

**North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group**

**DRAFT**

**Meeting Notes**

**January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**1:00 – 3:00 pm**

**US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID**

Next Meeting: **Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 1:00 – 3:00 pm**

Please visit the WAG Website:

[http://www.deq.idaho.gov/about/regions/north\\_fork\\_cda\\_river\\_wag/index.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/about/regions/north_fork_cda_river_wag/index.cfm)

Contact Kajsa Stromberg with any questions:

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**Participants:** Dan Guy, Clair Pitner, Carol LaPan, George Hemphill, W.C. Rust, Larry Runkle, Sherry Klaus, Ashley McFarland, Bob Clark, Bob Burke, Bob Clark, Bob Bevins, Larry Yergler, Sandy Schlepp, Kim Johnson, Kajsa Stromberg, Kristie McEnroe, and Tammi Laninga via teleconference.

**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. Meeting notes for the October 28, 2010 meeting were circulated for review and posted on the WAG's website.

**Agenda items and discussion:**

- **IDEQ updates:** Kajsa Stromberg passed out a graph of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River's discharge at Enaville for December 5, 2010 through January 19, 2011 with a comparison of peak flow events. Kajsa also passed around an announcement about DEQ grant funding available for drinking water protection. The WAG members discussed the new treatment plan that should be opening soon. The Draft Temperature TMDL is in DEQ internal review and editing and we are anticipating opening the public comment period in late February or March.
- **North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Habitat Improvement Project:** Sherry Klaus from Benewah SWCD provided a PowerPoint presentation to update the WAG members on the barbs and planting progress. The WAG member discussed the cost of the project. Sherry said the land owners provided around 25% of the costs. There is still funding remaining from the grant because some of the sites came out below expected costs. Plans for 2011 are for planting only without further construction. We will be soliciting applications for participation in 2011.

- 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; Kajsia 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 there were many slides showing the map model of road sediment production in tons per year which outlined the top 25 drain points using a protocol called GRAIP. The crews also performed rapid stream assessments following the RASCAL protocol which produced maps that will assist in the decision making process. Ashley said hopefully the info they've gotten back from these programs will help them pinpoint and prioritize project areas. Ashley expects the draft report to be done the end of February, and then they will focus on getting the maps produced and finalized report back.
- USFS River Corridor Planning: Claire Pitner from the USFS provided a PowerPoint presentation on managing recreation on the North Fork and Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River in hopes of providing 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 source 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. The USFS is open to feedback and comments on their program ideas.
- River management plan by Coeur d'Alene Preservation Committee and University of Idaho: Tammi Laninga from the University of Idaho outlined the current management plan and the need for a new group to take leadership. Their goal is to get some public support for funding relating to river access, sanitation and education for users. They have a draft plan that was originally done by Environmental Inc that they built from to create the current draft plan. The study included river access from Albert's Landing to Pritchard. There are 4 planning objectives: recreation, land use, aquatic habitat and terrestrial habitat. They had also identified several way points along the river – there were 55 sites where there is either current access or sites that are commonly being used by the public for access, they mapped the sites and had recommendations. A copy of the draft plan will be made available on the WAG website.

Kajsa Stromberg asked the WAG members if they could reach a consensus on whether or not to help the UI complete the River Management Plan. All WAG members present agreed the WAG would like to participate. The WAG members agreed some sort of plan was needed but they need to find funding. One idea that was mentioned was possible grants for parking and access, but they'd need to have a plan in place before approaching the funding entities for assistance. Bob Clark of the North Idaho Fly Casters informed the members that the fly casters have been studying the same issue and they have 12 sites on the river they believe would be sufficient to support a launch with parking. The WAG commitment for the River Management Plan would be to review the plan and report their comments back to the University of Idaho. The WAG also agreed to collaborate with the USFS river corridor planning process and complete the River Management Plan with UofI this spring.

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