

# North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River



## Subbasin Water Quality Status Update

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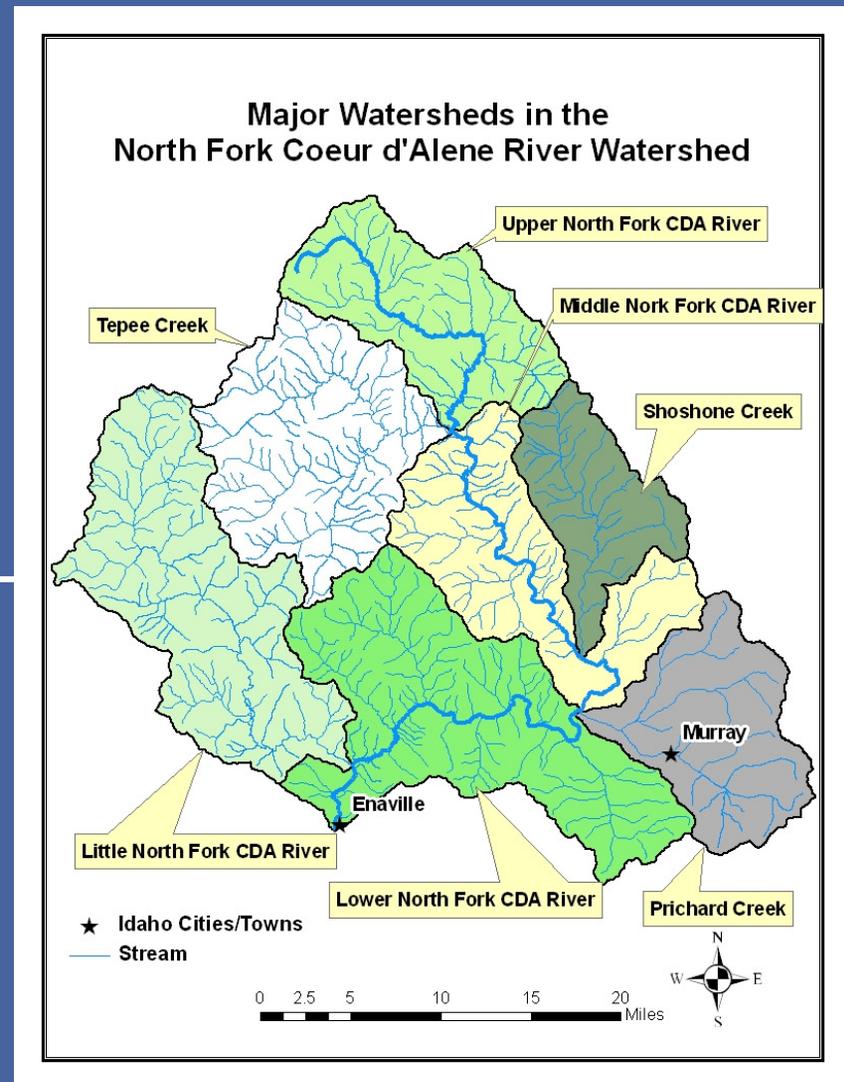


# North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River

- Subbasin geography and streams
- Beneficial uses
- Monitoring and assessment
- Beneficial use support/impairment
- TMDLs required
- Next steps
- Questions??

