

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Draft Meeting Notes
December 19, 2013
1:00 – 3:00 pm
US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Next meeting: January 23, 2014 1-3 pm

Please visit the WAG website:

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/north-fork-cda-river-subbasin-wag>

Contact Kajsa Stromberg with any questions:

(208) 666-4633 or Kajsa.Stromberg@deq.idaho.gov

Participants: Doug England, Barbara Hansen, Will Young, Ryan Foote, Diane Partridge, Bob Clark, Bill Rust, Jim Ekins, Dan Guy, Brice Shoemaker, Ed Lider, Leslee Stanley, Sandy Podsaid, Marie Pengilly, Audrey Squires, Kajsa Stromberg

Meeting Purpose: To convene the Watershed Advisory Group for the purposes of water quality improvements and protection in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Subbasin through Total Maximum Daily Load development and implementation.

- Introductions, review agenda, & distribute previous meeting notes
- USFS staffing changes:
 - Ryan Foote was introduced as the new Deputy District Ranger for the USFS Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District. He recently joined us from the Lassen National Forest in California to replace Kim Johnson who retired.
 - Will Young was introduced as the new Fisheries Biologist for the USFS Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District. He recently joined us from the Tongass National Forest in Alaska to replace Chris James who moved on to a promotion in Arizona.
 - The USFS Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District will also have a new hydrologist joining their staff in late January.
 - Barb Hansen, Recreation Program Lead for the USFS Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District, attended the meeting in place of Claire Pitner who moved on to a position in Oregon.

- USFS Beaver Creek Project – The USFS is hoping to publish a draft decision document for the Beaver Creek Project soon, possibly January 2014. Ryan Foote or Chad Hudson are the contacts for more information or questions about that project.
- Draft temperature TMDLs – DEQ submitted the draft temperature TMDL to EPA in July 2013 and is still awaiting EPA's approval.
- Beaver Creek and Rivers Edge Projects & 319 Proposals – The North Idaho Fly Casters worked with local landowners in Beaver Creek (Ingrid Madsen) and on the NFCDA at Rivers Edge (Dan Guy) to develop bank and riparian improvement projects and a proposal to this year's DEQ 319 granting program. This was supported by the WAG and the Fly Casters submitted an application to the 319 program for funding.

The funding decisions for the 319 program have not yet been made, but other projects in the region were initially ranked higher. Kajsa inquired whether the project proponents would like to pursue other funding sources to keep the project moving forward. The Fly Casters said they'd like to wait and see if the 319 funds come through before pursuing any other grants. Dan Guy said he was interested in looking at other funding sources.

Bill Lillibridge was working on draft engineering designs for these projects and the draft designs have not yet been received. Bill Rust suggested that we need to explain to the Basin Advisory Group (BAG) the proposed techniques for channel design using structures rather than dredging. Kajsa suggested a presentation from Mike Stevenson about BLM's similar work in Pine Creek. The WAG supported inviting Mike to the next BAG meeting.

Ed Lider said it was a real challenge to secure cost-share for work on private lands. There was a suggestion that we could try again for a 319 grant for these projects next year and perhaps also invite Bill Lillibridge to the BAG presentation.

- WAG Representation – There has been some turnover of WAG members over time. Kajsa said she'd like to identify new representatives for agriculture, forest products, and environmental interests. There were a few ideas from WAG members and Kajsa suggested we revisit the topic at the next meeting.
- Cooperative Recreation Plan – Kajsa described the WAG's Cooperative Recreation Plan and how it was produced in 2011 as a "Version 1" intentionally to accommodate updates and future revisions as needed. Kajsa asked whether based on changed WAG membership and/or changed circumstances if the WAG would like to do a revision of the plan. The WAG discussed the topic. Bill Rust suggested spending our energy looking for grants rather than revising the plan. Bob Clark said he thinks the plan still meets our needs. Ed Lider suggested the WAG go after funding of projects. The WAG members in attendance unanimously decided not to revise the plan. Instead, we will focus on implementing projects and securing funding to support them.
- Respect the River Fund – Kajsa reported progress developing a draft MOU between DEQ, USFS, and the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation to establish the Respect the River Fund. This fund would be administered by the IFWF to accept donations and grants and to pay for projects under our Cooperative Recreation Plan and USFS River

Corridor Plan. A draft MOU is being reviewed by the partners and will set up a steering committee with WAG involvement to make decisions.

- River Access – The North Idaho Fly Casters have submitted a grant proposal to the Federation of Fly Fishers to support improvements at river access for Graham Creek and Shoshone Gage Station sites. This work would be in cooperation with the Forest Service (who manage those two sites) and IDFG.
- Horse Haven – We discussed issues with people trespassing on Del Kerr’s property at the Horse Haven landing strip in the middle of the Moose Drool restoration project area. Del does not support the damage they are doing, but is having a difficult time getting them under control. We discussed signage and help with outreach to the public. We discussed potentially having the North Idaho Fly Casters annual Conservation Festival with support from the WAG at the Horse Haven site during summer 2014. June 2014 was suggested.
- Other Related Items –
 - Funding for operations and maintenance of access sites, bathrooms, and other projects can be challenging to find. We discussed needing to identify those funding needs and potential sources.
 - Jim Ekins said UI Extension can help develop signs, brochures and other outreach/educational materials.
 - North Idaho Fly Casters said they’re available to help support fisheries improvement projects in the future.
- Streams & Sediment TMDL Review – Kajsa provided a handout showing streams in the North Fork Coeur d’Alene Subbasin that were listed as impaired by excess sediment in the 2010 Integrated Report. She reviewed streams proposed for delisting in the 2012 Integrated Report (Steamboat Creek, Tepee Creek (2 segments), and Yellowdog Creek). These included 4 waterbodies and 72 stream miles.

At the last WAG meeting, we discussed 3 more waterbodies in Upper Jordan Creek that are being considered for sediment delisting in the 2014 Integrated Report. Another 2 waterbodies in the Lost Creek drainage are other potential streams that may have attained sediment goals and could be proposed for sediment delisting in the 2014 Integrated Report. This means, 5 more waterbodies and another 41 stream miles could potentially be identified as no longer impaired by sediment. Remaining listings include 24 waterbodies and 300 stream miles.

The WAG supported continuing to investigate these streams. It was suggested that we look at other candidate streams for review and consider PIBO datasets to support the assessments. Streams suggested by the WAG included:

- Lower Tepee Creek
- North Fork Coeur d’Alene River between Tepee and Yellowdog
- Shoshone Creek upstream of Falls Creek
- Falls Creek