

**Bear River ECC  
Final Meeting Notes  
April 18, 2018  
Pocatello, Idaho**

<b>ECC Members Participating</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
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
x	Cary Myler	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
x	David Teuscher	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
	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

<b>Others Participating</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
x	Eve Davies, by phone	PacifiCorp
x	Matt Lucia	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
x	Kelly Conde	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
x	Greg Mladenka	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
x	Jeremy Jirak	USFWS
x	Buffi Morris	PacifiCorp
x	Matt Westover	Cirrus Ecological Solutions
x	Eric Duffin	Cirrus Ecological Solutions
x	Justin Barker	Cirrus Ecological Solutions
	Jim Burruss	Burns McDonnell

<b>Commitments Made during the April 18, 2018 Meeting</b>	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next ECC Meeting: June 20, 2018.</li> <li>• Consider tour of Birch Creek, Oneida Spawning channel this summer.</li> </ul>
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Check on status of Mussler project.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Continue to work with Paris Relief on water swap.</a></li> <li>• Discuss July test flow with PacifiCorp operations.</li> <li>• Coordinate with USFWS on Soda Spin bird surveys</li> <li>• Call email vote on USFWS conservation easement funding.</li> <li>• Call email vote to fund appraisal of the Alexander parcel.</li> </ul>
DeRtio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with Bouwes regarding Station Creek project, including adjacent landowners and completion of modelling. Contact State Lands regarding beaver reintroduction on Station Creek.</li> </ul>
Cirrus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare exhibit showing how temperature monitors will be set up. Distribute to ECC for review. Plan to deploy during waterfowl study.</li> </ul>

Myler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep Stenberg apprised of progress on Fox conservation easement closing. Needs one-month notice to obtain PacifiCorp approval.</li> </ul>
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up Google doc/pages for Kackley. Post management plan. ECC members will need a gmail account.</li> </ul>
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

### Decisions Made by Email Since the Last Meeting

None

### Decisions Made at This Meeting<sup>1</sup>

- Approved 2018 habitat enhancement projects as recommended by the funding subcommittee with contingencies on Station Creek (i.e., meeting and agreement by adjacent landowners and completion of the statewide modelling effort or early favorable results).

### Review of Agenda

Stenberg reviewed the day's agenda. The following items were added to the agenda:

- Cove Electrofishing – BLM and PacifiCorp
- Soda Spin – Water Resource Board filing on water rights

**Soda Spin** – Stenberg said PacifiCorp is still reviewing the Water Resource Board's filing on PacifiCorp's water rights and has no statement at this time. However, he said PacifiCorp believes decrees are pretty clear on the company's rights and the state's filing is pretty broad. Stenberg asked what have others heard. Van Every said he heard the application for water right won't be officially advertised. Morris said it could be years before it is advertised. Jirak said at a recent Bear Lake advisory board meeting he heard they wanted to meet with stakeholders before advertising.

### Review of Action Items

Action items from the previous meeting were reviewed. Items carried over appear in blue in the table, above.

### Review of Fund Balances

Stenberg reviewed balances in the ECC's Land and Water Conservation and Habitat Enhancement funds.

**Land and Water Fund** - Balance in this fund is approximately \$1.5 million, with \$1 million earmarked for the pending USFWS conservation easement. Cumulatively, \$3.675 million have been provided from this fund to date.

**Habitat Enhancement Fund** - Balance in this fund is approximately \$300,000, with about \$50,000 in outstanding obligations. Approximately \$246,000 is currently available in this fund. Cumulatively, \$2.644 million have been provided from this fund to date.

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<sup>1</sup> See Land and Water Updates for additional decisions.

## **2018 Habitat Enhancement Projects**

Stenberg reviewed the 2018 habitat enhancement projects recommended by the subcommittee (see Attachment 1 – Funding). Individual projects were discussed in more detail by the ECC.

### **Station Creek**

DeRito said Bouwes has suggested an onsite meeting at the landowner's property, inviting adjacent landowners. Myler supported attending the meeting to provide information/answer questions from landowners. Teuscher said Bouwes and his partner are currently doing some modeling to provide more information on where beaver would do well in the state. Teuscher said he would like to see the results of that study before funding this project. DeRito said he thinks the project area would do well in that study. Teuscher said IDFG has been putting off others in favor of beaver reintroduction pending results of the study. DeRito said he could ask Bouwes to speed up the Station Creek modelling. He noted there have been beaver there in the past. Jirak said it seems like a great opportunity to ground truth the modelling. Teuscher said he would like to hold funding pending results of a meeting with a downstream landowner who has been complaining of depredation. He said IDFG has already been spending resources to deal with problems in this area and he would not be in favor of proceeding unless this landowner agrees with the project. Teuscher would like to see these two points addressed before proceeding with funding.

