

**Bear River ECC
Final Meeting Notes
January 20, 2016
Pocatello, ID**

ECC Members Present

Lynn Van Every, Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality (Rinaldi's proxy)
Corey Lyman, U.S. Forest Service
David Teuscher, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game (Myler's proxy)
Ryan Beatty, Bureau of Land Management

Others Present

Greg Mladenka, Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality
Lee Mabey, U.S. Forest Service
Tom Lucia, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
Babette Thorpe, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
Eve Davies, PacifiCorp

Commitments Made at the January Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short forms for 2016 Habitat Enhancement Projects are due from project sponsors February 5. Please forward copies to Hugentobler and Stenberg. • Comments on the draft 2015 Annual Report are due February 13. Please forward comments to Hugentobler and Stenberg. • Share photos for the 2015 Annual Report (email to Hugentobler) • Consider revision of or amendment to the Comprehensive BCT Recovery Plan.
Funding Subcommittee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review suggested edits to the ECC's Streambank Stabilization Policy. • Review state and ECC BCT plans prior to the upcoming ranking meeting.
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide IDEQ water temperature data to Baldwin for review. • Distribute edits to the Streambank Stabilization Policy to the Funding Subcommittee. • Distribute edits to the proposed land and water ranking criteria to the Land and Water Subcommittee. • Check in on Sweers habitat enhancement project. Provide update at next meeting.
Teuscher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide BCT maps for inclusion in the 2015 annual report.
DeRito	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an update on the Davis Diversion as work proceeds in spring.
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Colyer's Cub River channel restoration presentation to the ECC's website. • Add to upcoming agenda(s): 1) speaker for canoe survey of the Bear River; 2) discussion of ECC-funded project controls; and 3) Cub River fish passage.
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

Decisions Made at This Meeting¹

None.

Decisions Made by Email

Two decisions were made by email vote since the last ECC meeting:

- Approved additional funding in the amount of \$26,408 for Bushman Fencing, a 2012 habitat enhancement project, to complete fencing on Spring Creek.
- Approved the 2016 Whitewater Boater Flow Calendar.

A record of voting is included in Attachment 1.

Items Added to Agenda

- Calendar Dates
- Whitewater Boater Flow Calendar

Twin Lakes Update

Stenberg reported that Twin Lakes had filed with FERC a motion to intervene on PacifiCorp's proposed Oneida project boundary change. Stenberg will file a reply with FERC.

2016 Whitewater Boater Flow Issue

Stenberg noted that work will be underway at Last Chance just as 2016 whitewater boater flows are scheduled to begin. Stenberg said there was an internal [PacifiCorp] call the day before this meeting to discuss plans to avoid passing 900 cfs through Last Chance during whitewater boater flows. Stenberg described work being done and said he will notify IDEQ in advance when testing is to take place. Stenberg said there may be concerns with turbidity, as sediments may move. Mladenka asked about the location of the monitoring point. Stenberg noted this is Last Chance's project but because it is within PacifiCorp's FERC boundary, PacifiCorp has some responsibility for compliance. Teuscher said test flows will be high and asked whether they would be as high as a whitewater boater flow. Stenberg said yes, so there is the potential for sediment to move. Stenberg said PacifiCorp is also considering making boater flows in a different way this year and described the method. Teuscher asked how the low level MSF outlet is protected. Stenberg said it isn't down at the bottom where it could be buried in sediment. He said he will keep IDEQ informed of the schedule for the test flow. Mladenka said IDEQ may set up an additional monitoring location. Teuscher said he supported the concept of a test flow from a sediment management perspective. Stenberg said no date has been set for the test flow. Teuscher said the construction company doing the work at Last Chance has been good to work with so far. They

¹ See Land and Water Fund Updates for additional decision making.

coordinated fish salvage in advance and worked to avoid fish stranding. Stenberg agreed and said that communication has been good. Teuscher asked about flow logistics between the Last Chance Plant and the Last Chance Canal. Stenberg said it bifurcates before the plant and the water that runs through the plant does not go into the irrigation system.

Project Updates

BLM Property Near Cove – Stenberg said he recently thought of an alternative way to bring the channel from the springs down to the Bear River. Travertine prevented the original alignment from being feasible and the contractor selected did not believe the original plan for reconnection would be stable long term. Stenberg drew a diagram of the alternate route on the whiteboard. He estimated 6 cfs in flows from the spring.

