

**Bear River Environmental Coordination Committee  
Final Meeting Notes  
November 19, 2008  
Pocatello, Idaho**

<b>Commitments Made at the November 19, 2008 Meeting</b>	
Stenberg & Shrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make final edits to the BCT Restoration Plan, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Add a statement about the update cycle.</li> <li>▪ Give date of map and state in caption that it is based on the rangewide database</li> <li>▪ Confirm comment adding Hoops Creek as a conservation population</li> <li>▪ Reword section 5.5, sentence 3 – prioritization of actions as discussed and agreed (see notes)</li> <li>▪ Follow up with Teuscher regarding table inputs</li> <li>▪ Work with Teuscher, Capurso and Colyer to update table in appendix</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get an update from Teuscher on irrigation diversion mapping project</li> <li>• Forward La Cresta North Fork Feather Macroinvertebrate Study to ECC members via email</li> <li>• Set up conference call for Project Funding Subcommittee Feb. 18</li> <li>• <a href="#">Circulate Land Trust MOA to ECC members when edits are complete, likely January or February.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Circulate draft declaration of trust between Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust and PacifiCorp to ECC members for review and consensus.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Schedule Jeff Horsburgh, USU Water Lab, to attend an ECC meeting early in 2009</a></li> <li>• Update and distribute 2009 Grant Fund flyer.</li> </ul>
Van Every	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proceed with Black Canyon monitoring hypotheses - ongoing</li> </ul>
Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute Grace Dam and Last Chance Site Plan to the ECC for 30-day review (December)</li> </ul>
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute Annual Report to the ECC for 30-day review (January).</li> </ul>
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide any comments on Grace Dam and Last Chance Site Plan following 30-day review (distribution expected in December).</li> <li>• Next ECC meeting Wednesday, Jan. 21, IDEQ, Pocatello.</li> </ul>
Project Sponsors/ Funding subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide status updates and photos of 2008 projects to Hugentobler for annual report.</li> <li>• Be advised that new proposal and application forms for 2009 projects are available at: <a href="http://www.pacificorp.com/Article/Article49033.html">http://www.pacificorp.com/Article/Article49033.html</a></li> <li>• Be advised of <b>2009 project review schedule</b>: Proposals (short forms) due Feb. 9; discuss via conference call Feb. 18;</li> </ul>

<b>Commitments Made at the November 19, 2008 Meeting</b>	
	applications (long forms) due Mar. 9; subcommittee meets to rank Mar. 18; ECC reviews subcommittee recommendations and reaches consensus/votes to approve at April 15 ECC meeting.

\*Items in blue have been carried over from previous meetings.

**ECC Representatives Present:**

Mark Stenberg, Environmental Coordinator, PacifiCorp  
 Charlie Vincent, American Whitewater  
 Marv Hoyt, Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
 Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
 Damien Miller, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Mary Lucachick, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, participating by phone  
 Warren Colyer, Trout Unlimited

**Others Present:**

Randy Landolt, PacifiCorp  
 Jack Kolkman, PacifiCorp  
 Kelly Holt, PacifiCorp  
 Eve Davies, PacifiCorp  
 Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp, participating by phone  
 Katie Strong, Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
 Joselin Matkins, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust  
 Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater, participating by phone  
 Miriam Hugentobler, Project Coordinator

**Decisions Made at this Meeting**

- Approve the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Restoration Plan with edits to be made as discussed and agreed upon at this meeting.

**Decisions made via email since the last meeting:**

- Approve Kackley Management Plan.

**Introduction of PacifiCorp’s Hydro Management Guests**

Stenberg introduced members of PacifiCorp’s Hydro management team, Randy Landolt and Jack Kolkman. ECC members introduced themselves.

**Overview of ECC Accomplishments – Stenberg**

Stenberg discussed ECC accomplishments over the past four years, including applications of Habitat Enhancement and Land and Water Acquisition Funding; site plans completed and site plan implementation; the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (BCT) Restoration Plan; the BCT genetics study, the thermal imaging study, and the BCT telemetry study. He noted that the ECC has selected a local land trust to work with and has signed a memorandum of agreement with them. He also provided details on

Cove decommissioning, white water flows, fish stranding studies and water quality studies at Grace/Cove and Oneida.

Stenberg then discussed upcoming ECC projects, including BCT broodstock development at the Grace hatchery. He said that funding for this project is in the works, and PacifiCorp will fund Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) directly. He said fish from the Thatcher reach will be used and stocked in that reach. Different broodstock will be used for different reaches. Stenberg said stocking efforts may be three years away.

Landolt said he believed that the Bear River license implementation is going well and asked for input from ECC members. Vincent said that the current team has worked cooperatively very well. Hoyt said he believed people are working together well and the contentious part of the project is in the past. He said that at times there are disagreements, but the group is able to work through them by keeping the ultimate goal of Bonneville cutthroat trout in mind. Landolt said it is good that more money is going towards projects rather than process, as is the case on some of the more contentious license implementation projects. Hoyt said he believed that process is positive, and stated that's why we are all at the table now. Miller said he is excited about the projects and is looking forward to finding ways to leverage additional federal funds to bolster the projects. Both Hoyt and Miller expressed concern regarding the proposed dam on the Bear River Narrows. Landolt discussed renewable energy sources and the future. He stressed the importance of discussions that happen in groups like the ECC. Stenberg asked Landolt about hydro power being certified as renewable. Landolt said that PacifiCorp is ahead of schedule as far as efforts towards renewable energy goes.

