

Bear River Hydroelectric Project Settlement Agreement Continuation Work Sessions



January 17 & 18, 2024

January 17th, 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 via Teams

- Black Canyon Whitewater Releases and Oneida Summer Goal Flow - 1:00 – 2:45
- Break - 2:45 -3:00
- Recreation 3:00 – 4:00



Black Canyon Whitewater Releases and Oneida Summer Goal Flow

- 1) Overview of license articles - Stenberg
- 2) Overview of the six-year variable flow study - Gangemi
- 3) 2012 Boater Flow Agreement – Stenberg
- 4) 2019 Soda Spin Temperature Study and IDEQ Turbidity and Temperature Study. Present temperature data from these studies looking at fall flow question – Barker
- 5) Oneida Summer Goal Flow background and compliance – Baldwin
- 6) Roundtable discussion and Q&A
- 7) Brainstorm future vision for Black Canyon Whitewater Flows

Boating License Articles

Art. 407 – Black Canyon Monitoring Plan

Draft to FERC 12.23.2004

Approved by FERC 2.17.2005

Final ECC Plan filed with FERC 6.10.2005

2005, 2006 and 2007 baseline years

2008, 2009 and 2010 treatment years

Report Finalized after ECC review 9.12.2011

Art. 409 – Fish Stranding Minimization Plan

2007 ECC develops stranding study plan

2008 FERC approved suspension of minimization plan until stranding study is completed in 2010

Final Agreement on Boater Flows recommended continued suspension and 1 FT/HR downramp

Permanent suspension and ramp rate approved by FERC on 10.17.2012

Art. 418 – Boating Flow Release Plan

Slide gates were installed on Grace Dam in 2008

Boating License Articles - Continued

Art. 419 – Boating Flow Release Schedule

Six Year Study 2005 – 2010

2011 ECC Work Sessions, report of them to FERC 1.31.2012

Final Agreement on Boater Flows to FERC 5.18.2012

Four weekends of scheduled releases

Three 2-day and one 3-day events

April 1 to June 5 season for schedule releases

1 FT/HR downramp rate

Schedule was moved forward 1 week starting in 2016

Art. 420 – Oneida Operations Regime

Summer goal flow of 900 cfs below Oneida to minimize fluctuations

Annual Report of Oneida Operations to IDEQ

Art. 421 – Boating Flow Forecasting Plan

Submit schedule to FERC by March 20 each year

Art. 422 – Website and Flow Phone

Maintain schedule and flow info.

Final Agreement for Black Canyon Boater Flows: Extended Study Period & Adaptive Management

- Extended Study Period 2012-2104
 - IDEQ and IDFG to continue study of water quality and fisheries
 - Turbidity and Temperature
 - BCT spawning, fall population monitoring and, movement and mortality
 - Defined “Actions” to trigger based on extended monitoring results
- Down ramp rate of 1 FT/HR
- Three 2-day and one 3-day scheduled releases, April 1 to June 5
- 900 cfs or inflow
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Nighttime flow of 200 cfs between releases
- Early year flow forecast requirement remains
- 10.17.2012 FERC responds PacifiCorp has fulfilled consultation and reporting requirements

Break

Recreation

- 1) Review license articles – Stenberg
- 2) Review measures from Recreation Management Plan – Stenberg
- 3) Review last FERC Form 80 recreation data compared to 2023 data collection – Duffin
- 4) Roundtable discussion and Q&A
- 5) Brainstorm future vision for recreation facilities and management



Recreation License Articles

Article 416

Prepare Recreation Plan, approved by FERC 1.31.2005

Plan addresses upgrading, construction, operation, and maintenance of existing and proposed recreation facilities at the project.

Annual funding to BLM for Oneida campground support

Annual funding to Caribou County for Alexander day-use sites

Article 417

Prepare a traffic safety plan (Included in Recreation Plan)

Oneida Project Road upgrades and maintenance from Siphon to Maple Grove Campground

Sign maintenance

Dust abatement 100 feet each direction along Red Point and Maple Grove campgrounds (expanded to all of the recreation sites)

Annual funding to Franklin County Sheriff to support Oneida

[Land Ownership and Recreation Sites](#)

[Commission Approved Recreation Facilities](#)

END

Habitat Enhancement Fund

1. License Article Review – Stenberg
2. Program Highlights – DeRito/Lyman
3. Stream Restoration and Screens – Kennedy
4. Species of Greatest Conservation Need -
5. Roundtable Discussion and Q&A
6. Brainstorm Future Vision.



