

**Bear River ECC
Final Meeting Notes
April 20, 2011
Grace, Idaho**

ECC Members Present

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

Others Present

Eve Davies, PacifiCorp
 Andrea Santarsiere, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
 Joselin Matkins, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust (for updates session)

Commitments Made at the April 20, 2011 ECC Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Land Management Plan (LMP) and provide comments prior to June meeting. Vote on whether to approve at June meeting. • Review Fish Passage Design Report. Provide comments by May 18 (will sent a reminder first week of May). • Review Black Canyon monitoring report prior to June meeting.
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Password protect draft Black Canyon reports on website. • Post Fish Stranding and Water Quality studies to website. • Obtain additional information on Hardcastle, Hansen. Route revised proposals to funding subcommittee. • Meet with South Liberty irrigation about a possible water rights purchase (with Dahle). • Send fencing statute to Matkins. • Coordinate with Teuscher on the possibility of installing a camera or counter beam at the Black Canyon boater takeout. • Provide GIS layer of ECC-sponsored projects to Teuscher. • Consider placing a link to IDFG management planning Powerpoint on ECC website or consider posting the file. • 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).
Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute redline of LMP to ECC during May.

Commitments Made at the April 20, 2011 ECC Meeting	
Dahle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let Stenberg know when work is occurring at fish trap. • Meet with South Liberty irrigation about a possible water rights purchase (with Stenberg).
Dahle, Teuscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on press coverage of habitat enhancement project (Cub River).
Van Every	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with S. Smith and proponent on Nichols/Whiskey Creek to revise habitat enhancement project proposal. Route revised proposal to funding subcommittee. • Forward mud snail protocol to Davies.
Matkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue talks with realtor on Barker parcel. • Talk to Bentleys about south fence at Deep Creek and other adjacent landowner about north fence and potential for long term exchange of lease. • Send Deep Creek Management Plan with changes and updated budget to the ECC.
Items in blue have been carried over from previous ECC meetings	

Previous Meeting Notes

Draft February meeting notes were approved without changes.

Decisions Made via Email Since the Last Meeting

- Provide \$8,805 in habitat enhancement funding to Oasis to make up a \$655 shortfall in the Black Canyon monitoring fund and provide 50 percent of the requested funds to Oasis in the amount of \$7,350 to cover outstanding lab costs and to address a shortfall to complete annual report.

A record of the vote is included in Attachment 1.

Decisions Made at This Meeting

- Approve 2011 habitat enhancement projects as recommended by the funding subcommittee and shown in Table 1 (Attachment 2).

Project Updates

The **Williams Creek** project is complete. The screen is complete for the **Marv Anderson** project. The **Oneida Fish Passage** design report has been posted to website for the ECC's review and comment. The upstream collector is described generally and the project is currently \$10,000 under budget. R2 is awaiting comments from the ECC to finalize report. Funding remains for the **Whiskey Creek** project for plantings, etc. this spring. Ryan Hillyard (Idaho Department of Fish and Game) has been out to the **Harris** project area to monitor water temps, etc., and observe

fish there. Teuscher suggested keeping an eye on the property for opportunities for further improvements. The landowners have said Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) occurred in the area historically. Teuscher believes habitat at this location may be better than at Kackley Springs. Stenberg said this would be a great place to focus habitat improvement efforts, as it would potentially give BCT two streams in which to reproduce.

Boater Flow Update

Stenberg reviewed 2011 whitewater boater flows to date and estimated boater participation. He said the boater counts may be low, as no one was specifically assigned to count boaters and personnel who reported the number of boaters they observed had other duties on those days.

Date	Flow	# of Boaters Observed
4/9	900 cfs	0
4/10	900 cfs	13
4/16	935 cfs	5
4/17	1049 cfs	15

Stenberg also reviewed outflows from Soda and Oneida via overhead.

Vincent asked about American Whitewater posting the draft Black Canyon Monitoring Report to their website. His concern was that it is still a draft report, i.e., not approved by the ECC, but in a public place. Teuscher said he was concerned about draft reports being made public, particularly if the report contains recommendations. Draft reports posted to the PacifiCorp website will be password protected. Comments are due on the Black Canyon Monitoring Report, Year 7 by the June 15 ECC meeting.

The draft report noted New Zealand mud snails in reach 4 of the study area but no other reach, which has been brought up by researchers as a good topic for further study. Van Every noted that Sepulveda’s group (recipients of a 2011 habitat enhancement grant) will be in the area working over the summer.

