

**Bear River ECC
Final Meeting Notes
May 20, 2020
Online Meeting**

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	Matt Bringhurst	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
x	Carson Watkins	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
	Allison Michalski	Greater Yellowstone Coalition
x	Ryan Beatty	Bureau of Land Management
x	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
	Eve Davies	PacifiCorp
	Matt Lucia	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
x	Ryan Hillyard	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
	Steven Smith	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Commitments Made at the May 20, 2020 Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field visit to Steve's Creek is scheduled for June 17, 2020. A separate date will be set to visit Bear Creek and Mink Creek.
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft a letter of support for Trout Unlimited for an NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership application on behalf of the ECC. Distribute for review. 2020 Whitewater Boater Flows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with PacifiCorp Operations regarding make-up flows. Provide confirmation of June 6 & 7, 2020 boater flows to Vincent. Distribute Black Canyon temperature data to the ECC. Confer with the ECC and develop a proposal for additional make-up flows. Check for latest updates to the Paris Water Swap/Decommissioning Concept Paper and distribute to the ECC if needed.
Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on water rights encumbered on SSLT's Mink Creek projects.
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. Consider electrofishing West Cache Canal.
Lyman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify possible dates for Mink Creek field visit. Coordinate with Hugentobler. Coordinate with Stenberg/Hugentobler to set up conference call to discuss funding sources for Bartschi, if needed.
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll ECC for Mink/Bear Creek field visit date.
Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Chris Banks regarding possible larger project with additional landowners on Steve's Creek.
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

Decisions Made by Email Since Last Meeting

- Expedite approval of Idaho Department of Fish and Game's 2020 habitat enhancement project to provide bird netting for the Cove broodstock ponds. Award amount is \$13,750.54.

A record of email voting is included in Attachment 1.

Decisions Made at this Meeting

- Approve 2020 habitat enhancement projects as recommended by the Funding subcommittee.

Projects recommended for funding are shown in Attachment 2. One project, Paris Creek Irrigation Diversion Design, is located outside the action area and requires review and approval by PacifiCorp.

Habitat Enhancement Project Updates

- Mussler 2016 – The landowner has expressed interest in completing this project.
- Station Creek Beaver Dam Analogs – Some funding remains for this project.
- Screen Repair Set-Aside – Has not been billed.
- Kackley Pond Demolition – Funding remains obligated.
- Highway 36 Mink Creek – Funding remains obligated.

2020 Field Review of Projects

The ECC will tour Steve's Creek on its June 17 field review day. Hillyard will coordinate with Shaw. Smith will contact Banks regarding adjacent landowners. A separate date will be set for visits to Bear and Mink Creek. Lyman will identify potential dates, Hugentobler will poll the ECC for a final date.

ECC Fund Balances

Stenberg reviewed balances in the land and water conservation and habitat enhancement funds. Currently, the unobligated balance in the land and water conservation fund is approximately \$1.4 million. The unobligated balance in the habitat enhancement fund is approximately \$479,000.

2020 Habitat Enhancement Project Recommendations - Stenberg

Stenberg reviewed the Funding subcommittee's recommendations for 2020 habitat enhancement projects (see Attachment 2). Grant requests total \$247,800.

A vote was called by Stenberg to approve 2020 habitat enhancement projects as recommended by the ECC's Funding subcommittee. The ECC unanimously approved the subcommittee's recommendations. One project, Paris Creek Irrigation Diversion Design, is located outside the ECC's action area and will go to PacifiCorp for approval.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program– DeRito

DeRito shared information with the ECC regarding the Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) program through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). DeRito said he (Trout Unlimited) applied for a grant through this program in 2014 and was awarded \$1.2 million in 2015 for irrigation diversion work on the upper Bear River. In order to qualify, applicants must provide equal match. DeRito said under the new Farm Bill, NRCS can renew successful projects. There will be a renewal opportunity for successful projects sometime this summer, he said. He said he would like to extend the project to include a larger area, i.e., down to Stauffer Creek and Paris. He said if renewed, the project may add other diversion practices and could possibly add a beaver dam analog component. He said Joe Wheaton at Utah State University, who works with Nick Bouwes, plans to take the Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT) model, overlay it with Bonneville cutthroat trout habitat, and identify areas to benefit fish.