Annual Report

The draft 2015 Annual Report has been posted to the PacifiCorp website for 30-day review by the ECC. Stenberg noted that a couple of bits of data still needed to be added but he now has the information and will add it to the report. Comments from the ECC are due February 13.

Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Broodstock Ponds

A Bonneville cutthroat trout broodstock pond subcommittee was formed at the December ECC meeting. The group held a conference call January 8. A project status was provided by Stenberg.

A habitat enhancement project to develop broodstock ponds on PacifiCorp land near the Grace facility was approved by the ECC in 2014. Cardno was subsequently brought in and worked with IDFG on pond criteria. Soon after, the project stalled when it was found that the ponds as proposed were not buildable at the proposed site because of area geology. Stenberg said if criteria for ponds were changed it may be possible to get a couple of ponds in the area. Teuscher agreed and said the water situation at this proposed location is favorable so it is worth some compromise on pond design criteria to use this water. Stenberg said Cardno is picking the project back up to look at design and engineering. When there is a concept, water rights issues will be looked at. Stenberg said the project could be built as early as this fall.

Bonneville Cutthroat Trout Plan

Mabey said a subgroup is meeting after this ECC meeting, not so much to update the ECC's BCT Restoration Plan, but to develop priorities and coordinate with the ECC. The subgroup includes U.S. Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, he said. Interested ECC members were invited to join the group. Mabey said he believes it will also help inform the ECC's land and water projects, etc. Teuscher said he agrees with Mabey and perhaps it's time to take another look at the plan. He said he and [co-author] Capurso purposely left some details on some GMUs (e.g., Thatcher) out of the state plan and he supports working towards agreement on priorities. Mabey said he does not think the plan needs to be redone. Teuscher said he thinks the group will agree on

limitations and areas that would give the greatest benefit. He said more detail could be added to the plan—there are a number of things under consideration but have not been put down on paper. Some of the major limitations that were in place at the time of the plan are still there, he said, we just haven't gotten there yet. Goals would be to fix habitat and address limiting factors. This has been done at Kackley, he said, and we want to do so in other management areas. Georgetown Creek would be a big renovation project, for example, and we would want to have appropriate broodstock ready at the right time, etc. Lyman said we need to be able to come to the table with end game.

Teuscher provided a map illustrating conservation hatchery work done on the Thatcher reach to date. Similar illustrations could be prepared for other units as time goes on, he said. He will provide a final copy for the 2015 annual report.

Beatty asked whether the Cove Reconnect project [on BLM land] was a current proposal. Stenberg said yes but there were problems with the geology and the liner and it was uncertain whether the cost-benefit ratio was favorable. But it's still worth further consideration, he said. Beatty asked whether there were any potential action items on the BLM side. Stenberg said Danny Miller has been working on it, so Beatty could check in with him. Eventually the parcel would go to IDFG to include in the Kackley complex, Stenberg said. It is currently fenced for grazing, but the permit holder is not using it. There are weed problems, Stenberg noted, and it would be good to be able to get in and control them.

Stenberg suggested that the working group consider setting goals for 5, 10, and 15 years, etc. He said if support is needed for a BCT action plan, let him know. Some funding remains in the budget for the BCT plan.

IDEQ Temperature Probe Data – Mladenka

Mladenka presented IDEQ temperature probe data from the Grace forebay surface, the low level outlet, and the Highway 34 bridge as a series of graphs via overhead. He noted a discrepancy between PacifiCorp's data from its temperature probe near the low level outlet by Grace Dam and IDEQ's hobo data, which were calibrated to a certified thermometer. He said he thinks there may be a problem with the calibration of PacifiCorp's probe. PacifiCorp's data showed more scatter, and differences are more like 1-0.5 degrees rather than 2-3 degrees. Generally, PacifiCorp temperatures are 1.5-2 degrees higher than IDEQ's, he said. Stenberg said he will pass IDEQ's data along to Baldwin.

Streambank Stabilization Policy

Mladenka recently reviewed the ECC's Streambank Stabilization Policy for updates. He summarized that concerns were raised about funding mainstem Bear River projects that have less benefit for fisheries. The ECC had said it didn't want to fund rocks, he said, then toured some projects with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and somewhat softened its stance. Mladenka proposed softening the language somewhat regarding rock. Davies said judicious use of rocks can be a good thing, but we are not interested in projects that are largely to rock an area and keep it there forever.

