

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

DRAFT

Meeting Notes Compiled by Kristie McEnroe

April 21st, 2011

1:00 – 3:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Next Meeting: **June 2011 Details TBA**

Please visit the WAG Website:

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/about/regions/north_fork_cda_river_wag/index.cfm

Contact Kajsa Stromberg with any questions:

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

Participants: Sherry Klaus, Roy Faler, Larry Yergler, Clair Pitner, Chris James, Kajsa Stromberg, Kristie McEnroe, Don Martin, Bill Rust, Ingrid Madsen, Ryan Glynn

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.

Agenda items and discussion:

- Updates from IDEQ and WAG members: Introductions were made, Kajsa passed around the agenda and meeting notes from the March meeting. During that meeting, KK Prussian (USFS) presented regarding the “Moose Drool” aquatic restoration project. If you are interested in more information about that project, please contact KK Prussian at (208) 769-3067.
- Discussion - River Recreation and Management Plan:

USFS River Corridor Plan:

Claire Pitner from the Forest Service updated the WAG on the USFS River Corridor Plan project and presented an updated PowerPoint to the WAG. The project focuses on managing recreation on the North Fork and Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. They hope to provide recreationists with a safe, enjoyable, high quality recreation experience along the corridors of the North Fork and the Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. Currently, the goals are 1) to restore and rehabilitate riparian areas where resource damage has occurred and prevent new impacts associated with recreational use; 2) to provide a framework for identifying locations that need rehabilitation, identify locations where development may be appropriate to improve access and safety for recreationists; 3) to educate river users to understand “leave no trace” ethics and avoid negative environmental impacts; and 4) to develop partnerships and

volunteer opportunities with land management agencies, land owners, user groups and other entities to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the plan. To date they are still doing data collection. The plan's focused goals are to accommodate existing use, mitigate resource damage, prevent new damage, and improve river access, sanitation and parking. There was discussion on where the Forest Service was going with their plan and what they hoped to accomplish. The Forest Service is very interested in public opinions so they can modify their plans and policies to accommodate as many ideas as possible. One suggestion from WAG members was to open campgrounds longer during the year. The Forest Service plans to post draft information on the WAG website for review. The WAG is encouraged to submit comments to Claire Pitner at (208) 769-3033 or cpitner@fs.fed.us.

Cooperative Recreation Plan:

The University of Idaho cooperators (Tammi Laninga and Nick Brown) are really close to being done with the draft Cooperative Recreation Plan. They were unable to attend this meeting, but we will be able to present it to the WAG soon. Another draft is expected in May 2011 which can be finalized before summer. Contact Kajsa with questions or comments on this project.

Grant Application for Drinking Water Protection:

Shoshone County sponsored a grant application to the IDEQ Drinking Water program for source water protection in partnership with IDEQ surface water quality program in CDA and the USFS. Originally, the amount requested was \$40,000 to cover portable toilets, dumpsters, and an education campaign. The application had to be revised to \$20,000. The County will be notified by May 27th of the grant award.

- North Fork Coeur d'Alene Habitat Improvement Project – 2011 Applications:
Kajsa Stromberg and Sherry Klaus went through the applications for the North Fork Coeur d'Alene Habitat Improvement Project applications and presented the WAG with the candidates for WAG comment. Kajsa recommended having a workshop at one or more of the sites with construction last year and discuss weeds and bring in experts on identification and different tools for managing weeds. The thought was to set aside a June afternoon to visit sites. The WAG agreed that sounded like a good idea. Kajsa also mentioned a bank stabilization workshop so the WAG could see some of the techniques that are being used sometime in July or August. The WAG will focus on workshops and field trips in the next few months.
- North Fork Coeur d'Alene Sediment TMDL review:
The North Fork Coeur d'Alene Subbasin sediment TMDL five year review field validation project is in the currently in the final stages of analysis and report preparation. Once it has been reviewed, Kajsa and partners will present it to the WAG. So far, quite a few streams seem to be looking really good and likely meeting the beneficial uses. Kajsa would really like to showcase what's working

in hopes the WAG can use that knowledge to tackle other streams that haven't yet met their water quality goals.

Next WAG meeting is scheduled for June 2011. Details TBA.

All Presentations and Handouts will be posted of the WAG website:

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/about/regions/north_fork_cda_river_wag/index.cfm