

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

**ECC Members Present**

Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
 Jim DeRito, Trout Unlimited  
 Corey Lyman, U.S. Forest Service  
 Blaine Newman, Bureau of Land Management  
 David Teuscher, Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
 Cary Myler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp  
 Kathy Rinaldi, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

**Others Present**

Tom Lucia, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust  
 Babette Thorpe, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust  
 Greg Mladenka, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
 Eve Davies, PacifiCorp

<b>Commitments Made at the April 2016 Meeting</b>	
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Distribute edits to the proposed land and water ranking criteria to the Land and Water Subcommittee.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Arrange tour of Cove Reconnect for ECC members.</a></li> <li>• Check in with Bushman on additional fencing project. Provide update at next meeting.</li> <li>• Contact Sweers regarding 2014 habitat enhancement project award.</li> <li>• Distribute Lyman’s email regarding Kackley Creek to the ECC.</li> <li>• Inform the ECC of PacifiCorp’s decision on out-of-action-area habitat enhancement projects and the status of the Sweers and Paris Creek projects by email.</li> <li>• Set up Paris site visit in July or August.</li> </ul>
Lyman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forward new information on Kackley Creek spawning enhancement and notes on other potential projects to Stenberg for distribution to the ECC.</li> </ul>
DeRito	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Provide an update on the Davis Diversion as work proceeds in spring.</a></li> </ul>
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accept edits to the Streambank Stabilization Policy and post to website.</li> </ul>
Action items in <a href="#">blue</a> have been carried over.	

**Decisions Made by Email Since Last Meeting**

None.

## Decisions Made at This Meeting

- Approve the funding subcommittee's recommendations for 2016 habitat enhancement projects (see Attachment 1), with funding of Paris Creek contingent upon available funding.
- Approved the ECC's Streambank Stabilization Policy, as edited.

## Opening

### Review of Agenda

Stenberg opened the meeting and reviewed the day's agenda. PacifiCorp's Recreation Management Plan update was removed from the agenda and a report on recent work on the Nounan reach by U. S. Forest Service was added.

### Review and Approval of Notes

Draft notes from the February ECC meeting were approved with no edits.

### Review of Action Items

Stenberg reviewed action items from the February meeting. Items carried over appear in blue in the commitments table (above).

## Updates

### Habitat Enhancement Projects

Stenberg reviewed habitat enhancement projects with outstanding funding balances. He said he will check in on the status of **Bushman Additional Fencing**. Cardno is currently working on three ECC projects: **BCT Broodstock Ponds, Oneida Spawning Channel, and Cove Reconnect**. Engineering should be complete by late summer. Stenberg said **Sweers** has not proceeded with his approved 2014 habitat enhancement project. Stenberg said two years have passed since the award and the ECC needs an update on whether the project is go/no go.

Lyman discussed a recent site visit to **Kackley Creek**. He said he has located a different site, below the roadway, that would allow quicker spawning enhancement. He will email ECC members regarding planning. Mladenka asked if Lyman saw redds while he was onsite, noting that Hannah Harris (DEQ) saw some large fish there during whitewater boater flows. Stenberg asked if Lyman looked at springs coming into the ponds. Lyman said he thinks a new channel there would be feasible. He said he also has notes for more extensive project types there as well. The ECC will meet in Grace during June and field review the projects after the meeting. Meanwhile, Stenberg asked Lyman to forward his notes and he will distribute them to the group. Mladenka asked how many feet the new reconnect (that could not be built) was. Stenberg said 300 feet. Mladenka asked whether a half culvert could work.

**Davis Diversion** – DeRito said the Department of State Lands is once again considering work at this project location, as previously discussed.

**Red Point ADA Fishing Platform** – Stenberg said questions were raised during the 2016 ranking meeting regarding whether funding for this 2015 habitat enhancement project was approved by the ECC. Review of the 2015 ranking decision table showed that the funding subcommittee approved the project for up to \$15,000 and agreed to look for alternate sources of funding in the meanwhile. Newman noted he received an approval letter in October 2015 and the platform is scheduled to be built this fall. Stenberg affirmed that the project would be funded up to \$15,000.

### **Whitewater Boater Flows**

Stenberg said boater flows began a week earlier this year; the first event was utilized by 20 boaters on Saturday and six on Sunday. Numbers are not yet available for the second flow. The three-day event is coming up this weekend, he said, and one more after that. He said boater flows were working fine with changes made due to work at Last Chance but noted that this may become more difficult in May.