# North Fork CDA Subbasin

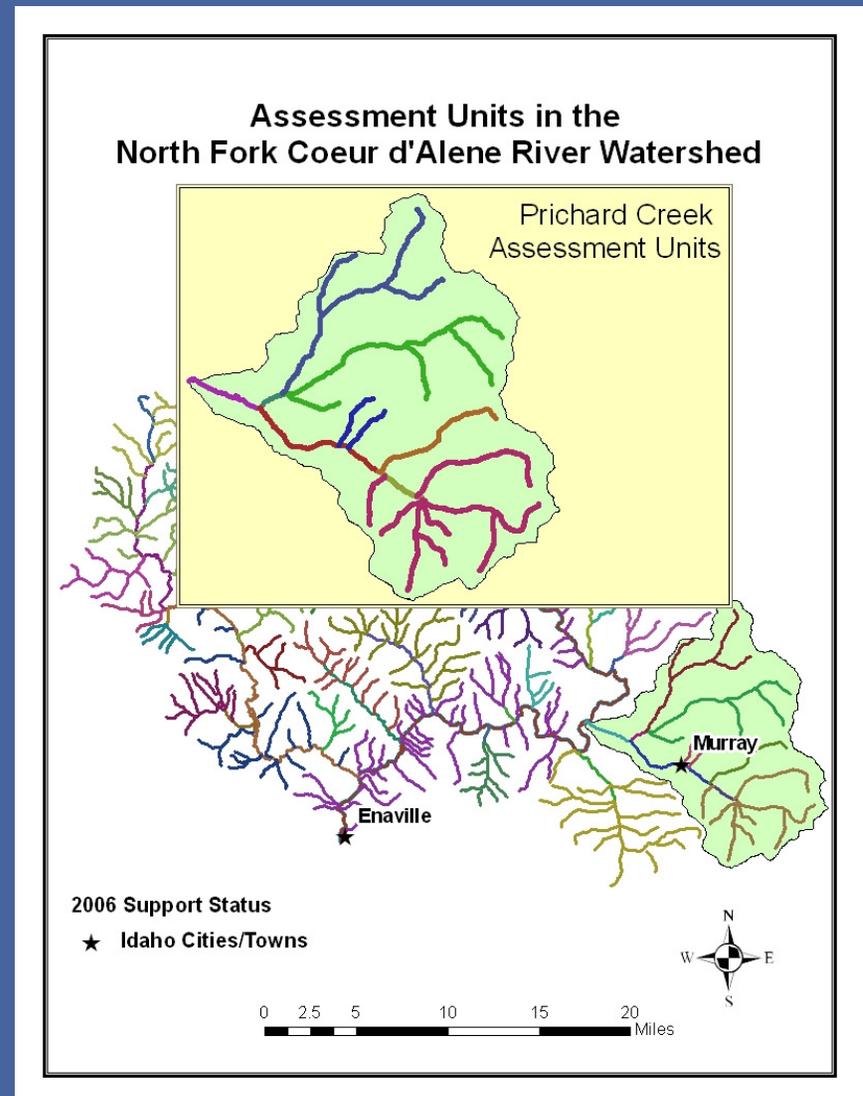
- All streams draining into the NF CDA River
- 895 square miles
- Seven major watersheds
- 1,121 stream miles



# North Fork CDA Subbasin

- Divided into 67 Assessment Units (AUs) What are AUs?
  - Bite-sized sections of streams used for assessment and management purposes
  - Organized by stream order and land use

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# Beneficial Uses

- The Clean Water Act requires that states establish “beneficial uses” for rivers, lakes and streams.
- North Fork CDA Subbasin (IDAPA 58.01.02):
  - Cold Water Aquatic Life
  - Salmonid Spawning
  - Primary/Secondary Contact Recreation
  - Domestic Water Supply
  - Special Resource Water
  - Agricultural and Industrial Water Supplies
  - Wildlife Habitat
  - Aesthetics



# Beneficial Uses

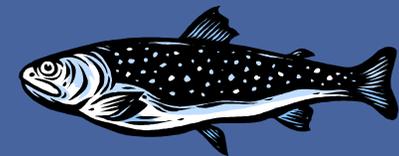
**IDAHO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**  
*Department of Environmental Quality*

**IDAPA 58.01.02**  
*Water Quality Standards*

Unit	Waters	Aquatic Life	Recreation	Other
P-1	North Fork Coeur d'Alene River - Yellow Dog Creek to mouth	COLD SS	PCR	DWS SRW
P-2	Graham Creek - source to mouth			
P-3	Beaver Creek - source to mouth			
P-4	Prichard Creek - Butte Creek to mouth	COLD SS	PCR	
P-5	Prichard Creek - source to Butte Creek	COLD SS	PCR	DWS
P-6	Butte Creek - source to mouth			
P-7	Eagle Creek - source to mouth			
P-8	West Fork Eagle Creek - source to mouth			
P-9	Lost Creek - source to mouth			
P-10	Shoshone Creek - Falls Creek to mouth			
P-11	Falls Creek - source to mouth			
P-12	Shoshone Creek - source to Falls Creek			
P-13	North Fork Coeur d'Alene River - Jordan Creek to Yellow Dog Creek	COLD SS	PCR	DWS SRW
P-14	Jordan Creek - source to mouth			
P-15	North Fork Coeur d'Alene River - source to Jordan Creek	COLD SS	PCR	DWS SRW
P-16	Cataract Creek - source to mouth			

# Aquatic Life

- Cold Water Aquatic Life: Water quality appropriate for the protection and maintenance of a viable aquatic life community for cold water species.
- Salmonid Spawning: Waters which provide or could provide a habitat for active, self-propagating populations of salmonid fishes.



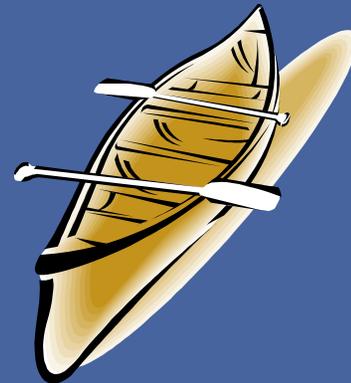
# Recreation

- Primary Contact Recreation: Water quality appropriate for prolonged human contact or recreational activities when ingestion of water is likely to occur. This includes, but is not limited to, swimming and floating the river in inner tubes.



# Recreation

- Secondary Contact Recreation: Water quality appropriate for water-based recreational uses where ingestion of water is not likely to occur. These activities may include fishing, boating, wading, infrequent swimming and other activities.



