

# **Coeur d'Alene Lake Tributaries Watershed Advisory Group**

**Thursday November 4, 2010**

**Idaho Fish and Game (large conference room)**

**2750 W Kathleen Ave, Coeur d'Alene**

**10:00 – 12:00**

## **Meeting Summary**

### **Introductions**

Tom Herron began the meeting with an introduction to the DEQ Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process. He encouraged open communication and input along the way. He emphasized the importance of TMDL implementation in improving water quality conditions in the watershed. Introductions of WAG participants followed.

Kristin Keith briefly discussed the boundaries of the Coeur d'Alene Lake tributaries watershed. She stated the primary focus of the WAG will be to review a subbasin assessment update and existing sediment TMDLs on Cougar Creek, Kid Creek, Latour Creek, Mica Creek and Wolf Lodge Creek. The same document has a bacteria TMDL on Mica Creek. New nutrient TMDLs on Fernan Lake and Blue Creek will be reviewed by the WAG, as well as a temperature TMDL on many tributaries to the lake. Other topics will be discussed. Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Coeur d'Alene River will not be a primary focus of the group.

### **Presentations**

Kristin Keith then gave an introductory presentation on the Clean Water Act, Idaho Water Quality Standards, Beneficial Uses, and Monitoring. Bob Steed followed with a presentation on Idaho's listing process, which included Idaho's Integrated Report, Idaho's Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP), and assessment of water quality monitoring data for listing purposes in the Integrated Report. Kristin then gave a brief presentation on the basics of TMDLs, and Bob followed with a discussion on WAG rolls and responsibilities. He gave out an example document with WAG operating procedures. The WAG was asked to look over the procedure and come to the next meeting with suggestions for edits on the procedures. All of these presentations were posted on the WAG Web site:

[http://www.deq.idaho.gov/about/regions/cda\\_lake\\_tribs\\_wag/index.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/about/regions/cda_lake_tribs_wag/index.cfm).

### **Discussions**

A discussion came forth about Idaho's temperature criteria and why exceedances of the numeric standard take precedence in waters that show beneficial use support with BURP data or in waters that have natural background temperatures above the numeric standard. Bob explained there are cases in north Idaho where this happens, and DEQ is constrained by how Idaho Water Quality Standards are written and by policy and procedure in the DEQ Water Body Assessment Guidance (WBAG). Out of that discussion were questions as to how often WBAG is rewritten. Bob and Tom didn't know when the next version of

WBAG will be written, but it will have to go through the public review process once it is finalized.

Antidegradation was another topic of discussion. Bob and Tom Herron explained the current rule-making process that is underway to define how Idaho will implement the antidegradation law that is already in place.