

Coeur d'Alene Lake Tributaries Watershed Advisory Group

Thursday December 2, 2010

Idaho Fish and Game (large conference room)

2750 W Kathleen Ave, Coeur d'Alene

10:00 – 12:00

Meeting Summary

Introductions

All persons introduced themselves and stated their affiliation/interests in the watershed.

Water Quality Status of Streams in the Subbasin

Kristin Keith gave a presentation on the water quality status of each of the assessment units (groups of waterbodies) within the Coeur d'Alene Lake Tributaries watershed. There was some discussion on the assessment units which have failed to meet Idaho's temperature water quality standard but passed the Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP). Kristin Keith and Bob Steed explained that according to DEQ water quality standards, an assessment unit must be listed on Idaho's Integrated Report as impaired due to the failure to meet the temperature standard even if aquatic life use is doing well. There was a request for a list of all the BURP results for all streams evaluated using this program within the watershed. Kristin will provide that list at the next WAG meeting.

Hydrogeology of Some Tributaries to Lake Coeur d'Alene

Bob Steed gave a presentation on the hydrogeology of streams around Lake Coeur d'Alene. Many of the tributaries to the lake have a wedge of water-deposited alluvium (delta) at the lowest portions of the watershed. These wedges influence the hydrologic characteristics and cause water to flow subsurface into Coeur d'Alene Lake. This is a big reason why there is a lack of BURP data in this watershed. There was discussion about excessive bedload contributing to the subsurface flow condition. It was also pointed out that the low elevation of many of the tributaries to the lake contributes to early baseflow conditions.

Special Water Quality Report

Kristin Keith gave a presentation on a nutrient and sediment monitoring project that was conducted in 2008-2009 on 13 streams within the watershed. The final report for this project will be posted on the WAG Web site. Kristin explained that the highest instantaneous suspended sediment and nutrient concentrations were observed during early rain-on-snow events and then during runoff. This is due to the fact that phosphorus is strongly bound to sediment. There was much discussion regarding the issue of dissolved Ortho-P:TP during base flow period in tributaries to Coeur d'Alene Lake. The mean ratio of streams in the watershed suggests bioavailable phosphorus may be a concern for beneficial uses of the streams and for loading to the lake. The ratio for reference streams in the region is based on a study by University of MT and MT DEQ. Questions were raised about the applicability of reference streams in Montana to the

streams in this watershed. Kristin will post the final report on the MT study on the WAG website.

WAG Roles/Responsibilities

This agenda item was postponed until the next meeting.