

**Bear River Environmental Coordination Committee
Final Meeting Notes
July 16, 2008
Grace, Idaho**

Commitments Made at the July 16, 2008 Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send suggestions for sources of GIS information to Joselin Matkins, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust (joselin.matkins@sagebrushlandtrust.org). • Review Kackley and Cove Conservation Easement Management Plan (will be distributed via email for ECC consensus when edits are complete).
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak with landowner Hopkins about an additional culvert project on Bailey Creek in 2009. • Work with Matkins (Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust) on the MOA. Circulate to the ECC for approval. • Continue discussions with Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust regarding long term stewardship money. • Distribute Kackley and Cove Conservation Easement Management Plan (when edits are complete) to ECC members. Check for consensus via email. • Consider a future agenda item: an “expiration date” for project funding.
Stenberg and Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Caribou County Planning and Zoning to arrange time on their agenda to discuss site plans.
Davies and Mignogno	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edit Kackley and Cove Conservation Easement Management Plan.
Colyer, Teuscher, and Capurso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide further information to Shrier for the BCT Restoration Plan regarding fish barriers, Table 5.5.1 of the plan, the .shp file Hillyard is producing, IDFG’s 5-Year Plan, etc.
Shrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise BCT Restoration Plan based on ECC comments and additional information provided by ECC members.
Van Every	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak with Jeff Horsburgh of USU Water Lab about attending an ECC meeting to discuss adding information on the ECC’s conservation projects to the WIS database.
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make change to meeting note format: “ECC members present” and “Others present” to “ECC representatives present” • Contact Black Canyon monitoring subcommittee members to set up a September meeting.

* [Action items in blue have been carried over from a previous meeting.](#)

Decisions Made at this Meeting

- Approved subcommittee for Black Canyon monitoring studies.
- Approved two culvert replacement projects on Bailey Creek, to proceed as funding allows.

ECC Representatives Present

Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp
Warren Colyer, Trout Unlimited
Greg Mladenka, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
David Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Others Present

Eve Davies, PacifiCorp
Kelly Holt, PacifiCorp
Claudia Conder, PacifiCorp
Glen Pond, PacifiCorp
Dave Cottle – Bear Lake Watch
Joselin Matkins – Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
Deb Mignogno – Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
Gary Ratzlaff – Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp (participating by telephone)
Connely Baldwin, PacifiCorp (participating by telephone)
Jack Kolkman – PacifiCorp (participating by telephone)
Bryan Dixon – Cirrus Ecological Solutions (participating by telephone)

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Notes

Meeting notes from the April ranking meeting were approved with changes from Capurso. May meeting notes were approved with changes from Davies and Mladenka.

Mladenka suggested changing the way ECC representatives are listed in the meeting notes, i.e., rather than listing “ECC members present” and “Others present,” include all under “ECC representatives present.”

Stenberg told ECC members that Hugentobler will prepare a six-month summary of ECC activities for members of the Policy Group (January through June 2008).

Stenberg told ECC members that award letters were sent to 2008 habitat enhancement grant recipients during June. Copies of the letters were also sent to project sponsors.

Action items from May’s ECC meeting were reviewed. Two items were carried forward (see action item list, above).

Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (BCT) Restoration Plan

PacifiCorp Fisheries Biologist Frank Shrier participated in the ECC meeting by telephone to take comments from the ECC on the draft BCT Restoration Plan.

Stenberg said he had spoken with Teuscher (IDFG) regarding the plan and summarized comments from IDFG. He introduced Shrier and opened the floor to comments.

Colyer noted that p. 14 and 15 of the plan includes UDWR information on fish barriers, etc. Colyer said the barrier data are not good, and suggested not using it. He said the ECC has better data. Colyer

directed Shrier to people who have better information, obtained from recent field studies. Shrier said he agreed it is important to use the best available data. Colyer asked how migration barrier is defined in the plan and said more discussion is needed on this topic. Colyer said he believed the conservation population information presented in the plan is OK. It was agreed that the database barrier information would be dropped, and the plan will use ECC data instead.

Teuscher said (graduate student) Ryan Hillyard is working on entering information from field studies into a database and it will be available for Shrier to use. Teuscher will supply the information to Shrier. Teuscher said Hillyard is working to produce a .shp file – with photos of diversions, physical characteristics, fish data, and species composition, which will be available soon.

Teuscher said information in the plan regarding a conservation population in Eightmile Creek was incorrect. Teuscher said the conservation population is in the lower, not upper basin. Colyer suggested leaving the information from the database in the report, noting that ECC work has shown otherwise.

Teuscher said he is concerned that the BCT Restoration Plan conflicts with the State Plan in ranking issues, water management in particular. He said he can't support a document that contradicts the State Plan.

