

**Final Meeting Notes
Bear River Environmental Coordination Committee
December 11, 2007
Grace, Idaho**

Commitments Made at the December 11, 2007 Bear River ECC Meeting	
Sponsors of ECC-Funded Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide project updates and photos to Miriam Hugentobler for the ECC's 2007 Annual Report. An example will be provided via email.
Mark Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a project long form for providing financial support to Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust for discussion at January ECC meeting. Prepare a cost-benefit analysis for circulation to ECC members. • Incorporate the ECC's comments into the Bear River Ramp Rate Study and distribute revised report to ECC members by Jan. 2. • Contact (write letters to) project proponents who have not yet used habitat enhancement funds allocated by the ECC in past years to determine whether the funds can be reallocated during the 2008 ranking session. • Prepare a press release announcing the availability of habitat enhancement funds for 2008. Distribute flyers to NRCS offices, etc.
Mark Stenberg and Deb Mignogno (Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute Kackley Springs Management Plan to ECC members for review.
Jim Mende	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inquire about the timeframe for Georgetown Summit WMA proposal. Let Mark Stenberg know.
Eve Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute Soda Site Plan with revised figures to ECC members.
Jim Capurso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Habitat Enhancement Fund Flyer for 2008. Provide to Mark Stenberg.

ECC Members Present

Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp, Environmental Coordinator
 Jim Mende, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 Warren Colyer, Trout Unlimited
 Charlie Vincent, American Whitewater

Others Present

Eve Davies, PacifiCorp
 Greg Mladenka, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Cary Myler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (proxy for Damien Miller and Jim Capurso)
 Deb Mignogno, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
 Brent Nichols, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
 Kelly Holt, PacifiCorp

Participating by Phone

Hunter Osborne, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Mary Lucachick, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Field Trip

A field review of fish stranding habitat in the Black Canyon reach was held between 9 a.m. and noon, prior to the regular ECC meeting. Eve Davies led the safety tailboard. Participating were Mark Stenberg, Eve Davies, Charlie Vincent, Warren Colyer, Jim Mende, Greg Mladenka, Tony Brown and Crae Williams.

Updates

Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust

Deb Mignogno and Brent Nichols, representatives of the land trust, provided ECC members with an update on projects in the ECC's action area.

New Projects

- A >100-acre donation of land near Pebble Creek Ski Area (by end of year).
- A 700-acre donation of land at Mink Creek in Franklin County, adjacent to Forest Service land. Many fish structures are already in place (by end of year).

ECC Projects

- Olsen easement (underway)
- Kackley mineral rights (will begin work after first of year)
- Harris Property (will begin work after first of year)
- Trust is looking at setting up its own escrow board of directors and trust to manage long term stewardship funds without incurring trust fund management fees.
- PacifiCorp inspection of Cove fences and conservation easements. Sagebrush needs a report for their files.

Mignogno and Stenberg said they will distribute the Kackley Springs Management Plan to ECC members for review.

Mignogno said the land trust is getting a lot of requests for conservation easements—more than they can handle—and the land trust plans to meet with several potential donors after the first of the year.

Sagebrush Steppe will be having its annual meeting on the evening of January 16, 2008, Mignogno said, and ECC members are invited to attend.

Habitat Enhancement/Land and Water Acquisition Funds

Stenberg said he recently gave updates on the ECC's Habitat Enhancement projects to PacifiCorp in Portland. He discussed how the funds were leveraged, and reported that the ECC's initial investment of \$420k over three years was leveraged through the use of matching funds, etc. to \$1.5 million. He said he would like to see the land and water acquisition funds leveraged in a similar way, and would like ECC members to consider using the funds to support Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust. Stenberg said that currently the land trust's primary limitation is staff time. He said he believes that providing some financial support to help the land trust fund a full time staff member is an important way to leverage the funds.

Davies agreed. She said she believes it is Important to have someone on the ground who is a proven fundraiser. She said that would help lessen the trust's dependence on ECC funds.

Myler (proxy for Miller and Capurso) told ECC members that both Miller and Capurso feel strongly that the ECC should not fund Sagebrush Steppe's administrative costs.

