

**Bear River ECC
Final Meeting Notes
December 8, 2010
Pocatello, Idaho**

ECC Members Present

Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp
 Marv Hoyt, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
 Charlie Vincent, American Whitewater
 Dave Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 Cary Myler, US Fish and Wildlife Service
 Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Kirk Dahle, Trout Unlimited

Others Present

Greg Mladenka, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Steven Smith, Idaho Soil Conservation District
 Scott Blake, Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District
 Eve Davies, PacifiCorp, by phone
 Lee Mabey, U.S. Forest Service, by phone
 Glen Anderson, R2, by phone
 Dana Postlewaite, R2, by phone
 Frank Shrier, PacifiCorp, by phone
 Nathan Higa, PacifiCorp, by phone
 Joselin Matkins, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust, afternoon
 Heidi Albano, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust, afternoon

Commitments Made at the December 8, 2010 ECC Meeting	
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route cloud seeding proposal to the ECC. • Compile ECC calendar and route meeting invitations. • Speak with consultant(s) about including recommendations in reports. • Share flow (forecast?) data with Colburn • Circulate proposed schedule for Oneida Fish Passage project. • Check for possible PacifiCorp study on entrainment/survival of fish from downstream passage for Teuscher. • Forward Diversion Inventory and Hillyard and Colyer studies to R2 • Send information summary requested by R2 - fish size, timing of runs, fringe times, any overlap among species. Also estimate numbers/size of fish for sizing of facility. • Route updates to land trust MOA process with land trust and draft Capacity Funding for Bear River Conservation Projects. • Request change to fish stranding study – redbside shiner is native.

Commitments Made at the December 8, 2010 ECC Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get an update on Bailey Creek fencing project. • Rework Oneida Fish Passage press release after contractor is chosen. Track resulting stories. • Take pictures of Old Oregon Trail Road Bridge (Bailey Culvert) (and irrigation diversions)
Teuscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send species list to R2. • Work with Dahle on press coverage of habitat enhancement project (Cub River). Time for 2011 funding availability notice (Jan 10)
Dahle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send fish tracking data to Stenberg. • Work with Teuscher on press coverage of habitat enhancement project (Cub River). Time for 2011 funding availability notice (Jan 10)
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile ECC calendar and route to ECC. • Email ECC regarding interest in funding subcommittee membership. • Post revised ranking form to website.
Items in blue have been carried over from previous ECC meetings	

Decisions Made at This Meeting

- Approve \$3,500.00 in habitat enhancement funding for maintenance to fish screens on Cub River and Cottonwood Creek, as proposed by Trout Unlimited.
- Approve the ECC's Streambank Stabilization Policy.

Email Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting

- Increase budget for construction and installation of a fish trap at Kackley Spring by \$13,500.

See Attachment 1 for a complete record of voting on this motion.

Additions to Agenda

- Cloud Seeding – Scott Blake, Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District

Fish Screen Maintenance Proposal – Kirk Dahle, Trout Unlimited

A habitat enhancement funding proposal for maintenance to fish screens on the Cub River (lowest diversion) and Cottonwood Creek (Cleveland Irrigation) was submitted by Dahle and routed to the ECC by email prior to the meeting. Dahle said the amount of funding requested was originally \$5,000, but he was able to rework some of the parts and because of this, the funding request has been reduced to \$3500.

Teuscher raised concern about maintenance costs for fish screens if installations funded by the ECC continue aggressively. He said he fully supports installation of fish screens, but he is

concerned about the screens being properly maintained. Costs can be high, he said, and landowner relations are at stake. He said he believes the ECC is 5 to 10 years away from spending more money on maintenance than on new projects. Stenberg said the ECC will need to prioritize streams and be more proactive in selecting projects. Stenberg suggested building a budget in conjunction with this prioritization. Teuscher said the diversion inventory would help with that, but noted that the GIS is not yet built.

Stenberg called for a vote on the proposal, noting that the project is being considered now because it is a mid-year maintenance project. Motion passed unanimously.

Project Updates

Stenberg said workers were installing the fish trap in **Kackley Springs** and work should be complete by Friday. He said a picket weir that was blocking the entrance to Kackley Springs had recently failed and a lot of trout (brown and rainbow) entered the system. He reported that an angler caught a 20 inch brown trout in the spring. Dahle and Teuscher said that was good news, as it demonstrates good fish passage. Stenberg said IDFG was bringing in electroshockers on Thursday to remove unwanted fish. Teuscher said that if the unwanted fish cannot be removed by electrofishing, they will consider rotenone.

