

**Bear River ECC  
Final Meeting Notes  
April 19, 2017  
Pocatello, Idaho**

**ECC Members Present**

Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp  
 Jim DeRito, Trout Unlimited  
 Corey Lyman, U.S. Forest Service  
 Kathy Rinaldi, Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
 David Teuscher, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game  
 Jeremy Jirak, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**By Phone**

Lynn Van Every, Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality  
 Eve Davies, PacifiCorp

**Others Present**

Matt Lucia, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust  
 Kelly Conde, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust

| <b>Commitments Made at the April 19, 2017 Meeting</b>        |   |
|--|---|
| All  | Upcoming Commitments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 17 – Land and Water subject property tour</li> <li>• June 21 - Walk-through of Kackley Spring at June meeting.</li> <li>• August 16 – Lower Gentile float trip</li> </ul>  |
| Stenberg   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda for May 17 field day to ECC by May 1.</li> <li>• Redline and distribute edit to project proposal form.</li> <li>• Set up Google doc/pages for Kackley. Post management plan. ECC members will need a gmail account.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Obtain further information on Wheelan Ditch when the opportunity arises.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Provide funding updates to the ECC in format requested by DeRito in his annual report comments.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Continue to work with Paris Relief on water swap.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Arrange tour of Cove Reconnect for ECC members.</a></li> </ul> |
| Myler  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Provide an informational copy of the USFWS (Fox) conservation easement to ECC when finalized.</a></li> </ul>   |
| Lyman  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact Ryan Colyer regarding plan for Stauffer Creek.</li> </ul>  |
| Hugentobler  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise and post ranking criteria per ECC.</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**

- Approved 2017 Habitat Enhancement Projects in the amount of \$310,054, as recommended by the Funding Subcommittee (see Attachment 1).

## **Welcome and Review of Agenda**

Stenberg reviewed the day's agenda. The following items were added as project updates:

- Cub River water share
- Stauffer Creek

## **Updates**

### **2016 Annual Report - Stenberg**

The ECC's 2016 Annual Report is now complete and was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on time (due annually by March 1).

### **2017 Whitewater Boater Flows - Stenberg**

Stenberg said whitewater boater flows were at 1300 cfs during the first scheduled releases, March 25 and 26. PacifiCorp personnel noted six boaters that Saturday and two to four on Sunday. He said he hasn't heard numbers for last weekend (April 8 and 9) but there is a lot of water everywhere this year, so people have boating opportunities closer to home. He said no whitewater boating festival is planned this year.

### **LiDAR Flight – Stenberg**

PacifiCorp's dam safety group will be capturing LiDAR (light detection and ranging) of a large area surrounding the Bear River in May. This goal of this flight is to capture four data points per square meter along with imagery. Data will be used to update probable maximum flood analysis as required by FERC. Stenberg is seeing if at some point in the future the data could be given to a third party that could fill data requests for portions of it.

### **Gentile Valley Aerial Photography**

Stenberg said he had lined up aerial photography flights to take place during peak flows. However, the weather was bad during that time. The day the river reached 2500 cfs, the flight crew flew around but weather changed, so they turned the camera off and went home. They tried again, he said, but weather precluded. There is still lots of snow, Stenberg said, but no more peaks are forecast. Stenberg said he took as many panoramas of peak flows as possible from the ground and mapped them to GIS. He said he will share these data. He said a lot of areas that were thought would be wet during peak flows this year were not. Jirak asked about the area of coverage. Stenberg said he will make that available. Only photos of the reach above Soda were taken.

## **Project Updates**

**ECC's May 17 Field Day** - Stenberg said he will put together an agenda for the May 17 field day and route to ECC members by May 1.

**Broodstock Ponds**- Stenberg said the tentative start date for construction is May 1. Teuscher said the hatchery people are excited and will put fish in right away when the ponds are complete. Stenberg said Buffi Morris (PacifiCorp property agent) will be working with IDFG on a long term lease agreement for the site to IDFG.

