

**Bear River ECC  
Final Meeting Notes  
February 15, 2012  
Pocatello, Idaho**

**ECC Members Present**

Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
 Charlie Vincent, American Whitewater  
 Arn Berglund, Bureau of Land Management  
 Marv Hoyt, Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
 Corey Lyman, US Forest Service  
 Cary Myler, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Kirk Dahle, Trout Unlimited  
 Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp  
 Kevin Lewis, Idaho Rivers United, by phone

**Others Present**

Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater, by phone  
 Eve Davies, PacifiCorp

<b>Commitments Made at the February 15, 2012 Meeting</b>	
All, Project Sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long forms for 2012 grant fund projects due to Stenberg and Hugentobler (please forward to both) by Thursday, March 1.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Forward photos for 2011 annual report to Hugentobler, especially any ECC project photos.</a></li> </ul>
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post IDFG’s broodstock report to the ECC’s website. Send notice of posting when complete.</li> <li>• Schedule a pair of conference calls by the end of the month to 1) discuss comments on the fisheries study plan and how to proceed and 2) review responses. A vote on the fisheries study plan will be taken at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Scope potential project to purchase a sand wand.</li> <li>• Review original Stauffer Creek proposal</li> <li>• <a href="#">Address comments to the MOA with SSLT.</a></li> <li>• Check ECC ground rules on subcommittee membership. Confirm funding subcommittee membership by email if needed.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Update ECC documents on web site.</a></li> </ul>
Teuscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the ECC on IDFG’s BCT broodstock release strategy</li> <li>• Update on IDFG’s status on fish passage at Oneida</li> <li>• <a href="#">IDFG – Plan to survey Gentile for native fish</a></li> </ul>
Myler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Let Stenberg know when a site visit to Stauffer Creek is planned.</li> <li>• Work with Burnett on project forms for design of additional fish screen for Cottonwood/Shingle Creeks.</li> </ul>
Burnett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Myler on project forms for design of additional fish screens for Cottonwood/Shingle Creeks.</li> </ul>
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute 2011 Annual Report to ECC for 30-day review.</li> <li>• Organize 2012 habitat enhancement project proposals and post to the ECC’s website for review.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Obtain photos for 2011 annual report</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Update ECC documents on web site</a></li> </ul>

<b>Commitments Made at the February 15, 2012 Meeting</b>	
Davies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Ryan Hillyard to address concerns on the Harris Spring alternate water source project.</li> </ul>
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

### **Decisions Made at This Meeting**

- Defer approval of the Black Canyon Boater Flow Agreement and study plans pending further discussion of comments on the fisheries study plan. Schedule conference calls for discussions within the next two weeks.
- Expressed interest by consensus in pursuing a conservation easement on a property on Cottonwood Creek.

### **Decisions Made by Email Since the Last Meeting**

None

### **Recap and Review**

ECC members reviewed the day's agenda. No new items were added. The BCT Broodstock Release Plan was tabled until the next ECC meeting. Notes from the January ECC meeting were approved without edits. Action items from the January meeting were reviewed. Items carried over are noted in the list (above). Stenberg reported that IDFG had completed its Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Broodstock Report. It will be posted to the ECC's website. Van Every asked for a notice of posting when the report is available online.

### **Revised Boater Flow Agreement**

ECC members reviewed edits to the agreement and study plans received since the last ECC meeting. Edits from Greater Yellowstone Coalition were accepted by consensus. IDEQ responded to comments on the water quality study plan from American Whitewater and brought revisions to the meeting for discussion (Van Every will provide by email). Revisions were accepted by consensus. Colburn also provided comments on the fisheries study plan prior to the meeting and comments were addressed by IDFG, but no representative was present for discussion. Colburn said he does not feel that his comments were adequately addressed, especially in regard to spawning and movement. He said he believed the plan should include hypotheses and a definition of significant impacts, tied to exact mechanisms. ECC members decided not to proceed without an IDFG representative. Stenberg suggested scheduling a conference call within the next 2 weeks to discuss revisions. ECC members agreed by consensus to keep working on the fisheries study plan. Two calls will be scheduled: one to discuss what needs to be done, a second to review responses. Voting will take place at the next ECC meeting.

## **Grant Fund Accounting**

ECC members heard an update on Cottonwood Creek diversion screening.

## **Onedia Fish Passage Study**

Stenberg said the Oneida Fish Passage Study was available on the ECC's website. He will be submitting it to FERC with the annual report. Hoyt said he has talked with Fish and Game representatives about this project. He said he thinks we need an update from Teuscher on where his organization is on this. If it looks like there is a reason to proceed, maybe trap and truck should be considered, as it is the most affordable alternative--then watch trends that result and reconsider options. Dahle said he agreed that the ECC should watch fish numbers in the area. Hoyt said the ECC may also consider funding studies to determine fish presence in the area. Stenberg said that IDFG can self-direct and use conservation hatchery funding for studies of that type.

