

**Bear River ECC
Final Meeting Notes
January 18, 2012
Pocatello, ID**

ECC Members Present

Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Charles Vincent, American Whitewater
 Cary Myler, US Fish and Wildlife Service
 David Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 Paul Burnett, Trout Unlimited, by phone
 Corey Lyman, US Forest Service
 Marv Hoyt, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
 Arn Berglund, Bureau of Land Management
 Kevin Lewis, Idaho Rivers United, by phone

Others Present

Greg Mladenka, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater, by phone
 Connely Baldwin, PacifiCorp, by phone
 Joselin Matkins, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust, afternoon
 Garry Ratzlaff, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust, afternoon
 Eve Davies, PacifiCorp, afternoon

Commitments Made at the January 18, 2012 Meeting	
All, Project Sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review study plans for extended studies in the Black Canyon. Comments due Feb. 1 to Stenberg, Hugentobler • Forward photos for 2011 annual report to Hugentobler, especially any ECC project photos.
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with Smith regarding 2012 grant proposals. • Distribute boater flow submittal to FERC to ECC members for review & comment. • Address comments to the MOA with SSLT. • Update ECC documents on web site.
Teuscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the ECC on IDFG's BCT broodstock release strategy (February meeting) • Prepare BCT broodstock report for Stenberg (February). • IDFG – Plan to survey Gentile for native fish
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise ECC's 2012 calendar and distribute to the ECC • Obtain photos for 2011 annual report • Update ECC documents on web site
Matkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward project selection criteria worksheet to Stenberg, Hugentobler
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

Decisions Made at This Meeting

None

Decisions Made via Email Since the Last ECC Meeting

None

Review of Previous Meeting Notes and Agenda

Notes from the November and December ECC meetings were approved with edits. In regard to Teuscher's comments on the November notes, ECC members agreed to leave the comments in the final notes as a redline, with comments on the side intact. There were no additions to the day's agenda.

Calendar Review

Stenberg reported that the 2011 Annual Report was not distributed as planned on January 13 because of internal PacifiCorp workloads. A request for a 30-day extension has been filed with FERC, which would make the Annual report due to FERC by March 31. This will allow time for ECC to review important boater flow discussions, he said. Hugentobler will amend the calendar and redistribute it to ECC members. In regard to grant fund proposals, Stenberg said he will meet with Steven Smith (Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission) in advance of the due date to help with his organization's proposals.

Boater Flow Conceptual Agreement

ECC members reviewed and discussed proposed edits to the Boater Flow Conceptual Agreement via overhead. Edits were received from Greater Yellowstone Coalition, American Whitewater and PacifiCorp. Comments were incorporated into the draft copy during the course of the review.

During the review there was discussion of funding for fisheries studies. Stenberg said the Conservation Hatchery Agreement ties in to IDFG's funding proposal for additional fisheries studies in the Black Canyon. Teuscher cited item 2.8 of the Conservation Hatchery Agreement and said that the proposed planting of tagged fish in the Black Canyon would be done in accordance with this item. It will help to establish potential future stocking locations.

Stenberg said he was concerned about what portion of the conservation hatchery funding would go toward the extended study effort in the Black Canyon. He suggested that it be specified in the boater flow agreement, as IDFG's study plan seems quite extensive and there are other tributaries to consider. Teuscher suggested 20-25 percent, which would include all the monitoring. Stenberg asked for the ECC's thoughts. No concerns were raised. Stenberg suggested that the percentage be higher at first, then decrease. Stenberg revised language in the boater flow agreement as agreed.

ECC members discussed the study plans referred to in the agreement (Draft Water Quality Monitoring Work Plan Associated with Whitewater Flows and Draft Black Canyon Fisheries Investigations: Evaluation of Whitewater & Minimum Instream Flows). The boater flow agreement will state that study plans will be developed and approved by the ECC. Mladenka asked if boater flow materials had been sent to FERC. Stenberg said not yet. He said he will forward the FERC submittal to the ECC for review and comment prior to filing.

Once comments were incorporated into the agreement, the ECC had a final line-by-line reading via overhead. Additional comments were incorporated as the review proceeded. The ECC agreed to delay voting on the agreement until the study plans (above) were approved. The ECC will have two weeks to review the study plans and submit comments to Hugentobler by February 1. The study plans will then be incorporated into the agreement, and the ECC will have one week to review the combined document prior to voting at the February meeting.

Land Trust Updates
<closed session>

Meeting adjourned following closed session for land trust updates.