

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

DRAFT

Meeting Notes

September 23, 2010

1:00 – 3:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Next Meeting: **Thursday, October 28, 2010**

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: Mike Mihelich, George Hemphill, Sherry Klaus, Bill Lillibridge, Fred Brackebusch, Ara Andrea, Bob Burke, Don Martin, Larry Runkle, Bob Clark, Denna Grangaard, Sandy Schlepp, Larry Jennings, Ed Lider, Kim Johnson, Bill Rust

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 June 24, 2010 meeting were circulated for review and posted on the WAG's website.

Agenda items and discussion:

- 2010 Integrated Report: The draft 2010 Integrated Report of Idaho's statewide water quality will be released soon for public comment. Kajsa will inform the WAG when it is available. **Note:** *The 2010 Integrated Report was made available for public comment on Sept 27, 2010. Information is online here:* http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/NewsApp/showNews.cfm?news_id=3073&CFID=184026&CFTOKEN=21377353 *Comments are due by October 27, 2010.*
- North Idaho Fly Casters Update on Short-Riley Creeks Restoration Project with USFS: Bob Clark provided a brief update and shared photos from the project. He said the road decommissioning and improvements and the instream work was done or nearly done. The site may be a great field visit for the WAG in 2011.
- River Access: Ed Lider reported that IDFG and USFS are making progress investigating options for improved river access and boat launch sites.

- Update on River Management Plan (CDA River Preservation Committee): Dewey Skaggs says that he and Ed Warner continue to work on their draft River Management Plan. They plan to complete the plan by the end of the year, but are no longer planning a public review process.
- North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Habitat Improvement Project: Work continues on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Habitat Improvement Project, bank stabilization and riparian restoration projects on private land funded by the Office of Species Conservation through DEQ. The project is now being administered by the Benewah Soil and Water Conservation District and their District Administrator Sherry Klaus was introduced to the WAG. Designs and plans are all complete, and all needed permits have been obtained. There had been some questions about requirements due to bull trout, but these have since been resolved. We are planning for construction this fall and completion of the project by the end of the year.
- Beaver Creek Watershed Assessment: The USFS, DEQ and University of Idaho Extension have been working hard all summer to collect information and data for the Beaver Creek Watershed Assessment. Crews have collected information on forest roads, their condition, and potential for erosion. Crews have also conducted BURP surveys at two sites, tested for *E. coli*, and performed rapid stream assessments following the RASCAL protocol. As the field season comes to a close, the information will be analyzed with a synthesis report coming this spring.
- Temperature TMDL Development: A draft temperature TMDL for temperature-impaired streams in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Subbasin has been prepared for WAG review prior to a formal public comment period. Kajsas gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the assessments and methods used to develop the TMDL. The method used for developing load allocations is called Potential Natural Vegetation (PNV), which establishes shade targets to reduce stream temperatures and approximate natural background conditions. WAG comments are requested by October 22 for further discussion at the next meeting. DEQ would like to finalize the draft and proceed with public comment this fall.

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