

**Bear River ECC
Final Meeting Notes
August 17, 2022
Pocatello, ID**

ECC Meeting Participants		
	Name	Organization
x	Mark Stenberg	PacifiCorp
x	Jennifer Cornell	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
x	Jim DeRito	Trout Unlimited
x	Corey Lyman	U.S. Forest Service
	Matt Bringhurst	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	Carson Watkins	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
	Allison Michalski	Greater Yellowstone Coalition
x	Mike Kuyper	Bureau of Land Management
x	Charlie Vincent (remote)	American Whitewater
	Hunter Osborne	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
	Adam Zaragoza	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
	Susan Rosebrough	National Park Service
	Kevin Lewis	Idaho Rivers United
Others Present		
x	Steven Smith	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
x	Ryan Hillyard	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
x	Eve Davies (remote)	PacifiCorp
	Matt Lucia	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
x	Matt Schenk	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
x	Matt Coombs (remote)	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
	Jamie Campbell	Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
	Andy Stocks	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
	Keith Jones	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Commitments Made at the August 17, 2022 Meeting	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting: October 19, 2022. Field visits to Bartschi/Stauffer Creek and the Thomas Creek diversions.
Stenberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Taylor Payne for a status update on Dip Creek. Email an update to the ECC. Coordinate with Lyman to visit Kackley before snow. Distribute Bouwes' report to the ECC. Coordinate with Cirrus to copy Matt Schenk on the Paris joint permit application. Paris Decommissioning - Post amendment to the Bear River license, EA, and cover letters to FERC to the ECC's website for ECC review (early September). Per request by Lyman, provide a memo to accompany review materials that outlines project background and steps. Prepare draft pond removal plan for Kackley for ECC review.
DeRito	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check in on Davis Diversion/provide status update. Paris – Coordinate with Dan and Brad regarding the POD
Coombs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look into the cancelled Cottonwood Creek habitat enhancement project as a potential conservation easement.
Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on water rights encumbered on SSLT's Mink Creek projects.
Action items in blue have been carried over.	

Email Decisions Since Last Meeting

- Approved a budget increase of \$30,247.28 for the B&R Ranch conservation easement, bringing the total ECC commitment to \$695,897.28.

Decisions Made at This Meeting¹

- Approve Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust annual staff funding, increasing the amount to \$40,000.

Agenda Review

There were no additions to the day's agenda.

Project Updates

Bartschi/Stauffer Creek – Lyman reported that heat has delayed work on this project. Instream work with heavy equipment will take place in September. Lyman noted that he potentially found a leatherside chub in this reach of the river recently. The ECC will visit the project on its next regular meeting date (October 19, 2022). The day will also include a visit the Thomas Fork diversions.

Bloomington Paris – Lyman said the Forest Service has completed NEPA on this project and work on the water line should commence soon. Stenberg said PacifiCorp has a lease agreement with the stock companies underway.

Elkhorn Ranch – Hillyard reported that Idaho Department of Water Resources has said the water right on this parcel is a statutory claim and will most likely not be settled until the current Bear River adjudication process is complete. IDFG is currently working through this issue and the project is delayed pending outcome.

Fish Screen Repairs/Tender – Hillyard said IDFG has not yet been able to get in and replace screening material where repairs are needed--this will most likely take place in September or October. Hillyard said the screens on the Thomas Fork [being considered for habitat enhancement project funding] are designed differently than other screens and currently are not functioning well. Hillyard said redesign of these screens should be considered.

Cub River Fish Ladder Monitoring – Nine cutthroat were captured this year, the lowest number ever, and 17 brown trout, the highest ever. Monitoring will be continued. Forest Service offered to help Trout Unlimited with monitoring next year.

¹ See Land and Water Fund Updates for additional decisions.

Hull Fencing – Stenberg said this landowner does fencing for a living and has been good to work with.

Mussler – Smith said the landowner has applied for additional funding from another source. This source requires a one-year turnaround. However, the landowner’s stream alteration permit has expired, so it may be spring before work can proceed.

Kackley Pond Demo – Stenberg and Lyman will set a date to go out to this site before snow.

Beaver Dam Analogs - Anabran’s work is now complete. Stenberg will distribute the Bouwes’ final report to the ECC.

Mill Creek– Lyman reported that this project was completed in July and beaver have been using the area above and below the culvert.

Boa Ogoi – There have been no further updates since Parry submitted his report on the project. Stenberg said the Northwestern Band of Shoshone has been successful in obtaining additional funding for the project.

Davis Diversion – There have been no recent updates on this project. DeRito will check in on it.

Dip Creek – Stenberg will check in with Payne and email an update to the ECC.

Thomas Fork Diversion Design – Hillyard said he would like to discuss the possibility of removing the diversion and installing a pump with the project proponent. The landowner does not divert much water (approx. 5 cfs) but the diversion spans the entire stream. Hillyard said \$700,000 was the estimated cost to replace the diversion, so costs are high and applications to other funding sources were not successful. Keetch was cited as an example of a pump project funded by the ECC. The ECC will visit the Thomas Fork diversions during October visit to Bartschi.

Paris Decommissioning Update

The Environmental Assessment for removal of project infrastructure on Forest Service land is now complete. Ninety percent plans for new structures on Forest Service land and at the sink hole, as well as restoration on Forest Service land are coming today from River Structures. The 404 Permit, prepared by Cirrus, is going in in September. A pre-bid walk is planned September 15 to coordinate with those involved (including U.S Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, etc.) and to get bids for planned work. Schenk noted that the 404 application process has changed, there are now additional steps required, including some that require IDEQ, such as a preapplication meeting. Stenberg will coordinate with Cirrus to copy Matt Schenk on the joint application permit.

ECC Consultation – Stenberg will post the amendment to the Bear River license to the ECC’s webpage for ECC review in early September, as well as the Environmental Assessment and cover letters to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Lyman requested a memo to accompany review materials that outlines project background and steps.

DeRito will reach out to Dan and Brad regarding the POD.

ECC Membership Update

Patrick Kennedy will be IDFG’s new Southeast Regional fisheries manager and IDFG’s representative to the ECC.

Next ECC Meeting

October 19, 2022 - Field review of Bartschi/Stauffer Creek and Thomas Fork.

Agenda items include:

- High level review of past potential land and water projects for possible future funding consideration.