Stenberg asked for a proposal on Station Creek. ECC members agreed to the following:

- Approve the Station Creek beaver reintroduction project with funding contingent pending meeting with up- and downstream landowners that is positive (ECC to determine whether outcome is positive) and that modelling (the statewide study) shows the area includes good habitat for beaver reintroduction.

Van Every asked whether State Lands has an opinion on beaver reintroduction. DeRito said he will check. Teuscher checked on the status of the statewide modelling project. He said it should be ready in January but perhaps Bouwes can prioritize the project area and give the ECC some early results. Teuscher noted there will be some places where beavers are controversial (i.e., landowners are actively seeking removal). DeRito suggested starting with beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and maybe no beaver. Lyman said he could not agree with spending \$48,000 on the project if there would be no beavers. Teuscher said if the two criteria above are met, IDFG will proceed and transport the beaver there. DeRito suggested visiting the BDAs on Birch Creek during the ECC summer tour to see results of that project.

Stenberg reviewed the ECC's decision making flow chart.

### **Oneida Spawning**

Stenberg discussed phasing of this project as recommended by the subcommittee and proposed a site visit to the project area in June.

### **Funding Recommendations**

Stenberg reviewed habitat enhancement fund status with approval of all 2018 projects.

\$246,779.00 – Unobligated funds  
- \$98,172.00 – 2018 projects  
\$148,607.00 – Remaining in habitat enhancement fund

DeRito said WINTI funding continues to look favorable and the Stauffer project will likely be awarded \$40,000. Voting is scheduled to take place May 7, with a formal announcement to follow.

A vote was called on 2018 habitat enhancement projects.

- Approve 2018 habitat enhancement projects as recommended by the funding subcommittee with contingencies on Station Creek (i.e., meeting and agreement by adjacent landowners and completion of the statewide modelling effort or early favorable results)

### **Cove Electrofishing – Beatty**

Beatty said electrofishing at Cove took place last Thursday (April 12, 2018). Teuscher said IDFG was surveying Kackley to remove rainbow trout on the same day. He said IDFG was previously doing this in fall only, and he believes this effort is starting to make a difference in the area. Beatty said three reaches were electrofished and showed the locations on an aerial photo. He said a lot of hybridization was observed, possibly including some West Slope hybrids, however, this is uncertain. Teuscher said the diet of this fish may be affecting coloration. Beatty showed photos of the fish. He said no genetics samples were taken. Teuscher said the IDFG geneticist could determine hybridization and this would be interesting to know. Beatty said no rainbow trout were captured, just hybrids. Teuscher said IDFG has had a high number of reports of Yellowstone cutthroats in the area this year. ECC members discussed the possibility of a restoration project at Kackley. Stenberg noted the possibility of managing flows differently using valves at the pond. Beatty said the area is amazingly productive. He said he sees the possibility of an important phase 1 study here.

### **Soda Spin – Cirrus**

#### **Temperature Data**

Duffin displayed a table showing temperature monitoring data obtained from Mladenka of IDEQ and a map of monitoring sites. He said there is available data in the area of potential effect from IDEQ, IDFG, and PacifiCorp over 10 years in the Black Canyon reach but no good data above the Black Canyon.

Barker discussed temperature data during whitewater boater flows. He noted that cooling of 1-2 degrees occurs during large releases such as July 2008 but no lethal temperatures. Stressful yes, he said, lethal no. Data from July 2010 was shown. He said scenarios such as this may provide fish an opportunity to move if they are stuck in this area, which is a really hot, shallow reach of the Bear River. Teuscher noted that the Black Canyon fish are congregated at the mouth of springs in this area. He said increased flow may actually warm these areas. He said IDFG's fish tagging data show this. He noted that the HOBO monitors are not in the area of the springs, so we can't really say that the releases cool the areas of the springs and we are not sure of the effect releases are having on fish congregating at the springs. Barker said spring whitewater boater flow data suggest a less than 3 percent displacement. Teuscher said that is a very different situation. A table was displayed showing aquatic habitat temperature assessment (number of stressful and lethal days in July and August by year). Teuscher said

it's just not possible to know the effect of large flows without putting HOBO monitors in those specific areas.