Land Management Plan – Davies

Davies provided background on the land management planning process for new ECC members. She explained the relationship between the LMP and the series of site plans subsequently prepared that provide more detail on specific areas. The LMP is now being updated to include information on fencing that has been done to help manage lands as well as to include information on removal of Cove dam. Stenberg said the updates were an administrative cleanup of the plan. Edits were reviewed via overhead. Davies will circulate a redline of the LMP to the ECC for comment via email in May. ECC comments will be due by June meeting in order to approve the revised LMP.

2011 Habitat Enhancement Projects

Stenberg said PacifiCorp had approved the out-of-project-area proposals recommended by the ECC (see Table 1, attached). Stenberg said he believes there is sufficient funding (\$3,000) for some additional work at Kackley, as described in the previously withdrawn 2011 Kackley proposal, and he would like to coordinate this with Teuscher. He said he would like Sepulveda to possibly come in and do sediment removal. He also has \$1200 available for gravel. Myler said he would be able come and assist with heavy equipment. Volunteers (fly fishers) could also help spread the gravel.

Teuscher discussed the Bonneville cutthroat trout stocking of Kackley Springs scheduled for after the day's meeting. He said IDFG is stocking heavily—some fish will stay in pools above the fish trap, others will find their way into the Bear. He said he expects they will imprint on Kackley and some will return to spawn in 2-3 years. Media (Ch. 6 television) will cover the event. He said he would speak and asked whether anyone else would like to. Dahle said Trout Unlimited would like to lend support to the project.

Stenberg reviewed the 2011 projects. Van Every asked whether there was continued interest in the Nichols/Whiskey Creek proposal (included under “Not Ranked or More Information Needed” in Table 1). Stenberg said he would be interested in seeing the daylighting of Whiskey Creek portion go forward, as it had the potential to benefit water quality as well as connectivity in the long term, and would be good for relationship building. Van Every said he would go back to Smith and the landowner and explain that while the ECC cannot participate in the fence building portion of the project, as the fence is not being proposed to exclude cattle, there is interest in assisting with the portion of the project that would restore Whiskey Creek. Stenberg said there is some additional funding that could be used for other projects. The ECC will revisit the project either by conference call or at the June meeting.

Consensus on 2011 habitat enhancement projects was reached. The ECC approved expenditure of \$133,027 in habitat enhancement funding to complete projects recommended by the funding subcommittee as shown in Table 1, attached. Further consideration may be given to the Hardcastle, Hansen, and Nichols proposals, pending receipt of additional information.

Oneida Fish Passage Conceptual Design Report

R2 has completed a draft Oneida Fish Passage Conceptual Design Report. The draft report was posted to PacifiCorp's website for ECC review prior to the meeting. R2 will finalize once ECC comments are received.

Teuscher said the passage will provide a way for trout from the productive Thatcher reach that make it past the dam a way to return to Kackley and other places to spawn. Dahle agreed and noted that there would be increased angling opportunities for cutthroat trout below the dam.

Stenberg reviewed Table 7-1, Cost of Alternatives via overhead. He noted that trap and haul is the least expensive option. Shrier added that it typically costs more to retrofit a dam than to build a new one with fish passage. It was noted that replacing the turbines with more fish-friendly, more efficient ones was not included in the table. The probable reason it was not included as an alternative is that it is a future option only, as the technology has not yet been developed.

The ECC agreed to review the report and provide comments in 30 days. Comments are due to Stenberg by May 18.

Land Trust Updates

<Closed Session>

Next Agenda – June 15 in Grace

Agenda items include:

- Boater flow update
- Land management plan – vote
- Project updates
- Comments on Oneida fish passage
- Final comments on Black canyon monitoring
- Kackley springs spawning gravel coordination
- Land Trust – Christensen, MOA

Improvement of the accuracy of Black Canyon boater counts was briefly discussed. Teuscher suggested putting a camera at the takeout. Stenberg asked about the possibility of using a counter beam—rented or borrowed from IDFG. Stenberg and Teuscher will coordinate.

ECC members adjourned to Kackley Springs to participate in the release of the first Bonneville cutthroat trout produced by IDFG through the ECC's broodstock development program.