**Stauffer Creek** – Lyman said high water blew out the Stauffer Creek road crossing near the Bear River. He said he went out and talked with the landowner at that time. The landowner currently flood irrigates. Lyman said he talked to him about the possibility of changing practices. The landowner may be willing to remove his dam, Lyman said, as some of his ground is too wet. Stenberg noted this would help connect other Stauffer projects. Teuscher said the dam is currently a barrier to Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) during certain conditions, according to radio tracking data. Stenberg suggested this as a 319 project with ECC match for 2018. Lyman encouraged other ECC members to get involved. He said there's potential for a lot of work, the landowner has expressed a desire to convert to more a natural stream through the valley. Rinaldi asked to include the property during the upcoming site visit. Teuscher suggested putting together a plan--perhaps have Ryan Colyer prepare one in conjunction with the ECC--to get something for Lyman to show the landowner. Lyman will get in touch with Colyer for a bid. Van Every said the 319 application would be needed by mid-August. Teuscher said parts of Stauffer Creek have some of the highest densities of BCT in the state of Idaho. He said stream work could also help reconnect springs to the channel.

## **Habitat Enhancement Fund Review - Stenberg**

Stenberg reviewed the status of the habitat enhancement fund (projected spreadsheet)

Open projects include:

- Cove Spring connection – Construction to start in May.
- Broodstock Ponds – Construction to start in May.
- Cub River Channel Restoration – Close project out per TU.
- Spring Alternative Analysis – Oneida Spawning Channel – on hold until after LiDAR flight. Will be looking for another consultant for this project.
- Kackley Creek Renovation - \$20,000 remaining. Teuscher said IDFG is at the project today and tomorrow removing spawning brown and rainbow trout.
- Stauffer and Spring Fencing – work is ongoing
- Mussler – Partial payment made – ground has been too wet to finish project.

## **2017 Habitat Enhancement Projects - Stenberg**

Stenberg summarized this year's project ranking process. Eight project proposals came in, he said. The subcommittee did not rank two of these (Alder and Tingey), choosing to delay Alder until the fencing can be scoped better and Tingey until PacifiCorp has a clear path forward on its Soda Spin Project.

Stenberg reviewed the ranked projects (See Attachment 1). Recommendations total approximately \$310,000. Total amount of funding available for projects this year is approximately \$325,000.

Stenberg called for a vote. He noted there are no out-of-action-area projects this year. Consensus was reached to fund all recommended projects.

## **Proposed Changes to Habitat Enhancement Project Forms**

The following changes to habitat enhancement project forms were recommended by the Funding subcommittee following this year's ranking session.

### **Proposed Change Ranking Form**

The ECC agreed to remove couplet 14 (development threat) from the project ranking form. Hugentobler will make this change.

### **Proposed Change to Proposal Form**

- Award bonus points if landowner is willing to sign exclusion and monitoring agreements.
- Add a checkboxes for fencing and monitoring

Jirak asked about the term of the agreements. Stenberg said that is a good question. He said he will redline the form and distribute it to ECC members for review and decision at the next meeting.

## **Kackley Spring Visioning**

The group reviewed a bullet list of overarching goals prepared by Stenberg, as discussed at the last ECC meeting. Stenberg added comments from the group as discussion proceeded. A copy is included in Attachment 2. Stenberg suggested using the list as a table of contents, developing a section for each goal. Stenberg said he will look into putting it on Google docs so that ECC members can work on it as a group.

Teuscher said on one end of the continuum, Kackley could be made into a showcase for BCT. But the ECC should be aware that no matter how much we do, it will only result in about 500 additional BCT. The stream is only a mile long. But, he said, he's all in for developing a showcase there and spending whatever it takes as it's a unique opportunity on the Bear River. Stenberg reviewed the Kackley Management Plan for consistency.

