

**Bear River ECC
Final Meeting Notes
February 20, 2013
Pocatello, ID**

ECC Members Present

Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp
 Cary Myler, US Fish and Wildlife Service
 Jim DeRito, Trout Unlimited
 Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Corey Lyman, US Forest Service
 Marv Hoyt, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
 David Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Others Present

Eve Davies, PacifiCorp
 Ryan Hillyard, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
 Joselin Matkins, Sagebrush-Steppe Land Trust (SSLT)
 Garry Ratzlaff, SSLT
 Steven Smith – Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
 Chris Banks – Caribou Soil and Water Conservation District

Commitments Made at the February 20, 2013 Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project sponsors - Complete long forms for 2013 projects. See project-specific action items, p. 5. Applications due to Hugentobler & Stenberg by Wednesday, March 6. Funding subcommittee meets Wednesday, March 13 to rank proposals. • Discuss fish passage at Oneida this winter.
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a conference call to discuss comments on the updated Operations and Compliance Plan. Check on Bailey Creek gage. • Provide advance notice of 2013 whitewater boater flow events to irrigators. • Communicate Kimball Hatchery trespass concerns to whitewater boaters. • Track development of a short form for a proposed new conservation easement. • Add 5-year water bank discussion task to CMS. • Post Biota’s presentation to the ECC’s website. Post updated Operations and Compliance Plan to the website for ECC review.
Conder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather additional information on water banking—how many times can the 5-year cycle be renewed?
Myler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward photos of Spring Creek fencing project to Stenberg.
Teuscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check on possibility of obtaining spending authority for fish screens. • Draft text for informational signs regarding BCT at Kackley Springs. Route to ECC for comment. Goal is to have signs installed by early March. • Inquire about possible unused fish screens. Inform DeRito.
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route query annually to interested parties to ensure they would like to stay on the ECC’s distribution list.
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

Decisions Made via Email Since the Last Meeting

None.

Decisions Made at This Meeting

- Approve the 2013 whitewater boater flow schedule, which includes three 2-day events and one 3-day event on the following dates: 1) April 13 & 14; 2) April 26, 27 & 28; 3) May 18 & 19; and 4) June 1 & 2, 2013.

Agenda Review and Additions

The following topics were added to the day's agenda:

- Harris/Eightmile discussion
- Budget review of the habitat enhancement fund

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Notes

January 20 meeting notes and January 24 and 30 conference call notes were approved with edits from DeRito and Lyman.

ECC Project Updates

Cottonwood Fish Screens – DeRito said he has received construction estimates for the two screens. He said he has not invoiced the total amount awarded for design, as other sources of funding covered a portion of project design. He asked if the remaining ECC funds could be put towards construction. Stenberg said any remaining funding awarded for design should be put back into the habitat enhancement fund, and DeRito should then apply for construction funding separately.

Screen Tender - The 2012 Screen Tender work is complete. Teuscher said it went well and has been billed.

Gentile Valley Entrainment Study - There was nothing new to report on the Gentile Valley Entrainment Study.

Hansen Fencing - Stenberg said the Hansen Fencing project landowner has not been cooperative (i.e., has not signed and returned required agreements) and the project may not move forward.

Harris Spring Repair – Project complete.

Ovid – Project complete.

Sediment Removal - This project has been billed and Teuscher has distributed the report provided by Sepulveda.

Dalen Smith - This project is on hold.

Spring Creek Fencing – a bill has been received for project materials. Stenberg asked Myler for some photos of the fencing in that area.

Maintenance Funds (\$20,000 available) have not been used.

Review of Funding Accounts

Stenberg reviewed the status of the habitat enhancement and land and water acquisition fund accounts with ECC members via overhead. Roughly \$325,000 is available in the habitat enhancement fund at this time. He estimated that approximately \$244,000 would be left in the land and water acquisition fund at the end of the year.

Cottonwood Fish Screens

Myler said he had received an update from the IDFG screen shop on these screens. The shop reviewed the contractor's design and cost estimates. The IDFG screen shop estimated a cost of \$70,000 to design, build and install one of the screens (Davis), compared to the contractor's cost estimate of \$262,000 for design and build of both screens --\$131,000 for Davis. The IDFG shop estimated \$160,000 for the Treasureton screen but had issues with contractor's design, including that it would work at maximum capacity or not at all and would require a 5 cfs bypass. Myler said they recommended the Treasureton design not be used. Teuscher said that if the ECC decides to use the IDFG screen shop, the savings would be significant but the ECC would have to fund the shop annually at some level. This would require legislative approval. He said the ECC would not have to use the annual amount, but it would be a problem if money was spent without approval. He said spending authority was needed to do this. The ECC would have to act right away to get this in place in a timely manner. Teuscher said he will check on the possibility of getting spending authority for fish screens. Myler suggested moving forward with Davis, but put Treasureton on hold. ECC members agreed.

Bear River 2012 Annual Report

Stenberg said the 30-day comment period for the annual report had recently ended and comments were received from IDEQ. The annual report was on schedule to be filed by first of March and will be posted to the ECC's web site. He asked whether anyone would like a hard copy. None were requested.

