

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

### Meeting Notes

January 28, 2010

1:00 – 4:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 25, 2010 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the US Forest Service Building in Smelterville, ID.

**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:** Dan Guy, Bill Rust, Larry Runkle, Roy Faler, Fred Brackebusch, George Hemphill, Bob Clark, Mike Mihelich, Claire Pitner, Aaron Prussian, Bob Burke, Kim Johnson, Sandy Schlepp, Mary Terra-Berns, Craig Nelson, 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.

- **2010 Integrated Report:** Kajsa notified the WAG that DEQ is currently preparing the 2010 Integrated Report of water quality status. There was a request for data and information earlier in the year. DEQ is currently conducting assessments. There will be opportunity for public input and comment. Kajsa also described the potential for new temperature listings in 2010 based on USFS data and the ongoing subbasin assessment of temperature conditions. WAG members expressed concern about the implications of listing and the applicability or appropriateness of the criteria. This conversation will continue and we will investigate biological impairment, natural background, and other options for temperature management.
- **319 Project updates and ideas about new applications:** Kajsa mentioned the upcoming funding availability through the DEQ 319 Program for Nonpoint Pollution Reduction. She encouraged the group to submit project ideas for funding in 2010. Pre-applications are due May 9, 2010.
- **New Proposed Bull Trout Critical Habitat Public Comment:** proposed revisions to the designated critical habitat for bull trout are now available for public review and comment through March 15, 2010. The Service has scheduled a series of

public informational meetings to enable people to learn more about the critical habitat proposal and to submit written comments. The closest public meeting to us will be February 11, 2010, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Post Falls, Idaho: Red Lion Templins Inn, 414 East 1st Avenue. I have attached the proposed map and list of waterbodies for the “Coeur d’Alene Basin.” For more information, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/bulltrout/>. The WAG requested Kajsa invite biologists from IDFG and USFWS to discuss this proposal with the WAG at the February meeting.

- **Draft General Wastewater Permit for Small Suction Dredge Mining in Idaho**—A draft general NPDES permit from EPA available for public comment through March 8, 2010. Idaho’s Section 401 water quality certification of this permit is also available for review and comment. [http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/NPDES+Public+Notices/pn\\_id\\_gen\\_permit\\_ssdm\\_10/](http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/NPDES+Public+Notices/pn_id_gen_permit_ssdm_10/).

- **Log debris management:** Kajsa had a short handout with pictures to inform the WAG about the challenge of managing large wood in the river system given competing uses and needs for the river. A project was implemented in December 2009 to manage wood in the Cinnabar Creek area by Shoshone County and Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security involving some cutting and removing wood material and trees for protection of public safety. Kajsa shared photos with the WAG for discussion.

- **Beaver Creek Watershed Analysis:** DEQ, USFS, and the Conservation District are pursuing funding to perform an interagency watershed analysis on the Beaver Creek watershed. The WAG has consistently expressed concerns about water quality and related issues in the Beaver Creek watershed. This watershed analysis should provide the practical information and strategic framework to fully assess watershed conditions and implement cost-effective improvement activities. The information will also be useful for the sediment TMDL 5-yr-review, and development of TMDLs for temperature and metals in the watershed. A proposal has been prepared for the USFS Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) to fund seasonal staff, field supplies, and analysis costs during summer 2010. The proposal was presented to the WAG at the January meeting for WAG approval prior to the February submittal for the RAC. The WAG unanimously approved the proposal.

#### **Additional notes:**

--- From Bob Clark, IDFG is seeking input about new boat launches on the North Fork Coeur d’Alene River. Contact Ryan Hardy, IDFG, at (208) 769-1414.

--- Claire Pitner, USFS Recreation Planner, is also interested in developing recreational sites and collecting public input on those plans. Contact Claire at (208) 769-3033.

--- The Conservation District’s annual seedling sale program is ongoing this spring. Contact Craig Nelson at (208) 762-4939. We also discussed various types of plant protectors for these seedlings.