

**Bear River ECC
Final Meeting Notes
February 21, 2018
Pocatello, Idaho**

ECC Members Participating

	Name	Organization
x	Mark Stenberg	PacifiCorp
x	Lynn Van Every	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
x	Jim DeRito	Trout Unlimited
x	Corey Lyman	U.S. Forest Service
	Cary Myler	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
x	David Teuscher	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
x	Allison Michalski	Greater Yellowstone Coalition
x	Ryan Beatty	Bureau of Land Management
	Charlie Vincent	American Whitewater
	Hunter Osborne	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
	Kirk Rick	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
	Susan Rosebrough	National Park Service
	Kevin Lewis	Idaho Rivers United

Others Participating

	Name	Organization
x	Eve Davies, by phone	PacifiCorp
	Matt Lucia	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
x	Kelly Conde	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
x	David & Claudia Cottle	Bear Lake Watch
x	Greg Mladenka	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
x	Lee Mabey	U.S. Forest Service
x	Steven Smith	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
x		Bureau of Land Management
x	Neal Artz	Cirrus Ecological Solutions
x	Eric Duffin	Cirrus Ecological Solutions
x	Justin Barker, by phone	Cirrus Ecological Solutions
x	Jim Burruss, by phone	Burns McDonnell

Commitments Made during the February 20, 2018 Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat enhancement project long forms due to Stenberg & Hugentobler March 7 Funding subcommittee spring ranking meeting: March 21, 2108, IDEQ offices, Pocatello, ID Next ECC Meeting: April 18, 2018, IDEQ offices, Pocatello, ID
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check on status of Mussler project. Continue to work with Paris Relief on water swap.
DeRito	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule conference call with Bouwes and interested ECC members to discuss/refine Station Creek beaver introduction habitat enhancement project.
Myler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Stenberg on Fox appraisal – done but under internal review by USFWS Keep Stenberg apprised of progress on Fox conservation easement closing. Needs one-month notice to obtain PacifiCorp approval.
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up Google doc/pages for Kackley. Post management plan. ECC members will need a gmail account.
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

Email Decisions Made Since Last Meeting

- Approved September and December 2017 meeting notes.

Decisions Made at This Meeting

None

Items Added to the Day's Agenda

No items were added to the day's agenda. Discussion of adjacent BLM grazing allotments were removed from the agenda. Beatty will provide this information to Conde.

Updates

Previous Meeting Notes and Action Items – January conference call notes were approved without edits. Action items carried over appear in blue in the table above.

Annual Report – The review period for the draft annual report closed Feb. 9. Comments on the draft were received from Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Stenberg reviewed the comments and how each was addressed with ECC members (see Attachment 1). He said the annual report will be finalized this week and filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) before March 1.

Project Updates - Stenberg reviewed open habitat enhancement projects and balances in the habitat enhancement fund and land and water fund. Approximately \$246,779.00 is available for 2018 habitat enhancement projects.

2018 Habitat Enhancement Project Proposals

Stenberg reviewed a summary of short forms received for 2018 habitat enhancement projects (see Attachment 2). ECC sponsors and fund managers are listed below. Additional information needs/suggestions for project applications were also discussed and are listed below.

Stauffer Creek Fish Passage, Riparian, and Aquatic Habitat Improvement

ECC Sponsor: Lyman

Applicant: Lyman

Landowner: Bartschi

ECC Fund Manager: DeRito

Project is to fund development and design of a collaborative conservation plan for this property. Phasing of this project was recommended, with initial work to include development of project scope and objectives.

Station Creek Beaver Introduction

ECC Sponsor: DeRito

Applicant: Bouwes

Landowner: Westerberg
ECC Fund Manager: Stenberg

Additional information was requested on this project, including more information on proposed beaver trapping. DeRito will schedule a conference call with Bouwes and interested ECC members prior to application.

