

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

DRAFT

Meeting Notes

June 24, 2010

1:00 – 3:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Next Meeting: **August 26, 2010**, 1:00 – 3:00 pm (No meeting in July!)

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, Roy Faler, Larry Runkle, Bob Clark, Bob Burke, 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 May 20, 2010 meeting were circulated for review and posted on the WAG's website.

Agenda items and discussion:

- Antidegradation rulemaking: DEQ is conducting negotiated rulemaking to amend the Idaho Water Quality Standards for antidegradation. DEQ's website contains detailed information about these proposed rules and the rulemaking process: http://www.deq.idaho.gov/rules/water/58_0102_1001_negotiated.cfm There will be public meetings held July 8 and July 21 for interested parties and solicitation of comment.
- 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.
- North Idaho Fly Casters Conservation Festival: The annual North Idaho Fly Casters Conservation Festival was held in the Tepee Creek headwaters on Saturday June 12th. Approximately 20 people came out to participate in volunteer service and fun with the club and the Forest Service. Around 500 white pine trees

were planted in the Short Creek restoration area and trash/debris was cleaned up near Short Creek where some buildings had been taken down. They held a BBQ at Magee and did some surveys for aquatic bugs. All in all, Bob Clark reported it was a fun and successful day. He invites all members of the WAG to participate next year.

- River Access: In general, it seems that local or county regulation is the most common and effective mechanism in North Idaho for setting access and use rules including the designation of “no wake zones.” The US Coast Guard sets federal boating regulations (<http://www.uscgboating.org>). The State of Idaho sets boating regulations through the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (<http://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/recreation/boating.aspx>). USFS, IDL, and private landowners can also set their own rules for access and use on riverside properties under their ownership. Cities and counties can play an important role in the management of river recreation and have the option to adopt additional conditions. For example, the Kootenai County Department of Parks, Recreation and Waterways (<http://www.kcgov.us/departments/parkswaterways/>) provides access and other facilities for boaters, charges launch fees, and operates under a set of County ordinances that establishes the County’s framework and rules for recreational boating management. The County ordinance sets speed limits, no wake zones, and noise restrictions among other rules. You can view this example of Kootenai County Code here if interested (<http://www.kcgov.us/departments/parkswaterways/downloads/Ordinance402.pdf>). There’s also a recent (Jan 2010) resolution adopting specific no wake zones, no motor-drive watercraft zones, and other provisions of access including fees (<http://www.kcgov.us/departments/parkswaterways/downloads/Resolution2010-01.pdf>).

Another option is the “Recreation District” as operated by Gem County (<http://www.gemcountyrecreation.com/General%20Info.html>), and Payette County (<http://www.payettecountyrec.org/>) in other parts of the state.

Bonner County has a Waterways Department as part of Public Works. You can find their plan here:

http://www.co.bonner.id.us/publicworks/documents/Pub_2dWorks_2dWaterways_2edb.Waterway%20Plan.doc. There’s also a page on the Bonner County Sherriff’s Office site: <http://www.bonnerso.org/boatinglaws.html>. Up on Priest River last week, I noticed that Bonner County Waterways posted information signs and warnings for boaters (see photo). These might be the kind of signs helpful for boaters/floaters on the North Fork... Some interesting things to think about!

- 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 bring a draft back to the WAG and have other public review sometime this year.

- 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 Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District received a subgrant from DEQ to lead project management and implementation in partnership with DEQ and the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission. Craig Nelson resigned from the District this spring. The District was unable to hire a replacement or develop an acceptable plan for staffing the project and ensuring timely, successful completion. DEQ subsequently terminated the contract; however, work continues and we plan to complete these projects this year if possible. Staff from DEQ and ISCC remain committed, designs and plans are all complete, and permit applications have been submitted. We are looking into other partnerships to help us get these projects done this year.
- Beaver Creek Watershed Assessment: The USFS and DEQ have developed a partnership with the University of Idaho Extension and are working with Ashley McFarland to carry out the Beaver Creek Watershed Assessment. The contract and workplan are currently being finalized. USFS has hired a seasonal crew of technicians to provide field assistance and we have gone through training on a relatively new USFS technique for estimating sediment production and delivery from forest roads. We'll use this technique, the Geomorphic Roads Assessment and Inventory Package (GRAIP), to estimate erosion and sediment delivery to streams from forest roads in Beaver Creek.
- Progress Report: Kajsa passed out a draft informal progress report about WAG accomplishments and the group discussed our progress and plans for future. One of the main benefits of this group pointed out during our discussion is the increased public awareness about water quality as an issue and concern in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River system. The WAG members present suggested an emphasis on further increasing public awareness, perhaps through development of a brochure about care of streamside properties. The draft progress report will be reviewed again at the August WAG meeting. At that time, the draft temperature TMDL will be presented to the WAG for a final review and comment.

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