

**Bear River Environmental Coordination Committee
Final Meeting Notes
April 28, 2010
Grace, Idaho**

ECC Members Present

Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp
 Warren Colyer, Trout Unlimited
 Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Katie Strong, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
 Cary Myler, US Fish and Wildlife Service
 Arn Berglund, Bureau of Land Management
 Jim Capurso, US Forest Service
 Dave Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 Kirk Rich, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
 Charlie Vincent, American Whitewater, by phone

Others Present

Eve Davies, PacifiCorp
 Glen Pond, PacifiCorp
 Tom Lucia, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
 Joselin Matkins, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
 Lyla Detmer, Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District
 Phil Christensen, Landowner

Commitments Made at the April 28, 2010 Meeting	
Van Every, Mladenka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise the ECC’s Streambank Stabilization Policy and Ranking Criteria to incorporate ECC’s comments, including Davies’ editorial comments. Provide update at next ECC meeting.
Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide comments on Streambank Stabilization Policy to Van Every, Mladenka.
Berglund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an updated project proposal form (including cost) for Oneida Narrows Riparian Protection to Stenberg.
Teuscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay in touch with Keeley regarding upcoming leatherside chub surveys. Report back to ECC. Present status of BCT broodstock development at June ECC meeting
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a long-term goal of preparing maps that show streambank stability in various reaches of the Bear River to help evaluate future project proposals.
Capurso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay informed on South Liberty Pipeline project and report back to ECC.
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email contractor qualifications for Oneida Fish Passage to ECC via email within one week. Distribute Oneida Fish Passage press release. Track resulting stories. Take pictures of Old Oregon Trail Road Bridge (Bailey Culvert) (and irrigation diversions)

Commitments Made at the April 28, 2010 Meeting	
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email link to the ECC's website to Kirk Rich.
Items in blue have been carried over from previous ECC meetings	

Decisions Made at This Meeting

- Approve the 2010 habitat enhancement projects recommended by the Grant Fund Subcommittee and approved by PacifiCorp (see Table 1).
- Accept the press release on fish passage at Oneida Narrows Dam prepared by Capruso.
- Award land and water acquisition funding in the amount of \$290,000 to place a conservation easement on the Christensen parcels in Mink Creek. As a condition, proponent must include an easement on the entire length of Mink Creek, with minimum width to average 100 feet each side from stream bank. ECC will assist in funding approved agricultural best management practices through available habitat enhancement funds.

Decisions Made Via Email Since the February ECC Meeting

- Deep Creek – Fee acquisition of this property was approved via email. This vote is recorded in this month's land trust updates.

Consensus on the Mink Creek parcel was sought via email but was not reached.

Introductions

Kirk Rich was introduced as an Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation representative.

Review of Previous Notes and Commitments

Notes from the February 2010 ECC meeting were approved without changes. However, Vincent noted that a discussion of the capture of a northern leatherside chub during the ECC's fish stranding study was not included in the notes. The capture was reported by Cirrus in its 2009 report on fish stranding following boater flow releases for the Black Canyon Boater Program Ramp Rate Study. Teuscher told the ECC that an Idaho State University graduate student will be surveying for northern leatherside chub in the area during summer. He said he will follow the progress of that survey and keep the ECC informed.

One action item (see list) was carried over from a previous meeting.

Updates on Habitat Enhancement Projects

Stenberg provided the ECC with a funding update on habitat enhancement projects. He reported that ~ \$255,053 remains in the fund at this time and is available for projects.

ECC's Streambank Stabilization Policy

Van Every summarized the status of the draft streambank stabilization policy, which was circulated to ECC members prior to the meeting, and asked for comments. He noted that Mladenka recommended a joint review of the habitat enhancement project ranking criteria. Davies said she had editorial comments on the policy and would provide those to IDEQ after the meeting. Capurso recommended providing links to specific projects, examples to help applicants understand the policy. Teuscher urged the ECC to promptly finalize the policy.

The ECC reviewed a proposed addition to the ranking criteria. It was agreed that a checklist item be added instead: "Is the project in conformance with the ECC's Streambank Stabilization Policy?"

Stenberg suggested adding a criterion that would apply to all projects regarding the possibility for negative downstream impacts, which would award negative points. He suggested modifying criteria 6 to reflect this.

IDEQ will edit the streambank stabilization policy to reflect the following comments from the ECC: Provide links to specific examples, revise ranking criteria 6 to award negative points for negative downstream impacts, add checklist item (above), remove new proposed criteria 14, and incorporate editorial comments from Davies. Van Every will provide an update at the next ECC meeting.

Van Every added that the ECC should consider a long-term goal of preparing maps that show streambank stability in various reaches of the river to help evaluate project proposals.

2010 Habitat Enhancement Project Funding Recommendations

Stenberg reported on the Grant Fund subcommittee's ranking meeting. He reviewed the projects via overhead and reported PacifiCorp's funding decisions (Table 1). All out-of-area projects recommended by the subcommittee were approved with exception of the St. Charles Creek Fish Screen. Funding for the approved projects totaled \$179,000, leaving \$76,053 unallocated for this year.

Oneida Narrows Riparian Protection – Berglund provided additional clarification on updates to this project. Metal jack fence will be used rather than wood so that parts of the fence are not taken for firewood. Also, a portable pump will be used rather than a solar pump to reduce the possibility for vandalism. Stenberg requested that Berglund submit an updated proposal form with updated cost.

