

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

**DRAFT**

**Meeting Notes  
October 28, 2010  
1:00 – 3:00 pm**

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

Next Meeting: **Thursday, January 20, 2010**

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:

(208) 666-4633 or [Kajsa.Stromberg@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Kajsa.Stromberg@deq.idaho.gov)

**Participants:** Chris James, Bob Clark, Ed Lider, Mike Mihelich, Bob Burke, Fred Brackebusch, Ashley McFarland, Vern Hanson, Roy Faler, 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.

Meeting notes for the September 23, 2010 meeting were circulated for review and posted on the WAG's website.

### **Agenda items and discussion:**

- North Idaho Fly Casters Update on Short-Riley Creeks Restoration Project with USFS: Bob Clark provided a project update. He said the road decommissioning and improvements and the instream work were completed and they are finishing reporting and paperwork. Fish passage has been opened up for approximately 5 miles of streams in the Short Creek drainage. There may be some additional work done in 2011 and the site may be a great field visit for the WAG.
- North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Habitat Improvement Project: Construction of barbs and plantings began in late October and several WAG members missed the October meeting to participate in work on Beaver Creek sites. The group anticipated completion of the project through November and final reporting in December.
- Beaver Creek Watershed Assessment: The USFS, DEQ and University of Idaho Extension have been making progress on the Beaver Creek Watershed

Assessment. Ashley McFarland provided a PowerPoint presentation describing the work. Crews have collected information on forest roads, their condition, and potential for erosion using a protocol called GRAIP. Crews have also conducted BURP surveys at two sites, tested for *E. coli*, and performed rapid stream assessments following the RASCAL protocol. The information will be analyzed with a synthesis report coming this spring. **The PowerPoint has been posted on the WAG website.**

- Temperature TMDL Development: A draft temperature TMDL for temperature-impaired streams in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Subbasin was prepared for WAG review prior to a formal public comment period. DEQ requested WAG comments to be received by Oct. 22. Comments were received from Mike Mihelich and Ed Lider while additional discussions were held with IDFG, IDL and the USFS. DEQ is addressing questions, incorporating comments and undergoing internal review of the draft.

Kajsa asked whether the WAG could reach consensus approving a public comment period for the temperature TMDL. The WAG members present (except Mike Mihelich of KEA) asked that a letter be prepared requesting clarification on demonstration of natural background conditions. Kajsa will prepare a draft letter on the WAG's behalf to seek clarification. WAG members also expressed a desire to include more information and maps about land use and disturbance, natural background conditions, information on modeling error and limitations, clarification on demonstration of attainment and specifics of shade monitoring, a desire to evaluate model error and variability in measurements. With these comments noted, all WAG members present agreed to go forward with public comment. They requested a wait until January to avoid scheduling public comment during the holidays, and DEQ agreed.

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