Habitat Enhancement License Article

Article 405

Annual Funding for Habitat Enhancement Projects
167k in 2002 dollars to be escalated annually
(\$267k in 2023)

Unspent funds carry forward

ECC Ranking and Approval Process

Action Area of Bear River and Tributaries, from confluence
of Outlet Canal and Bear River to state line

PacifiCorp to facilitate process and manage funds

Quick Numbers

\$3,529,717 Spent on Projects
170 Projects Funded

Pause

Water Quality

1. License Article Review - Stenberg
2. Review 401 CWA Certification and approval letters – Stenberg
3. Last Chance/Grace and Oneida WQ Studies Overview – Barker
4. CWA 401 Certification Process for License Amendment - Stenberg
5. Roundtable Discussion and Q&A
6. Brainstorm Future Vision



Water Quality Monitoring Plans

Article 413

Licensee shall file with the Commission the water quality monitoring plans identified in Conditions 1(a) and 5 of the 401 Water Quality Certification. Upon Commission approval the licensee shall implement the plans.

Water Quality Study Plan Status

The 2007 Water Quality Monitoring Report for the Grace-Cove Development was submitted to IDEQ in January 2008. IDEQ then verbally informed PacifiCorp that water quality monitoring at Grace-Cove could be discontinued, two years before scheduled, as they found no indication of project contribution to exceedances of water quality criteria. A formal letter was received from IDEQ during 2009, signing off on Grace-Cove Water Quality Monitoring Study.

A final Oneida Water Quality Monitoring Report was submitted to the IDEQ April 6, 2007. The collection of data for this 18-month study was completed in October of 2005. During 2008, discussions were held between PacifiCorp and IDEQ concerning the ability to determine project contributions to exceedances of water quality at the Oneida Project based on the results of the study. In 2009, agreement was reached with IDEQ that the Oneida Project does not significantly cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality standards.

License Amendment CWA 401 Cert. Process

License capacity amendment will need CWA 401 Certification

All actions in the License Capacity Amendment will require 401 Certification

Oneida PSH new facility and actions associated
20-year license extension that covers SA actions

Process

Complete Oneida WQ Report

Modelling of PSH operations to evaluate water quality questions

Informal discussions with IDEQ late 2024

Provide 30-day Notice to IDEQ

Apply for 401 Certification when draft License Capacity Amendment is available

Side Note: IPDES permit application will be needed probably when construction plans are complete.

Pause

Fisheries

1. License Article Review – Stenberg
2. Conservation Hatchery MOA – Stenberg
3. Conservation Aquaculture – Kennedy
4. Future Fishery Evaluation Needs – Kennedy
5. Roundtable Discussion and Q&A
6. Brainstorm Future Vision



Fisheries License Articles

Article 403

BCT Restoration Study Plan was completed in 2004

Included study plans for:

Genetic sample analysis

Irrigation diversion/barrier mapping

Aerial Photography

Telemetry Studies

Broodstock Development

Thermal Imaging was completed in 2007

Work on Irrigation Diversion mapping was discontinued by the ECC in 2007

Different Irrigation Diversion Mapping study undertaken by IDFG with ECC Funds

Genetics Study was completed by IDFG in 2007

Telemetry Study was completed by IDFG in 2009

PacifiCorp prepared the synthesis BCT Restoration Plan in 2008

Broodstock funding MOA between PC and IDFG was finalized in 2008. Starting three-year broodstock development effort.

Fisheries License Articles Cont.

Article 404

Conservation Hatchery Plan

Plan was completed in 2004 that describes the use of funds for the stocking of BCT in the action area.

A draft Conservation Hatchery MOA was executed between PC and IDFG in 2012.

Local private pond was used for holding broodstock near Niter.

Broodstock ponds were constructed on PacifiCorp lands at the Decommissioned Cove Plant with ECC funds in 2017. Cove Development cooling water infrastructure was repurposed to deliver spring water.

Lunch Break

Land Management

- 1) License Article Review – Stenberg
- 2) Overview of Site Plans – Stenberg
- 3) Current Challenges – Stenberg
- 4) Roundtable and Q&A
- 5) Brainstorm Future Vision



Land Management License Articles

Article 424

Land Management Plan

Submitted and approved by FERC in 2006. The LMP included the Shoreline Buffer Zone Plan and the Cove Bypass Reach Fencing Plan as well as the outlines for five Site Plans for Grace-Cove, Oneida, Soda, Grace Dam, and Last Chance (Grace Dam and Last Chance were later combined). Site Plans to be completed within five years. Implementation to be completed within 10 years. LMP was updated in 2011 and approved by FERC in 2014.

Article 425

Shoreline Buffer Zone Plan

Article 426

Cove Bypass Reach Fencing Plan

Idaho Lands							
	Includes fee owned habitat and land leased out for ag, conservation easements, conservation leases, flood lands and federal grazing rights.						
	Does not include hydro operations lands and inundated lands.						
Ashton					412		
Bear Lake County					2787		
Alexander					1045		
Grace					273		
Oneida					1245		
Last Chance					280		
Grace / Cove					271		
						6313	Acres

Current Challenges

Neighbor weed issues

Off road use

Fence maintenance

Cattle trespass

Trash

Woody encroachment in Oneida Canyon

Loss of forbs in Oneida pastures

END