will be finalized.

Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust - Kackley and Bear River Easements - Mignogno

Mignogno told ECC members that the Gilbert parcel is being renamed as the "Kackley parcel," as the Kackley family has donated their long-held mineral rights to the land trust. PacifiCorp has agreed to erect a sign at the property.

Mignogno said a Management Plan for the property has been drafted and sent to ECC for review. She said SSLT plans to include the Bear River conservation easements in the Management Plan for the Kackley parcel.

Mignogno said SSLT has received funding for the Bear River easements from PacifiCorp. Stenberg explained the steps needed for the process:

- 1) Consensus decision from the ECC to proceed with easements (done)
- 2) Draft purchase agreements
- 3) PacifiCorp will review and distribute to the ECC by email for review
- 4) Finalize and close

Stenberg discussed the areas that would be protected by the easements, and noted that some BLM parcels on both ends of the easement do not have fencing, allowing cows into the river corridor.

Hoyt noted that the BLM's Resource Management Plan for that area is up for review and the BLM is selling some parcels to the highest bidder. He said ECC members should monitor this so that a parcel that may be important to the ECC's goals is not lost.

Stenberg said he had a meeting with BLM set up in December to discuss land and block up ownership (PacifiCorp would swap land by Alexander Reservoir for land along the Bear River in the Black Canyon area). That meeting was postponed as BLM must wait for the RMP revision before proceeding.

Teton Land Trust - Mike Whitfield

Whitfield discussed land trust stewardship fees and what expenses the fees help to cover, including baseline studies, monitoring, landowner relations, management plans, ecological monitoring, large-scale restoration, and protection in perpetuity. Whitfield mentioned that an accreditation process for land trusts is in the works. He then responded to questions from ECC.

Stenberg called for an ECC roundtable to check in with ECC member's vision for the long-term land trust function and relationship with the ECC. He summarized different ways the ECC and land trust may work together.

Mladenka said he initially had sticker shock, but thinks first property purchase was probably right.

Teuscher said he thinks the Kackley purchase was a good idea and he is feeling more comfortable with SSLT.

Mende said that through all the sessions, there have been reservations about the initial cost.

Miller said the ECC started with a high-fee project, and a new relationship with a land trust, and in the process worked through many issues.

Colyer said he is becoming more comfortable with the amount of money required, and added that the money isn't going as far as he originally thought it might. He said he would like to be selective about purchases rather than opportunistic. He said he views the land trust as an important part of the process.

Capuso said the ECC needs to find a way to prioritize ecological benefit, perhaps through setting conservation criteria. He said he appreciates the land trust's effort to try and keep cost down on recent purchases.

Capurso said that plans being prepared by the ECC (e.g., the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Restoration Plan) should be incorporated into goal setting as they are completed.

Berglund said he likes the idea of maintaining private ownership while accomplishing ECC goals.

Osborne said he likes the idea of prioritizing acquisitions.

Ratzlaff (SSLT) said ECC members should be aware that SSLT staff members are all volunteers. He said ECC members are welcome to join as well. Lucia (SSLT) noted that SSLT has 500 hours of volunteer time into the Kackley and Bear River easements so far.

Thermal Imaging Report – Warren Colyer

Colyer discussed possible uses for the new thermal imaging data. He presented an example of fish kill in an area where water temperatures were spiking during thermal imaging data collection. Colyer said he believes the thermal imaging data will be useful in prioritizing projects.

Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Genetics Study – Matt Campbell, IDFG

Campbell presented the results of Bonneville cutthroat trout genetics study to ECC members as a Powerpoint presentation. Stenberg will request a copy of the presentation to remain on file.

Telemetry Study – Ryan Hillyard, Graduate Student

Hillyard presented the results of the Bonneville cutthroat trout telemetry study to ECC members as a Powerpoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is on file with Stenberg.

Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Restoration Plan – Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp

Shrier (PacifiCorp fisheries biologist who will prepare the BCT Restoration Plan) was introduced to ECC members. He noted that he prepared an annotated outline for the plan, which was circulated to ECC members by email prior to the meeting. He said he would like to have a draft of the plan complete by May and asked for input from the ECC.

Capurso suggested including a section on prioritizing projects. Stenberg noted that the funding subcommittee will meet March 21 and suggested that the group could also work on funding criteria at that meeting.

It was agreed for Shrier will proceed with drafting the plan and submit it to the ECC for comment rather than working on the plan collaboratively as originally discussed.

Capurso asked that ECC members review SA Section 3.1.5 regarding use of land and water acquisition funds for fish passage.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.