

Idaho Statutes Regarding Watershed Advisory Groups

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TITLE 39
HEALTH AND SAFETY
CHAPTER 36
WATER QUALITY

39-3615. CREATION OF WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUPS. Basin advisory groups shall identify representatives of the industries and other interests affected by the management of water quality within a watershed who are prospective members of an advisory group for the watershed and shall advise the director of their findings. The director, upon the advice of the appropriate basin advisory group, shall name watershed advisory groups which will generally advise the department on the appropriateness, attainability and status of existing and designated beneficial uses and water quality criteria within the watershed, and on the development and implementation of TMDLs and other state water quality plans, including those specific actions needed to control point and nonpoint sources of pollution within the watersheds of those water bodies where designated beneficial uses are not fully supported. Each watershed advisory group shall be formed early enough to complete consultation, as provided in section 39-3611(8), Idaho Code, prior to the date the TMDL and any supporting subbasin assessment is scheduled to be submitted to the United States environmental protection agency for approval.

If the members of the watershed advisory group, with the concurrence of the basin advisory group, advise the director that applicable water quality standards within the watershed are not attainable or are inappropriate based upon supporting data, the director shall initiate the process or processes to assess such standards and to change or remove the standards that are shown by the assessment to be unattainable or inappropriate, consistent with this chapter.

Members of each watershed advisory group shall be representative of the industries and interests affected by the management of that watershed and shall, where appropriate, include a representative from each of the following: agriculture, mining, point source dischargers, forest products, local government, livestock, Indian tribes (for areas within reservation boundaries), water-based recreation, environmental interests and the land managing or regulatory agencies with an interest in the management of that watershed and the quality of the water bodies within it.

Members of each watershed advisory group shall serve and shall not be reimbursed for their expenses during their term of service.

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39-3616. DUTIES OF EACH WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP. Each watershed advisory group shall generally be responsible for recommending those specific actions needed to control point and nonpoint sources of pollution within the watershed so that, within reasonable periods of time, designated beneficial uses are fully supported and other state water quality plans are achieved. Watershed advisory groups shall, as described in this chapter, consult with the director and participate in the development of each TMDL and any supporting subbasin assessment for water bodies within the watershed, and shall develop and recommend actions needed to effectively control sources of pollution. In carrying out the provisions of this section, the director and the watershed advisory groups shall employ all means of public involvement deemed necessary or required in chapter 52, title 67, Idaho Code, and shall cooperate fully with the public involvement or planning processes of other appropriate public agencies.