Attachment 1: Record of Email Voting by the ECC

**Email Vote by the Bear River ECC
Additional Funding for Black Canyon Monitoring
March 4, 2011**

Date: Fri, 4 Mar 2011 09:15:28 -0800 [03/04/2011 10:15:28 AM MDT]
From: "Stenberg, Mark" <Mark.Stenberg@PacifiCorp.com>
To: [Blaine Newman <blaine_newman@blm.gov>](mailto:blaine_newman@blm.gov), [Charlie Vincent <charliev@xmission.com>](mailto:charliev@xmission.com), ["David Kampwerth \(David Kampwerth@fws.gov\)" <David_Kampwerth@fws.gov>](mailto:David_Kampwerth@fws.gov), ["Hunter Osborne \(hosborne@sbtribes.com\)" <hosborne@sbtribes.com>](mailto:hosborne@sbtribes.com), [Kevin Lewis <kevin@idahorivers.org>](mailto:kevin@idahorivers.org), ["Kirk Dahle \(kdahle@tu.org\)" <kdahle@tu.org>](mailto:kdahle@tu.org), ["Lee W. Mabey \(lmabey@fs.fed.us\)" <lmabey@fs.fed.us>](mailto:lmabey@fs.fed.us), [Lynn Van Every <Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov>](mailto:Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov), [Marv Hoyt <mhoyt@greateryellowstone.org>](mailto:mhoyt@greateryellowstone.org), [Miriam Hugentobler <yazoo@xmission.com>](mailto:yazoo@xmission.com), ["Rick Just \(rick.just@idpr.idaho.gov\)" <rick.just@idpr.idaho.gov>](mailto:rick.just@idpr.idaho.gov), ["Susan Rosebrough@nps.gov" <susan.rosebrough@nps.gov>](mailto:susan.rosebrough@nps.gov), ["Teuscher,David" <david.teuscher@idfg.idaho.gov>](mailto:david.teuscher@idfg.idaho.gov), ["Arn Berglund@blm.gov" <Arn_Berglund@blm.gov>](mailto:Arn_Berglund@blm.gov), ["Brimmer,Arnie" <abrimmer@idfg.idaho.gov>](mailto:abrimmer@idfg.idaho.gov), ["cary_myler@fws.gov" <cary_myler@fws.gov>](mailto:cary_myler@fws.gov), ["Cory Lyman \(clyman@fs.fed.us\)" <clyman@fs.fed.us>](mailto:clyman@fs.fed.us), ["dan_miller@nps.gov" <dan_miller@nps.gov>](mailto:dan_miller@nps.gov), ["Davies, Eve" <Eve.Davies@PacifiCorp.com>](mailto:Eve.Davies@PacifiCorp.com), [Greg Mladenka <Greg.Mladenka@deq.idaho.gov>](mailto:Greg.Mladenka@deq.idaho.gov), ["Kevin Colburn" <kcolburn@amwhitewater.org>](mailto:kcolburn@amwhitewater.org), ["Kirk Rich \(krich@idpr.idaho.gov\)" <krich@idpr.idaho.gov>](mailto:krich@idpr.idaho.gov), ["Yvette A. Tuell \(ytuell@sbtribes.com\)" <ytuell@sbtribes.com>](mailto:ytuell@sbtribes.com)

Hello, at the last ECC meeting we discussed a request from Oasis Consulting for additional funding in the amount of \$14,700 to pay for a portion of 2010 BMI lab fees and staff time to complete the final analysis and reporting of the six years of Black Canyon Monitoring.

We have two issues to make decisions on at this point. First, because of extremely low interest rates the last few years the funding in the account for Black Canyon Monitoring has fallen short of our contract obligation with Oasis by \$655. We can make this up from the Habitat Enhancement Fund if agreed to by the ECC. We added some work tasks like the single surber samples and ECC presentations under the assumption that our projections in the fund would cover these additional costs and the original contract obligation, our projections were close but a little short.

The second, we need to make a decision on Oasis's request for an additional \$14,700 to cover their shortfall. I'd forwarded an email previously from Oasis that this was not an ECC scope change but rather the result of an incrementally higher level of effort during each year that accumulated to this amount at project end. Original contract amount with Oasis is \$246,400 and the request is for 5.9% of the original contract amount.

The remaining monitoring fund balance is \$9,322 which is short \$655 to meet the current Oasis contract obligation as mentioned earlier. Currently, Oasis has lab bills totaling \$13,200, payment of which will exceed the original contract obligation by \$3,223.

I'm proposing that we fund \$8,805 from the Habitat Enhancement Fund to make up the \$655 shortfall in the Black Canyon Monitoring Fund and provide 50% of the requested funds to Oasis in the amount of \$7,350. This will provide \$3,223 to Oasis to cover the outstanding lab costs above the contract authorization and \$4,127 to soften the shortfall on their end to complete the Final Report. I believe this contractor has performed very well and I don't think this request is unreasonable for a project of this nature, especially when we look at the overall level of commitment, project cost, duration and complexity.

Please let me know what you think and include Miriam in your reply.