### **Annual Maintenance Coordination**

Stenberg reviewed PacifiCorp's planned maintenance for 2016. The schedule was also provided to the ECC by email March 15, 2016.

- 1) Grace Flowline – During the annual wood stave flow line maintenance all flows will be in the Black Canyon. This work should begin around April 25 and go for ten days.
- 2) Last Chance Dam reconstruction. Work will continue until complete.
- 3) Oneida intake gate testing. All flows will be through spillway gates, April 5 – 6.
- 4) Oneida intake gate concrete work. Reservoir will be lowered 6 – 8 feet, June 6 – 10<sup>1</sup>.
- 5) Oneida intake gate hoist. Install new hoist. All flows will be through spillway, Oct. 10 -14.
- 6) Soda Intake Screen Replacement. All flows through the spillway, April 11 – 25.

### **BLM – Caribou County Road**

Newman said BLM is meeting with Caribou County regarding the road on the east side of Last Chance. The county wants to take over the road and make it a county road. Newman said BLM and Caribou County plan to meet May 10. He asked whether PacifiCorp had any concerns regarding this change. Some parking for fishing may also be included, he said. Stenberg said he had no concerns with this enhancement on BLM lands.

### **April 5 Equipment Failure at Oneida**

Stenberg reviewed an April 15 letter from PacifiCorp to FERC reporting an equipment failure at Oneida April 5 that resulted in a down ramp rate exceedance. He also provided notice of the event to ECC members in an April 14 email. He said the failure occurred during work to replace control equipment. He reviewed and explained river stage changes. Van Every noted that he had responded to Stenberg and

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<sup>1</sup> This maintenance item was subsequently rescheduled for September 2016. ECC members were notified by email from Stenberg, June 2, 2016.

the ECC regarding the notification and included a graph showing stage change in the Bear River at the Utah/Idaho border resulting from the event.

### **Nounan Reach BCT Trapping Study – Lyman, U.S. Forest Service**

Lyman gave a Powerpoint presentation to the ECC on the Nounan reach Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) trapping study, funded in part by the ECC in 2013. Lyman said a report on the trapping study is being finished up now, and he wanted to review the data with the ECC.

Lyman showed the following Powerpoint slides:

- 1) Three traps – lower Georgetown Creek (46 days), Lower Stauffer Creek (in place 69 days but not removed for 7 days during diversion spill period), Upper Stauffer creek (22 days)
- 2) Georgetown Trap Trout Movement – showed upstream and downstream movement by species (Bonneville cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, brown trout, and brook trout) with hypothesized hydrograph. Discussed effects from power plant and pressurized irrigation system.
- 3) Photos of Georgetown trap, beginning and end of the trapping period.
- 4) Stauffer Lower Trap Movement – noted down for 7 days due to a multiple-day flood event from flushing Bartschi Diversion Dam.
- 5) Photo of Bartschi Diversion Dam – noted this is an obstacle at high flows.
- 6) Stauffer Upper Trap Movement – no downstream movement at this site.
- 7) Eightmile flow data – predicted using Logan River correlation (30 years).
- 8) Photo of trout captured in lower Stauffer.

Lyman said he hopes to work with Bartschi on conservation actions at that site. Lyman said in synopsis, the study was a look at fish movement in the two systems during a low water year, which is probably pretty common. The report should be complete soon.

Stenberg asked what BCT do during low flow years, remain in the Bear? Lyman said they will still try to move. He said the future of BCT at Georgetown may be iffy; Stauffer appears to be maintaining, there is a resident population there. Teuscher said he thinks some years Bartschi is stopping the whole run. Flood irrigators don't typically stop the whole run, barriers are up for only a few days and fish will wait for the impediment to move then ascend.

### **2016 Habitat Enhancement Projects – Stenberg**

Stenberg reviewed the ECC's decision making process (this review takes place annually).

Stenberg showed the Funding subcommittee's ranking of 2016 habitat enhancement projects via overhead. The projects were prioritized by the subcommittee. Stenberg reviewed the balance in the habitat enhancement fund, including the amount available with and without the 2014 Sweers project. Smith said Sweers' NRCS funding did not go through. He has not been able to speak with Sweers but has left messages. Stenberg suggested sending Sweers a formal letter asking for a response on whether he intends to proceed with his project. No reply will mean ECC funding is off the table. Mladenka asked why the 2016 projects were not prioritized according to ranking. Stenberg said the subcommittee prioritized the projects after reviewing the budget available. Stenberg said the threshold seems to be about 100 points, and projects above that can be ranked flexibly. Stenberg said he will look for his notes from the meeting that explain the ranking of each for justification of prioritization. Teuscher said for conservation easements, we know the forms aren't perfect. He said he thinks a narrative for each ranking is needed.

