

**Bear River ECC
Final Meeting Notes
April 24, 2013
Pocatello, ID**

ECC Members Present

Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp
Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Jim DeRito, Trout Unlimited
Corey Lyman, US Forest Service
Arn Berglund, Bureau of Land Management
Marv Hoyt, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Others Present

Connely Baldwin, PacifiCorp

Commitments Made at the February 20, 2013 Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take part in field review of the PBJ Diversion and Boyack property May 16. Plan to discuss fish passage at Oneida.
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize PacifiCorp’s 2013 revisions to the Operations and Compliance Plan and file with FERC. Prepare a draft conservation easement statement and route to ECC members for comment. Communicate Kimball Hatchery trespass concerns to whitewater boaters. Add 5-year water bank discussion task to CMS. Route text for informational signs for Kackley Springs to ECC for comment. Install signs ASAP.
Van Every	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend Station Creek for BURP, electrofishing.
DeRito	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit billing for Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) trapping.
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.
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 ECC Meeting

- Expedite ECC approval of a 2013 Habitat Enhancement Project proposed by USDA-Forest Service, Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Trapping on Bailey, Stauffer, and Georgetown Creeks (see Attachment 1).

Decisions Made at This Meeting

- Approve PacifiCorp's 2013 Revised Operations and Compliance Plan.
- Approve 2013 habitat enhancement projects as recommended by the Funding subcommittee (see Attachment 3).

Welcome and Agenda Review

Stenberg reviewed the meeting agenda with ECC members. No new items were added to the day's agenda. Stenberg reviewed February action items. Carryovers appear in blue in the April action item list (above). Previous meeting notes were approved without changes.

Grant Project Updates

Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Trapping - Lyman

Lyman said the traps were installed a little over a week prior to the meeting. Some challenges were encountered, he said, but the traps seem to be working well. A temporary worker hired for the project started about two weeks ago, he said. Most fish captured have been 8-10 inches long. No fluvial movement has been noted as yet.

Cottonwood Creek - DeRito

DeRito noted that the upper Davis project was going forward, but not the Treasureton project. Concerns with redesign are being addressed, he said. Three drums donated from a cancelled project may be used, saving \$24,000 + \$8,000. DeRito said he recently met with water users and discussed the possibility of installing settling ponds, but it was determined they were not needed. He said he will inform IDFG and USFWS. No bypass pipe will be used. He said he will be getting bids from contractors soon. He said he believes the project will stay within budget. He estimated that about \$42,000 (plus \$17,000) will be needed, and he plans to apply for habitat enhancement funding. DeRito said he is pleased with direction of project.

Stenberg requested that DeRito submit an invoice for BCT trapping soon.

Whiskey Creek – Stenberg

Stenberg said that the project proponent had made a funding request. Stenberg said he requested additional documentation from NRCS, etc. and he has not yet heard back.

Nichols – No update was available for this project.

Hansen – Stenberg said this project may not go forward.

Whitewater Boater Flows

Stenberg reported on 2013 whitewater boater flows. A graph of turbidity during whitewater boater flows thus far this year was shown via overhead (Attachment 2). The 3-day boater flow event will take place this weekend, he said, and a whitewater festival is planned on Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust property to coincide with the scheduled flows. Stenberg said he had processed a special use permit for the group, and 150-200 people are expected to attend. Flows will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Berglund asked if there was any word on impacts to waterfowl this year. Stenberg said he has not heard of any. DeRito asked whether it appeared that turbidity was decreasing over time. Van Every said not on the first flow--it continues to be about the same magnitude each year. He said he was interested to see levels this coming weekend.

Conservation Hatchery – Stenberg

No IDFG representative was present to provide an update. Stenberg said that Hillyard had reported that IDFG was planning to grow some of the hatchery BCT a little larger this year before releasing them in hopes of decreasing predation by cormorants. He said he hopes that broodstock project work on the Nounan and Oneida reaches will be getting started soon.

Operations and Compliance Plan – Stenberg and Baldwin

A draft of PacifiCorp's revised Operations and Compliance Plan was provided to the ECC for 30-day review via email prior to this meeting. Baldwin noted that the revision was not a re-write, but an update and cleanup of the current plan. Updates include thresholds for minimum flows and incorporation of the bypass valve at Grace--it is ready to go but not being used yet. Stenberg will be seeking permission from FERC. Van Every said it would be good to have it in place by mid-June, before warm temperatures hit. Baldwin noted that there had been discussion of self-publishing gage data; however, there is a regulatory requirement to publish in conjunction with USGS, so that has been arranged. They will rate gages two times a year, he said. Data will not be officially published, but will be reported online, and users can download as a pdf. Boater flow ramping information is also included in the revised plan, as well as information on managing flows to prevent dewatering (e.g., when Last Chance takes water) – that is, flows may temporarily go above minimum to prevent irrigation from dewatering.