Mladenka showed information from a recent canoe survey of the Bear River. The survey was filmed using a Go Pro camera and some useful information was gathered regarding river banks, etc. Van Every said it would be good to have the person who did the survey speak to the ECC.

Areas of bank instability were shown on a survey map as an overhead. It was noted that the Thatcher reach showed a lot of bank instability. Although a lot of work has been done there, a lot remains to be done.

Beatty asked about rock projects and landowner relationships. Teuscher noted that there have been projects where the ECC has funded portions of a project, specifying that the funding not go towards rock work (i.e., no match for rock).

Stenberg will send proposed edits to the Streambank Stabilization Policy to ECC members for review via email and finalize the policy at the next meeting.

Cub River Channel Fish Passage– DeRito, Trout Unlimited and Colyer, Biota

DeRito discussed the Cub River Channel Fish Passage project. The project location was shown on an overhead map. Before-and-after photos of the Cub River fish ladder were shown. It was noted that the ladder operates from April to June or July only. DeRito said the weirs have sometimes backed up water to the concrete pad. For the first three years after construction, larger numbers of fish were captured in this area, he said. Since 2010, numbers have gone way down. DeRito said he suspects, given data, that problems with the structure began in 2010 and worsened in 2011—that was when rock was put in to help restabilize the structure. However, there were very high flows that year, which blew out the rock weirs.

Biota has been hired to work on improving the channel. DeRito introduced Ryan Colyer, who continued with a Powerpoint presentation showing photos of the project area. Colyer said there is a 3-foot drop off at the concrete apron, and some rock veins remain below. DeRito noted that the photo does not show particularly high flows. The next photo showed the weirs at low flow. Stenberg noted there is leakage along the large boulders. Colyer said it is hard to key boulders to clay banks, and some are giving way. Colyer discussed alternatives for corrective action (see below).

Mabey asked about the source of the boulders used. Teuscher asked why they had failed. Colyer said orientation was not correct. Teuscher asked whether that was a problem with design or construction. Colyer said the design was okay, it seems to have been construction. The weirs should not have been straight across, he said.

Colyer reviewed the following options and estimated cost:

- 1- Reconstruct Functional Channel Form - \$1.5 million estimate
- 2- Rock Vane Grade Distribution - \$250,000
- 3- Hardened riffle grade distribution – \$250,000 - Concerns were raised about potential drain effect/fish passage by Mabey and Teuscher

- 4- Ladder Extension (concrete) – \$250,000 - success of this alternative depends on stabilization downstream, also next alternatives).
- 5- Ladder Extension (open channel) - \$100,000
- 6- Modify rock structures (a) – \$75,000 but would still have a number of 3-ft drops. This has possibly been tried and failed.
- 7- Modify rock structures (b) – includes a prefab fish ladder and drop pools. Likely to require a lot of maintenance that could not be done during high flows.

Stenberg said he would like to have a project control discussion. He noted that the ECC has had some problems with projects not being built per plan.

Colyer discussed a USU sediment transport study done at the site, and data collection and analysis by Biota and Trout Unlimited. ECC members discussed challenges at the site and what may have led to failure. He showed a chart with advantages of each alternative. Beatty asked what option was closest to what was currently being done.

Mabey said he favored the first two alternatives but thinks the group doesn't have that type of funding. Downstream rockwork is likely to be washed out with any high flows and could be a waste of time and money. He said he liked the concept of hardened riffles DeRito said the challenge will be finding something that holds at high flows but still passes fish at low flows. He said it appears that about 3 weeks of fish passage have been lost on the end of high flows.

Stenberg asked where the group would like to go from here. DeRito said he doesn't think there will be an answer today and asked that the group start thinking about this. He said he also thinks other sources of funding will be needed. Stenberg asked if DeRito will be bringing a habitat enhancement project this year. DeRito said yes. Teuscher raised concerns about the impact of lower flows in the Cub River and how that might impact the project.

Further discussion will be added to the February agenda. A copy of the presentation will be posted to the Bear River ECC's website: <http://www.pacificorp.com/es/hydro/hl/br.html#> [under Project Documents, then ECC Other Documents]).

Adjourned to closed session.