Mark Stenberg
 Hydro License Program Manager – Idaho
 208 547-7305

Results of ECC Member Voting Additional Funding for Black Canyon Monitoring Email Query by Stenberg March 3, 2011		
Vote	Name	Organization
x	Lyman	USFS
x	Dahle	Trout Unlimited
x	Van Every	IDEQ
x	Lewis	Idaho Rivers United
	Just	Idaho Parks and Rec
x	Teuscher	Idaho Fish and Game
x	Berglund	BLM
x	Osborne	Sho-Bans
	Rosebrough	National Park Service
x	Vincent	American Whitewater
x	Hoyt	Greater Yellowstone
x	Stenberg	PacifiCorp
x	Myler	USFWS

Attachment 2: 2011 Habitat Enhancement Projects Approved by the ECC

**Table 1. Bear River ECC
2011 Habitat Improvement Project Rankings**

Project and Proponent	Description	ECC Sponsor	Requested/ Total Amount	In/Out of Action Area	Score
RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING					
Cub River Fish Ladder Improvements Kirk Dahle, Trout Unlimited	Construct rock weir step pools below the lower Cub River Canal diversion to improve fish access to the fish ladder entrance.	Dahle	\$25,000/ \$52,000	Out	168
Fox/North Hoops Creek Cary Myler, USFWS	Install a fish screen on an irrigation diversion on North Hoops Creek	Myler/ Teuscher	\$10,000/ \$20,000	In	144
Screen Tender 2011 David Teuscher, IDFG	Monitor and maintain all fish screens on irrigation diversions within the action area of the license, Bear River Drainage Idaho. A few fish screen outside the action area are also maintained (i.e., Thomas Fork)	Teuscher	\$12,000/ \$20,000	In & Out	129*
Bear River Tributary Sediment Removal Adam Sepulveda, USGS	Remove fine sediments from Bonneville cutthroat trout spawning and rearing habitat in three tributaries: Pearl Cr., Stauffer Cr., and Harris Spring or Trout Cr.	Teuscher	\$35,000/ \$222,152	In	121
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout 10-Year Return Monitoring	Return survey of Bonneville cutthroat trout stronghold streams surveyed 10 years ago by the U.S. Forest Service.	Mabey	\$10,000/ \$45,000	In & Out	115
Tingey/Trout Creek Corral Relocation, Phase I Wilder Hatch, Caribou SCD	(Red Barn) Install a four-wire barb fence along Trout Creek for 1,325 ft to exclude livestock. Install livestock water system. (Old Dairy) Remove old corrals along 150 ft of the stream and plant riparian vegetation to stabilize the stream banks.	Stenberg	\$23,027/ \$24,736	In	98
Set Aside for Maintenance/Overruns (10%)			\$18,000		
TOTAL			\$133,027		

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING					
Project and Proponent	Description	ECC Sponsor	Requested/ Total Amount	In/Out of Action Area	Score
Bailey Creek Trail Bridge Dennis Duehren, USFS	Provide a stream-sensitive crossing for foot-traffic on a popular walking trail 100 yds below Bailey Creek Springs.	Mabey	\$5,000/ \$9,350	In	79
Smith/Bear River Fencing and Off-Stream Water Source Dalen Smith, landowner	Eliminate livestock access to the Bear River to reduce sediment and nutrients and to allow riparian plants to establish a buffer and provide habitat along the river. Riparian shrubs and grass will be planted.	Myler	\$16,000/ \$25,340	In	79
PROJECTS NOT RANKED OR MORE INFO NEEDED					
Hardcastle/Ovid Creek Fencing Garth Boehme, Bear Lake SWCD	Restrict livestock access to Ovid Creek near the community of Ovid and an unnamed tributary near the community of Bern.	Stenberg/ Smith	\$20,000/ \$41,000	In	103
Hansen/Bear River Exclusion Fencing Steve Chatterton, Franklin SWCD	Fence 10,912 feet of the Bear River with four-wire barb and steel posts along that there is 150 ft of stream bank that is eroding at an accelerated rate.	Stenberg/ Smith	\$35,752/ \$35,752	In	N/A
Nichols/Whiskey Creek Corral Removal and Stream Restoration Wilder Hatch, Caribou SCD	Restore 400 feet of Whiskey Creek which has been enclosed in a pipe. Fence riparian area and plant willows and other riparian vegetation. Plant upland areas in grass.	Van Every	\$25,000/ \$132,046	In	N/A
South Liberty Pipeline Wayne Beck, South Liberty Irrigation Co.	Convert irrigation company's water delivery system from canal to pressurized pipeline.	Stenberg	\$60,000/ \$1,800,000	In	N/A
WITHDRAWN					
Kackley Springs Artificial Habitat Restoration Ryan Hillyard, IDFG	Construct artificial undercut banks and spawning gravel for Bonneville cutthroat trout.	Teuscher	\$8,500/ \$10,500	In	N/A
Georgetown Culvert Replacement Corey Lyman, USFS	Replace several undersized culvert crossings on Georgetown Creek, improving fish passage, flood capacity and road corridor safety.	Mabey	\$45,000/ \$100,000	In	153
* 2010 ranking score					