Stenberg said the plan was also made more concise. Soda and Oneida have been lumped together (similar issues); Grace is presented separately. Van Every asked about later in the season, i.e., what happens after Bear Lake water at end of irrigation season – Is PacifiCorp not ramping for turbines at that time? Baldwin said no. Stenberg referred Van Every to section 2.6 – Oneida goal flow.

Stenberg summarized revisions to the plan, noting that the document will be used primarily by PacifiCorp production managers.

Baldwin accepted questions from the ECC.

DeRito asked for clarification of “spinning reserve.” Baldwin explained. Stenberg said an explanation of how calculations related to compliance are made has also been added to the plan, along with language on reportable events. Stenberg said PacifiCorp internal tolerance for not reporting such events is zero. He noted that Appendix A includes FERC regulations regarding flow and the plan will be posted to the ECC’s website to provide easy access to this information.

Stenberg asked for approval of the 2013 update to PacifiCorp’s Operations and Compliance Plan. No objections were raised by ECC members. Van Every said he was comfortable with it, noting that communication is much better now than 10 years ago and that trust has improved. The plan was approved unanimously, with Van Every holding proxies of Teuscher and Myler.

Stenberg said he will revise the language on self-publishing data, then pass on to Hugentobler for a proofread and formatting. The revised plan will then be filed with FERC.

Land Trust Updates

<closed session>

Potential ECC Projects

PBJ Diversion

ECC members agreed to conduct site visits to the proposed PBJ Diversion and the Boyack property on May 16. Van Every will coordinate with Steven Smith and Lisa Transtrum and inform the ECC.

Station Creek Projects

Stenberg noted that the Funding subcommittee determined that more information was needed prior to ranking these projects. Lyman and DeRito subsequently went to visit the project area. The canal was dry at that time, Lyman said. There is a spill gate and barriers to fish, including a culvert and natural boulders significantly down below the projects. He confirmed that BCT are there and said he would suspect brook trout as well if there was spillover. He noted that most of drainage is on private land. Stenberg said it sounded like more reconnaissance was needed. Van Every said he would add the area to the list for BURP and electrofishing. The ECC agreed to delay ranking of this project pending further information.

Unnamed Spring

Stenberg reported on his recent field trip to this spring, which is located on PacifiCorp property, with a consultant and agencies. Damage was noted from trespass grazing /livestock on the property. He said PacifiCorp will be fencing in the area and plans to begin visiting properties monthly.

2013 Habitat Enhancement Projects

Stenberg reviewed 2013 habitat enhancement projects recommended by the Funding subcommittee as an overhead (See Attachment 3). He noted that the USFS Bonneville cutthroat trout trapping project had already been approved by the ECC through email voting.

Stenberg asked for consensus to approve 2013 habitat enhancement projects as recommended by the subcommittee. Approval was unanimous with Van Every holding Teuscher and Myler's proxy.

Next ECC Meeting

Next ECC meeting will be held June 19, in Grace, Idaho, with subsequent meetings to be held August 21 in Grace and October 16 and December 11 in Pocatello. A field trip to the PBJ Diversion and Boyack property will be held May 16.

Informational Item

Stenberg said he was asked to speak about the Bear River ECC and Bonneville cutthroat trout at a conference on geology and biology next year. Stenberg said he may ask other ECC members to participate.

Attachment 1: Record of Email Voting

**Bear River ECC
Record of Email Voting
Expedited Approval of 2013 Habitat Enhancement Project:
BCT Trapping Study
Query by Stenberg March 29, 2013**

Date: Fri, 29 Mar 2013 13:45:30 -0700 [03/29/2013 02:45:30 PM MDT]

From: "Stenberg, Mark" <Mark.Stenberg@PacifiCorp.com>

To: [Andrea Santarsiere <asantarsiere@greateryellowstone.org>](mailto:asantarsiere@greateryellowstone.org), [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>, "Hunter Osborne (hosborne@sbtribes.com)" <hosborne@sbtribes.com>, [James DeRito <JDeRito@tu.org>](mailto:JDeRito@tu.org), [Kevin Lewis <kevin@idahorivers.org>](mailto:kevin@idahorivers.org), "Lee W. Mabey (lmabey@fs.fed.us)" <lmabey@fs.fed.us>, [Lynn Van Every <Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov>](mailto:Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov), [Marv Hoyt <mhoyt@greateryellowstone.org>](mailto:Marv.Hoyt@greateryellowstone.org), [Miriam Hugentobler <yazoo@xmission.com>](mailto:yazoo@xmission.com), [Paul Burnett <pburnett@tu.org>](mailto:pburnett@tu.org), "Rick Just (rick.just@idpr.idaho.gov)" <rick.just@idpr.idaho.gov>, "Susan Rosebrough@nps.gov" <Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov>, "Teuscher,David" <david.teuscher@idfg.idaho.gov>

