

**Bear River ECC
Final Meeting Notes
May 19, 2021
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	Carson Watkins	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
x	Allison Michalski	Greater Yellowstone Coalition
	Ryan Beatty (proxy to Lyman)	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
x	Matt Schenk	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
	Jaime Campbell	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust

Commitments Made at the May 19, 2021 Meeting	
Upcoming Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 16, 2021 - Field Day. Site visits to 2021 land and water subject properties with Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust. • June 17, 2021 - Planning meeting at Kackley Springs (Kackley Demo), 10 a.m. Interested ECC members are invited to attend. • August 18, 2021 - Next ECC meeting, Idaho Department of Fish and Game's SE Regional Office.
All	<p>Coordination with inactive parties to the Settlement Agreement for the Paris Decommissioning agreement is requested as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau of Land Management & U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Park Service • Idaho Department of Fish and Game & Idaho Department of Environmental Quality - Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation • American Whitewater - Larry Dunn • PacifiCorp - ShoBan Tribe
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check in with Steven Smith regarding property status of the former Cottonwood Creek habitat enhancement project. Consider DeRito's suggestion to give the parcel further consideration for a potential conservation easement. • Bear Creek - Bring firm proposal from Fellows and water rights analysis to next ECC meeting. • Provide a firm project scope for Paris Decommissioning to Lyman.

Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange a meeting with Stenberg and surveyor to discuss Jensen correction. Report back to ECC with cost estimate. • Provide information on water rights encumbered on SSLT's Mink Creek projects.
Hillyard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information on fish populations and distribution in Mink Creek. Summarize Twin Lakes data. Consider future sampling. – Likely fall 2021.
DeRito	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let Blue Forest know it's OK to contact ECC members individually. Work with Steven Smith to set up meetings as needed.
Van Every	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult Steven Smith regarding specific potential projects with Blue Forest.
Lyman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an email update on work pending on Egley culvert.
Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain written confirmation that 2020 Cottonwood Creek project will not go forward.
Hugentobler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide notes on Mink Creek data request to Stenberg, Watkins, Hillyard, and Lucia. • 2021 funding award letters (counties and habitat enhancement projects). • Update ECC project forms - add ranking form to application, add note on planning projects to ranking form.
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

Email Decisions Made Since Last ECC Meeting

- Approved a budget increase for Bear Creek beaver dam analogs.
- Approved a modified 2021 Black Canyon whitewater boater flow schedule.

Decisions Made at This Meeting

- Approved 2021 habitat enhancement projects as recommended by the Funding Subcommittee (Attachment 1).

Additions to Agenda

None

Previous Meeting Notes

March meeting notes were approved without edits.

Calendar Review

The ECC's annual field day takes place Wednesday, June 16, 2021, and will include a field tour with Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust (SSLT) of three subject properties: 1) Johnson - Stock Valley; 2) Smith Bear River; and 3) *Boa Ogoi*.

Next regular ECC meeting takes place August 18, 2021, at Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Southeast Regional Office.

Updates

2021 Whitewater Boater Flows

Schenk asked about boater turnout during whitewater boater flows so far this year. Stenberg said boater numbers have ranged from 10 to 40 per day. Stenberg reported that the informational sign at the takeout regarding whitewater boater flows has been replaced with an updated one.

Blue Forest

DeRito told ECC members that Blue Forest would like to hold some smaller group meetings or Zoom meetings to explore opportunities with the ECC. Stenberg asked if the Mink Creek data might be helpful to them. DeRito said yes, and gave examples of the types of opportunities Blue Forest is interested in. Van Every will consult Steven Smith regarding specific potential projects. DeRito will let Blue Forest know it's okay to go ahead and contact ECC members/groups individually. He will also work with Steven Smith as needed to set up meetings.

Paris Decommissioning/Water Swap

(Note: Paris Decommissioning/Water Swap has been renamed Paris Creek Restoration Agreement)

Stenberg reported that a draft agreement is now complete and a field tour was held last week with representatives from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The group also visited the Paris sinkhole. Stenberg said PacifiCorp engineer Stewart Edwards has proposed a relatively simple fix for water loss to the sinkholes (there are actually two). However, the landowner is concerned about the loss of pasture that would entail. Stenberg noted there is no obligation for PacifiCorp to fix the sinkholes.

