

**Bear River ECC
Final Meeting Notes
April 15, 2014
Pocatello, Idaho**

ECC Members Present

Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp
Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
David Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Andrea Santarsiere, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Cary Myler, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Jim DeRito, Trout Unlimited
Arn Berglund, Bureau of Land Management
Corey Lyman, US Forest Service

Others Present

Jerry DeBacker, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
Dave Pacioretty, Bureau of Land Management

Participating by Phone

Eve Davies, PacifiCorp

Commitments Made at the April 15, 2014 Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be advised of a float trip of the Bear River to be held Tuesday, June 17 to visit streambank stabilization projects in place on the river. Details to follow via email. • Consider revision or amendment of the Comprehensive BCT Recovery Plan to include new information from Mabey. Schedule meeting time as needed. • Consider developing a demonstration installation of streambank stabilization solutions other than rock.
Grant Fund subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate to project proponents the ECC's priority for habitat enhancement projects on the tributaries rather than the mainstem Bear River (by next fall). • Develop a water quality couplet for the habitat enhancement project ranking criteria.
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check status of temperature probes in the Bear River with Baldwin. • Provide Teuscher with a brief written description of the planned drawdown at Soda. Also consider placing informational signs at boat ramps.
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

Email Decisions Made Since the Last ECC Meeting

None.

Decisions Made at This Meeting

- Approve the Grant Fund subcommittee's recommendations for 2014 Habitat Enhancement Projects (see Attachment 1).

Review of Meeting Notes and Action Items

Notes from the February meeting were approved without changes. Action items carried over appear in blue in the list of commitments, above. Plans for field review of a proposed addition to the Georgetown Wildlife Management Area and the Cub River lower diversion were finalized for the morning of Thursday, April 17. Interested ECC members will meet at IDEQ offices at 8 a.m. to carpool. Stenberg will distribute an email notification. A float trip of the Bear River will take place Tuesday, June 17, and will include an opportunity for ECC members to visit streambank stabilization projects in place on the river.

2014 Whitewater Boater Flows

Stenberg reported that PacifiCorp provided the first two weekends of 2014 boater flows, including two-day events on April 5 & 6, with 20-25 boaters observed each day, and April 12 & 13, with 30 and 15 boaters observed, respectively. Stenberg noted that Kimball (a private landowner downstream) had called the sheriff regarding boaters near his property during whitewater flows. Kimball runs a fish hatchery and is concerned about the potential for disease being spread by trespassers taking out of the Bear River on his property.

Van Every (IDEQ) reported that water quality fluctuated as expected with the boater flows--high turbidity the first day, dropping on the second day. Myler asked about the low-level release valve on Grace Dam. He said he had observed it running. Stenberg said it will be running for the duration of boater flows. Myler asked if IDEQ would be monitoring water temperatures in the river. Stenberg said PacifiCorp has a temperature probe in place in the low level outlet (DEQ maintained probes are located in the Grace Forebay attached to the safety boom strung across the forebay just upstream of the dam, at the Hwy 34 Bridge, at Site 17 in mid-Black Canyon and near the Footbridge at the boater take out; DEQ also maintains a temperature probe near the Bailey Creek bridge on the mainstem river upstream of Alexander Reservoir). He will double check with Baldwin.

Teuscher (IDFG) discussed predation rates for fish stocked at the dam. He said IDFG will still be stocking there during the duration of boater flows for consistency during the extended monitoring period. He reported that 300 pit-tagged fish were released at both the dam and walking bridge. He said IDFG has changed the proportion of fish released at the dam to help reduce predation. IDFG is also planning to delay stocking until fall to further reduce predation. The pit-tag array remained in place this year (there have been problems in the past, he said), and IDFG saw a lot of downstream movement of tagged fish (preliminary result). Roughly a third of the tagged fish have moved downstream, he said. Teuscher said he has a lot of data to analyze and is not sure he can get the ECC information in writing prior to the November meeting that has been scheduled to discuss the results of extended monitoring in the Black Canyon. Stenberg noted that discussions would continue into December.

2014 Habitat Enhancement Projects

The funding subcommittee's recommendations for 2014 habitat enhancement projects were reviewed as an overhead (see Attachment 1). Adjustments were made to some requested amounts, as USFWS has provided matching funds. These adjustments are included in Attachment 1.

Stenberg said approximately \$465,000 is currently available in the habitat enhancement fund.