Teuscher noted that page 1 of the plan (Executive Summary) listed stocked rainbow trout as a threat to BCT. Teuscher said stocked rainbow trout are not the greatest threat to BCT. He said the wild rainbow trout populations in some reaches are a greater potential threat. He said he can't support a plan that is in conflict with state plan, that is, potential impacts are not prioritized the same way. Shrier said that the order that potential impacts were listed in the plan was not intended as a ranking. He said he could rework that section. Colyer suggested adding a disclaimer.

Teuscher said the plan should not make recommendations for changes to fishing regulations. Davies asked why such recommendations were not appropriate in this plan. Teuscher said IDFG has to believe such changes are a good idea.

Potential impacts to BCT were discussed further. Teuscher said he believed water management posed a greater potential impact than, for instance, brook trout or rainbow trout.

Colyer said that fish stocking – in particular the stocking of sterile rainbow trout — is an area of debate. He suggested removing it from the plan. Shrier noted that even if the rainbow trout were sterile, there would still be competition for habitat, feeding, and space. Teuscher said we cannot assume that. He said the plan must identify a limiting factor. Shrier said he relied on existing information, including information from the State Plan, to develop the BCT Restoration Plan. Shrier said if he misinterpreted that information, he needs more detail to be able to shape the plan. Shrier said Berglund had commented that habitat and stream flows should be the focus. Colyer said he doesn't disagree with Shrier about competition. Colyer suggested that this issue be included in a discrete section rather than pervasive through the document.

Shrier asked Teuscher about IDFG's 5-Year Plan. Teuscher said he will provide Shrier with a link to the plan, which is available on IDFG's website. Shrier said he will make fish management in the action area a separate section of the BCT Restoration Plan.

Teuscher noted that p. 19 of the plan (genetics) recommends the use of Daniels stock as BCT broodstock. Teuscher said the Daniels stock is inappropriate for use. The recommendation contradicts Campbell's (genetics) study. Shrier asked for suggested stock. Teuscher said the resident BCT population probably does not need to be supplemented.

Colyer said that the source cited regarding the upper lethal lab temperature for BCT had recently been discredited. Shrank et al. is now being cited, as new data is available. Colyer will send the new information to Shrier. He suggested adding another sentence or two regarding temperatures to the plan – in the field, he said, the lab lethal temperature limit did not hold up.

Shrier asked Teuscher to identify errors in the table in the back (a comment previously submitted).

Teuscher suggested that Capurso and Colyer review Table 5.5.1 and forward additional information to Shrier. He said there are many "unknowns" in the table where spawning is known to occur. Shrier said he intended the "unknown" as spawning occurs, location unknown. Colyer suggested changing the column title to "fluvial spawning" or "migratory spawning." Colyer will review the table and provide information to Shrier.

Teuscher and Shrier discussed whether to keep updating plan as data (as in Table 5.5.1) change over the years. Teuscher suggested completing the plan and thereafter updating the table only, for use by the ECC, as things change over time.

Next Steps

- 1) Get comments from Teuscher and Colyer. Shrier will incorporate and modify the BCT Restoration Plan accordingly.
- 2) The plan will come back to the ECC for review (comments due in time for the September ECC meeting – 30 days to revise, 30 days ECC review)

Updates – Stenberg

Jack Kolkman Introduction - Stenberg

Stenberg introduced Jack Kolkman to the ECC (Kolkman participated by telephone). Kolkman is Stenberg's new supervisor and is the Plant Manager for all of PacifiCorp's Utah and Idaho Hydro plants. Stenberg invited ECC members to contact Kolkman directly if there are any issues they don't feel comfortable talking to him about. Stenberg said Hydro east also has a new FERC Compliance liaison in Salt Lake City – Jim Burruss.

Bear River Narrows – Stenberg

Stenberg said that PacifiCorp has not been successful in blocking access for Twin Lakes' studies on PacifiCorp land. He said PacifiCorp is now back to participating in the process to protect their interests. Stenberg said PacifiCorp's position is still that PacifiCorp will not allow modification of its license to allow the Bear River Narrows project to be built, as stated several times in letters to FERC.

Black Canyon Monitoring Subcommittee - Stenberg

Stenberg noted that the development of hypotheses to be tested in the upcoming phase of the project will be the subcommittee's primary concern.

A list of ECC representatives who were interested in participating on the subcommittee was circulated prior to the meeting, including: Berglund, Van Every, Vincent, Colyer, Mladenka, Teuscher, Colburn, and a PacifiCorp representative. Stenberg asked ECC members for approval of the subcommittee as listed. Consensus was reached.

Stenberg said a subcommittee meeting would be set in the near future (Hugentobler will contact members).

Cove Decommissioning – Stenberg

Stenberg said PacifiCorp has had a FERC environmental field review of the site. He said PacifiCorp is working on the final steps for buyoff that PacifiCorp has completed its work on Cove.

