

**Bear River ECC  
Final Meeting Notes  
November 4, 2014  
Pocatello, Idaho**

**ECC Members Present**

Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp  
Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater  
Jim DeRito, Trout Unlimited  
Arn Berglund, Bureau of Land Management  
David Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Cary Myler, US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Others Present**

Danny Miller, Bureau of Land Management  
Greg Mladenka, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Jerry DeBacker, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust  
Tom Lucia  
Blaine Newman, Bureau of Land Management

**Participating by Phone**

Eve Davies, PacifiCorp  
Susan Rosebrough, National Park Service  
Charlie Vincent, American Whitewater

<b>Commitments Made at the November 4, 2014 Meeting</b>	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be advised that the 2-day boater flow meetings have been rescheduled to take place Wednesday and Thursday, February 18 and 19 at IDEQ offices in Pocatello. Extended monitoring data will be distributed to ECC members during the first week of February.</li> <li>• A conference call will be held December 10 from 9 - 10:30 a.m. for grant fund and land trust project updates. Stenberg will update the meeting invitation on the calendar.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Consider revision or amendment of the Comprehensive BCT Recovery Plan to include new information from Mabey. Schedule meeting time as needed.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Consider developing a demonstration installation of streambank stabilization solutions other than rock.</a></li> </ul>
Grant Fund subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be advised that the 2015 project ranking meeting is proposed to take place Wednesday, March 18. Short forms (proposals) for projects will be due Friday, February 6. Long forms (applications) will be due Friday, February 27. A draft calendar is included in Attachment 2.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Communicate to project proponents the ECC's priority for habitat enhancement projects on the tributaries rather than the mainstem Bear River in this year's grant fund announcement.</a></li> </ul>
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call for email votes to 1) approve the budget increase for the Oneida Boater Takeout Improvement project and 2) install a channel liner at the Cove Spring Reconnect project.</li> </ul>

<b>Commitments Made at the November 4, 2014 Meeting</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request hydrograph for Black Canyon for duration of dataset from Baldwin. Provide to Teuscher, Mladenka.</li> <li>Speak with PacifiCorp Operations about the implications of three-day whitewater boating flows.</li> <li>Forward a copy of the <i>Final Agreement for Black Canyon Boater Flows: Extended Study Period and Adaptive Management, April 18, 2012</i> to ECC members.</li> <li>Check in with project sponsors prior to ECC meetings.</li> <li>Bring photos of Grace Cove to next ECC meeting.</li> <li>Prepare 2015 funding flyer and fall communication to project proponents regarding sediment control projects (add tributary language).</li> <li>Provide Teuscher with a brief written description of the planned drawdown at Soda. Also consider placing informational signs at boat ramps.</li> </ul>
Van Every	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute proposed changes to the project ranking form to Hugentobler for distribution to ranking subcommittee then the ECC for approval.</li> <li>Provide contact info for Lori Stone (regarding culvert on Cottonwood Cr) to DeRito.</li> </ul>
Van Every & Mladenka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute data from extended monitoring in the Black Canyon to ECC members by the first week of February 2015. Share/compare with IDFG in the interim.</li> </ul>
Teuscher & Hillyard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute data from extended monitoring in the Black Canyon to ECC members by the first week of February 2015. Share/compare with IDEQ in the interim.</li> </ul>
DeRito	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact Lori Stone regarding planned culvert over Cottonwood Creek.</li> <li>Bring photos of Cottonwood to next ECC meeting.</li> </ul>
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute proposed changes to project ranking form to ECC members for approval.</li> <li>Post IDEQ &amp; IDFG's extended monitoring data to the ECC's website when available.</li> </ul>
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

### Review of Agenda, Meeting Notes and Action Items

Stenberg reviewed the day's agenda. Action items from the previous meeting and conference calls were reviewed. Items carried over appear in blue in the commitments table, above.

### Decisions Made via Email Since the Last ECC Meeting

Records of email voting are included in Attachment 2.

- Approve Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust annual funding request to assist with funding the executive director's position in the amount of \$30,000.
- Affirm ECC funding of the Nichols Whiskey Creek 2011 habitat enhancement project in the amount of \$14,000.

### Decisions Made at this Meeting

None.

## **Project Updates**

**Cottonwood Project** – Berglund said he had been speaking with Lori Stone, an IDL engineer, regarding logging planned in this area. He said the company is planning to install a multiplate culvert over the creek for logging. They want to make sure the culvert is fish friendly and have inquired about other sources of funding for culvert. Berglund said the timeline for this project is within next two years. Van Every will provide Stone’s contact information to DeRito for follow up.