Kolkman said is following and supportive of efforts to recover BCT. He stated that it is in the company's best interest to spend project funds to help ensure that BCT do not become federally listed.

### **ECC Discussion**

Van Every brought up the need for monitoring to show what is happening in the basin as a result of ECC projects. He said he recognizes that agencies have limited funding for such efforts. Stenberg said ECC projects are being GPSed and notes are being kept, but the need for monitoring will soon outstrip available funds. He stated that the current level of effort is geared toward doing what is necessary for compliance documentation. Kolkman asked whether we have a benchmark for monitoring. Van Every said he believes so.

Stenberg said ECC members may call Kolkman directly if there are any problems or issues they would like to discuss.

Van Every stressed that all agencies need to stay engaged with the ECC process, as PacifiCorp can't do it all, and there is funding to administer.

### **Final Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Restoration Plan – with Shrier via Telephone**

Stenberg brought comments from Teuscher, which were provided electronically and by telephone prior to the meeting. Stenberg noted that PacifiCorp's requirement is to prepare the BCT Restoration Plan "in cooperation with the ECC," so the ECC doesn't have to vote to approve the plan, but Stenberg said he would like to ask for consensus today. He provided Teuscher's comments to Shrier and the ECC verbally, as well as via overhead projection of electronic comments.

Stenberg said that Teuscher was concerned about language regarding the stocking of nonnative fish damaging native species, as it would contradict the State Plan. Stenberg said PacifiCorp feels strongly about the language regarding nonnative stocking and would like to keep it in the BCT Restoration Plan. Stenberg said an update schedule will be added to the plan. Shrier noted that he worded the stocking of native fish as a recommendation only, as PacifiCorp has no authority for stocking.

Stenberg said Teuscher also expressed concern that the maps included in the plan were incomplete and contained errors. Hoyt and Miller expressed support for using the maps as they are and moving forward, while incorporating Teuscher's comments to the extent possible (see related action item).

Section 5.4.3 – section on non-native stocking - Miller, Vincent, Hoyt, and Van Every said they support leaving the statement in, as it is not a mandate to IDFG but a recommendation.

Section 5.5 – prioritization of actions – Stenberg said Teuscher expressed concern that state priorities are different than those in the plan. Stenberg said that PacifiCorp's priorities can and do differ from IDFG's. Hoyt suggested rewording the third sentence in the paragraph as follows:

“Second in priority is to reestablish BCT where they have been reduced or extirpated. These actions may include reducing or removing non-native salmonids.”

Van Every suggested incorporating state priorities (a comment on Teuscher's electronic copy) into the paragraph. ECC members agreed.

Stenberg asked for consensus on the BCT Restoration Plan if changes are made as discussed and the table is updated.

Colburn asked about errors in the appendix table, which was a previous comment of Teuscher's. Colburn said on a similar project, a table such as this was used to help rank projects. Shier said he will work with Teuscher, Capurso and Colyer to update the table.

### **Review of Day's Agenda, Call for Additional Items**

Updates on the Harris project and the Last Chance site plan were added to the day's agenda.

### **Review Action Items and Notes from September Meeting**

September meeting notes were approved with edits from Lynn Van Every.

### **Updates**

#### **Black Canyon - Stenberg**

Stenberg noted that he had sent the following items to ECC members via email in advance of meeting:

- Fish Stranding Study – Update from Cirrus.
- Black Canyon Monitoring - 3-Year Report, received from Gangemi in October.

Stenberg said he considers the two reports final. If anyone has suggestions for next year's reports, please let him know. He said the Fish Stranding Study went far beyond what was originally envisioned

(raw data) and is now a pretty complete package. He said the inclusion of water quality information was good. Of note on Black Canyon monitoring, Gangemi said a Bonneville cutthroat trout was electrofished in the study area for the first time this year.

Vincent provided comments on the stranding study to Stenberg. Stenberg reviewed the schedule for next year's releases. He noted that 0.25 will be run again, early in the season.

Stenberg discussed last year's flows and how it caused the Gentile Valley diversion to be adjusted by hand several times during the night. He suggested the ECC consider a project to screen and provide passage at this diversion and also possibly provide some flow control.

Stenberg also discussed anecdotal reports that last year's flushing flow had washed out goose nesting on islands and low spots by the river. Davies said this should not be a serious problem as geese will re-nest if their first attempt fails.

Colburn called the La Cresta North Fork Feather Macroinvertebrate Study to the attention of ECC members. Stenberg said he will forward the study to the ECC via email after the meeting.

