

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Draft Meeting Notes

May 22, 2014

1:00 – 3:30 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Next meeting: July 17, 2014 1-3:30 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: Carol Lapan, Sandra Raskell, Ed Lider, Melissa Hendrickson, Ryan Foote, Fred Brackebusch, Jamie Brunner, Laura Laumatia, Archie Gray, Bob Clark, 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
- Temperature TMDLs approved – The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Subbasin total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) were approved by EPA in April 2014. The TMDLs are now effective for all Clean Water Act purposes. The TMDLs and EPA approval letter are all available on DEQ's website here: <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/tmdls/table-of-sbas-tmdls/coeur-dalene-river-north-fork-subbasin.aspx>
- 2014 Integrated Report – The 2014 Idaho Integrated Report of statewide water quality will be prepared soon. The 2012 Integrated Report was submitted to EPA, but was not yet approved. Upon its approval, the 2014 report will be prepared. There are several streams discussed by the WAG that will be proposed for sediment delisting since they are no longer impaired by excess sediment. These include Upper Jordan, Cub, Calamity, and Lost Creeks. Kajsa will keep the WAG apprised of progress.
- Coeur d'Alene Lake Management – Jamie Brunner (DEQ) and Laura Laumatia (Coeur d'Alene Tribe) gave a presentation about Coeur d'Alene Lake Management and how the North Fork CdA Subbasin fits into context with the lake. They described the lake's watershed and history, including the deposition of metals from mine waste. They also described the cooperative management efforts of the state of Idaho and the Tribe to address the metals concerns in the lake. The state of Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe adopted a joint Lake Management Plan in 2009. Because the solubility of metals is affected by nutrients and oxygen, the plan is a voluntary nutrient management

framework. A major component of the work includes monitoring and assessment to identify trends, prioritize projects, and evaluate progress. Projects are desired to reduce nutrients, especially phosphorus, in tributaries to the lake. Projects in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene Subbasin can reduce phosphorus in the lake and contribute to an overall improvement in the Coeur d'Alene Lake basin.

Awareness and action are also key components to the plan (in addition to monitoring), and both are accomplished by connecting with WAGs, which represent the other key component of partnerships. WAGs help with awareness of what's going on in the watersheds where they are invested and help identify actions and partners to accomplish them. In addition, they help by serving as a conduit for communication.

See PowerPoint presentation on WAG web page.

- New Idaho Forest Practices Act "Shade Rule" – Archie Gray (IDL) gave a presentation about new rules under the Idaho Forest Practices Act pertaining to streamside tree retention and shade. The new rules go into effect July 1, 2014 and govern the number of trees allowed to be harvested within stream protection zones. The rules are intended to provide adequate stream shade.

See PowerPoint presentation on WAG web page.

- USFS Beaver Creek Project – Ryan Foote (USFS) said there was an objection for the Beaver Creek Project based on water quality concerns from Kootenai Environmental Alliance (KEA). He said the USFS met with KEA and addressed the concerns. The project record of decision has been signed by INPF Forest Supervisor and they hope to implement the project soon.
- Horse Haven & Conservation Festival – A press release was distributed in May to let people know about increased law enforcement in the Horse Haven area and an emphasis on cleaning things up and restoration of riparian areas. A grant application is being prepared to obtain funding from Yamaha Foundation for signs. The North Idaho Fly Casters plan to host their annual Conservation Festival at the site on August 23rd and want to install the signs and perform other work on private land in the area.
- 319 applications – Applications for DEQ's nonpoint source pollution reduction grants are due August 1, 2014. There was interest in the WAG to resubmit projects previously submitted.
- Respect the River! – The Respect the River Facebook page has more than 1,800 likes and has been very active for discussion and sharing information. The banner will go up before Memorial Day weekend. Colter Smart is back for the season as the USFS River Ranger.