**Oneida Takeout Hardening** – Stenberg said the contractor’s bid came in a little over budget at \$6,800. If the ECC approves, the project can be completed by the end of the month. An email vote will be called to approve the budget increase.

**Cove Spring Reconnect** – Stenberg said the cost to build the channel with a liner would be about \$40,000. He asked ECC members if they felt it was worth that amount (cost-benefit). Mladenka asked if the new channel would need a fish trap. If so, he said, that should be included as part of the total expense. He said depth to groundwater should be considered, as well as use of road base. Also, he noted, the liner would be slick, and may not hold gravel and other substrate material. Teuscher said liner may not be needed over entire length of streambed. He said he has leftover rolls of mat that go on top of the liner that were used on other projects, and in his experience it will hold material that support aquatic insects, etc. Stenberg said the engineer told him that he did not think the channel would hold water without a liner. Use of liner, addition of a mat on top of it and the need to improve access into the site to move materials were discussed. Stenberg noted that the ECC had previously approved the project without a trap. He said he still has plans for the Kackley fish trap that could possibly be modified for this site. Teuscher said he would be interested in having one of the channels in this area open without a trap to see what happens. He said he would support improvements to the channel to help it function better but not installing a trap. He proposed re-checking the channel in 3-4 years for rainbow runs. If this occurs, the stream could still be treated and if needed, a fish trap could be installed at that time. It was noted that Kackley was successfully rehabilitated before that trap went in. Teuscher said IDFG would still seed the stream with Bonneville cutthroat trout broodstock, let it go, and see what happens without a barrier in place.

Stenberg will send out a proposal to install the liner to the ECC for email approval.

## **Twin Lakes Bear River Narrows Project Update**

Stenberg noted that there is a December deadline for comment on Twin Lakes’ final license application for the proposed Bear River Narrows project. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s REA notice is out. Stenberg said PacifiCorp will submit comments and noted that previous comments will not carry over, so any group planning to comment should include relevant previous comments, as they will not carry over. Comments and motions to intervene are due to FERC in 60 days from the October 17 notice.

## **Whitewater Boater Flow Discussion - Preliminary Results from Extended Monitoring in the Black Canyon**

### **Water Quality Extended Monitoring Results – IDEQ**

**Turbidity** - Mladenka reviewed a graph of peak turbidity (NTUs) change and duration, 2008- 2014 (Attachment 3). Data were not included for all flows, rather the first, last and one middle whitewater boater flow only. Mladenka said findings include that running flows during the night helps with turbidity. Van Every said IDEQ could make some estimate of loads per event, but it appears there is no a great reduction of load. Teuscher said he would be interested to see load data. Colburn asked if there had been any further substrate studies during extended monitoring. Mladenka said no. Mladenka noted that for the last three years, peak turbidities have been about 900 NTU. He noted the need to consider potential effects on sediment dynamics by flows not associated with whitewater boater flows during 2011.

**Temperature** – Mladenka reviewed a series of graphs of temperature data (temperature over time at various locations) (Attachment 3). Teuscher inquired about obtaining the hydrograph for the duration of the entire data set. Stenberg will request this from Baldwin. Hydrograph information will be especially important for temperature data, Teuscher said. He said he would like to match these data with data from IDFG arrays to see whether there is any correlation with fish movement.

Colburn asked about scheduling of the review process. He asked if any further information was outstanding. Stenberg said fisheries data still needed to be discussed at this meeting. Colburn asked if the schedule was dependent on any regulatory decision. Stenberg said no, these discussions are internal to the ECC in an effort to come up with best management strategies. Stenberg said he will send copy of the *Final Agreement for Black Canyon Boater Flows: Extended Study Period and Adaptive Management, April 18, 2012* to the ECC. As part of the process, the ECC will look at the results of extended monitoring. If everything looks good, he said, there will be no need to go further. The two-day meeting will include a detailed discussion of extended monitoring data. Mladenka will add flow data and air temperatures to his findings.