Mende said he would not like to vote on this issue today. Stenberg said that no vote would be taken at this meeting, as there was no notice on agenda and it would be most appropriate to continue the discussion with Miller and Capurso present.

Myler further stated that Capurso and Miller said when they voted to select a land trust, they thought it would be a full service trust, and they may have voted differently if they had known from the beginning that they would be asked to provide financial support.

Colyer clarified that when Capurso voted for the land trust, he did not think he would be paying for administrative costs of the trust. If he had known that was the case, he may have voted differently.

Stenberg suggested ranking land trust support as a funding proposal.

Mende said he would like to see the land trust continue, as it has benefitted the region.

Colyer said that Capurso will likely propose that the ECC bring in the other land trust considered during the selection process as well.

Mignogno stated that Sagebrush Steppe would be working with the Heart of the Rockies Alliance on landscape-scale projects.

Mladenka asked that Stenberg put together a cost-benefit analysis for providing funding to Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust and circulate it to ECC members.

Mende asked how the ECC's non-governmental organizations felt about support for the land trust. Colyer said he would support it, and he believes the ranking process would be the appropriate forum. Davies added that multiple land trusts should submit proposals for ranking.

Stenberg said he will put together a long form for the proposal for discussion at the next ECC meeting. He encouraged those who support funding the land trust to speak with Capurso and Miller in the interim.

Mende asked Mignogno about the land trust's time frame. Mignogno said they are advertising a position now, and would like to hire in February 2008. She said they currently have one year of funding in place for a two-year contract.

Bear River Ramp Rate Study – by Oasis Environmental (Brett Marshall and John Gangemi)

Stenberg reviewed the Ramp Rate Study with the ECC. The proposed study was circulated to the ECC by email Dec 4, prior to today's meeting/field trip. (At today's meeting Stenberg incorporated ECC members' comments into the electronic file.)

Myler asked about the possibility of using lidar. Stenberg asked for contact name. Myler suggested Russ Faux of Watershed Sciences, Corvallis, OR.

The need for reaching consensus on methods and staffing before the study is undertaken was discussed. Davies said that data obtained will *inform* the decision, not *make* the decision.

The level of detail needed/possible, given constraints on funding, etc. was discussed. Mladenka said suggested the level of detail may be "no fish," "some fish," or "a lot of fish."

The use of surrogates for Bonneville cutthroat trout was discussed, including what species might be appropriate to use. Stenberg discussed the low numbers of trout caught during electrofishing in the Black Canyon during the ongoing monitoring study. Colyer said he did not believe there was a need to select a surrogate before the study, as it isn't known whether the species chosen would be caught. He suggested using the stranding data, see what was found, then draw conclusions from there. Mladenka said he supported that suggestion. Stenberg asked that the ECC put off further discussion on the use of surrogates until Capurso could participate.

Stenberg will make edits to the Ramp Rate Study and distribute a new version approximately two weeks prior to next ECC meeting.

Updates (Continued)

Georgetown Summit Wildlife Management Area – Mende

Mende presented a proposal from Idaho Department of Fish and Game for land and water acquisition funding: the Thompson addition to the Georgetown Summit WMA. Mende said the parcel would help square up IDFG holdings in this area. He noted that the property does not border the river, but does border some BLM land. Mende said he was providing the proposal for information purposes. Available land and water acquisition funds were reviewed. Stenberg

asked Mende to find out what the timeframe was for this proposal. If urgent, further action will be taken.

Grant Fund Accounting - Stenberg

Stenberg reviewed grant funds via overhead spreadsheet. Approximately \$159,000 remains in habitat enhancement funds. Once liabilities are subtracted (unpaid grant funds), approximately \$19,000 remains.

Colyer asked how long proponents have to use the money allocated to them before it is reallocated. He noted that another ranking session is coming up and it would be nice to make those funds available this year. Davies suggested that the ECC send letters to people who have been given grants and have not used the funding that it will be reallocated, since another ranking session is coming up.

Annual Report – Hugentobler

Hugentobler asked ECC project sponsors for project updates and photos for the annual report. She will circulate an email that includes an example of what is needed. Stenberg asked that sponsors respond as soon as possible in order to keep the annual report on schedule.