Oneida Spawning Channel

ECC Sponsor: Teuscher
Applicant: Stenberg
Landowner: PacifiCorp
ECC Fund Manager: Stenberg

Project is to fund development of construction plans. Concerns were raised about the benefits of this project relative to cost. Project application will be modified to include an ECC meeting with the consultant team to present a range of alternatives and cost estimates. Funding request will be updated when cost estimate for design services is complete.

Fish Screen Tender 2018 and Screen Repair Set Aside

ECC Sponsor: Stenberg
Applicant: Hillyard
ECC Fund Manager: Teuscher

Screen tender funding has typically been awarded separately. Separate applications were requested for screen tender and screen repair. IDFG to review amount requested prior to application.

Completed applications (long forms) are due to Stenberg and Hugentobler by March 7. Ranking meeting will take place at IDEQ offices Wednesday, March 21.

Soda Spinning Reserve Study - Cirrus

Artz led discussion of scoping for the Soda Spin study plans (see Powerpoint slides, Attachment 3). Stenberg presented a methodology for systematically working through the combinations of area of potential effect, flow scenarios and resources of concern. Cirrus will prepare a workbook to capture ECC member concerns, which will be distributed to ECC members by email for their input. The worksheets will be organized by area of potential effect and include a table to record the level of concerns for potential resource impacts from the flow scenarios. Results will be reviewed at the next ECC meeting.

Next ECC Meeting

Next ECC meeting: April 18, 2018.

Agenda items:

- Subcommittee recommendations for 2018 habitat enhancement projects
- Soda Spin resource impact analysis.

Attachment 1: Comments on the Draft 2017 Annual Report

Commenter	Page/Section/¶	Comment	Resolution
Mladenka IDEQ	p. 6, section 2.2	“float tour on the Gentile canal” should be Gentile reach of the Bear River.	Change made
Mladenka IDEQ	p. 26, Section 3.1.1, Water Quality Monitoring Plans	<p>“At that meeting, IDEQ stated that they believed goals for water quality had been met.”</p> <p>Edit the above statement to reflect that ‘compromise goals’ for water quality had been met.</p>	Change made
Mladenka IDEQ	Appendix A, Table A-1	Please change authorized signatory for IDEQ to John Tippets, Director	Change made

Attachment 2: Summary of 2018 Habitat Enhancement Project Proposals

**Bear River ECC
2018 Habitat Enhancement Project Proposals**

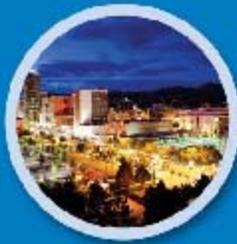
Proposal	Applicant	Description	ECC Funding & Overhead Requested	Matching Funds	Total Project Cost
Stauffer Creek Fish Passage, Riparian, and Aquatic Habitat Improvement	Lyman, U.S. Forest Service	Project Planning - Develop a collaborative conservation project in conjunction with the Bartschi family to improve agricultural operation and aquatic resources on lower Stauffer Creek to benefit resident and migratory BCT. Consultant to study and provide recommendations.	\$25,500 <u>+ \$4,500</u> \$30,000	\$3,000	\$33,000
Station Creek Beaver Introduction	Bouwes, Anabranch Solutions	Install beaver dam analogs and reintroduce beaver on Station Creek to improve riparian conditions, including quantity and quality of BCT habitat.	\$30,755 <u>+\$17,650</u> \$48,405	\$13,500	\$61,905
Oneida Spawning Channel	Stenberg, PacifiCorp	Produce final construction plans for modification of the Oneida bypass reach to create native fish spawning habitat.	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$70,000
Fish Screen Tender 2017	Hillyard, IDFG	Monitor and maintain fish screens on irrigation diversions within the action area. A few outside the action area are also maintained.	\$16,700 <u>\$2,800</u> \$19,500	\$5,000	\$24,500
Screen Repair Set Aside	N/A	Repair and maintenance of ECC-funded fish screens	\$10,000		\$10,000
TOTAL			\$157,905		

2018 Available Funding: \$246,779

Attachment 3: Soda Spinning Reserve Study Plan Scoping Discussion (PowerPoint)

Soda Spinning Reserve

Study Plan Scoping Discussion



Soda Spinning Reserve up to 2,600 cfs for up to twelve hours (anytime except when ice hazard exists and natural high flows are occurring).