Stenberg will see about setting up a Google doc for Kackley Springs. ECC members will need a Gmail account to use it. Stenberg will also post the management plan. Teuscher asked about getting notifications when things are edited so everyone stays engaged. Rinaldi said users 'reshare' after editing.

### **Cub River Water Shares - Stenberg**

Stenberg said he recently spoke with Claudia Conder. She said a landowner was interested in selling five water shares on the Cub River for \$4,500 each. Stenberg said he was very interested at first but the shares ended up being a very small amount, approximately 12 ac-ft total. Teuscher said it's an amount similar to a garden hose and would be extremely hard to measure in a system. DeRito said if it were taken over seven days rather than the entire season, it could be run down the fish ladder after it goes dry. Stenberg asked the ECC if there was interest in the purchase. DeRito said he thinks it needs to be a little more water. The ECC agreed it would not consider purchase.

**Attachment 1 – 2017 Habitat Enhancement Project Rankings**

**Bear River ECC  
2017 Habitat Enhancement Project Recommendations**

| <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>            |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Alder Creek fencing                         | Delay until 2018 Per IDFG 2/16/2017<br>Continue to scope  | \$108,606                     |                                |                            | Not Ranked                      |
| Tingey Bear River Stabilization and Fencing | Delay until BR Capacity project is defined/implemented per ECC 2/16/2017  | \$27,500                      |                                |                            | Not Ranked                      |
| Cove Broodstock Ponds Supplemental Funding  | Construct two broodstock holding ponds, each approximately 0.25 acre in size, as well as necessary infrastructure including water conveyance for spring delivery, fish sorting and holding, security and predator deterrents. | \$262,000                     | \$427,987                      | Stenberg, PacifiCorp       | Approved by consensus 2/15/2017 |
| Bitton Bear River Water Supply              | Install an off-stream watering system for livestock consisting of a sump well with solar-powered pump, reducing their need to water directly out of the Bear River.   | \$5,500                       | \$22,200                       | Banks, Conservation Basics | 101                             |
| Fish Screen Tender 2017                     | Monitor and maintain fish screens on irrigation diversions within the action area. A few outside the action area are also maintained.   | \$15,000                      | \$20,000                       | Teuscher, IDFG             | 144*                            |
| Nichols Whiskey Creek Reclamation Planning  | Process LiDAR data to be collected in 2017 and prepare a contour map to be used for reclamation planning.   | \$5,000                       | \$20,000                       | Banks, Caribou SWCD        | 165                             |
| Kempton Stauffer Creek Culvert              | Improve two diversion locations and install a culvert for a crossing on Stauffer Creek.   | \$12,554                      | \$37,554                       | Hillyard, IDFG             | 171                             |
| Screen Repair Set Aside                     | Repair and maintenance of ECC-funded fish screens   | \$10,000                      |                                | N/A                        | 144*                            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                |   | <b>\$310,054.00</b>           |                                |                            |                                 |
| <i>*Score taken from previous ranking</i>   |   |                               |                                |                            |                                 |

Available 2017 Funding: \$325,456

**Attachment 2 – Overarching Goals for Kackley Spring**



## **Overarching Kackley Spring Goals**

### Native Fish

- 1) Increase aquatic habitat features for all life stages of BCT.
- 2) Introduce other native fish into the system.
- 3) Maintain trap/barrier and yearly removal of non-native fish.

### Vegetation

- 4) Remove Russian olive and replace with native overstory.
- 5) Increase structural diversity of riparian vegetation.
- 6) Continue noxious weed control upland and riparian.
- 7) Maintain productive grazing for native ungulates.

### Other

- 8) Evaluate and make habitat improvements to increase amphibian populations.
- 9) Evaluate and make habitat improvements to increase bird populations and diversity.
- 10) Milkweed seed introduction for Monarch butterfly.
- 11) Expand interpretation and education opportunities.
- 12) Promote recreation fishing opportunities.