DeRito said he will propose a 5-year span over this area and would like to include the ECC as a partner, using PacifiCorp's Black Canyon flows as part of the match to show as a contribution. He said letters of support and contribution may be needed for this. Stenberg said he will draft a letter of support for Trout Unlimited for the RCP on behalf of the ECC and distribute it to the ECC for comment. DeRito said if the current grant is not renewed, he can submit a new project, which would be open to the Bear River basinwide.

Stauffer/Bartschi - Lyman

Lyman provided an update on this project. He said he is looking at phasing the project. He said the EQIP funding award was lower than expected, at 10 percent, and he is currently looking for other sources of funding. He said he would like to get the NRCS out for field review of the project. Lyman showed photos and discussed current irrigation practices. He said plans are to improve irrigation practices, install new fencing and livestock watering and feeding practices, as well as restore the stream channel and meadow. Lyman said he has been working with NRCS over the past year and will be reaching out to partners for additional funding opportunities. Overall, \$750,000 is needed for the project, mostly for earthwork. Van Every said funding up to \$250,000 may be available for 319 projects and the application deadline is in August. He also noted there are unobligated funds in the ECC's habitat enhancement fund. Lyman said he will speak with Van Every and Smith regarding 319 funding. Bringhurst said USFWS Partners funding may be available next year (2021). He said he would like to review the property and meet the landowner. DeRito said if the RCP project renews, funds should be next autumn (2021). In regard to phasing, he suggested working on irrigation first. Lyman said he will keep everyone updated. Stenberg asked if Lyman would like to schedule a conference call with the ECC to

detail funding sources, timelines, etc. Lyman said he would reach out to individual ECC members first. He will contact Stenberg to schedule a call if needed.

2020 Whitewater Boater Flows – Vincent

Stenberg said whitewater boater flows were shut down after first weekend this year due to Idaho's COVID-19 stay-at-home order. He said American Whitewater inquired about possible summer or autumn make-up flows. Stenberg said with the state reopening, he thinks it's appropriate to provide make-up flows on June 6 and 7, 2020. This is the weekend after boater flow season closes. Stenberg noted the Grace unit outage and said the unit does not currently have a return-to-service date, as Engineering is looking at options. He said Black Canyon will be at 500 – 550 cfs during the main part of the irrigation season, so this may be a unique opportunity to provide make-up flows up to 900 cfs later in the summer or early fall while irrigation delivery is still underway.

Vincent said he recalled that the June 5 cutoff date was to avoid fish spawning and early rearing in lower Black Canyon. Van Every said he recalled that went through mid-summer. Vincent said he thinks flows later in the summer would draw boaters in much greater numbers, as there would be less competition from opportunities elsewhere.

Stenberg said he believed a June make-up flow was feasible. In regard to a possible 3-day flow in August, Stenberg said he needed to coordinate with PacifiCorp operations and put together a proposal for dates and flows. He will get confirmation to Vincent shortly for June flows. Vincent said he thinks that is reasonable and would be well attended.

Van Every asked how ECC members felt about later flows and spawning. Stenberg said the ECC should go back and review the temperature study. He will distribute the study to the ECC for review. Vincent said he believes 500 cfs will already alter temperatures, and additional flows would not be much worse. The ECC will continue this discussion by email and put a proposal together for make-up flows.

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

Attachment 1
Record of Email Voting

**Bear River ECC - Record of Email Voting
Broodstock Pond Bird Netting Approval
Voted Called by Stenberg
March 18, 2020**

From: "Stenberg, Mark" <Mark.Stenberg@pacificorp.com>
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 11:35 AM
To: Blaine Newman <blaine_newman@blm.gov>, Charlie Vincent <charliev@xmission.com>, "Hunter Osborne (hosborne@sbtribes.com)" <hosborne@sbtribes.com>, James DeRito <JDeRito@tu.org>, "Kathy Rinaldi (krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org)" <krinaldi@greateryellowstone.org>, Kevin Lewis <kevin@idahorivers.org>, "Lee W. Mabey (lmabey@fs.fed.us)" <lmabey@fs.fed.us>, Lynn Van Every <Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov>, "Mathew Bringhurst (matthew_bringhurst@fws.gov)" <matthew_bringhurst@fws.gov>, Miriam Hugentobler <miriam.hugentobler@gmail.com>, "Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov" <Susan_Rosebrough@nps.gov>, "Watkins,Carson" <carson.watkins@idfg.idaho.gov>
Cc: Allison Michalski <amichalski@greateryellowstone.org>, "Beatty, Ryan" <rbeatty@blm.gov>, "Corey Lyman (clyman@fs.fed.us)" <clyman@fs.fed.us>, "dan_miller@nps.gov" <dan_miller@nps.gov>, Eve Davies <Eve.Davies@pacificorp.com>, "Hillyard,Ryan" <ryan.hillyard@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Jeremy Jirak (jeremy_jirak@fws.gov)" <jeremy_jirak@fws.gov>, 'Kevin Colburn' <kcolburn@amwhitewater.org>, Warren Colyer <wcolyer@tu.org>
Subject: Broodstock Ponds Bird Netting Proposal - Email Vote