The **Alleman** project is about 90 percent complete. **Roy Bunderson's** project is complete. **Max Bunderson's** is about 50 percent complete. Backhoe work is complete on **Whiskey Creek** and the project is up for additional state funding. **Georgetown** and **Screen Tender** funding has been disbursed. **Oneida Riparian Protection** and **Alexander Shrub Planting** are complete.

Dahle reported that eight more fish were tagged in October for the **Cub River Fish Tagging** project. A total of 17 fish were tagged in the fall and 17 were tagged in the spring. Dahle said he would provide Stenberg with a copy of data collected to date.

Scott Blake, Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation

Blake said he was seeking support from the ECC for a cloud seeding program. He said he works with five counties and is looking for funding to increase snowfall. He said the goal of the project is to keep snowfall over the Bear River basin farms and ranches. The project operates on a \$27,000 annual budget, he said, and he would like to request a \$500 donation from the ECC. Mladenka raised concern about shortchanging others (their snowfall). He said he has heard of lawsuits over this practice. Stenberg will route by email the handout that Blake brought to the meeting.

Streambank Stabilization Policy

Stenberg called for a vote on the ECC's final Streambank Stabilization Policy. ECC members voted unanimously to approve the policy.

2011 Calendar

The ECC discussed scheduling for the first half of the coming year. Hugentobler will draft a calendar (included as Attachment 2) and forward a copy to ECC members. Stenberg will forward meeting invitations through Outlook.

ECC members discussed scheduling for upcoming whitewater boater flow discussions. Mladenka asked when the Black Canyon Monitoring Report would be available. He said the report would be needed before discussions could begin.

Stenberg said he believed the formal process for holding the discussions mentioned at the October ECC meeting would probably not be needed for this group. He asked ECC members to come in with their own proposals and discuss them during the meeting. He said that if this approach doesn't work, the group could then choose to use a more formal process. Colburn said he would rather have a discussion of interests before asking for detailed proposals from everyone, which seems like a position-oriented approach to him. Stenberg disagreed. He said he would like people to come in with solutions. Mladenka also suggested first hearing everyone's perspectives before formulating proposals. Vincent agreed. A potential schedule might include hearing interests first, then shared interests, then formulate a list of shared interests and "good to haves." Then formulate an alternative from there. Van Every said the ECC should have a solid understanding of data first. Before alternatives and positions are formulated, the ECC needs to know what the data show, he said. Colburn proposed a series of three meetings: 1) data/science, 2) interests, 3) position/alternatives. Colburn and Van Every agreed that "homework" would be needed outside of the meetings, so resources will need to be committed towards that. Stenberg suggested starting the process in May. He said he has asked for the Black Canyon Monitoring Report by April 1. He said ECC members will likely need a month to review the report. Van Every suggested that fall would be a better time for the meetings, as far as allocating resources towards the process. Mladenka said he supported the more informal approach being proposed. Vincent asked whether the meetings would really be effective, i.e., could decisions be made at the table? Stenberg urged participants to be very upfront about their interests from the beginning.

ECC members agreed to hold three meetings, each a month apart, beginning in October 2011. At the first meeting (half-day), the ECC will review data and participants will state their positions. Alternatives will be discussed at the second meeting. The goal will be to get decisions made prior to March 2012. This schedule will allow more time to complete the final Black Canyon Monitoring Report (by early May) and will give ECC members additional time to review the report (June/July).

Teuscher stressed that the Black Canyon Monitoring Report should not include recommendations. He noted that the Boater Flow Water Quality Report included recommendations and it should not. Stenberg agreed. Teuscher said consultants should report and interpret only, as they are not one of the stakeholders.

Stenberg and Hugentobler will draft a meeting schedule and forward to ECC members.

Colburn asked whether it was known how many boater days may occur under flow-triggered releases. Stenberg said there were estimates based on the type of water year, as well as some data on projected inflow dependant flows. He said it would likely be more like 4 to 6 per year than 16. Stenberg said he would share available information/data with Colburn and Vincent.

Funding Subcommittee Membership

Stenberg said that with recent changes in ECC representatives he would like to review membership on the Funding Subcommittee. Hugentobler will email ECC members for interest in participation.