Because this agreement is a change from the original Bear River Settlement Agreement, all the original parties must sign this agreement in order for it to be approved. Stenberg said some of the less-active parties to the Settlement Agreement need to be looped in and requested help from more active members to accomplish this. Stenberg requested that coordination take place as follows:

- BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) - Coordinate with National Park Service
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) - Coordinate with Idaho Department of State Parks and the Governor's office.
- Stenberg - Shoban Tribe

Lyman said he would need a firm project scope to prepare a briefing that outlines the benefits of the new agreement for his agency.

Current Habitat Enhancement Projects

Stenberg reviewed the status of open habitat enhancement projects.

- Kackley Pond Demolition - Planning and permitting will take place this summer.
- Bear Creek Conservation Planning - In progress, invoice received from Anabran.
- Cottonwood Creek Enhancement - Proponent not proceeding with project.
- Kackley and Cove - In progress.
- Mill Hollow - Project language needs to be revised.
- Paris - Awaiting signed agreement.

Habitat Enhancement Fund Review

\$190,000 obligated, unspent

\$474,799 available for 2021 projects

Watkins requested an award letter for Phoslock treatment of the Cove Broodstock Ponds. Hillyard reported that treatment results are not promising so far. Schenk said IDEQ's data show no appreciable difference in phosphorus levels as yet.

2021 Habitat Enhancement Projects

Stenberg outlined changes to project ranking discussed by the subcommittee.

- Beginning in 2022, ECC project sponsors will submit a completed ranking form with project applications (long forms) with proposed scores (final score to be determined by the subcommittee).
- Planning projects will be ranked as though they would be implemented. A note will be added a note to the ranking form.

Stenberg reviewed 2021 habitat enhancement projects and rankings (Attachment 1). The subcommittee voted to recommend all 2021 projects for funding. The following revisions were made after the ranking meeting:

Dip Creek - Lyman recommended that the award amount be revised to \$22,000 to exclude funding for the 10th level fence, per ECC direction.

Kackley Demo - Stenberg said he has been offered a drone lidar flight, which will provide a detailed dataset for the project. He will then proceed with planning and design and apply for a Corps permit. Stenberg said he will also have Anabran advise on beaver. A planning meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2021, 10 a.m. Interested ECC members are invited to attend.

St. Charles Creek - Project withdrawn. Watkins suggested getting Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust (SSLT) involved to consider a conservation easement on the property in conjunction with the fish screen and possibly cattle exclusion fencing.

Proposal: Approve all 2021 Habitat Enhancement Projects as recommended by the subcommittee except St. Charles Creek, which was withdrawn by the project sponsor.

Bear River ECC – Record of Voting		
Approve 2021 Habitat Enhancement Projects as Recommended by the Funding Subcommittee		
	Name	Organization
yes	Lyman	USFS
yes	DeRito	Trout Unlimited
yes	Van Every	IDEQ
	Lewis	Idaho Rivers United
	Rich	Idaho Parks and Rec
yes	Watkins	Idaho Fish and Game
yes	Beatty (proxy to Lyman)	BLM
	Osborne	Sho-Ban Tribes
	Rosebrough	National Park Service
yes	Vincent	American Whitewater
yes	Michalski	Greater Yellowstone
yes	Stenberg	PacifiCorp
yes	Jirak	USFWS

Out-of-action-area projects will go to PacifiCorp for approval.

Bear Creek Water Right

Stenberg will bring a firm proposal from Fellows and a water right analysis to the next ECC meeting.

Next ECC meeting: August 18, 2021, IDFG’s Southeast Regional Office, Pocatello, Idaho.

Adjourn

Land and Water Fund Updates were not available.