- These releases do not follow the “normative” hydrograph – resource impacts caused by these increases to base flows are unknown and would likely vary depending on season, magnitude, and duration.
- Impacts could occur to agricultural uses depending on factors in first bullet.
- Impacts could occur to fish/wildlife/water quality resources that are under the management of state and federal agencies depending on factors in first bullet.
- Agency involvement would be necessary to evaluate impacts to resources under their jurisdiction.
- Mitigation for resource impacts may be necessary and could involve acquisition of land or easements for conservation, bank treatments, creation of riparian buffers or other measures.

Increased upper limit on Flood Control Releases from 1,500 cfs to a maximum of 2,600 cfs through Gentile Valley could be days or weeks (December – June).

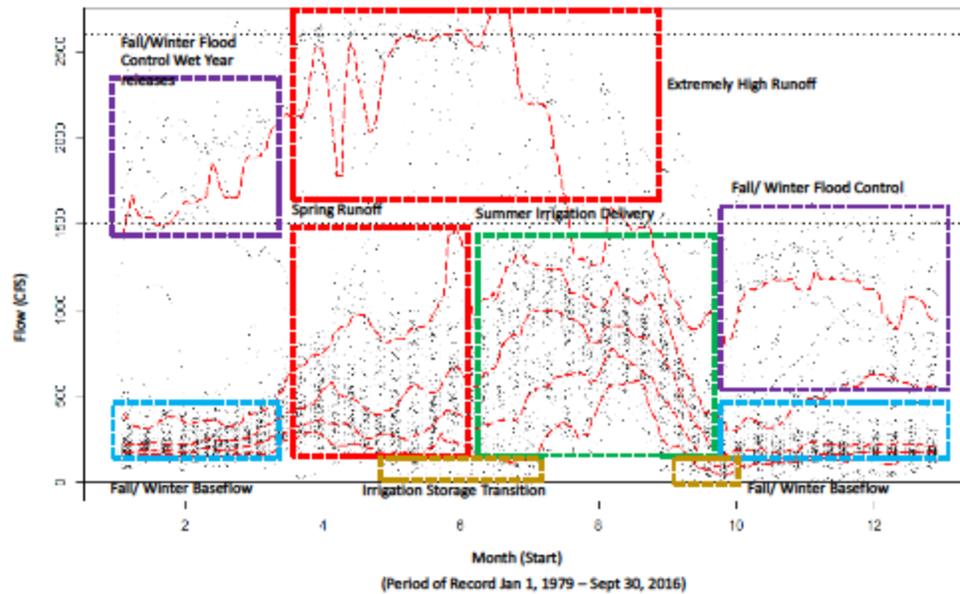
- Would generally follow the “normative” hydrograph – natural resource impacts should be minimal as this type of release mimics natural high flow events.
- Impacts would be contained to interrupted agricultural practices such as; winter feed/calving operations, main stem irrigation pumps and diversions, fencing and other agricultural infrastructure in the historic flood plain.
- Could mobilize additional debris and ice over current 1,500 cfs flood control level.
- According to locals some land could remain too wet to be productive for feed production/hay cutting.
- Agency involvement should be minimal under this scenario. This would be a return to using the historic flood plain during typical high flow times to maximizing storage in Bear Lake.

Areas of Potential Affect Soda Spinning Reserve

- Alexander Reservoir
- Bear River - Soda Dam to Grace Dam
- Bear River - Black Canyon
- Bear River - Gentile Valley upper reach
- Bear River – Gentile Valley lower reach and inundated lands

Gentile Valley Inflow (Soda release less Irrigation Diversions)

Daily Flows – all years 1979-2016; Percentiles of 7-day window (10,25,50,75,90%)



Fall/ Winter Flood Control
Splits into two other scenarios. In higher snowpack years, releases increase to upper purple box after the first of the new year. In drier years, releases are decreased and fall back into the baseflow hydroperiod.