Oneida Fish Passage Project

Consultants working on design of the Oneida Fish Passage project met with ECC members via conference call to discuss fish passage criteria. R2 representatives Glen Anderson and Dana Postlewaite participated, as well as Frank Shier and Nathan Higa from PacifiCorp.

Stenberg discussed the mechanics of funding habitat enhancement projects. He noted that there are lots of facets to the project that need to be worked through. A half-day work session for the project has been scheduled for January 19.

A report, *Fish Passage at Oneida: Guidelines and Goals for Conceptual Design*, was prepared by R2 and distributed by email prior to the meeting. Anderson said R2 would like to focus on the Guidelines section. He said that the site has been surveyed, and when that is back from drafting, R2 can start on the conceptual drawings. He said R2 is trying to get that done by January 19, and is asking for a 7-day turnaround on comments from the ECC. He said R2 would like to tie down criteria by the end of the month. Stenberg will circulate the proposed schedule.

R2 asked what the ECC's target species would be. Teuscher said he would like to design something that would pass mountain whitefish, bluehead suckers, and Utah suckers. He asked if two targets were possible - multiple versus more specific target species. For example, if the project were designed for Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT), it would pretty easily pass mountain whitefish. Shrier said perhaps a slotted fishway. A slotted fishway is currently in place at St. Anthony, he said, and it seems pretty functional. Mladenka expressed support for designing for multiple species. R2 requested a species list. Teuscher will provide the list. R2 asked whether any species should be excluded. Teuscher suggested walleye and small mouth, but added that's not realistic. R2 asked whether handling of fish (i.e., trap and haul) was off the table. Teuscher said selectively passing BCT for a couple of months would be a possibility. He said he would need more time to think about it. R2 said there was time for thoughtful consideration. They would like to get the ECC's "wish list" down, and address it for the next meeting. Teuscher said downstream passage is critical. Dahle agreed. Teuscher said currently there is some survival, and he would like to know more about survival/entrainment during downstream passage. He

asked whether Stenberg was aware of any PacifiCorp studies relative to this. Stenberg said he would check. Stenberg said fish that go through now are going through the turbine. He noted that there are low flows in that area, and PacifiCorp typically does not spill there. It was noted that some of the natives have spawning habitat above and below the dam. Dahle said he would like to provide an opportunity for a natural life cycle, i.e., where fish are able to move up and down stream. Stenberg said he would like to keep up and down stream passage for now, and spend some time researching the literature, etc. before the next meeting. R2 will devise some higher level alternatives and attach a budget to them before next meeting so that cost feasibility can be discussed. Teuscher said there may be a seasonal component as well. Fish move during spring and fall, not so much in summer when temperatures heat up. R2 would like to develop a chart showing fish runs/time. Teuscher and Stenberg will get information to them (Colyer and Hillyard's studies, etc.). R2 requested a summary of pertinent information, including fish size, timing of runs, fringe times, and any overlap among species. They also requested estimated numbers/size of fish for sizing of the facility.

Stenberg said other issues for report will include water/water rights, flood control compatibility, and ladder flow capacity.

R2 asked whether there were issues with temperature differences for trap and haul. Teuscher said not really during the time the fish are moving.

Possible locations for siting the entrance to the trap were discussed. The area north of the powerhouse, adjacent to the tailrace was suggested.

Land Trust Updates

<closed session>

Boater Flow Water Quality Study

Fish Stranding

Mladenka noted that reidside shiner are natives, not non-natives as stated in report.

Whitewater Boater Flow Calendar

The 2011 whitewater boater flow calendar was routed to the ECC prior to the meeting. PacifiCorp and American Whitewater agreed to discuss swapping out some unscheduled flows for scheduled flows.

Next ECC Meeting - January 19 - IDEQ

Agenda Items:

Vote on Deep Creek

Work session Oneida Fish Passage

Discuss conservation easement defense insurance. A vote may be called.