Harris Property - Davies

Davies said that the Harris's had received a large binder of specifications from the NRCS for their project, and they are feeling intimidated by it. She said she will help to facilitate the project, but will either need more funding to complete to these specs, or the project may have to be abandoned. Davies stressed the need to stay on top of the project if the ECC wants it to happen.

Bear River Parcels - Davies

Davies said that fencers are on site today, working on the Olsen property (Bear River parcels).

Oneida Site Plan - Davies

Davies said there is just a bit of fencing left to do at this site, then the project will be completely implemented.

Soda Site Plan - Davies

The comment period for the Soda Site Plan recently ended. Davies said she received comments from Stenberg only. She said one more version will be distributed with new figures showing new and existing more clearly. The plan will be finalized soon.

Grant Fund Flyer – Stenberg

Stenberg said he plans to prepare a press release announcing the availability of funds for 2008 projects. He said Capurso will update the flyer and Stenberg will distribute it to NRCS offices, etc.

Use of Siphon Pumps at Grace during Spill Gate Construction

Stenberg discussed the use of siphon pumps to maintain stream flow below Grace Dam during construction of new spill gates at Grace. He showed ECC members a photo of the area (see attachment). Stenberg said PacifiCorp will try to maintain 60 cfs during construction. Construction is scheduled for the second week in March 2008. He said FERC asked for a letter update (see attachment). Stenberg reviewed the letter with the ECC – that siphon pumps would be used to maintain stream flows during work. Water quality will need to be monitored downstream by PacifiCorp during construction. The balance between water quality and quantity was discussed (i.e., if a certain cfs is required, but sediment is encountered is it best to have 60 cfs of turbid water or less clean water).

Calendar

ECC meetings through May 2008 were scheduled, as follows:

Jan 16 – half day (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) ECC meeting – IDEQ, Pocatello

Feb 20 – ECC meeting - Grace

Mar 19 – ECC meeting – IDEQ, Pocatello

April 16 - grant ranking subcommittee – IDEQ, Pocatello

May 21 – ECC – will vote on funding recommendations

Items for Next Agenda

- Ramp Rate Study
- Land Trust
- Georgetown Summit WMA project.

A VOTE may be called.

ECC members are invited to attend Sagebrush Steppe's annual meeting, also in Pocatello, that evening.

Attachment: Spillgate Construction at Grace

1) Grace Boater Flow Spill Gate Project Update

2) Letter to FERC regarding use of siphon pumps to maintain stream flow

3) Photo of area behind Grace dam.

Attachment 1) Grace Boater Flow Spill Gate Project Update

-----Original Message-----

From: Stenberg, Mark

Sent: Friday, November 30, 2007 9:18 AM

To: Stenberg, Mark

Cc: Edelmann, Frank; Holt, Kelly; Hemstreet, Tim; Kolkman, Jack; Baldwin, Connely; Arn Berglund; Blaine Newman; Charlie Vincent; Damien Miller (Damien_Miller@fws.gov); Davies, Eve; Hunter Osborne; Jim Capurso; Jim Mende; 'Kevin Colburn'; Kevin Lewis; Kit McGurn; Lynn Van Every; Marv Hoyt; Mary Lucachick; Miriam Hugentobler; Stenberg, Mark; [Susan Rosebrough@nps.gov](mailto:Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov); Teuscher, David; Warren Colyer; Yvette A. Tuell (ytuell@shoshonebannocktribes.com)

Subject: Grace Boater Flow Spill Gate Project - UPDATE

Good Morning, I wanted to give you an update on the Grace spillgate project and follow up on my October 12 email (below) concerning the provision of instream flows during this project.

As you've heard from me at the ECC meeting we are still on schedule to install the gates in March of 2008 and begin whitewater flows in the Black Canyon in 2008.

Frank Edelmann, Compliance Analyst, in our office will be sending a letter to FERC to clarify a few items concerning the installation of the gates and the provision of instream flow during construction.

Concerning instream flows see the points outlined below:

1) As communicated to the ECC (without objection), our plan is to use siphon pipes to provide instream flows during construction. Our goal is to meet instream flow requirements during construction but we may not meet the requirement exactly and your understanding of this is appreciated.