Stenberg said monitors could be put in place during the waterfowl monitoring effort, but he's not sure what value the information would have without flow. He said PacifiCorp could make a flow, but he would need to make a case to operations. He asked what the group would want to look at, two hours in the hottest part of July? A 12-hour emergency flow would be a huge event, he said, perhaps where the grid had to be restored. More common would be a two-hour event. July would be worst case. Teuscher said that's what he would suggest.

Stenberg said the third whitewater boater flow just took place. There is one more left, he said, but we'll miss it if we put monitors out during the waterfowl work. He asked about monitor locations and noted the springs at the hatchery as a possibility. Teuscher suggested using the ECC's thermal imagery as a guide. He said there are several springs by the hatchery. Stenberg said let's continue to scope, and we'll shoot for an operations flow during hot part of July. Mladenka suggested placing monitors in a line across, and monitoring on at least a five-minute basis. He also suggested placing one in the spring.

Cirrus will put together an exhibit on how this will be instrumented and distribute it to the group for review and comment. Stenberg will work on the operational aspect. He said he will plan to place the monitors during waterfowl studies, sometime in the first two weeks in May.

DeRito asked about monitoring fishes during the test flow as well. Stenberg said we would not know why the fish moved. DeRito said it seems to be pretty good indication that fish at springs are keyed in on temperatures.

Stenberg said he believes PacifiCorp can make a test flow pretty close to what a spin call would be. This can be done at Grace and would be different from Alexander. Barker said what is missing is a complete picture of temperatures in the Bear River, there is only data here and there. Since monitors are cheap, he said, he would like more in Gentile, etc. He said it would be a good data set to have.

### **Bird Data - Westover**

Westover said Cirrus will start bird surveys in the next few weeks. They are proposing to survey two times, once during the first part of May and again the second part of May by canoe and on foot. They will look for signs of nesting but won't flush and count or GPS locations. They will look at habitat and assemblages. They will also use recorders to capture, for example, the dawn chorus. Myler asked how birders would be chosen and said USUSFWS would be willing to participate in this effort. Westover said they would be welcome but would have to bring their own boat. Stenberg said he would be willing to facilitate if USFWS would like to participate. Westover discussed areas to be surveyed.

Stenberg said cattle are in the floodplain now this year, most areas are grazed as opposed to last year. Jirak asked about cattle in the easements. Stenberg said cattle will remain in the easements in the inundation zone and will be managed so they can move above the flow. However, PacifiCorp will ask that users not stockpile manure or store hazardous waste in the inundation zone. He noted there has been some misinformation regarding exclusion of cattle in the easements. Jirak asked how Cirrus will classify waterfowl nesting habitat. Westover said they will look at species individually. For species with downward trends, he said Cirrus will look at nesting requirements and map suitable habitat.

Stenberg said if ECC members have additional thoughts for the consultants, feel free to let him know. He will coordinate.

The ECC adjourned to closed session for land and water updates.

**Attachment 1: 2018 Habitat Enhancement Projects**

**Bear River ECC**

**2018 Habitat Enhancement Projects Recommended by Funding Subcommittee**

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>ECC Funding &amp; Overhead Requested</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Score</b>
Stauffer Creek Fish Passage, Riparian, and Aquatic Habitat Improvement	Lyman, U.S. Forest Service	Project Planning - Develop scope and objectives for 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.	\$4,320.00 + 650.00 \$4,970.00	\$1,300.00	\$6,270.00	140
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.	\$41,516.25 +\$6,885.75 \$48,402.00	\$13,500.00 + \$5,200.00 (IDFG)	\$61,905.00 -or- \$67,105.00 With trapping	110
Oneida Spawning Channel	Stenberg, PacifiCorp	Produce conceptual design plans for modification of the Oneida bypass reach to create native fish spawning habitat.  Concept Plan \$6,919* Preliminary Plan \$12,348* Final Design \$33,635  *Phase to be approved by ECC prior to initiation of next phase of project.	\$7,000	\$20,000.00 <sup>1</sup>	\$72,902.00 <sup>1</sup>	131
Fish Screen Tender 2018	Hillyard, IDFG	Monitor and maintain fish screens on irrigation diversions within the action area. A few outside the action area are also maintained.	\$15,000.00 +\$2,800.00 \$17,800.00	\$5,000.00	\$22,800.00	144
Screen Repair Set Aside	N/A	Repair and maintenance of ECC-funded fish screens	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00	144
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$98,172.00			

1 - If project proceeds to final design as proposed.