Attachment 1 – Record of Email Voting Since the Last ECC Meeting

**Email Vote by the Bear River ECC
Kackley Springs Fish Trap Budget Increase
October 12, 2010**

Date: Tue, 12 Oct 2010 10:15:07-0600

From: Miriam Hugentobler

To: Marv Hoyt <mhoyt@greateryellowstone.org>, Arn Berglund <Arn_Berglund@blm.gov>, Blaine Newman <blaine_newman@blm.gov>, Arnie Brimmer <abrimmer@idfg.idaho.gov>, Cary Myler <cary_myler@fws.gov>, Charlie Vincent <charliev@xmission.com>, Eve Davies <Eve.Davies@PacifiCorp.com>, Greg Mladenka <Greg.Mladenka@deq.idaho.gov>, Hunter Osborne <hosborne@shoshonebannocktribes.com>, Lee Mabey <lmabey@fs.fed.us>, Kevin Colburn <kcolburn@amwhitewater.org>, Kevin Lewis <kevin@idahorivers.org>, Kirk Dahle <kdahle@tu.org>, Kirk Rich <krich@idpr.idaho.gov>, Lynn Van Every <Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov>, Mary Lucachick <mlucachi@idpr.state.id.us>, Rick Just <rick.just@idpr.idaho.gov>, Susan Rosebrough <Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov>, David Teuscher <david.teuscher@idfg.idaho.gov>, Warren Colyer <wcolyer@tu.org>, "Yvette A. Tuell" <ytuell@sbtribes.com>, Corey Lyman <clyman@fs.fed.us>

CC: "Stenberg, Mark" <Mark.Stenberg@PacifiCorp.com>, Jack Kolkman <Jack.Kolkman@PacifiCorp.com>

Subject: Bear River ECC – Email Vote Kackley Fish Trap

Good Morning ECC Members,

I am requesting your approval to increase the budget for construction and installation of the fish trap at Kackley Springs.

Design is complete and I have received two bids for fabrication. The fabrication bids are \$14,273 and \$29,770. The engineers said the \$14,273 bid is right on line with their estimate based on steel weight and fabrication. I've negotiated a price for installation from one of our outline agreement contractors that I know will do a good job installing the fish trap and will be sensitive to the site.

Original approved funding:	\$20,000
Survey and Design Services:	\$13,000 Complete
Fabrication of fish trap: Partners Steel in Pocatello	\$14,272 Low bid from
Installation of fish trap:	\$6,200 negotiated price with KCA

Additional Funding Needed to finish project: \$13,500.

Thanks,
Mark Stenberg
208 547-7305

**Results of ECC Member Voting
Kackley Springs Fish Trap Budget Increase
Email Query by Stenberg
October 12, 2010**

Vote	Name	Organization
yes	Mabey	USFS
yes	Dahle	Trout Unlimited
yes	Van Every	IDEQ
yes	Lewis	Idaho Rivers United
yes	Just	Idaho Parks and Rec
yes	Teuscher	Idaho Fish and Game
yes	Berglund	BLM
yes	Osborne	Sho-Bans
--	Rosebrough	National Park Service
yes	Vincent	American Whitewater
yes	Hoyt	Greater Yellowstone
yes	Stenberg	PacifiCorp
yes	Myler	USFWS

Attachment 2: ECC Calendar, First Half of 2011

Bear River ECC Calendar of Activities - First Half of 2011	
Dec 8 (Wed)	Final ECC Meeting of 2010
Jan 10 (Mon)	Ad or news release announcing availability of 2011 grant funds
Jan 14 (Fri.)	2010 Annual Report to ECC for 30-day review
Jan 19 (Wed)	Regular ECC Meeting – Pocatello – Oneida Fish Passage Project Work Session (1/2 Day)
Feb 11 (Fri)	Funding proposals – short forms due from ECC sponsors to Stenberg, Hugentobler
Feb 15 (Tues)	Comments on 2010 Annual Report due from ECC
Feb 16 (Wed.)	Regular ECC Meeting – Pocatello – review funding proposals, assign sponsors
Feb 22 (Tues.)	Print-ready copy of Annual Report due
Mar 1 (Tues.)	Annual Report due to FERC (electronic filing); Funding proposal long forms due from project sponsors to Stenberg, Hugentobler
Mar 16 (Wed.)	Funding subcommittee ranking meeting – Pocatello
April 20 (Wed.)	Regular ECC Meeting – Pocatello - ECC votes on Funding Subcommittee recommendations
May	PacifiCorp reviews/approves ECC funding recommendations
Jun 15 (Wed.)	Regular ECC Meeting – Grace
Proposed Dates for Whitewater Boater Flow Discussions	
Oct. 19 (Wed)	half-day (coincides with regular ECC meeting date)
Nov 16 (Wed)	(note: third Wednesday, this is the week before Thanksgiving holiday)
Dec 14 (Wed)	half-day (coincides with regular ECC meeting date) (note: second Wednesday)