Attachment 1: Record of Email Voting

**Bear River ECC
Record of Email Voting
Approval of Additional Funding (\$26,408) for
2012 Stauffer and Spring Creek Habitat Enhancement Project
Vote Called by Stenberg
December 22, 2015**

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

Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 2:28 PM

To: Blaine Newman <blaine_newman@blm.gov>; cary_myler@fws.gov; Charlie Vincent <charliev@xmission.com>; Hunter Osborne (hosborne@sbtribes.com) <hosborne@sbtribes.com>; James DeRito <JDeRito@tu.org>; Kathy Rinaldi (krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org) <krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org>; Kevin Lewis <kevin@idahorivers.org>; Kirk Rich (krich@idpr.idaho.gov) <krich@idpr.idaho.gov>; Lee W. Mabey (lmabey@fs.fed.us) <lmabey@fs.fed.us>; Lynn Van Every <Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov>; Miriam Hugentobler <miriam.hugentobler@gmail.com>; Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov; Teuscher,David <david.teuscher@idfg.idaho.gov>

Cc: Bob Zimmer <bzimmer@greateryellowstone.org>; Corey Lyman (clyman@fs.fed.us) <clyman@fs.fed.us>; dan_miller@nps.gov; David Pacioretty <dpacioretty@blm.gov>; Davies, Eve <Eve.Davies@pacificcorp.com>; Greg Mladenka <Greg.Mladenka@deq.idaho.gov>; Hillyard,Ryan <ryan.hillyard@idfg.idaho.gov>; 'Kevin Colburn' <kcolburn@amwhitewater.org>; Warren Colyer <wcolyer@tu.org>; Stenberg, Mark <Mark.Stenberg@pacificcorp.com>

Subject: Email vote - supplemental funding for Spring Creek Fencing

Hello ECC Members and Alternates,

This email is a request for your vote to increase funding for the 2012 ECC habitat project on Stauffer and Spring Creek. We discussed this a little at our last meeting. The project scope includes replacing some fence sections on Stauffer Creek, installed hardened crossings and culverts on Spring Creek as well as fencing on Spring Creek. As explained by the landowner, John Bushman, the quantities were incorrect for the estimated costs used to develop the ECC Project Application. He and the project sponsor had only included the distance for fencing on one side of Spring Creek. The ECC grant was matched by USFWS Partners Funding (ECC \$20k, Partners \$25K). John has been an excellent partner and has provided receipts for all materials purchased so far. **He has requested additional funding of \$26,408 to purchase the remaining materials to account for the error in quantities and complete the fencing of Spring Creek.** To date we have paid \$39,796 to him based on his invoices. I have an invoice from him for \$12,100 of which I can pay \$5,204 which would put him 100% billed against grant funds. The original grant application is attached as well as the project SOW that includes the original estimate with the quantity error noted. See page three of the SOW for estimate.

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

Bear River ECC
Record of Email Voting
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Vote Called by Stenberg, Dec. 22, 2015

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

**Bear River ECC
Record of Email Voting
Approval of 2016 Whitewater Boater Flow Schedule
--Second Vote-Schedule Revised--
Vote Called by Stenberg
December 29, 2015**

From: Stenberg, Mark [mailto:Mark.Stenberg@pacificorp.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 12:06 PM

To: Bob Zimmer <bzimmer@greateryellowstone.org>; Corey Lyman (clyman@fs.fed.us) <clyman@fs.fed.us>; dan_miller@nps.gov; David Pacioretty <dpacioretty@blm.gov>; Davies, Eve <Eve.Davies@pacificorp.com>; Greg Mladenka <Greg.Mladenka@deq.idaho.gov>; Hillyard,Ryan <ryan.hillyard@idfg.idaho.gov>; 'Kevin Colburn' <kcolburn@amwhitewater.org>; Warren Colyer <wcolyer@tu.org>; Blaine Newman <blaine_newman@blm.gov>; cary_myler@fws.gov; Charlie Vincent <charliev@xmission.com>; Hunter Osborne (hosborne@sbtribes.com) <hosborne@sbtribes.com>; James DeRito <JDeRito@tu.org>; Kathy Rinaldi (krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org) <krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org>; Kevin Lewis <kevin@idahorivers.org>; Kirk Rich (krich@idpr.idaho.gov) <krich@idpr.idaho.gov>; Lee W. Mabey (lmabey@fs.fed.us) <lmabey@fs.fed.us>; Lynn Van Every <Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov>; Miriam Hugentobler <miriam.hugentobler@gmail.com>; Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov; Teuscher,David <david.teuscher@idfg.idaho.gov>

Cc: Baldwin, Connely <Connely.Baldwin@pacificorp.com>; Pharis, Devin <Devin.Pharis@pacificorp.com>; Raeburn, Roger <Roger.Raeburn@pacificorp.com>; Stenberg, Mark <Mark.Stenberg@pacificorp.com>

Subject: RE: 2016 Boater Flow Schedule

Hello ECC Members and Alternates, Please see two items below.