Cc: "Arn Berglund (aberglund@blm.gov)" <aberglund@blm.gov>, "cary_myler@fws.gov" <cary_myler@fws.gov>, "Cory Lyman (clyman@fs.fed.us)" <clyman@fs.fed.us>, "dan_miller@nps.gov" <dan_miller@nps.gov>, "Davies, Eve" <Eve.Davies@PacifiCorp.com>, [Greg Mladenka <Greg.Mladenka@deq.idaho.gov>](mailto:Greg.Mladenka@deq.idaho.gov), "Kevin Colburn" <kcolburn@amwhitewater.org>, "Kirk Rich (krich@idpr.idaho.gov)" <krich@idpr.idaho.gov>, "Yvette A. Tuell (ytuell@sbtribes.com)" <ytuell@sbtribes.com>

Subject: EMAIL VOTE - BCT Trapping in Georgetown and Nounan (Stauffer) Creeks

Part(s):  [2](#) 2013-03-06 BCT Trapping Study_ECC proposal_long form.doc [application/msword] 179 KB  

Dear ECC Members and Alternates,

The USDA FS has requested expedited ECC confirmation of funding of their BCT Trapping Study. The Subcommittee ranked this proposal at our 3/13 ranking meeting and recommended that the ECC approve its funding. Please see discussion from Cory below concerning why we would consider approving this in advance of our April 24 meeting. Please provide your email confirmation of funding approval or not and cc Miriam.

Thank you.

Mark Stenberg
PacifiCorp Energy
208 547-7305

Results of ECC Member Voting
Expedited Approval of 2013 Habitat Enhancement Project:
BCT Trapping on Georgetown and Nounan Creeks
Email Query by Stenberg
March 29, 2013

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

**Attachment 3: Funding Subcommittee Recommendations for
2013 Habitat Enhancement Projects**

**Bear River ECC
2013 Habitat Enhancement Project Proposals
Subcommittee Recommendations**

Project	Description	Ranking Score	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
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	155	\$25,903.43	\$25,903.43
Screen Repair Fund	Repair or replace dilapidated screen parts.	144	\$20,000	\$20,000
Screen Tender	Monitoring and maintenance of all fish screens on irrigation diversions within the action area of the license, Bear River drainage, Idaho. A few fish screens outside the action area are also maintained (i.e., Thomas Fork)	144	\$12,000	\$12,000
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.	140	\$25,000	\$25,000
Smith/Bear River Off-Stream Water	Install a solar powered livestock water system to provide water to livestock.	131	\$7,500	\$7,500
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.	101	\$25,000	Up to \$25,000 for match to NRCS funding on conveyance pipe, corral fence, containment berm and off site water.

Bear River ECC 2013 Habitat Enhancement Project Proposals Subcommittee Recommendations				
Project	Description	Ranking Score	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
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.	100	\$8,500	\$8,500
Total				\$123,903.43

Bear River ECC 2013 Habitat Enhancement Projects Not Recommended for Funding/Not Ranked				
Project	Description	Ranking Score	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Franklin County Sediment Collector Demonstration	Install a Streamside Systems sediment collector as a demonstration and educational project.	35	\$30,000	
Fish Screens Database and O&M Plan	Develop a fish screens database and complete operation and maintenance documents for all of these screens. <i>Note: Will be funded by ECC approval as continuation of previous License-required irrigation diversion mapping project.</i>	Not Ranked	\$8,000	

Bear River ECC
2013 Habitat Enhancement Projects
Not Recommended for Funding/Not Ranked

Project	Description	Ranking Score	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
PBJ Diversion and Stream Restoration	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Note: Need additional information on the design of structure, streambank treatments, fish passage, screening and water passed after water right is taken. Would like to rank with additional information. Will schedule site visit in May.</i></p>	Not Ranked	\$40,000	
Pearl Creek Bridge Enhancement	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Note: Holding to rank until resolution of project completion is discussed with Bear Lake County.</i></p>	Not Ranked	\$8,000	
Station Creek Stream Restoration/Hansen	<p>Restore approximately 200 ft of stream bank. Slope eroding banks to a stable slope, then plant vegetation to provide long-term stability.</p>	Not Ranked	\$2,562	

Bear River ECC
2013 Habitat Enhancement Projects
Not Recommended for Funding/Not Ranked

Project	Description	Ranking Score	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Note: Station Creek Projects will be ranked pending receipt of further information.</i></p>			
Station Creek Stream Restoration/McKay	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.	Not Ranked	\$6,130	
Station Creek Stream Restoration/Olson	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.	Not Ranked	\$6,598	
Station Creek Stream Restoration/Westerberg	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.	Not Ranked	\$15,000	