Attachment 1: Approved 2021 Habitat Enhancement Projects

Bear River ECC - Approved 2021 Habitat Enhancement Projects

Proposal	Applicant & ECC Assignments	Description	ECC Funding & Overhead Requested	Matching Funds	In-kind Match	Total Project Cost	Ranking Score
<i>Boa Ogoi</i> Battle Creek Habitat Enhancement, Phase 1	Applicant: Brad Parry, Northwest Band of Shoshone ECC Sponsor: Jim DeRito, TU Funds Manager: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp	Design and planning for a new stream restoration structure on Battle Creek North, a spring water piping system, and a culvert under West Cache Canal. Design and installation of beaver dam analogs. Removal of non-native vegetation and replanting and reseeding of native plants.	\$55,000.00	\$135,000.00	\$11,716.00	\$201,716.00	120
Davis Diversion Fish Screen and Road Improvements	Applicant: Jim DeRito, TU ECC Sponsor: Ryan Hillyard, IDFG Funds Manager: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp	Improve a road-stream crossing, clean out a sediment trap, and plant additional willow clumps along the Davis Diversion fish screen on Cottonwood Creek.	\$2,500.00 <u>+ \$250.00</u> \$2,750.00	N/A	\$500.00	\$3,250.00	126
Dip Creek Riparian Fencing Out of action area	Applicant: Taylor Payne ECC Sponsor: Corey Lyman, USFS Funds Manager: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp	Replace a non-functioning electric fence with a permanent wooden rail fence to protect and enhance the riparian area along Dip Creek.	\$22,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$54,048.00	105
Fish Screen Repairs	Applicant: Ryan Hillyard, IDFG ECC Sponsor: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp Funds Manager: Carson Watkins, IDFG	Annual set-aside to repair and maintain fish screens throughout the Bear River drainage. Request includes \$1,000 to install a flow measurement device on the lowest fish screen on Fish Haven Creek.	\$9,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$9,000.00	Not Ranked
Fish Screen Tender	Applicant: Ryan Hillyard, IDFG ECC Sponsor: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp Funds Manager: Carson Watkins, IDFG	Operation and maintenance of all fish screens on irrigation diversions within the action area of the license, Bear River drainage, Idaho. A few fish screens outside the action area are also tended.	\$26,000.00 <u>\$4,000.00</u> \$30,000.00	N/A	\$8,000.00	\$38,000.00	139

Proposal	Applicant & ECC Assignments	Description	ECC Funding & Overhead Requested	Matching Funds	In-kind Match	Total Project Cost	Ranking Score
Kackley Pond Demo Design Support	Applicant: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp ECC Sponsor: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp Funds Manager: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp	Prepare a removal plan for the two ponds at Kackley Springs - drafting and survey support.	\$20,000.00	N/A	\$5,000.00	\$25,000.00	135
Paris Canyon Livestock Water Pipeline Out of action area	Applicant: Taylor Payne ECC Sponsor: Steven Smith, IDEQ Funds Manager: Mark Stenberg, PacifiCorp	Install a livestock watering system to replace the open ditch that feeds the Paris hydroelectric plant.	\$50,000.00	\$65,200.00	\$39,830.00	\$155,030.00	160
Stauffer Creek Fish Passage, Riparian, and Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project - Phase 1	Applicant: Corey Lyman, USFS ECC Sponsor: Corey Lyman, USFS Funds Manager: Jim DeRito, TU	Phase 1 Implementation: develop new irrigation practices and stock water in uplands.	\$90,000.00 + \$10,000 \$100,000.00	\$175,000.00	N/A	\$275,000.00	170
Stauffer Creek/ Oxborrow Diversion Design	Applicant: Ryan Hillyard, IDFG ECC Sponsor: Corey Lyman, USFS Funds Manager: Carson Watkins, USFS	Engineering design for two diversions with fish screens.	\$40,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$40,000.00	116
Thomas Fork Diversion Design Out of action area	Applicant: Ryan Hillyard, IDFG ECC Sponsor: Jim DeRito, TU Funds Manager: Carson Watkins, IDFG	Engineering design to replace an existing diversion on the Thomas Fork.	\$25,000.00	\$5,000.00	N/A	\$30,000.00	123
USFS Eightmile Creek Water Quality/Habitat	Applicant: Kara Green, USFS ECC Sponsor: Corey Lyman, USFS Funds Manager: Darby Seward, USFS	Pilot process-based restoration techniques on Eightmile Creek, install a relief culvert, and use bioengineering to stabilize 150 ft of streambank.	\$7,000.00		\$9,000.00	\$16,000.00	120
TOTAL			\$360,750.00				