Teuscher asked if the ECC could vote to fund all the projects based on communication with Sweers, with the caveat that if Sweers wants to proceed, one of the 2016 projects will not be funded. Rinaldi suggested giving Sweers a date by which to make his decision. It was agreed to give him seven days. Myler suggested funding Paris at a reduced amount if Sweers goes through. Lyman agreed, he said he knows Paris is out of the action area.

**Motion:** Approve all eight projects, as recommended by the Funding subcommittee, with Paris Creek contingent on available funding.

Van Every, DeRito, Lyman, Newman, Teuscher, Rinaldi and Myler voted yes, Stenberg voted no. Rinaldi asked why Stenberg voted no. Stenberg said because of the Cub River project. Willingness of partners is not known, he said. Majority vote approved project list. PacifiCorp management approval is needed for the Paris and Cub River projects. Stenberg said the answer should be forthcoming within two weeks and Sweers' response should be known by next Friday. Stenberg will let ECC members know PacifiCorp management's decision by email.

Stenberg said he will remove priorities from the ranking table. Lyman and others agreed since the priorities didn't change the results in any way.

### **Streambank Stabilization Policy – Stenberg**

Mladenka reviewed and edited the ECC's Streambank Stabilization Policy and sent a redline version out for ECC review. Comments were received from Davies. The final redline was distributed to the ECC before this meeting and proposed changes were reviewed briefly as an overhead. The ECC agreed to accept the Streambank Stabilization Policy as edited. An updated copy will be posted to the ECC website.

### **Changes to Project Forms - Stenberg**

Stenberg reviewed and discussed recent changes to the project forms. Stenberg displayed edits to the application form via overhead. He said he will make the same edits to the proposal form and post new forms but will wait to make edits to the ranking form pending further discussion.

### **Land and Water Fund Updates**

The ECC adjourned to closed session to discuss Land and Water Fund updates.

### **Next Meeting and Agenda**

The next ECC meeting will take place in June at Grace. A conference call may be needed May 18 to discuss a potential land and water fund project.

Next agenda will include 2016 whitewater boater flows, maintenance coordination, changes to the ranking form, Kackley Creek and a site visit to project locations near the Grace facility.

<b>Funding Subcommittee Recommendations for 2016 Habitat Enhancement Projects</b>					
<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Request From ECC</b>	<b>Total Cost, All Sources</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Ranking Score</b>
Harris Spring Additional Funding Request	Original project was to remove barrier to upstream fish migration and narrow stream channel. Scope of project has increased.	25,000.00	123,291.50	Hillyard	150
Cub River BCT Migration and Entrainment Evaluation	Use PIT and telemetry tags to monitor fish entrainment and seasonal movement.	32,029.52	51,814.00	Hillyard	130
Wheeler Streambank Stabilization	Install toe rock and vegetation along 1378 ft of streambank to protect stabilization project.	12,972.00	70,854.00	Nieslanik	123
Eightmile Creek Nounan Road Crossing	Partner with Bear Lake County to improve the Eightmile crossing on Nounan Rd.	65,000.00	139,000.00	Skinner	121
ECC Fish Screen Repair	Repair and replace dilapidated screen parts.	10,000.00	10,000.00	Hillyard	120*
Screen Tender 2016	Monitor and maintain fish screens on irrigation diversions within the action area. A few outside the action area are also maintained.	15,000.00	20,000.00	Hillyard	144**
Mussler Streambank Stabilization & Fencing	Install streambank stabilization consisting of 3 barbs on the Bear River, 800 ft of toe rock, bank shaping, and riparian vegetation. Install 6860 ft of exclusion fence and a stock water system that includes 3000 ft of stock water pipe.	61,235.62	81,647.50	Mussler	113
Paris Creek Stream Enhancement	Stream stabilization and aquatic habitat improvement on Paris Creek meadow.	41,500.00	65,050.00	Lyman	105
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>262,737.14</b>			
*Not ranked in 2015 **2015 ranking score Shaded rows indicate projects outside the action area which will require PacifiCorp approval.					