

**Bear River ECC  
Final Meeting Notes  
May 15, 2019  
Pocatello, ID**

	<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
	Cary Myler	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
x	Ryan Hillyard	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 Rich	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	PacifiCorp (by phone)
	Matt Lucia	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
	Tom Lucia	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
x	Greg Mladenka	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
x	Steven Smith	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
x	Kelly Conde	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
x	Sophie Nosworthy	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust

<b>Commitments Made during the May 2019 Meeting</b>	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FYI – Soda Spin reports are under revision and will be distributed when complete. Water temperature report is expected in June 2019.</li> </ul>
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wrap Oneida spawning channel design memo from Bowen Collins. Post to website.</li> <li>Obtain cost estimate for Mink Creek water right analysis.</li> <li>Provide ECC with an update on adjudication of the Bear River.</li> <li>Coordinate with Mussler (and other landowners) regarding June field tour.</li> <li>Update the ECC on PacifiCorp’s direction on the Paris Creek hydro project, as needed, including new possible options.</li> <li>Coordinate with IDFG on broodstock pond weir repairs. Carson Watkins, new IDFG representative.</li> <li>Coordinate with DeRito &amp; Van Every regarding Bear River Commission Tour of BCT broodstock ponds. Also water quality specialists.</li> <li>Amendment to conservation hatchery agreement regarding IDFG and broodstock ponds</li> <li>Kempton culvert – Confirm that billing is complete</li> </ul>

Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information on water rights encumbered on SSLT's Mink Creek projects.</li> </ul>
Cirrus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize Soda Spin reports.</li> </ul>
Hillyard, Brimmer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information on fish populations and distribution in Mink Creek. Summarize Twin Lakes data. Consider future sampling.</li> <li>• Document repairs to fish screens funded by the ECC in the annual conservation hatchery report (yearly--going forward).</li> </ul>
Lyman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update interested ECC members, as needed, on Bartschi/Stauffer Creek project.</li> </ul>
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send a reminder to ECC regarding voting proxy. ECC members should review agenda in advance and if unable to attend, assign voting proxy to someone who plans to attend.</li> <li>• Reminder to Matt Lucia re: Mink Creek fish barrier data.</li> <li>• Distribute Mink Creek data provided by DeRito to the ECC</li> </ul>
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

### Email Decisions Made Since the Last ECC Meeting

None

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

- Skinner fencing project not recommended as a 2019 habitat enhancement project.
- All other 2019 habitat enhancement projects approved, as recommended by the funding subcommittee (see Attachment 1).

### Items Added to Agenda

- Information from IDFG on a new potential habitat enhancement project – Hillyard
- Review of the ECC's ground rules – Stenberg

### Items Removed from the Agenda

- Operation Plan Update

### Updates

#### Soda Spin

Stenberg updated ECC members on the status of the environmental reports for PacifiCorp's Soda Spin project. He said the migratory bird report is now complete and final water temperature and land use reports are in process. The water temperature report should be complete in late June, the land use report in July.

#### Broodstock Pond Repairs

The ECC reviewed a list of needed fishway modifications provided by Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). Some of the items on the list may be done by PacifiCorp and others, thereby reducing

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<sup>1</sup> See *Land and Water Fund Updates* for additional decision(s).

cost. The remaining items will go out for bid. Stenberg will discuss needed modifications internally with PacifiCorp. PacifiCorp and IDFG plan to field review the ponds at noon on May 23. Stenberg said ECC members are welcome to join them. Stenberg said now that the ponds are complete, an amendment will be added to the Conservation Hatchery Agreement to include details of rights and responsibilities for the broodstock ponds.

### **Bartschi**

Lyman provided an update on this project. He said final design is now out. There has been no change to stream design, but new stations and elevations have been added. Lyman said the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) was onsite last week and is now developing a plan to move the creek out of a winter feeding area. This is not part of the larger project, he said, but an effort to clean up a problem area. NRCS will also be looking at fencing needs, a rotational grazing plan, and offsite water. This process is underway now. Lyman said he will be seeking implementation funds for the project during the ECC's 2020 habitat enhancement project cycle. Lyman said he also plans to apply for 319 funding. The NRCS will partner on several measures and is also providing in-kind design, etc. Lyman said he has already prepared and submitted a stream alteration permit.

### **Habitat Enhancement Project Fund Review**

Stenberg reviewed the open grant projects and fund balance.

**Oneida Spawning Channel** – Bowen Collins is wrapping this project.

**Stauffer Fish Passage** – Project is now complete.

**Kempton Culvert** – Project is now complete. Stenberg to confirm that billing is complete.

**Mussler** – This 2016 project is still open. The ECC may visit during its June field day.

Taking these projects into account, \$276,145 in unobligated funds remain in the ECC's habitat enhancement fund.

### **Kackley Fish Barrier**

Stenberg said a recent event caused some erosion in this area and muskrats caused a hole in the dike on Kackley pond. PacifiCorp engineers are looking at the problems. Stenberg said he will develop a budget/funding request to address some of these issues.

