

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

DRAFT

Meeting Notes

March 24th, 2011

1:00 – 3:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Next Meeting: **April 21st, 2011 1:00 – 3:00 pm at USFS Building in Smelterville, ID**

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: Edward Lider, Mike Mihelich, Sherry Klaus, Ashley McFarland, Roy Faler, Larry Runkle, Bob Burke, Fred Brackebusch, Larry Yergler, Bob Clark, Claire Pitner, Don Martin, Chris James, KK Prussian, Kristie McEnroe, 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.

Agenda Items and Discussion:

- IDEQ update on Draft Temperature TMDL: The Draft Temperature TMDL has come back from the State office technical editing and will require additional work to incorporate extensive edits. Kajsa Stromberg passed out some pictures from a DEQ trip out to monitor the streams after a flood event.
- Beaver Creek Watershed Assessment: Ashley McFarland from the University of Idaho Extension partnered with Idaho Panhandle National Forest; Aaron Prussian, Fisheries Biologist and Chris James, Aquatics Program Manager, and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality; Kajsa Stromberg, Watershed Coordinator; provided a PowerPoint updating the WAG on the Beaver Creek Watershed Assessment. Its goal was to conduct a watershed assessment to provide a foundation and framework for improving conditions in the Beaver Creek Watershed. In the presentation many slides showed maps of model results for road sediment production and delivery from forest roads using a protocol called GRAIP. This was measured by the road surface, where the road originated and condition. It was then put through models to quantify by segment length. The sediment was measured in tons per mile per year. The GRAIP model also estimated sediment delivery from specific drain points. The top 25 drain points in terms of sediment delivery are producing 63% of the sediment. Only three percent of the total drain points deliver 90% of sediment to streams. This means that not all roads are failing and it is now easier to pinpoint

problem areas. The findings estimated that Trail Creek exports 45% of the total sediment.

- The WAG discussed the U of I presentation and the current conditions of Carbon Creek, Beaver creek and discussed possible avenues of funding.

Shoshone county would like to do more but said they don't have the funds to fix the over \$500,000 worth of damaged caused by the flooding. The WAG may have grant options that qualify to get some funding. A grant from DEQ's 319 program might also be a candidate.

When DEQ went to assess the area, they found that habitat improvement projects and the projects that were done last year on the main river looked really well. The Beaver creek site didn't seem to hold up as well. Hopefully later in the year some of the willows will start to sprout. Floodplain planting looked good but the instream work was changed by the flood and we don't know yet the extent of damage.

- Claire Pitner from the Forest Service updated the WAG on the on the project they have to plan for 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. Its goals are to restore and rehabilitate riparian areas where resource damage has occurred and prevent new impacts associated with recreational use, provide a framework for identifying locations that need rehabilitation, identify locations where development may be appropriate to improve access and safety for recreationists, educate river users to understand "leave no trace" ethics and avoid negative environmental impacts, and 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.

The most important item she stressed was that the USFS would like to work alongside the programs already in place to develop a common set of goals and strategies. She expects to have an updated presentation within the next couple of months; her goal was to have a lot written by the beginning of the summer. She has met with the Shoshone County Commissioners, Sheriff's Department and the Public Works Department. They are trying to develop a plan for the development of outhouses and boat ramps and would appreciate any feedback regarding specific areas of interest the WAG may offer. The USFS plan and North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Cooperative Recreation Plan being completed by the WAG will be coordinated with each other.

- The Forest Service, DEQ and Shoshone County have pursued a grant for drinking water which was just submitted for \$40,000. It is supported by the Central Shoshone County Water District whose major source for water is the well at Enaville which is affected by the surface water quality. They are looking to put out outhouses, dumpsters, signage, recycling containers and education as many people don't realize

they are actually influencing the drinking water for the area. The education portions and the signage would probably be coming out the following summers with the “Porta Potties” and dumpsters coming out this summer. The new drinking water treatment facility is supposed start operation this spring.

- KK Prussian from the USFS presented a PowerPoint on a proposed project called Moose Drool located in the headwaters of the Little North Fork Coeur d’Alene River including Iron Creek. The project is intended to improve aquatic habitats and water quality and plans include road treatments, partial removal of railroad beds, and instream work. The project could also generate jobs for both Shoshone and Kootenai County. KK presented on extensive assessment work conducted to develop plans and said the NEPA public environmental review process would begin soon. She invited WAG input and written comments on the project. Kajsia said the project seemed to be beneficial for water quality and could produce important improvements related to sediment and temperature TMDLs.

Next WAG meeting is scheduled for April 21st. The WAG agreed to skip a May meeting and meet again in June. In June the WAG would like to schedule a time to take a look at the North Fork Habitat Improvement Projects that were done last year.

All presentations and handouts will be posted on the WAG website:

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