

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Notes

March 26, 2008

1:00 – 4:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Participants: Del Kerr, Roy Faler, Bob Clark, Joe Peak, Fred Brackebusch, Mary Fritz, Bill Hudson, Jeff Legg, Tyson Clyne, George Hemphill, Ed Lider, Joe Dupont, Sandy Schlepp, Paul Schlepp, 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. The meeting focused on two presentations from Idaho Dept. Fish and Game and the US Forest Service. We also collected WAG comment on the draft Temperature TMDLs for the subbasin.

WAG Business:

- **PERMITTING WORKSHOP:** A workshop, "Users Guide to Stream Permits," was held March 5, 2008 from 1:00-4:00 pm at the USFS Smelterville Bldg. The workshop included a panel of representatives from Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Dept. Water Resources, Idaho DEQ, Idaho Dept. of Lands, and the local Conservation District. It was successful and well attended. If you have any questions, please contact Kajsa (IDEQ), Bob Flagor (Conservation District) or Jeff Legg (Shoshone County).
- **WATER QUALITY PROJECTS:** Two applications to the DEQ 319 Program were submitted by WAG members with WAG support: 1) the **Short-Riley Creeks Porter Memorial Project**, a collaboration of the North Idaho Fly Casters with the US Forest Service, and 2) **Mine Tailings Removal from Upper Beaver Creek**, a project by DEQ's Waste and Remediation Section. These were presented to the Basin Advisory Group March 12, 2008. The Beaver Creek project received top ranking by the Panhandle Basin group. These will be considered in a statewide meeting for funding decisions on **May 14**.
- **Feb 20 meeting notes:** Kajsa forgot to bring these – we will distribute them at the next meeting and post them to the website.
- **Integrated Report Update:** The DEQ has incorporated public comments and is preparing the Integrated Report on Idaho water quality status for submittal to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Subbasin Assessment Update/Addendum: This is a work in progress and DEQ is requesting information on past and current water quality improvement projects. The WAG urged that this report be completed soon so that the information can be utilized in TMDLs and implementation planning.

Five-Year Review of Sediment TMDL: Ed Lider received US Forest Service funding to evaluate restoration projects and their effectiveness at reaching TMDL targets. This will be coordinated with DEQ as part of the Five-Year Review of the 2001 Sediment TMDL. The USFS and DEQ are also hoping to coordinate monitoring activities in 2009 for TMDL review purposes.

Metals TMDL: Data compilation and analysis is continuing. The complexity of the issue and the scope of remediation make this process difficult. We are considering additional sampling of dissolved metals and other WQ parameters.

PRESENTATIONS

“Movement, mortality, and habitat use of Coeur d’Alene River cutthroat trout”
presented by Ed Lider (USFS)

“The use of side channels by cutthroat trout as cold water refugia in the North Fork Coeur d’Alene River watershed” presented by Joe Dupont (IDFG)

The PowerPoint presentations will be available for anyone who missed the meeting or would like a copy. They were excellent presentations on habitat use by native westslope cutthroat trout. In particular, the value of side channels and cold water refugia were emphasized. There were many implications for floodplain management and maintenance of a functioning floodplain with cool side channels and oxbows. The latest studies of water temperatures identified important areas of cooling and habitats used by fish.

Draft Temperature TMDL: Comments from the WAG on the current draft temperature TMDLs were due at the March 26 WAG meeting. DEQ will incorporate comments into a revised draft which will be distributed back to the WAG this spring for a final review before seeking public comment.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 23, 2008 from 1:00 to 4:00 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

Contact Kajsa Stromberg with any questions:

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