Hydro Period Median Flows

Event	Date	ADJUSTED HydroPeriod Median Flow (CFS)
Fall/Winter Baseflow Start	23-Sep	181
Fall/Winter Baseflow End	10-Mar	
Spring Runoff Start	11-Mar	475
Spring Runoff End	1-Jun	
Summer Irrigation Delivery Start	1-Jun	781
Summer Irrigation Delivery End	22-Sep	
Extremely High Runoff Start	11-Mar	2018
Extremely High Runoff End	27-Aug	
Fall/Winter Flood Control Releases	23-Sep	1124
Fall Winter Flood Control Releases	10-Mar	

Resources of Concerns – Aquatic Resources

- Flushing flows – due to increased flows from base flow to 2600 cfs, fish could be moved out of suitable habitat or cold water refuge into poorer/unsuitable habitat.
- Turbidity – increased flows moving sediments from above/below Grace Dam into Black Canyon or downstream increasing turbidity and affecting fish.
- Temperature – increased flows out of Alexander Reservoir during certain seasons could increase or decrease water temperatures in BC or downstream cold water refugia impacting fish.

Resource Concerns - Geomorphology

- Alteration of in-channel features – how much movement of bed load materials and increased sloughing of embankments would occur under spinning release flows.

Resource Concerns – Terrestrial

- Vegetation and agricultural lands – increased flows will result in flooding of riparian vegetation above river channel and agricultural lands within historic floodplain, identify vegetative communities and land uses within inundation areas
- Wildlife – flooding of ground nesting bird nests with focus on waterfowl and shore birds, need to identify suitable nesting habitat and species of birds using inundation areas during nesting season.
- There are no plant or animal ESA species, their habitat or other game species that would be impacted by spinning reserve releases.

Resource Concerns – Water Quality

- Sediment loading - increased flows moving sediments from above/below Grace Dam or downstream in inundation areas increasing turbidity and sediment loading
- Nutrient loading - increased flows moving nutrients from agricultural lands downstream in inundation areas increasing both nutrient and sediment loading

Resource Concerns - Recreation

- Public safety or impacts to recreation access.

- Which APE Reaches need to be included in the study?
- Which flow scenarios within an APE Reach needs to be studied?
- Which resources need to be studied for potential effects under the flow scenarios in each APE Reach?

Which Soda Spinning Reserve APE Reaches to include?

- All APE Reaches to be included except Alexander.
 - Spin calls will create a minimal drawdown of Alexander Reservoir.

Which Soda Spinning Reserve flow scenarios need to be considered?

- (1) Fall/Winter Base Flow, **Yes**, 181 to 2,600
- Fall/Winter Flood Release, **No**, 1,124 to 2,600
 - This range is covered by Fall/Winter Base Flow.
- Extreme High Run-Off, **No**, extended 2,018
 - Natural Flows, no spin calls
- (2) Spring Run-Off, **Yes**, 475 to 2,600
- (3) Summer Irrigation Delivery, **Yes**, 781 to 2,200 (2,600 less irrigation withdrawals).

Gentile Valley – Bear River Lower Reach and Inundated Lands

- Fall/Winter Base Flow – Spin Call 181 to 2,600
 - Aquatics Y/N
 - Geomorphology Y/N
 - Terrestrial Y/N
 - Water Quality Y/N
 - Recreation Y/N
- Spring Run-Off – Spin Call 475 to 2,600
 - Aquatics Y/N
 - Geomorphology Y/N
 - Terrestrial Y/N
 - Water Quality Y/N
 - Recreation Y/N
- Summer Irrigation Delivery – Spin Call 781 to 2,200
 - Aquatics Y/N
 - Geomorphology Y/N
 - Terrestrial Y/N
 - Water Quality Y/N
 - Recreation Y/N