### **Fisheries Extended Monitoring Results - Teuscher**

Teuscher said he would like to look at flow data, etc. before detailed discussions are held. He said he plans to prepare a bullet list of findings and IDFG interpretation rather than a formal report for the two-day meeting. He said he anticipates preliminary sharing and merging of information. The second day of our February meetings will be devoted to this data review. He will probably present his findings as a Powerpoint. Teuscher said IDFG just finished data collection two weeks ago and needs time to put the raw data into a database. His initial impressions are that he would like to see higher fish densities than are apparent. It appears that 2½-year-old fish are missing and he is thinking about temperatures. He noted that IDFG has found some non-native fish from the hatchery in the Black Canyon. Some displacement of BCT during whitewater boating flows is occurring. However, the level of fish displacement during whitewater boating flows does not appear to be as significant as bird predation. IDFG has observed bird predation rates between 30-50 percent. The bird predation is from double crested cormorants nesting on Blackfoot Reservoir and the impact appears to be occurring within a few weeks of releasing fish.

### **Whitewater Boater Flows - Stenberg**

Stenberg reviewed recreational boater use during whitewater boater flows. He said the first two weekends are the most heavily used, with 40-60 users noted. Also, during three-day flows, boater numbers exceed 100 users per day. After that, the number of users tapers strongly. He said it appeared that the first three weekends of whitewater boater flows meet demand from the whitewater community. Mladenka suggested that later in the season there are other whitewater boating opportunities elsewhere. Vincent said that before changing the number of days of whitewater flows, the ECC should see if boater flows would be used if scheduled earlier in the season. Colburn suggested he and Vincent work together to survey users. Mladenka said another option would be to consider clumping, i.e., provide more 3-day flows. He said this strategy could also help address turbidity.

### **Next Steps**

IDEQ and IDFG will prepare their data packages. Stenberg will pass along relevant flow data from Baldwin. IDEQ and IDFG will compare/share data. Completed data packages will be provided to the ECC by the first week of February and will be posted to the ECC's website.

Stenberg will draft a letter to FERC, including the new whitewater boater flow schedule. He said it appears from preliminary data discussed today that there are no big issues. The ECC plans to meet February 18 & 19. The 18<sup>th</sup> will be a regular meeting and the 19<sup>th</sup> will be for data review. PacifiCorp will provide 2015 flows per the current program, with any possible changes delayed until 2016. Stenberg said in the interim he will speak with PacifiCorp Operations personnel about the implications of possibly going to three weekends of three flow days each versus the current program of three weekends with two flow days and one weekend with three flow days.

Hugentobler will draft a 2015 boater flow calendar based on last year's dates and distribute to Stenberg, Vincent and Colburn for review.

Stenberg will review the last FERC Order on boater flows and make sure no follow up with FERC is needed at this time.

### **Land Trust Updates**

<closed session>

### **Next ECC Meeting**

The tentatively scheduled December 10 ECC meeting was firmed up as a conference call, from 9-10:30 a.m. Call-in information is in the existing meeting invitation. Stenberg will update to change the duration and reflect that it is phone-in only.

**Information Item – Stenberg**

Stenberg said he has been discussing Russian olive control on PacifiCorp lands, particularly at Grace Cove. His weed control contractor has researched a dosimeter hatchet and a pellet injection tool. Both seem to be promising for relatively easy control. Stenberg said he has a three-year goal to get rid of Russian olive on the Grace/Cove lands and is considering setting up photo points to monitor the effort.

**Attachment 1: Draft ECC Calendar, First Half of 2015**

<b>Bear River ECC Draft Calendar of Activities - First Half of 2015</b>	
Dec 10 (Wed)	Final ECC Meeting of 2014 – IDEQ offices or via conference call at 9:00 a.m. L&W and HE Fund Projects and 2015 Boater Schedule.
Jan 5 (Mon)	Email news release announcing availability of 2015 grant funds
Jan 14 (Wed)	2014 Annual Report to ECC for 30-day review
Jan 21 (Wed)	Regular ECC Meeting, may be converted to conference call. L&W and Habitat Enhancement Fund updates.
Feb 6 (Fri)	2015 grant funding proposals – short forms due from ECC sponsors to Stenberg & Hugentobler; Results of extended monitoring in the Black Canyon due to ECC from IDEQ and IDFG.
Feb 13 (Fri)	2014 Annual Report – end of 30-day review – ECC comments due
Feb 18 & 19 (Wed)	February 18, regular ECC meeting, review short forms and assign project sponsors. February 19 ECC boater flow data review meeting.
Feb 20 (Fri)	Print-ready copy of 2014 Annual Report due
Feb 27 (Fri)	Annual Report due to FERC (electronic filing); Funding proposal long forms due from project sponsors to Stenberg & Hugentobler
Mar 18 (Wed)	Funding subcommittee ranking meeting – Pocatello
April 15 (Wed)	Regular ECC Meeting – Pocatello or Grace - ECC votes on Funding Subcommittee recommendations. Recommendations go to PacifiCorp for review/approval.
Jun 17 (Wed)	Regular ECC Meeting – Grace – Hear PacifiCorp’s decision on 2015 projects.
Other Dates	Third Wednesday in August, October and November.