Operations and Compliance Plan

Stenberg gave ECC members an update on efforts underway to update PacifiCorp's Operations and Compliance Plan for the Bear River Hydroelectric Project. He reviewed the basic contents of the plan as well as material that is being updated. The revised plan will be posted to the ECC's website for 30-day review. Stenberg will send an announcement of the posting along with an email that outlines changes. A conference call will be scheduled to discuss how any comments were addressed. The plan will also need approval from the US Geologic Survey, he said. The final plan will then be filed with FERC. Van Every asked about the number of gages. Stenberg said four, including Bailey. Stenberg said he will check on the Bailey Creek gage.

Whitewater Boater Flows

2013 Whitewater Boater Flow Schedule

Stenberg reviewed the 2013 whitewater boater flow schedule, circulated to the ECC for comment via email prior to this meeting. The 2013 schedule includes three 2-day events and one 3-day event on the following dates: 1) April 13 & 14; 2) April 26, 27 & 28; 3) May 18 & 19; and 4) June 1 & 2. No comments were received. Stenberg asked for consensus on the 2013 whitewater boater flow schedule. Consensus was reached – schedule approved.

Coordination with Irrigators

In regard to irrigators and whitewater boater flows, Stenberg said he has spoken with Gentile irrigators and only two of the 2013 boater flows would occur while they are taking water. Stenberg will give irrigators the boater flow dates in advance so they can shut their gates.

Fish Studies

Teuscher said the fixed-site receivers are giving almost minute-by-minute information and have provided a good data set. He said he has also received data from Baldwin on flow.

Kimball Hatchery

Teuscher said he met with the Kimball Hatchery owner last week regarding ECC concerns over fugitive Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) from the hatchery entering the Black Canyon. He said the hatchery's YCT are treated for sterility. The hatchery owner has built up his business from recent YCT hatchery closures and the business is growing. Teuscher said the hatchery will probably never totally eliminate escapees but IDFG has no authority in the matter. Teuscher said he discussed the possibility of using the hatchery to produce Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT), but because of disease certification etc., the owner is not interested. Teuscher said the owner mentioned that he is concerned about whitewater boater flows. The hatchery is at a wide spot in the river, he said, so boaters who are afraid of continuing are trying to stop and get out and trespass on his property while walking out. He is worried this could affect his disease certification. Teuscher said this concern should be communicated to boaters.

Caucus

Teuscher requested a caucus for discussion of a proposed conservation easement on Eightmile Creek.

Land Trust Updates

<closed session>

2013 Habitat Enhancement Proposals

ECC members reviewed short forms for 2013 habitat enhancement projects (a summary table is included in Attachment 1). Additional information needs were identified and sponsors were assigned as needed (see table).

Action items from review of habitat enhancement project proposals include:

- Lyman and Teuscher will work together to refine the scope of BCT Trapping on Bailey, Stauffer and Georgetown Creeks.
- DeRito will update the Cottonwood Creek Fish Screening proposal and stay in touch with Teuscher regarding possible availability of surplus screens.
- DeRito and Teuscher will discuss the Fish Screens Database and O&M Plan and consider combining this proposal with the Screen Tender proposal.
- Van Every will speak with Detmer regarding the Franklin Co. Sediment Collector proposal and will see what data they have and refine scope.
- Stenberg and Teuscher will gather more information regarding fisheries on the Station Creek proposals. Plans are to discuss the four Station Creek proposals jointly.
- Stenberg will refine the scope of the Keetch/Livestock Waste Containment proposal.
- Teuscher and Hillyard will refine and add hard numbers to the Oxborrow/Stauffer Creek proposal and speak with Myler about USFWS participation in fencing.

The ECC discussed the proposed fish screen database and areas of overlap between this database and one already developed by IDFG. Stenberg and Teuscher will discuss the possibility of hosting the database on the ECC's website.

Next ECC Meeting

Next ECC meeting will be held April 24 in Pocatello or Grace.

The Funding subcommittee meets March 13 at IDEQ offices in Pocatello to rank 2013 habitat enhancement projects. The ECC will vote on the subcommittee's recommendations at the April ECC meeting. ECC members agreed to change the April meeting date to April 24 to avoid conflict with an upcoming fisheries conference.

