

The Bear River Hydroelectric Project License & Settlement Agreement

2012 UPDATE

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Hydro License Background

- U.S. hydro projects generally need a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to operate.
- These are typically 30-50 year licenses.
- Utilities are required under several laws to coordinate with State and Federal resource management agencies during relicensing.
- Involvement of interested parties and non-governmental organization are an important part of the licensing process.

Hydro License Background

- PacifiCorp worked with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Trout Unlimited, Idaho Rivers United, Greater Yellowstone Coalition and American Whitewater to produce the August 2002 Settlement Agreement (SA) that resolved issues around the relicensing.
- These parties plus the Governor's office are signatories.

Hydro License Background

- The SA was submitted to FERC with a license application.
- FERC Issued an Order for a 30 year license that adopted the SA on December 22, 2003.
- The signatories of the SA formed the Bear River Environmental Coordinating Committee (ECC).

SODA DAM

LAST CHANCE

GRACE DAM

ONEIDA DAM

• PRESTON

IDAHO
UTAH

CUTLER

• LOGAN

TO GREAT
SALT LAKE

BEAR RIVER

OUTLET
CANAL

LIFTON
PUMPS

BEAR
LAKE

RAINBOW
CANAL

• MONTPELIER

MUD
LAKE

WYOMING

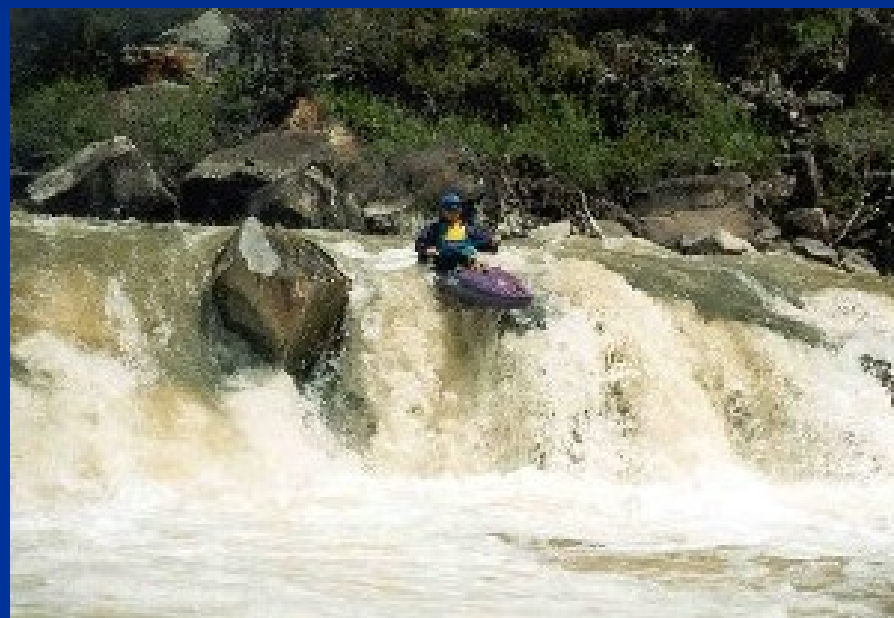
BEAR RIVER

Post License Study Provisions

- Bonneville cutthroat trout telemetry study.
- Analysis of Bonneville cutthroat trout genetic samples.
- Aerial photos and temperature imagery flight and analysis.
- Map of irrigation diversions to determine opportunity for screening, fish passage, and water conservation.
- Preparation of a Bonneville cutthroat trout restoration plan.
- Completion of Cultural Resource Surveys.
- Completion of Historic Property Management Plan.
- Completion of Land Management and Site Plans.
- Cove Dam Feasibility Study.

License Implementation Provisions

- Whitewater releases in Black Canyon and associated monitoring
- Minimum Flows and Ramp Rates at Soda and Oneida.
- Land Management Plans
 - Grace/Cove, Alexander and Oneida
- Recreation Management Plan
 - Campground Funding
 - Traffic Safety Plan
 - Caribou County Support
 - Law Enforcement Support
 - Upgrade Campground Facilities
 - Put-In and Take-Outs
 - Oneida Road – multiple items
 - Flow Phone & Website
- Kackley Springs Reconnect



Implementation Provisions Cont.

- Funding provided for a 3-year effort to developing a Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) broodstock.
- Funding provided for a conservation hatchery program thru. 2033.
- First efforts focused on BCT release in the Thatcher Reach.
- Non-native stocking of Thatcher reach ceased in 2012.



Implementation Provisions Cont.

- Funding is available for Land and Water Conservation (\$300,000/year in 2002 dollars).
 - This may include:
 - Fee Title Acquisition
 - Conservation Easements
 - Water Rights
 - 2,033 acres protected (Thru Oct. 2012)
 - 12 transactions
 - \$1,869,990 invested.



Implementation Provisions Cont.

- Funding is available for habitat enhancement.
- River, stream, riparian, wetland restoration efforts (\$167,000/year in 2002 dollars)
 - Benefits to native fish and water quality
 - Long-term effectiveness / techniques
 - Cost to benefit
 - Project significance
 - Watershed perspective
 - Partnerships / match funding
- As of Oct. 2012, \$1,305,090 in Grant Funds Distributed.
- As of Oct. 2012, 72 Projects Funded or Partially Funded.

Habitat Enhancement Fund Project Examples

- Photos follow:

Paris Creek Irrigation Diversion Screening



Paris Creek Riparian Fencing



Bailey Creek Culvert Upgrades



Cottonwood Creek Diversion Screening and Passage



Release of first Bonneville Cutthroat Trout from Conservation Hatchery Program and Kackley Springs



Kackley Springs Fish Sorting Facility



Irrigation Pump and Screen to
eliminate diversion and length of
canal.



Riparian Fencing in Oneida Canyon



Whiskey Creek Channel Reclamation



Any Questions?



Bear River Hydro Environmental Coordinator Contact

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