Gentile Valley – Bear River Upper Reach

- Fall/Winter Base Flow – Spin Call
 - Aquatics Y/N
 - Geomorphology Y/N
 - Terrestrial Y/N
 - Water Quality Y/N
 - Recreation Y/N
- Spring Run-Off – Spin Call
 - Aquatics Y/N
 - Geomorphology Y/N
 - Terrestrial Y/N
 - Water Quality Y/N
 - Recreation Y/N
- Summer Irrigation Delivery – Spin Call
 - Aquatics Y/N
 - Geomorphology Y/N
 - Terrestrial Y/N
 - Water Quality Y/N
 - Recreation Y/N

Black Canyon

- Fall/Winter Base Flow – Spin Call
 - Aquatics Y/N
 - Geomorphology Y/N
 - Terrestrial Y/N
 - Water Quality Y/N
 - Recreation Y/N
- Spring Run-Off – Spin Call
 - Aquatics Y/N
 - Geomorphology Y/N
 - Terrestrial Y/N
 - Water Quality Y/N
 - Recreation Y/N
- Summer Irrigation Delivery – Spin Call
 - Aquatics Y/N
 - Geomorphology Y/N
 - Terrestrial Y/N
 - Water Quality Y/N
 - Recreation Y/N

Bear River Soda Dam to Grace Dam

- Fall/Winter Base Flow – Spin Call
 - Aquatics Y/N
 - Geomorphology Y/N
 - Terrestrial Y/N
 - Water Quality Y/N
 - Recreation Y/N
- Spring Run-Off – Spin Call
 - Aquatics Y/N
 - Geomorphology Y/N
 - Terrestrial Y/N
 - Water Quality Y/N
 - Recreation Y/N
- Summer Irrigation Delivery – Spin Call
 - Aquatics Y/N
 - Geomorphology Y/N
 - Terrestrial Y/N
 - Water Quality Y/N
 - Recreation Y/N

Bear River ECC
Record of Email Voting: Approval of September & December 2017 Meeting Notes
Query by Hugentobler, February 2, 2018

From: Miriam Hugentobler <miriam.hugentobler@gmail.com>

Date: Friday, February 2, 2018 at 4:24 PM

To: 'Cary Myler' <cary_myler@fws.gov>, Charlie Vincent <CLVincent@xmission.com>, 'Dave Teuscher' <david.teuscher@idfg.idaho.gov>, 'Hunter Osborne' <hosborne@sbtribes.com>, 'Jim DeRito' <JDeRito@tu.org>, 'Kathy Rinaldi' <krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org>, 'Kevin Lewis' <kevin@idahorivers.org>, 'Kirk Rich' <krich@idpr.idaho.gov>, 'Lee Mabey' <lmabey@fs.fed.us>, 'Lynn Van Every' <Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov>, 'Mark Stenberg' <mark.stenberg@pacificcorp.com>, 'Ryan Beatty' <rbeatty@blm.gov>, 'Susan Rosebrough' <susan_rosebrough@nps.gov>

Cc: 'Corey Lyman' <clyman@fs.fed.us>, 'Dan Miller' <dan_miller@nps.gov>, Eve Davies <eve.davies@pacificcorp.com>, 'Greg Mladenka' <Greg.Mladenka@deq.idaho.gov>, 'Jeremy Jirak' <jeremy_jirak@fws.gov>, 'Kevin Colburn' <kcolburn@amwhitewater.org>, "'Newman, Blaine'" <bnewman@blm.gov>, 'Ryan Hillyard' <ryan.hillyard@idfg.idaho.gov>, 'Warren Colyer' <wcolyer@tu.org>, 'Allison Michalski' <amichalski@greateryellowstone.org>

Subject: Bear River ECC - Email vote to approve meeting notes

ECC Members and Others,

Ryan Beatty provided comments on the December Land and Water Fund Updates (see attached redline). With no further comments on the September or December meeting notes, I'd like to ask for your approval of both sets of notes (September and December 2017), with edits from Beatty. Please reply by next Friday, February 9.

Thank you,

Miriam Hugentobler
Bear River ECC
(801) 652-8983

**Bear River ECC
Record of Email Voting
Approval of Draft September and December 2017 Meeting Notes
Vote Called by Hugentobler, February 2, 2018**

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