There was additional discussion of the Sweers proposal, as this project scored just below the tentative cutoff for funding. Stenberg noted that this project is similar to a project previously approved by the ECC on the Vincent Hansen property. Rock work was broken out for the Sweers project, just as the ECC asked the proponent to do for the Hansen project (i.e., the ECC agreed to fund the project but not the rock work portion). He said he would like to remain consistent on what we are asking project proponents to do. Davies noted that the project was re-ranked on consistency with the ECC's Streambank Stabilization Policy and gained 20 points. A general discussion of how much maintenance funding was needed and the 2014 budget followed.

ECC members discussed the possibility of giving priority to habitat enhancement projects on the tributaries rather than the mainstem Bear River in the future, as projects on the tributaries may provide greater conservation value. This should be communicated to project proponents in the fall. ECC members also agreed to continue discussion of adding a water quality couplet to the habitat enhancement project ranking criteria.

Teuscher recommended funding the Sweers project, given that more information is now available and the importance of consistency. Myler and Van Every agreed.

ECC members approved all projects included in Attachment 1. Alternative funding will be used for the fish screen evaluation project. Teuscher noted that the BLM takeout project is time sensitive, and an award letter for that project will be needed right away.

Next Meeting

Float trip of the Bear River will be held June 17 in place of the next regular meeting.

Attachment 1: 2014 Habitat Enhancement Projects

**Bear River ECC
2014 Habitat Enhancement Projects
Approved by Bear River ECC
April 15, 2014**

Project	Description	Ranking Score	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Cottonwood Fish Screen Completion	Complete fish screening projects for the Davis and Treasureton diversions on Cottonwood Creek.	159 ¹	\$24,504.00	\$24,504.00
Grace Cove Spring Projects	Implement restoration and reconnection plans for Dead Horse Spring and Cove Spring.	155	\$41,355.00	\$41,355.00
Harris Spring Renovation	The actions for this project are to narrow the spring channel to increase water depth and add in-stream structures for fish cover. The project will also remove an upstream fish barrier.	150	\$95,542.00	\$75,542.00 ⁵
Screen Tender 2014	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 ²	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Fox North Hoops Creek Fish Screen Replacement	Install a new rotary drum fish screen onto a North Hoops Creek diversion on private property. The diversion is currently screened with a Gooby bubbler and landowner has said that YOY BCT are being entrained into the diversion. A 5 cfs rotary drum fish screen will be installed that will furnish irrigation water for two 400-acre pivots and this action will eliminate one point of diversion for the landowner.	139 ³	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
BCT Broodstock Pond	Construct a pond that will be used to hold Bonneville cutthroat trout broodstock.	129	\$178,871.00	\$178,871.00
Cub River Channel Restoration	Survey, assessment, and restoration design for the Cub River below the Cub Canal diversion dam.	124 ⁴	\$16,500.00	\$16,500.00
Coop Creek Crossing and Trail 308 Improvement	Install bridge at a trail ford crossing of Coop Creek. Improve trail crossings near Beaver Creek headwaters. Reroute trail near South Stauffer headwaters.	120	\$16,250.00	\$16,250.00
Stauffer Culvert Replacement	Install an open-bottom culvert at a ford used to cross the stream.	113	\$23,435.99	\$13,435.99 ⁵
Oneida Narrows Boater Take-Out Improvement	Delineate and partially harden the non-motorized boater take out for the Oneida Narrows section of the Bear River. The intent is to reduce the area of impact within the riparian zone that is used as a boater take-out.	111	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00

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Project	Description	Ranking Score	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Sweers Bear River Fencing	Install 0.62 miles of fence along the west side of the Bear River to exclude livestock from a 30-foot-wide buffer. Plant buffer (totaling about 1 acre) with wetland plants. Provide off-stream water by installing a livestock water system with about 2000 feet of pipe and two 1000-gallon water troughs with heavy use protection. Aid grazing management by installing a 0.31-mile cross fence to divide the pasture.	99	\$18,147.06	\$18,147.06
TOTAL			\$450,605.00	\$420,605.05
Fish Screen Evaluation	Evaluate performance of all fish screens in the Bear River watershed in Idaho.	75	\$11,500.00 (use alternate funding)	\$11,500.00
<p>1 – Used original ranking (2012) 2 – Used original ranking 3 – Ranking from similar project at same location, 5 points deducted for different match amount. 4 – Project feasibility may be affected by a proposed hydro development in this area. Also, project proponent to check terms of original contract. 5 – USFWS match deducted (per Myler, 4/15 ranking meeting)</p>				