## **Grant Fund Review**

Stenberg provided estimates of balances in the habitat enhancement and land and water acquisition funds.

- Approximately \$286,076 remains in the habitat enhancement fund
- Approximately \$777,968 remains in the land and water acquisition fund

## **Review of Short Forms for 2012 Project Proposals**

ECC members reviewed short forms for 2012 project proposals (See table, Attachment 1). Project sponsors are as listed in Attachment 1. Additional information needs noted during discussion are listed below.

**Stauffer Creek Fencing** – Stenberg asked Myler to let him know when a site visit was planned, as he would like to see the area. He would also like to review the proponent's previous project proposal. Hoyt would like more information on the durability of the fencing. Myler noted that an adjacent landowner may also be interested in a project on his property.

**Harris Spring** – Hoyt would like to know the reason(s) for repeated failures of the alternate water source--and ensure that they are corrected--before approving funding for further work. Davies will work with Ryan Hillyard to address concerns.

**Trout Creek Habitat Enhancement** – Cost for this project was not included on the revised form and needs to be verified with the project proponent.

**Cottonwood Creek Fish Screens** – Lyman said he will be looking at the project area more closely in the next couple of weeks and will have more information at the March meeting.

Additional projects were discussed and may be forthcoming, including fish screens on Cottonwood, Shingle and Station Creek. Myler, Burnett and Lyman will develop proposals for these projects. Stenberg will scope a potential project to purchase a sand wand and train personnel to operate it.

Long forms are due on Thursday, March 1 to Stenberg and Hugentobler. Proposals and applications will be posted to the ECC's website prior to the ranking meeting.

Dahle reported that this will be his final ECC meeting. Paul Burnett will be Trout Unlimited's representative to the ECC for the time being. TU expects to hire a new project coordinator who will take over in June, Dahle said. Stenberg will review the ECC's ground rules to see whether Burnett needs to be confirmed as TU's representative to the Funding Subcommittee prior to the March ranking meeting. An email vote will be called, if needed.

### **Land Trust Updates**

**<closed session>**

**Attachment 1:**

**2012 Habitat Enhancement Projects  
Proposals Received through Feb. 15**

**Bear River ECC  
2012 Habitat Enhancement Project Proposals  
February 15, 2012**

<b>Project and Proponent</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>ECC Sponsor</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
Stauffer and Spring Creek Fencing	Install fencing, cattle crossings and bottomless culverts on Spring Creek, replace fencing destroyed by high water on Stauffer Creek.	Stauffer Creek drainage	Myler	\$55,842	\$20,000
Sediment removal on Spring, Stauffer and Whiskey creeks	Remove fine sediments from BCT spawning and rearing habitat sections in these streams using sand wand.	Stauffer Creek drainage	Teuscher	\$5,059	\$5,059
Ovid Creek Corral Relocation	Relocate corrals, install containment ponds and berms, fence off creek, and install stock watering system	Ovid Creek drainage	Stenberg	\$240,000	\$67,000
Cottonwood Creek Fish Screens	Fabricate and install rotary drum fish screens for Davis and Treasureton diversions on upper Cottonwood Creek	Upper Cottonwood Creek	Burnett	\$168,000	\$39,000
Harris Spring Restoration and Repair	Repair and enhance a previous ECC-funded project	Adjacent to Bear River at Cove	Teuscher	\$8,500	\$7,500
Gentile Valley Canal Entrainment Study	Use PIT tagging to determine BCT entrainment loss into Gentile Valley canal and if screening is necessary to reestablish BCT in the Black Canyon	Black Canyon reach of the Bear River	Teuscher	\$8,200	\$3,300
Smith Bear River Fencing and Alternate Water Source	Fence Bear River, create a 35-foot buffer, install an alternate water source	Bear River mainstem near Hwy 34 bridge	Stenberg	\$33,024	\$10,878
Trout Creek Habitat Enhancement Project	Improve habitat for BCT by constructing a new creek channel	Trout Creek	Teuscher	\$150,000	\$150,000
Georgetown Passage Project	Replace existing road crossing to benefit fish passage, stream stability and hydrologic capacity	Georgetown Creek	Lyman	\$850,000	\$45,000
Hansen Fencing	Install fencing along the Bear River to create a minimum 35-ft buffer	Bear River – Thatcher	Stenberg		0
Kackley Spring Maintenance	Perform maintenance on the main pond berm to increase depth in main pond by 1 foot	Kackley Springs	Stenberg	\$20,000	\$14,999
Station Creek	Riparian protection and channel improvements for native fish and water quality	Station Creek	Lyman/ Burnett/ Myler		0
Additional Cottonwood/Shingle Creek Screens	Work on screening designs for remaining Cottonwood diversions	Cottonwood Creek	Myler/ Burnett		0