3) That the use of siphon pipes can be a little unpredictable. Engineering has put a requirement of 60 cfs in the plans, anticipating the contractor will plan on overshooting that number.

3) During construction, keeping the pool below the concrete dam crest, maintaining instream flow through the siphon and diverting remaining flows through the flow line will be a delicate balancing act. In light of our making our best efforts to maintain close to our instream flow requirement during this project if unforeseen circumstances arise we will make maintenance of instream flow a priority.

4)In the letter we are requesting that FERC not consider an under release during this time subject to our FERC 10 day notice requirement or subject to a violation. We are also proposing to report on instream flows at the close of construction in our final construction report to FERC.

As always call or email with questions.

Regards,

Mark Stenberg
208 547-7305

-----Original Message-----

From: Stenberg, Mark
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2007 8:10 AM
To: Stenberg, Mark
Cc: Arn Berglund; 'Teuscher,David'; Blaine Newman; Charlie Vincent; Damien Miller (Damien_Miller@fws.gov); Davies, Eve; Hunter Osborne; Jim Capurso; Jim Mende; 'Kevin Colburn'; Kevin Lewis; Kit McGurn; Lynn Van Every; Marv Hoyt; Mary Lucachick; Miriam Hugentobler; [Susan Rosebrough@nps.gov](mailto:Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov); Teuscher,David; Warren Colyer
Subject: RE: Grace Boater Flow Spill Gate Project

Good Morning, At this point we've landed on using siphon pipes over the dam crest to supply the instream flow during construction. This can be a bit tricky to get the flows exact so some understanding that we are going to shoot for our instream flow requirement but that we may not be exactly on it will be appreciated.

Mark Stenberg
PacifiCorp Energy
(208) 547-7305

-----Original Message-----

From: Stenberg, Mark
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2007 8:13 AM
To: Teuscher,David
Cc: Arn Berglund; Blaine Newman; Charlie Vincent; Damien Miller (Damien_Miller@fws.gov); Davies, Eve; Hunter Osborne; Jim Capurso; Jim Mende; 'Kevin Colburn'; Kevin Lewis; Kit McGurn; Lynn Van Every; Marv Hoyt; Mary Lucachick; Miriam Hugentobler; Stenberg, Mark; [Susan Rosebrough@nps.gov](mailto:Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov); Teuscher,David; Warren Colyer

Subject: RE: Grace Boater Flow Spill Gate Project

Hi Dave,

On the Grace Dam wood stop logs create a dam crest that is above the concrete crest of the dam. The only operable spill gate on the dam is the existing slide gate that is above the concrete dam crest near the right bank. We need to lower the reservoir below the concrete dam crest to install the new spill gates in place of the wooden stop logs and can do this by running water in the Grace flow line. (The flow line intake is lower than the dam crest.) Please note: we are planning to renovate the old flow line gate and install a low level outlet on the old flow line pipe at a future date to maintain instream flows from a point lower in the reservoir, river left, but we don't think we can use the old gate to spill water at this time.

Mark Stenberg
PacifiCorp Energy
(208) 547-7305

-----Original Message-----

From: Teuscher,David [mailto:dteusche@idfg.idaho.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2007 4:06 PM
To: Stenberg, Mark
Subject: RE: Grace Boater Flow Spill Gate Project

What would the logistic difficulties be to maintaining the flow?

From: Stenberg, Mark [mailto:Mark.Stenberg@PacifiCorp.com]
Sent: Tue 10/2/2007 11:13 AM
To: Arn Berglund; Blaine Newman; Charlie Vincent; Damien_Miller@fws.gov;
Davies, Eve; Hunter Osborne; Jim Capurso; Mende,Jim; Kevin Colburn;
Kevin Lewis; Lynn Van Every; Marv Hoyt; Mary Lucachick; Miriam
Hugentobler; Stenberg, Mark; Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov; Teuscher,David;
Warren Colyer
Cc: Baldwin, Connely; Holt, Kelly; Kolkman, Jack; Hemstreet, Tim
Subject: Grace Boater Flow Spill Gate Project

Good Morning,

I'm interesting to find out if anyone has strong concerns over the idea

of suspending instream flows during installation of the new spill gates on the Grace Dam. The new spill gates will allow control of flows for whitewater releases to start in 2008.