Bailey Creek Culverts- Stenberg

Stenberg provided background on the Bailey Creek culvert project, presented via overheads. He said he asked Kym Spencer to verify cost. Still \$25,000 per bridge. Stenberg said the ECC could do both the original (Creek Road) and Old Oregon Road culverts. Stenberg described a method of culvert installation that would not require a permit, as no stockpiling or instream work would be required. Mladenka said a stream alteration permit from IDWR would be required, as the project is a stream alteration, also that some stream grade control structures might be required and they would need a stream alteration permit. Stenberg said that in the original proposal Capurso said he would handle all permits. Stenberg will check with Capurso to see if that is still the case.

Stenberg said he would speak with the Hopkins (landowner) about an additional project on Bailey Creek for next year.

Stenberg proposed that the ECC approve the two culvert replacement projects on Bailey Creek (original and Old Oregon Road) and proceed as funding allows. Consensus was reached.

Level Loggers - Baldwin

Baldwin (participating by phone) discussed PacifiCorp's use of water level loggers during the June 1, 2008 boater flow event. ECC members were shown a location map (via overhead) for the five level loggers used during boater flows. A graph of the data obtained from the loggers was shown via overhead. The loggers were used again during the July 13, 2008 flow event. Baldwin said level logger data will be incorporated into the 2008 Summary Report.

Ramp Rate Study Update – Bryan Dixon, Cirrus

Dixon provided ECC members with an update on the July 13 flow event. He said water was very high, and lowered slowly, so that mudflats were not revealed until after dark. Fish stranding was discovered on Monday – red shiners, estimated at about 200. He said workers were only able to catch about 20 because they were so small. All fish captured were returned to the river.

Davies asked when fish rescuers were out. Dixon said Saturday and Sunday. Davies asked whether they saw fish off-plot. Dixon said they noticed fish in the channel.

Dixon said that a change in hydrology was noted this time– some of the pools formed earlier now had channels etched through them leading back to the main channel.

Project Updates

Trout Creek – Stenberg

Stenberg said he has visited the Trout Creek site, and he believes it is a good project. He said there had been concern about loss of water from the rerouting; however, it appears that groundwater is flowing into the newly excavated channel. He said final grading will be done this fall. Davies said that Dan Bolin had contacted her about the planting plan and she worked with him last week.

Update to Soda Site Plan – Davies

Davies reviewed updates to future conditions as an overhead map.

Grace and Last Chance Site Plan – Davies

Davies said that the two last site plans (Grace and Last Chance) are being rolled into one. She reviewed desired future conditions and site maps as overheads.

Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust

Joselin Matkins, the new executive director for Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust was introduced to the ECC by Deb Mignogno, who thanked the ECC for helping to fund Matkin's position.

Stenberg said he and Matkins will be working on the MOA process to add a planning step. The MOA will then come back to the ECC for approval.

Land Trust Update - Matkins

Matkins said the land trust currently has two active ECC projects. They will be working on outreach – building membership in their seven-county area. Matkin said the trust is looking for GIS data, and asked ECC members to suggest sources. Conder suggested the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Kackley and Cove Conservation Easement Management Plan – Stenberg

Davies will provide PacifiCorp's comments on the plan to Mignogno. After comments are addressed, the plan will be re-distributed to the ECC, and consensus will be sought by email.

Long-Term Stewardship Money – Stenberg and Matkins

Stenberg met with SSLT before the ECC meeting and discussed our plan for holding stewardship funds in escrow. Matkin said the need for some control or a third party custodian has resulted in changes to requirements for long term stewardship (FDIC, etc.). SSLT had estimated 8 percent interest, but that is now down to 2-3 percent interest, and the land trust could lose money in the long term especially with the custodial fee. SSLT had proposed to Stenberg an alternative agreement to avoid custodial fees, this is being discussed and an example from PacifiCorp of a recent agreement will be looked at. Stenberg said he will continue discussions with Matkins regarding long-term stewardship money and bring this back to the ECC for discussion.

Stenberg will:

- Review new information on custodial agreement
- Check assumptions on risk tolerance

Kackley Springs Grading Plan – Stenberg

In preparation for the afternoon field review of the Kackley Spring site, Stenberg reviewed the grading plan provided by Theis (via overhead maps).

Stenberg noted that Theis's grading plan proposes excavation of a channel in the uppermost reach that would eliminate or greatly reduce the existing area of open water and wetland area. Stenberg said he would like to discuss this further with the ECC and reach agreement on maintaining or eliminating the open water area.

In regard to permitting, Stenberg said he would like to retain diversity in the area including the open water and emergent wetlands at the top of the spring complex. He said he doesn't support complete channelization of the spring. He would like to retain the stop logs for water control. He said he does not think an elaborate planting plan is needed. Davies concurred.

The regular ECC meeting adjourned to a field review of Kackley Springs with Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust.

During the site visit ECC representatives and SSLT members voiced their interest in maintaining the existing amount of open water and emergent wetlands in the upper project area along with the existing water control structures. They thought a deeper channel through this area would help move colder water through the area. The group walked the proposed channel alignment and were in agreement with its alignment through the PacifiCorp lands. The group walked the entire project area to the river.

Next ECC meeting: Wednesday, September 18 at Grace.