**Attachment 2 – Record of Email Voting by the ECC**

**Bear River ECC – Results of Email Voting**  
**Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust Annual Funding Request, 2014**  
**Query by Stenberg**  
**August 28, 2014**

**From:** Stenberg, Mark

**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2014 1:30 PM

**To:** Arn\_Berglund ([aberglund@blm.gov](mailto:aberglund@blm.gov)); [cary\\_myler@fws.gov](mailto:cary_myler@fws.gov); Corey Lyman ([clyman@fs.fed.us](mailto:clyman@fs.fed.us)); [dan\\_miller@nps.gov](mailto:dan_miller@nps.gov); David Pacioretty; Davies, Eve; Greg Mladenka; 'Kevin Colburn'; Kirk Rich ([krich@idpr.idaho.gov](mailto:krich@idpr.idaho.gov)); Blaine Newman; Bob Zimmer; Charlie Vincent; David Kampwerth ([David\\_Kampwerth@fws.gov](mailto:David_Kampwerth@fws.gov)); Hunter Osborne ([hosborne@sbtribes.com](mailto:hosborne@sbtribes.com)); James DeRito; Kathy Rinaldi ([krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org](mailto:krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org)); Kevin Lewis; Lee W. Mabey ([lmabey@fs.fed.us](mailto:lmabey@fs.fed.us)); Lynn Van Every; Miriam Hugentobler; Paul Burnett; [Susan\\_Rosebrough@nps.gov](mailto:Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov); Teuscher,David

**Cc:** Stenberg, Mark

**Subject:** Sagebrush Steppe Annual Funding Request - ECC Email Vote

Good Afternoon ECC Members, I am sending for your approval an annual funding request of \$30k from Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust. This request is consistent with [Section 4.1 - Funding of Overhead Costs](#) in the MOA between PacifiCorp and Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust. Please provide your approval by email to myself and Miriam. Let me know if you have questions. Thanks.

Mark Stenberg, MBA  
PacifiCorp Energy  
Hydro License Program Manager – Idaho  
208 852-5507 office  
208 547-7305 cell

**From:** Jerry DeBacker [<mailto:jerry@sagebrushlandtrust.org>]

**Sent:** Friday, August 08, 2014 3:31 PM

**To:** Stenberg, Mark

**Subject:** Stew funding and MOA

Hi Mark- Attached you will find the stewardship funding request for the Riverdale-Boyack CE. Also find a copy of the MOA and this annum's request to ECC for financial support of fulfilling the MOA. You mentioned you wanted to explore/discuss the scope of work so just let me know what you are thinking. Good meeting on Wednesday! Thanks. Jd

--

Jerry DeBacker

Executive Director

(208) 241- 4662

Office Address: 123 North Main, Suite 4

Mailing Address: PO Box 1404

Pocatello, ID 83204



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## Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust

[www.sagebrushlandtrust.org](http://www.sagebrushlandtrust.org)

Protecting and enhancing natural lands, wildlife habitat, and working farms and ranches in Southeast Idaho, now and for future generations.

**Bear River ECC – Results of Email Voting**  
**Approval of Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust’s 2014 Funding Request**  
**Assist with Funding SSLT’s Executive Director’s Position: \$30,000**  
**Query by Stenberg**  
**8/28/2014**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
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	Rinaldi	Greater Yellowstone
yes	Stenberg	PacifiCorp
yes	Myler	USFWS

**Bear River ECC – Results of Email Voting**  
**Approve Project/Release Funding:**  
**Whiskey Creek 2011 Habitat Enhancement Project**  
**Query by Stenberg**  
**September 17, 2014**

**From:** Stenberg, Mark [mailto:[Mark.Stenberg@pacificcorp.com](mailto:Mark.Stenberg@pacificcorp.com)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 17, 2014 2:16 PM