Table 1. Bear River ECC 2010 Habitat Enhancement Project Rankings

Project		Sponsor	Amount Requested	Total Project Cost	Score	In / Out of Action Area	PacifiCorp Approval
Recommended by Subcommittee for ECC Funding							
Alleman Dam Removal	Remove an irrigation diversion dam on Alleman property on Georgetown Creek, establish a single point of diversion, restore riparian area, and exclude cattle.	Capurso	\$45,000	\$170,000	173	In	
St. Charles Creek Fish Screen	Install fish screens in an existing irrigation diversion on St. Charles Creek to prevent entrainment of Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT).	Colyer	\$35,000	\$110,000	159	Out	No
Bunderson, Roy Irrigation Structure	Install a fish ladder on irrigation structure on Paris Creek to allow passage of BCT.	Colyer	\$25,000	\$125,000	150	Out	Yes
Bunderson, Max Irrigation Structure Fish Bypass	Replace wooden irrigation diversion on Paris Creek with rock drop structures to allow fish passage and install fish screen on irrigation ditch.	Colyer	\$30,000	\$65,000	140	Out	Yes
Whiskey Creek Habitat Restoration	Improve habitat for BCT in Whiskey Creek by narrowing stream channel and planting riparian vegetation.	Teuscher	\$30,000	200000	140	In	
Georgetown Fish Ladder	Allocate additional funding for recently constructed Georgetown Hydro fish ladder to address cost over-runs.	Capurso	\$10,000	\$34,000	129*	In	
Screen Tender	Allocate funding for an Idaho Department of Fish and Game employee to monitor and maintain fish screens.	Teuscher	\$12,000	\$15,000	129**	In & Out	Yes
Oneida Narrows Riparian Protection	Exclude cattle from the Oneida Narrows boater take-out on the Bear River by installing a fence and cattleguard and providing an alternative water source for cattle.	Berglund	\$15,000	\$25,000	120	In	
Alexander Shrub Planting	Continue native shrub planting in Alexander Reservoir shoreline buffer.	Stenberg	\$7,000	\$17,000	107	In	
Cub River Fish Tracking	Install radiotelemetry tags in 40 BCT to identify migration extent and spawning locations within the Cub River and to determine whether Cub River BCT use the Bear River for overwintering habitat	Colyer	\$5,000	\$65,000	100	Out	Yes

Table 1. Bear River ECC 2010 Habitat Enhancement Project Rankings

Project		Sponsor	Amount Requested	Total Project Cost	Score	In / Out of Action Area	PacifiCorp Approval
Not Recommended by Subcommittee for ECC Funding							
South Liberty Pipeline	Convert irrigation company's water delivery system from canal to pressurized pipeline.	Capurso	\$60,000	\$1,800,000	0	In	
Scope of 2008 Grant Project Expanded (No additional funding requested)							
Bailey Creek/Midnight Mountain Fencing	Supply materials for scout troop(s) to fence off headwaters of sensitive streams.	Teuscher/Duehren	\$5,000	\$5,000	0	In	
Total Recommended Requests		9	\$179,000				
<i>* Project ranking in 2007, when project design was funded by ECC</i> <i>**Project ranking in 2008, when funding originally approved by ECC</i>							

South Liberty Pipeline – Capurso provided a brief update on this project. He said he will stay informed on its progress and provide updates to ECC.

Stenberg asked for consensus on the nine recommended projects (see table) for a total of \$179,000. Consensus reached.

Meeting adjourned to hold discussions with Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust.

Regular ECC meeting resumed following discussions with the land trust. Stenberg provided an update on boater flows.

Stenberg said he recently had a telephone conversation with Bear River Narrows Dam proponent Claire Bosen. He said Bosen said that he did not understand PacifiCorp's last letter to FERC, which stated that Twin Lakes had not undertaken substantial consultation efforts. Bosen wanted to know what unresolved issues remained. Stenberg said he told Bosen that conflicts with Settlement Agreement commitments remain for lands, recreation, and fisheries in the Oneida Canyon. Bosen said the FERC had given him guidance that working out conflicts with the PacifiCorp's Settlement Agreement was not something they were required to do. Stenberg reiterated with Bosen that Settlement Agreement conflicts are PacifiCorp's issues and recommended that Twin Lakes undertake consultation with the SA Parties.

ECC members agreed to postpone IDFG's presentation on BCT broodstock development until the June ECC meeting. Stenberg said he will email contractor qualifications for Oneida Dam fish passage to ECC members within a week. Consensus was reached to accept a press release on Oneida fish passage prepared by Capurso. Stenberg will see to it that it is released through PacifiCorp communications. Capurso asked that any resulting news stories be tracked.

Meeting adjourned to a field review of Kackley Springs. Field review of Whiskey Creek was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Discussion items of interest from the field review included:

- Discussion of the current percent of flow going down the new channel versus the old route directly into the river.
- Water depth in the new channel and its ability to accommodate movement of fish.
- The appearance of a rainbow trout at the lower road crossing.
- The potential design and installation of a structure near the Bear River that can serve as a trap for sorting and passing BCT during spawning and function as an upstream barrier during other times of the year.
- The potential to stock BCT young this fall from the Broodstock Program.
- Questions about the capacity of the new channel and how soon it will be able to handle all or a higher percentage of flow from the main pond.