Stenberg asked how the ECC would like proceed in coming up with hypotheses for Black Canyon monitoring. Van Every said it would be good to review the previous study and see how it could be used to help develop hypotheses. Davies noted that the study plan for Black Canyon monitoring as well as the BCT Restoration Study Plan stated that hypotheses would be developed for the Black Canyon Monitoring Study and those plans would have to be amended if we don't. Colyer stated that the study would not be defensible without a hypothesis. Vincent said he understands Stenberg's concerns regarding the level of effort required, but he believed the risk of not developing hypotheses is equal or greater. Van Every said it would be helpful to develop a "straw man" for the group to react to, and offered that IDEQ take the lead. He said IDEQ would review the work referenced by Colburn and try and tailor something for the Black Canyon. Colburn offered to set up a conference call to discuss the work. Van Every said he will take a look and proceed stepwise.

#### **Irrigation Diversion Inventory – Idaho Department of Fish and Game**

No IDFG representative was in attendance – Stenberg will contact for status.

#### **Alexander Reservoir Implementation – Stenberg**

Stenberg reviewed license implementation – especially changes in leases – on maps. Nearly all grazing has been eliminated from company lands around the reservoir, he said, and buffers are being established. He discussed property trades completed or under consideration. He said buffers were being seeded with native grasses and shrubs may be planted later through partnerships.

#### **Grace Dam and Last Chance Site Plan - Davies**

Davies showed ECC members a map of the planning area via overhead. She noted that Last Chance and Grace Dam were originally envisioned as two plans, but have since been rolled into one. Davies said that edits to the plan are being made now, and it will be sent out to the ECC for 30-day review as soon as that is complete (within next two weeks) with comments due from the ECC by year's end. Davies reviewed desired future conditions, a table of environmental conflicts, and maps of baseline conditions and desired future conditions. She said the biggest changes at Last Chance will come from revised leases and buffer establishment.

### **Annual Report – Hugentobler**

Hugentobler reviewed the schedule for the 2008 annual report of the Bear River ECC's activities to the FERC, including the following points:

- Annual Report is due to the FERC by Mar. 1, 2009 (filing deadline this year will be Friday, Feb. 27).
- ECC 30-day review should commence by mid-January, so ECC members can expect to see a draft before the next ECC meeting, scheduled for Jan 21.
- Need descriptions and updates for projects funded this year from project sponsors (Colyer, Teuscher, Van Every, Stenberg).
- Need photos of projects, especially projects funded this year.

### **Grant Project Updates – Project Sponsors**

**Harris** – Davies said the Harrises have received their 404 permit, and the certification from the state is forthcoming. \$27,000 will be disbursed to the Harrises. Davies said the project will provide a lot of impact in the action area. Fencing still needs to be erected for the project to be complete. Davies said she will give the Harrises a date to complete the project by in order to receive funding.

**Blair Mathews** – Stenberg clarified that the ECC approved funding in the amount of \$40,000 for the years 2007 and 2008 (i.e., \$40,000 in each year). He said that he went to pay and found that the 2008 amount had not been noted. Stenberg said the notes should state that a total of \$80,000 was approved by the subcommittee, \$40,000 for 2007 and \$40,000 for 2008. ECC members agreed that was correct.

**Clegg** – Stenberg said Clegg is working with the NRCS on plantings. Cost for plantings is now estimated to exceed the total cost of the project. Clegg has asked if the ECC will be unhappy with him if he does not follow Bolin's plan, which exceeds his budget. Davies suggested that rather than putting together a plan from NRCS, put together a plan that utilizes material onsite to save money.

**Wheeler** – Stenberg said the cleanup has been finished, and the area looks great.

**Stauffer** – Stenberg said he believed this project did not start this year. IDFG is sponsoring.

**Cub 2** – Colyer said this project is well started. Design is scheduled for this winter.

**Williams Creek** – Stenberg said there will be a site visit in spring.

**Wallen** – Stenberg said the proponent has installed the pipe, and should finish this year. A partial payment has been made.

### **Henderson Conservation Easement – Joselin Matkins, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust**

Matkins said the project is in its final stretches, with only a slight hold up with the property's legal description. She said the transaction should be closed in a couple of days and went very well. Now it's time to start looking for another project. If any come up, please let her know.

**Kackley project** – Davies said some fence repair is needed in the Cove area to exclude cattle. She said the fenced area by BLM property now excludes grazing and the regrowth there looks very good.

### **2009 Grant Project Cycle**

New forms have been prepared for project proposals and applications and will be posted to the ECC's website. Hugentobler will email a link to the new forms to ECC members after the meeting.

A schedule was developed for the 2009 grant cycle:

- Short forms due Mon., Feb. 9.
- Conference call with subcommittee to discuss Wed., Feb. 18.
- Long forms due Mon., Mar. 9.
- Ranking meeting Wed., Mar. 18, IDEQ offices, Pocatello.
- ECC vote Apr. 15 (regular ECC meeting), IDEQ offices, Pocatello.

### **Next ECC Meeting**

Wednesday, January 21, 2009  
IDEQ offices, Pocatello, ID

Black Canyon Subcommittee will convene following the regular ECC meeting.