

**Bear River ECC
Final Meeting Notes
January 15, 2020
Pocatello, Idaho**

ECC Members Present		
	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
x	Jeremy Jirak	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
x	Ryan Hillyard	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 Rich	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
	Susan Rosebrough	National Park Service
	Kevin Lewis	Idaho Rivers United

Others Present		
	Name	Organization
x	Eve Davies	PacifiCorp
x	Matt Lucia	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
x	Matt Bringhurst	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	Steven Smith	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
	Kelly Conde	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
	Jennifer Cornell	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust

Commitments Made at the January 15, 2020 Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-day ECC review of the Bear River Annual Report begins January 17, 2020. Comments are due from the ECC by February 17, 2020. • Short forms for 2020 Habitat Enhancement Projects are due to Stenberg and Hugentobler by March 6, 2020. Long forms are due April 3, 2020. Subcommittee to review and rank on April 15, 2020. • Let Stenberg know if you are not currently on the Funding subcommittee but would like to join/participate. Current members are: Stenberg, Davies, Beatty, Hillyard, Watkins, Van Every, Bringhurst, DeRito, Lyman. • Review steps and ECC obligations in the Paris Water Swap/Decommissioning Concept Paper. Let Stenberg know of any questions or concerns. A vote may be called at the March 18 ECC meeting.
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain cost estimate for Mink Creek water right analysis. • Amendment to conservation hatchery agreement regarding IDFG and broodstock ponds – Has been drafted and reviewed and is ready for signatures. • Forward Paris concept paper to Matt Bringhurst (sent 1/17/2020). • Contact Whitaker about repairs to weirs – need to complete by the end of February 2020. • Contact Brad Wilkes regarding Southfield.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Paris Water Swap/Decommissioning Concept Paper – include financial information in Section 2 and include BLM and USFS land on map.
DeRito	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on grant proposals for new diversions for Paris Relief and Upper South Field at Paris Creek.
Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on water rights encumbered on SSLT’s Mink Creek projects. Review priority projects with the ECC in spring.
Watkins, Hillyard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on fish populations and distribution in Mink Creek. Summarize Twin Lakes data. Consider future sampling. Document repairs to fish screens funded by the ECC in the annual conservation hatchery report (yearly--going forward). Contact Chris Banks to discuss the possibility of a larger project with additional landowners on Steve’s Creek and coordinate site visits. Conduct redd counts at Kackley Springs next year. Forward information on February webinars on the BRAT model to ECC members. Consider electrofishing West Cache Canal.
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute updated ECC contact list
Lyman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update interested ECC members, as needed, on Bartschi/Stauffer Creek project. Share information on upcoming review of stream structures with ECC members.
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

Email Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting

- None

Decisions Made at This Meeting

- Approved draft notes from the December 2019 ECC meeting.

Additions to the Agenda

- Netting for the Bonneville cutthroat trout broodstock ponds
- Repairs to ECC-funded fish screens

Updates

Calendar Review and Funding Subcommittee Membership

The draft 2019 Annual Report will be distributed to ECC members for 30-day review this week. Comments are due February 17, 2020. The 2019 annual report is due to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by March 1, 2020.

Short forms (proposals) for 2020 habitat enhancement projects are due to Stenberg and Hugentobler by March 6, 2020. Long form (applications) are due April 3, 2020. The Funding subcommittee will meet in Pocatello on April 15, 2020 to rank projects. Subcommittee members are as follows:

- Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp
- Eve Davies, PacifiCorp
- Ryan Beatty, Bureau of Land Management
- Ryan Hillyard, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Carson Watkins, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Lynn Van Every, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Matt Bringham, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Jim DeRito, Trout Unlimited
- Corey Lyman, U.S. Forest Service

Habitat Enhancement Project Updates – Project Sponsors

Highway 36 Mink Creek Crossing – No recent progress to report.

Demolition of Kackley Springs Ponds - Stenberg said no work has taken place on the ground, as it was determined that a plan/application is needed for the project to be permitted. Lyman noted that the project could potentially enhance the wetlands.

Repairs to Cove Broodstock Ponds – Repair to the weirs are still needed. Hillyard said this work needs to be complete by the end of February.

Station Creek Beaver Dam Analogs– Stenberg said there is still some funding left for Station Creek. He said he has received two invoices and there is \$10,300 remaining in the project budget.

Cutthroat Trout Genetic Sampling – Stenberg said he needs a bill from the genetics lab.

Mussler – Project proponent would like to finish bank work from this 2016 project.

Repairs to ECC-funded Fish Screens - Hillyard

Hillyard reviewed needed repairs to ECC-funded fish screens (see Attachment 1). He estimated \$8,900 is needed for repairs to the Moser screen and \$750 is needed for the Knapp fish screen. No estimate was available for the Ovid screen, which needs to be redesigned and replaced. Hillyard said this screen was retrofitted to a drum screen and fish are entering and can't get back out. He said the bypass is a small orifice at the top, and there is no directional flow. This screen is on North Creek (Ovid Irrigation Co.). Hillyard said IDFG has some, but not all the needed funds and also needs a design. Hillyard will bring forward a habitat enhancement project for this project this year. DeRito said he has funding to look at all the southeast Idaho fish screens. He said this former bubbler is the least functional of all he's inventoried. DeRito asked if the IDFG shop could design the new screen, possibly a rotary drum. He noted there is some effort to standardize the types of fish screens in place.

BCT Broodstock Ponds – Hillyard

Hillyard said cormorant predation is an ongoing problem at the broodstock ponds and IDFG would like to get netting in place to keep cormorants out. He estimated the cost of netting at \$13,750 total for both ponds (see Attachment 1). Hillyard said IDFG has set up poles to install the netting but may need additional help with installation.

Idaho’s Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT) Webinar - Hillyard

Hillyard said IDFG’s BRAT model was recently completed and an introductory webinar for users is planned for February 12 and 18, 2020 (see Attachment 1). He will forward this information to ECC members.

West Cache Canal – Stenberg

Stenberg said he had an inquiry from Steven Smith about ECC interest in a project on West Cache Canal near Riverdale, Idaho. DeRito said he was aware the primary issue is vegetation in the canal. Hillyard noted there are not many fish that low. Davies said West Cache is doing a major revamp of their system and are going to try pumping to some users. Van Every said he agreed with Hillyard--the ECC should check for the presence of fish before proceeding. IDFG will consider electrofishing. Davies noted that Sunrise Engineering is the consultant working on the project.

ECC Fund Balances¹ - Stenberg

Habitat Enhancement Fund

\$480,903 – unobligated funds available for 2020 grants

\$84,000 – obligated grant fund balances

Land and Water Fund

\$713,532 – unobligated funds available for 2020 grants

\$40,000 Egley long-term stewardship obligated funds

\$11,293 SSLT annual monitoring and maintenance 2019 obligated funds

\$37,500 Larsen long-term stewardship obligated funds

\$639,706 B&R Ranch match for CE obligated funds

\$35,000 SSLT annual MOU staff support obligated funds

\$15,000 SSLT Estimate 2020 monitoring and management obligated funds

\$17,000 Egley riparian fencing obligated funds

Next ECC Meeting

Next ECC meeting will be held March 18, 2020.

¹Balance at the time of this meeting.