American Whitewater requested that we put the three day event on the third week instead of the fourth as it conflicts with some other whitewater events. Operations was okay with this so please see revised schedule below and give me an email affirmation of your support:

What we voted on: March 26, 27; April 9, 10; April 23, 24 and; May 6, 7 & 8

New Proposed Schedule: March 26, 27; April 9, 10; April 22, 23 & 24 and; May 7, 8

Second item, Last Chance Canal Company is replacing the Last Chance Dam between PacifiCorp's Soda and Grace Dams. Construction on the replacement dam will be underway during the 2016 Black Canyon Boater Season. To replace the dam they will be building an upstream coffer dam and a bypass channel around the east end of the existing dam. These structures are reportedly designed to pass 1,000 cfs. Our releases of 900 cfs for boater flows are fairly close to the bypass design capacity of 1,000 cfs so we'll need to observe how this works during our first release.

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

Bear River ECC
Record of Email Voting
Approval of 2016 Whitewater Boater Flow Schedule
--Second Vote-Schedule Revised--
Vote Called by Stenberg
Dec. 29, 2015

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

Bear River ECC
Record of Email Voting
Approval of 2016 Whitewater Boater Flow Schedule
--First Vote--
Vote Called by Stenberg
December 22, 2015

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

Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 3:23 PM

To: Babette Thorpe (babette.thorpe@gmail.com) <babette.thorpe@gmail.com>; Bob Zimmer <bzimmer@greateryellowstone.org>; Corey Lyman (clyman@fs.fed.us) <clyman@fs.fed.us>; dan_miller@nps.gov; David Pacioretty <dpacioretty@blm.gov>; Davies, Eve <Eve.Davies@pacificcorp.com>; Garry Ratzlaff <Garry@ddcllc.net>; Greg Mladenka <Greg.Mladenka@deq.idaho.gov>; Hillyard,Ryan <ryan.hillyard@idfg.idaho.gov>; 'Kevin Colburn' <kcolburn@amwhitewater.org>; 'Tom Lucia' <tlucia@plmw.com>; Warren Colyer <wcolyer@tu.org>; Blaine Newman <blaine_newman@blm.gov>; cary_myler@fws.gov; Charlie Vincent <charliev@xmission.com>; Hunter Osborne (hosborne@sbtribes.com) <hosborne@sbtribes.com>; James DeRito <JDeRito@tu.org>; Kathy Rinaldi (krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org) <krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org>; Kevin Lewis <kevin@idahorivers.org>; Kirk Rich (krich@idpr.idaho.gov) <krich@idpr.idaho.gov>; Lee W. Mabey (lmabey@fs.fed.us) <lmabey@fs.fed.us>; Lynn Van Every <Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov>; Miriam Hugentobler <miriam.hugentobler@gmail.com>; Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov; Teuscher,David <david.teuscher@idfg.idaho.gov>

Cc: Baldwin, Connely <Connely.Baldwin@pacificcorp.com>; Pharis, Devin <Devin.Pharis@pacificcorp.com>; Stenberg, Mark <Mark.Stenberg@pacificcorp.com>

Subject: 2016 Boater Flow Schedule

Hello ECC Members and Alternates,

At the last ECC meeting we discussed moving the calendar up one week and left Cary with the task of checking with the refuge folks about implications to waterfowl nesting. Please see his email below. It looks like an earlier schedule may have some benefit. Please see attached clean calendar that places the three day event during our Grace flow line maintenance outage and spaces the weekends far enough apart to give us the best chance of managing inflows and outflows from Soda to create the scheduled flows. We didn't have a decision at the last meeting so I'm asking for your email vote of support for this calendar so I can send it in to FERC. Also attached is draft submittal letter to FERC.

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

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