The refit of the wooden stop logs to slide gates will require the lowering of the reservoir below the concrete dam crest. The work will take about 5 days and is scheduled for March of 2008. We are proposing to pass all flows entering the Grace pond through the flowline and the powerhouse while the work is done. Typically during this period we would be releasing 63 cfs at the dam or inflow, if that is less.

Your support with this proposal would be appreciated.

Let me know what you think.

Mark Stenberg
License Program Manager
(208) 547-7305

Attachment 2) Letter to FERC regarding use of siphon pumps to maintain stream flow

December 6, 2007

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Bear River Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. P-20
Summary of Design Changes for the Grace Dam's Whitewater Spillway Gates

Dear Ms. Bose:

On October 1, 2007, PacifiCorp submitted plans and specifications to install spillway gates on Grace Dam to support water releases for whitewater boating in accordance with Article 419 of the Bear River Hydroelectric Project's license. During a telephone conversation on November 9, 2007, PacifiCorp informed Mr. Ed Perez of your Portland Regional Office that the original plans and specifications were being modified. Correspondingly, Mr. Perez instructed PacifiCorp to submit this letter describing the modifications made, as follows:

1. Instead of using cofferdams, Grace Reservoir will be lowered 7-10 feet beneath the spillway crest to allow access to the dam during construction. This will improve safety and eliminate the need for a cofferdam.
2. During construction, a siphon system will provide flows downstream of Grace Dam. Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp's Environmental Coordinator, and the Environmental Coordination Committee (ECC) explored options for providing minimum stream flows (MSF) during construction per license Article 408. Options included a complete suspension of MSF during construction, which was rejected because of an ongoing aquatic study. Recognizing the unpredictable nature of siphons, however, the ECC agreed to limited MSF variances as long as the siphon is designed and operated to meet at least 60 cubic feet per second (cfs), closely approximating the 63 cfs from Grace Dam required by Article 408. If unforeseen circumstances affect siphon performance, PacifiCorp will restore at least 60 cfs.

In addition, flows from the siphon system will be managed to maintain compliance with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (IDEQ) water quality standards for non-point sources. In particular, reservoir drafting, use of the siphon system, or weather might individually or in combination cause exceedances of IDEQ's turbidity criteria. To safeguard water quality, turbidity will be monitored in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) upstream and downstream of the construction site. If a turbidity exceedance occurs, flows from the siphon will be reduced to maintain water quality compliance.

On December 4, 2007, PacifiCorp also reviewed the MSF issue with Erich Gaedeke of the Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance. We concluded that the proposed ECC-supported temporary MSF variance during construction of the spillway gates was

Patrick Regan, P.E., Regional Director

December 6, 2007

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consistent with the intent of Article 408. Correspondingly, we request that MSF variances during construction be considered compliant with facility maintenance allowances specified in Article 408. Any MSF variances that occur during construction will be reported in our final construction report.

3. The Quality Control Inspection Program will be updated in coordination with the selected contractor and inspector.

This letter is considered public information. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Frank Edlmann at 801-220-2566.

Sincerely,



R. A. Landolt
Managing Director, Hydro Resources

RAL:FBE:dldt

Encl: Letter - Public

cc: Patrick Regan, P.E., Regional Director
Division Dam Safety and Inspections
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
805 SW Broadway, Suite 550
Portland, Oregon 97205

Daniel J. Mahoney, Director,
Division Dam Safety and Inspections
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Erich Gaedeke
Division of Hydropower Administration and Compliance
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
805 SW Broadway, Suite 550
Portland, Oregon 97205

Patrick Regan, P.E., Regional Director
December 6, 2007
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*Bear River Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. P-20
Summary of Design Changes for the Grace Whitewater Spill Gates*

Internal Distribution

icc: deTar, Diana; Edelman, Frank; Hemstreet, Tim; Holt, Kelly; Hydro Document Services; Kolkman, Frank; Stenberg, Mark; Wazlaw, James

DMS: Bear River Hydroelectric Project, Grace Development, Compliance, FERC, license, SA, construction, whitewater, spillway gate, Article 419

Attachment 3) Photo of Area Behind Grace Dam