**To:** Arn\_Berglund ([aberglund@blm.gov](mailto:aberglund@blm.gov)); [cary\\_myler@fws.gov](mailto:cary_myler@fws.gov); Corey Lyman ([clyman@fs.fed.us](mailto:clyman@fs.fed.us)); [dan\\_miller@nps.gov](mailto:dan_miller@nps.gov); David Pacioretty; Davies, Eve; Greg Mladenka; 'Kevin Colburn'; Kirk Rich ([krich@idpr.idaho.gov](mailto:krich@idpr.idaho.gov)); Blaine Newman; Bob Zimmer; Charlie Vincent; David Kampwerth ([David\\_Kampwerth@fws.gov](mailto:David_Kampwerth@fws.gov)); Hunter Osborne ([hosborne@sbtribes.com](mailto:hosborne@sbtribes.com)); James DeRito; Kathy Rinaldi ([krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org](mailto:krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org)); Kevin Lewis; Lee W. Mabey ([lmabey@fs.fed.us](mailto:lmabey@fs.fed.us)); Lynn Van Every; Miriam Hugentobler; Paul Burnett; [Susan\\_Rosebrough@nps.gov](mailto:Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov); Teuscher,David

**Cc:** [banks.chris08@gmail.com](mailto:banks.chris08@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Need email vote on Whiskey Creek Project

Hello ECC Members and Alternates, on our call yesterday we discussed funding that was provisionally approved for a project on Whiskey Creek in October of 2011. The project proposal form is attached for your reference. The purpose of the project was to restore a piped section of Whiskey Creek. I'm not really sure what happened with our follow up except that some time may have passed as the plans were developed and the final approval details passed over. The project proponents are ready to undertake the plantings and would appreciate approval so they can proceed with the vegetation phase. Chris Banks described the plan on the call yesterday. I've attached the construction plans that include some willow plantings. In addition to the willow plantings Chris described expanded planting with sedge mats, willows, quaking aspen and red twig dogwood. He also described the owner's desire to use some turf grass sod and blue spruce. I'm generally not very supportive of non-natives but given the immediate erosion control needs I'm more okay with the sod. Please let Miriam and I know if you are okay with proceeding with releasing the funds for the vegetation work or if you have additional question or comments.

**From ECC Meeting Notes of October 18 & 19, 2011:**

**Decisions Made at This Meeting**

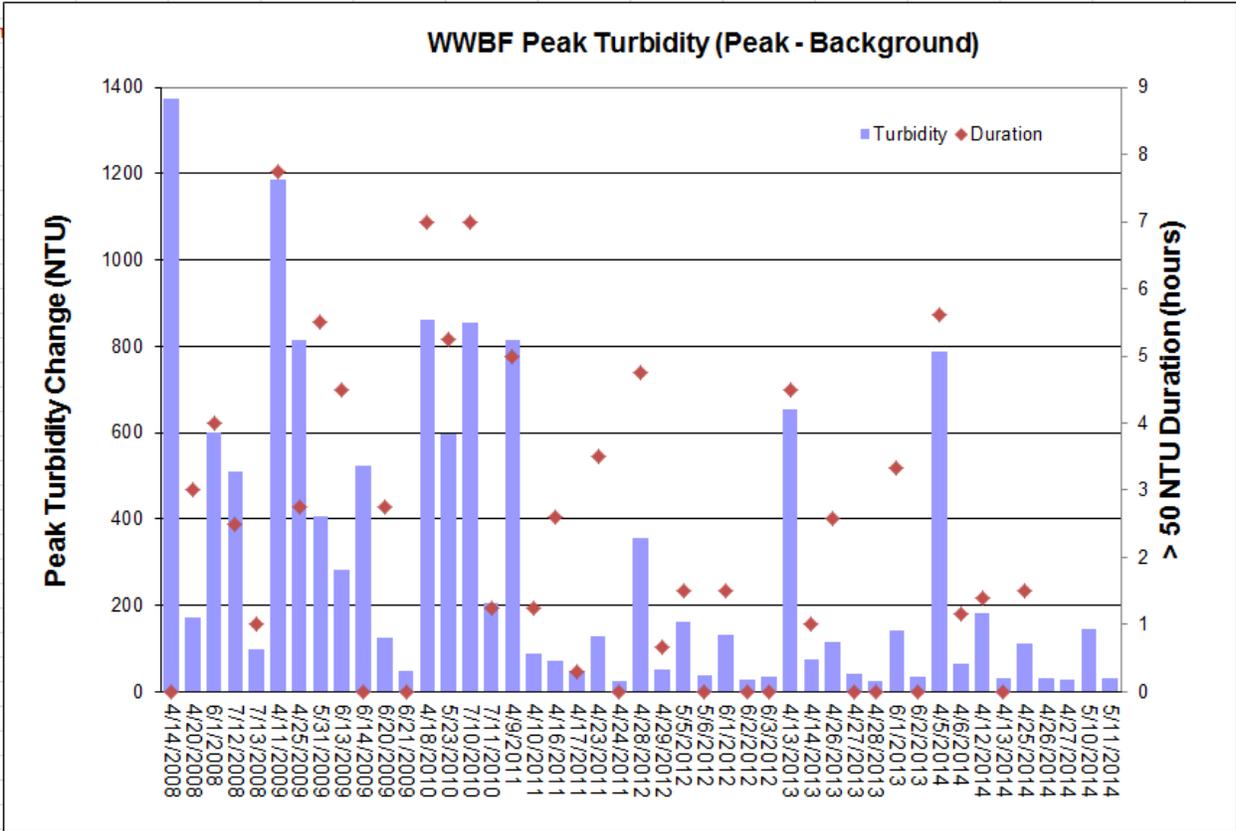
Approve Nichols/Whiskey Creek project, as modified to include daylighting of the stream only, pending receipt of revised project description and with the caveat that the ECC have an opportunity to review reclamation plans during the design (conceptual) phase of the project. Proponent Steven Smith will be asked to attend an ECC meeting and present the plan.