### **ECC Ground Rules**

Stenberg provided a routine review of the ECC's ground rules. A 2012 update to the ground rules allows for email voting. He noted the importance of assigning voting proxies when ECC members cannot be present for a regular meeting. A reminder will be emailed to ECC members to advise that they review upcoming agendas, and if they cannot be present, assign their voting proxy in advance of the meeting. Assignment of proxy will be noted in the meeting notes' voting record.

### **Skinner Fence Habitat Enhancement Proposal - Additional Information - Hillyard**

During the March 2019 ranking meeting, the funding subcommittee requested more information on this proposal before making a decision on whether to recommend it to the ECC. Hillyard provided an update.

He said a conservation easement on the parcel is going forward. However, with a fence, the proponent will graze more heavily. In addition, it will be necessary to cut into willows to install the fence. Hillyard said the proponent is not interested in a grazing plan. Stenberg asked about the purpose of the conservation easement. Hillyard said it's for the wildlife crossing. He said the setback would be 30 feet, but some areas won't need or can't accommodate that. The proposed fencing is wildlife friendly. Beatty said this is a big issue for wildlife. Hillyard said yes, but he believes the underpass will address wildlife issues. He said he also believes grazing issues can be managed without this fencing. Van Every said he thinks it's hard to show the benefit of this project to Bonneville cutthroat trout or the riparian area. Stenberg noted that the project is also out of the action area.

### **Habitat Enhancement Project Ranking**

Stenberg reviewed the Funding subcommittee's project rankings and asked for approval of the projects individually (See Attachment 1). The Cove Springs Cutthroat Trout Genetic Testing and the Cove Streambank Project Extension were considered jointly.

Project sponsors described each of the projects. New information is noted below.

**Skinner Bear Lake** – Hillyard provided additional information on this project (above). Because the project proponent was not interested in a grazing plan, ECC members noted that the ranking score would actually go down and decided not to re-rank the project. It was noted that with a grazing plan, the score may have risen sufficiently for funding consideration.

Stenberg asked for consensus from the ranking subcommittee to not forward the Skinner Bear Lake project to the ECC for approval. Agreement was unanimous.

**Screen Repair and Maintenance Set Aside** – Idaho Department of Fish and Game requested that going forward, this funding will be provided yearly, in the same amount.

### **Next Agenda – June 19, 2019**

Field day – include Paris Creek Hydro, Bartchi, Mussler, Steve's Creek

Lunch celebration - Invite Dave Teuscher (or do remotely).

**Attachment 1: Record of Voting - 2019 Habitat Enhancement Projects**

**Bear River ECC  
2019 Habitat Enhancement Projects**

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>ECC Funding &amp; Overhead Requested</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>	<b>In-kind Match</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Recommend to ECC for Funding</b>	<b>ECC Vote 5/15/19</b>
Cove Springs Cutthroat Trout Genetic Testing	Beatty, BLM	Determine genetic status of apparent resident population of cutthroat trout in Cove Spring.	\$900.00 + 0 \$900.00	N/A	\$1,600.00	\$2,500.00		Yes	Yes
Cove Streambank Project Extension	Van Every, IDEQ	Streambank improvements at Cove and Kackley Springs and cropland improvements on Gilbert Farm	\$35,000.00 + 0 \$35,000.00	\$53,849.00	\$57,566.00	\$146,415.00	140	Yes	Yes
Eightmile Culvert Replacement #2	Lyman, USFS	Partner with Bear Lake County to improve an undersized stream crossing on lower Eightmile Creek.	\$20,000.00 + 0 \$20,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$130,000.00	152	Yes	Yes
Fish Screen Tender 2019	Hillyard, IDFG	Monitor and maintain fish screens on irrigation diversions within the action area. A few outside the action area are also maintained.	\$12,200.00 +\$2,800.00 \$15,000.00	N/A	\$5,000.00	\$20,000.00	144	Yes	Yes
Skinner Bear Lake Fencing	Hillyard, IDFG	Install a let-down fence along 2 miles of the Bear River on both sides.	\$44,986.00 + 0 \$44,986.00	\$15,000.00	\$3,646.00	\$63,632.00	84, need to revisit with future management details.	Present additional information to ECC. Re-rank and determine whether to ask for approval vote.	No vote
Station Creek Beaver Dam Analogs	Bouwes, Anabranh Solutions	Install beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures on Station Creek to improve riparian conditions, including quantity and quality of BCT habitat.	\$41,245.00 +\$7,838.00 \$49,083.00	N/A	\$7,890.00	\$56,973.00	122 (2018 110)	Yes	PC no, all others yes
Screen Repair Set Aside	N/A	Repair and maintenance of ECC-funded fish screens.	<del>\$20,000.00</del> \$5,000			\$5,000	Not ranked.	Yes	Yes