Attachment 1: Summary of 2013 Habitat Enhancement Project Proposals

**Bear River ECC
2013 Habitat Enhancement Project Proposals
February 20, 2013**

Project	Description	Location	ECC Sponsor	Total Amount	Amount Requested
BCT Trapping on Bailey, Stauffer and Georgetown Creeks	Deploy and man temporary fish traps on three tributaries of the Bear River to quantify timing and number of migratory BCT using these tributaries for spawning.	Nounan reach of the Bear River	Lyman	\$18,500	\$8,500
Cottonwood Creek Fish Screens	Fabricate and install rotary drum fish screens for the Davis and Treasureton irrigation diversions on upper Cottonwood Creek.	Upper Cottonwood Creek Drainage	DeRito	\$263,000	\$96,000
Fish Screens Database and O&M Plan	Develop a fish screens database and complete operation and maintenance documents for all of these screens.	Bear River Drainage, Idaho	DeRito	\$11,000 (Idaho portion)	\$8,000
Franklin County Sediment Collector Demonstration	Install a Streamside Systems sediment collector as a demonstration and educational project.	300 N. 2200 W., Preston, Idaho	Van Every	\$60,000	\$30,000
Hansen/Station Creek Stream Restoration	Restore approximately 200 ft of stream bank. Slope eroding banks to a stable slope, then plant vegetation to provide long-term stability.	1.8 miles from the Bear River-Station Creek confluence	Stenberg	\$12,810	\$2,562
Keetch/Livestock Waste Containment at Stewart Dam	Replace an open pipe that runs through the corrals with a conveyance pipe, install a containment pond to eliminate deposition of animal waste, fence corral and install watering troughs, and install a new pumping plant and pivot irrigation system to conserve water and energy.	Near Stewart Dam in Bear Lake County, Idaho	Stenberg	\$200,000	\$25,000
McKay/Station Creek Stream Restoration	Install rock structures to eliminate down cutting of the stream through the fine channel bottom. Slope stream banks to allow woody vegetation to be planted to provide long-term bank stability. Create a 35 ft buffer and plant grass and woody vegetation to keep nearby cropland erosion from entering the stream. Cattle are not grazed along this reach so fencing is not needed.	1 mile upstream of the Bear River-Station Creek confluence	Stenberg	\$30,647	\$6,130

**Bear River ECC
2013 Habitat Enhancement Project Proposals
February 20, 2013**

Project	Description	Location	ECC Sponsor	Total Amount	Amount Requested
Olsen/Station Creek Stream Restoration	Stabilize 1000 ft of stream bank, install 17 structures to stabilize the channel bed, and install 2000 ft of channel vegetation. Create a grazing plan to manage the grazing in the riparian area.	6,600 ft. upstream of the Bear River-Station Creek confluence	Stenberg	\$32,990	\$6,598
Oxborrow/Stauffer Creek Habitat and Irrigation Improvements	Incorporate a variety of habitat and irrigation improvements on a section of Stauffer Creek that flows through Elkhorn Ranch, owned and operated by Brett Oxborrow. These improvements include installation of riparian fencing, off-site watering troughs, arched bottomless culverts, screening irrigation diversions, and converting a portion of land that is flood irrigated to sprinkler irrigation.	Stauffer Creek near Georgetown, Idaho	Teuscher	\$200,120.30 (multi-year)	Not specified
PBJ Diversion and Stream Restoration	Replace an old existing structure that is washing out and unsafe for irrigator use. Stabilize streambanks up and down stream to reduce sediment loading to Ovid Creek and install a device to measure flow in the stream.	[Ovid Creek?] 2.25 miles upstream of Ovid, Idaho	Van Every	\$120,050	\$40,000
Pearl Creek Bridge Enhancement	The action is to complete the installation of the Pearl Creek Bridge on the Nounan Road by adding additional cover on the structure footings and building streambanks inside the bridge and at the structure outlet and inlet.	Four miles north of Nounan, Idaho at the Nounan Rd crossing of Pearl Creek.	Lyman	\$68,000	\$8,000
Pearl Creek Reconnect Engineering Proposal	Design and engineer a project to reconnect Pearl Creek with the Bear River. Survey the site, develop alternatives, select an alternative, and complete the final design	Pearl Creek	Teuscher	\$35,903.43	\$25,903.43
Screen Repair Fund	Repair or replace dilapidated screen parts.	Bear River Drainage, Idaho	Teuscher/Stenberg	\$20,000	\$20,000
Screen Tender	Monitoring and maintenance of all fish screens on irrigation diversions within the action area of the	Bear River Drainage, Idaho	Teuscher	\$20,000	\$12,000

**Bear River ECC
2013 Habitat Enhancement Project Proposals
February 20, 2013**

Project	Description	Location	ECC Sponsor	Total Amount	Amount Requested
	license, Bear River drainage, Idaho. A few fish screens outside the action area are also maintained (i.e., Thomas Fork)				
Smith/Bear River Off-Stream Water	Install a solar powered livestock water system to provide water to livestock.	Riverdale, Idaho, 1.25 miles along Hwy 36 from the Riverdale Bridge and the Hwy 34 and 36 junction.	Stenberg	Not Specified	\$7,500
Unnamed Spring Restoration	Prepare restoration plan for spring complex. Provide final plans for permitting in 2013 and construction in 2014 that will create appropriate stream channel morphology to support, native fish spawning, rearing and refuge.	PacifiCorp property west of the Black Canyon boater take-out	Stenberg	\$30,000	\$25,000
Westerberg/Station Creek Stream Restoration	Stabilize stream banks and channel bed with structures and woody vegetation. Replace culvert with a bridge or arch culvert allowing fish passage. Install a solar stock water system to provide off-stream water which is currently their only source of water.	3.2 miles upstream of the Bear River-Station Creek confluence	Stenberg	\$74,215	\$15,000
TOTAL					