Mark Stenberg  
PacifiCorp Energy  
Hydro License Program Manager – Idaho  
208 547-7305

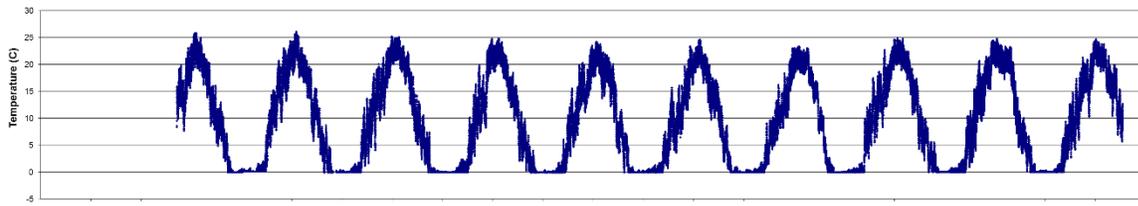
**Bear River ECC – Results of Email Voting**  
**Approve Project/Release Funding: Whiskey Creek 2011 Habitat Enhancement Project**  
**Query by Stenberg**  
**9/17/2014**

<b>Vote</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
	Lyman	USFS
yes	DeRito	Trout Unlimited
yes	Van Every	IDEQ
	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	Rinaldi	Greater Yellowstone
yes	Stenberg	PacifiCorp
yes	Myler	USFWS

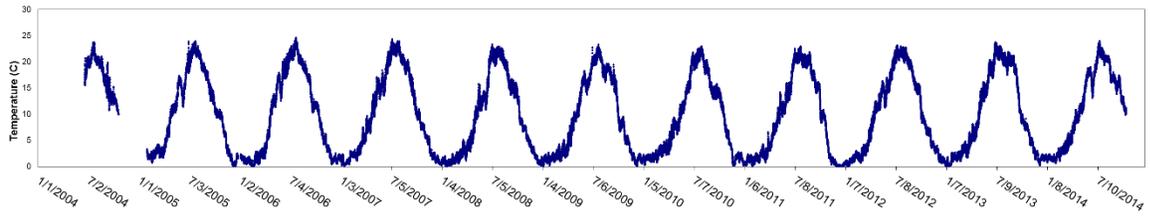
**Attachment 3 – Preliminary Results of Extended Water Quality Monitoring in the Black Canyon**



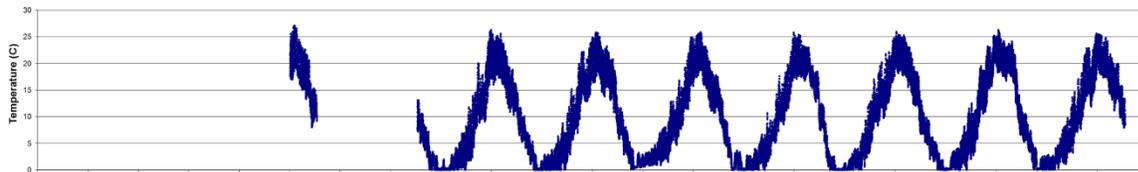
Bear River @ Bailey Creek/8 Mile Road (upstream of Alexander Reservoir)



Bear River @ Highway 34 - downstream of Grace Dam



Bear River @ Middle Black Canyon



Bear River @ lower black canyon fishing access bridge near Grace Hydro Plant