Hello ECC Members,

Thanks to everyone who made it on the call this morning. Following up on those discussions I am sending out the proposal for the Broodstock Ponds Bird Netting. This time sensitive proposal if approved now will allow the netting to be installed early enough this year to hopefully reduce bird predation. Please provide your email response to approve or not.

Thank you.

Mark Stenberg. MBA
PacifiCorp – Renewable Resources
208 547-7305

Bear River ECC - Record of Email Voting Broodstock Ponds Bird Netting Approval Vote Called by Stenberg, March 18, 2020		
	Name	Organization
x	Lyman	USFS
x	DeRito	Trout Unlimited
x	Van Every	IDEQ
x	Lewis	Idaho Rivers United
	Rich	Idaho Parks and Rec
x	Watkins	Idaho Fish and Game
x	Beatty	BLM
	Osborne	Sho-Ban Tribes
	Rosebrough	National Park Service
	Vincent	American Whitewater
x	Michalski	Greater Yellowstone
x	Stenberg	PacifiCorp
x	Bringhurst	USFWS

Attachment 2
2020 Habitat Enhancement Project Recommendations

**Bear River ECC
2020 Habitat Enhancement Project Rankings**

Proposal	Applicant	Description	ECC Funding & Overhead Requested	Matching Funds	In-kind Match	Total Project Cost	Ranking
Bear Creek & Station Creek Conservation Planning	Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp	Compile comprehensive design report and install beaver dam analogs, post-assisted structures, and wood additions to two streams.	\$42,000.00		\$15,000.00	\$57,000.00	133
Bear Creek Water Right	Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp	Perform a water right review for Bear Creek.	\$4,000.00		\$500.00	\$4,500.00	Combined with Bear Creek Conservation Planning
Broodstock Pond Bird Netting	Ryan Hillyard, Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Cover the broodstock ponds with netting to discourage avian predation on BCT in the ponds.	\$13,750.54			\$13,750.54	Expedited approval by email w/o ranking
Cottonwood Creek Habitat Enhancement	Kurt Iverson, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Restore 250 feet of streambank by installing toe rock and using willow clumps along the bank to provide quick establishment of woody vegetation. Other woody riparian vegetation will be planted to supplement the willow clumps.	\$13,500.00		\$2,000.00	\$15,500.00	114
Kackley and Cove Springs Riparian Habitat Restoration	Jared Meyers, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust	Plant native vegetation to restore riparian habitat along Kackley and Cove Springs.	\$28,050.00	\$1,000.00	\$14,624.00	\$43,674.00	139
Mill Hollow Aquatic Organism Passage	Lee Mabey, USDA Forest Service	Enlarge a road/stream crossing to enhance fish passage to approximately 0.5 miles of Mill Hollow and allow for continued beaver expansion throughout the drainage.	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$84,000.00	151

Proposal	Applicant	Description	ECC Funding & Overhead Requested	Matching Funds	In-kind Match	Total Project Cost	Ranking
Paris Creek Irrigation Diversion Design	Jim DeRito, Trout Unlimited	Project coordination, stakeholder meetings, stream survey, data assessment, alternatives development, and construction-ready design for a new point of diversion for irrigation canals on Paris Creek	\$71,500.00			\$71,500.00	152 (Outside the Action Area)
Fish Screen Repairs	Ryan Hillyard, Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Repair and replace dilapidated screen parts. These repairs are typically associated with chains, bearings, rubber stripping, etc.	\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00	Recommended to ECC without ranking (as in previous years)
Fish Screen Tender	Ryan Hillyard, Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Perform operations and maintenance of all fish screens on irrigation diversions within the action area of the license, the Bear River drainage, Idaho. Additional screens outside the action area are also tended (e.g., Thomas Fork, St. Charles Creek).	\$30,000.00		\$8,000.00	\$38,000.00	139
TOTAL			\$247,800.54			\$332,924.54	