# Water Supply

- Domestic: Water quality appropriate for drinking water supplies.
- Agricultural: Water quality appropriate for the irrigation of crops or as drinking water for livestock. This use applies to all surface waters of the state.



# Beneficial Uses

- Other beneficial uses presumed for all surface waters of Idaho:
  - Industrial water supply
  - Wildlife habitat
  - Aesthetics



# Special Resource Waters

- Special Resource Waters: Waters designated in Idaho Code for outstanding high quality waters; unique ecological significance; outstanding recreational quality; intensive protection needed or other reasons.
- Mainstem North Fork Coeur d'Alene River
- This designation restricts point source discharges to Special Resource Waters and their tributaries.

# Bull trout

- Additionally, there are federally designated water quality protections for bull trout.
- Graham Creek
- Falls Creek
- Brown Creek

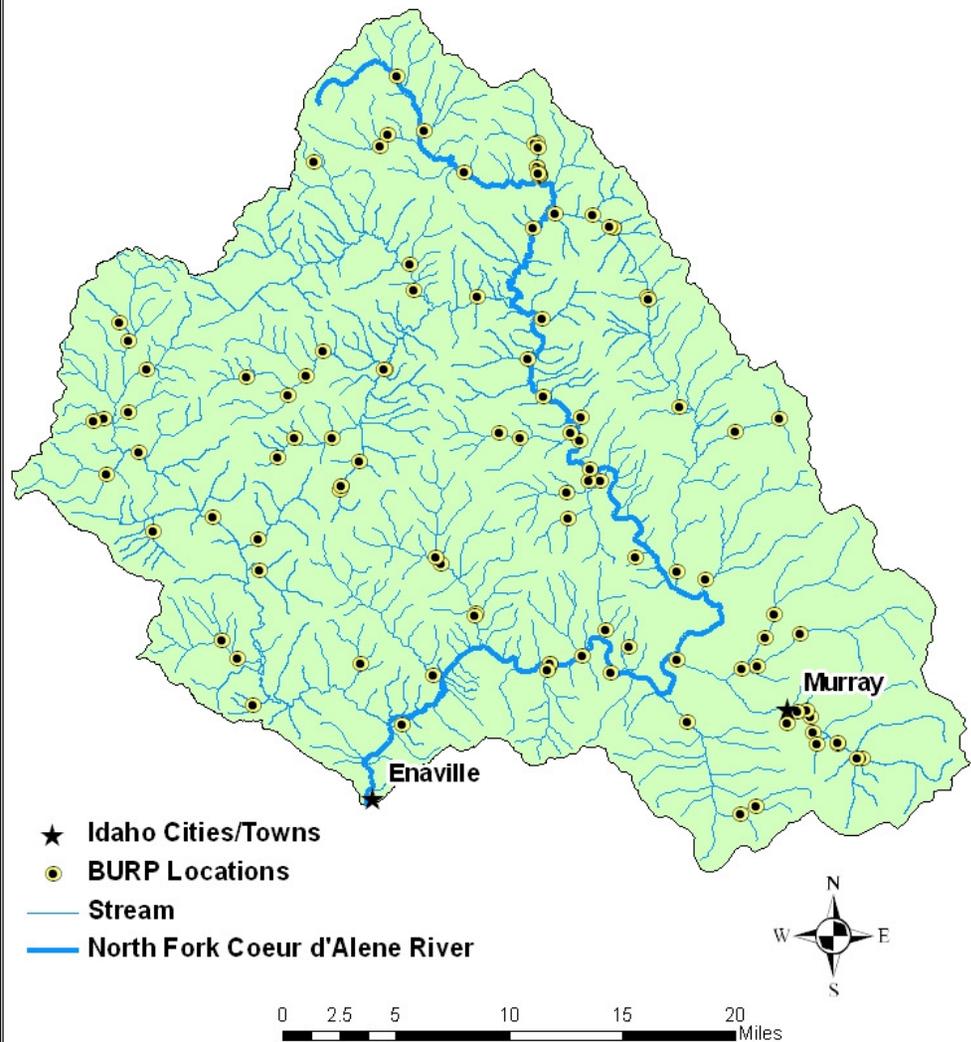
# Beneficial Uses

- All waters in the NF CDA Subbasin:
  - Agricultural and industrial water supply
  - Wildlife habitats and aesthetics
  - Cold water aquatic life
  - Primary or secondary contact recreation
- Some waters also designated:
  - Salmonid spawning
  - Domestic water supply
  - Special Resource Water
  - Bull trout habitat

# Monitoring and Assessment

- IDEQ collects information on water bodies to determine if they meet water quality standards and support their beneficial uses.
- Water quality data is collected by the IDEQ Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP) and temperature data recorders.
- Data are also compiled from other sources (USFS, USGS, IDFG, etc.).

## Idaho DEQ BURP Survey Locations in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed

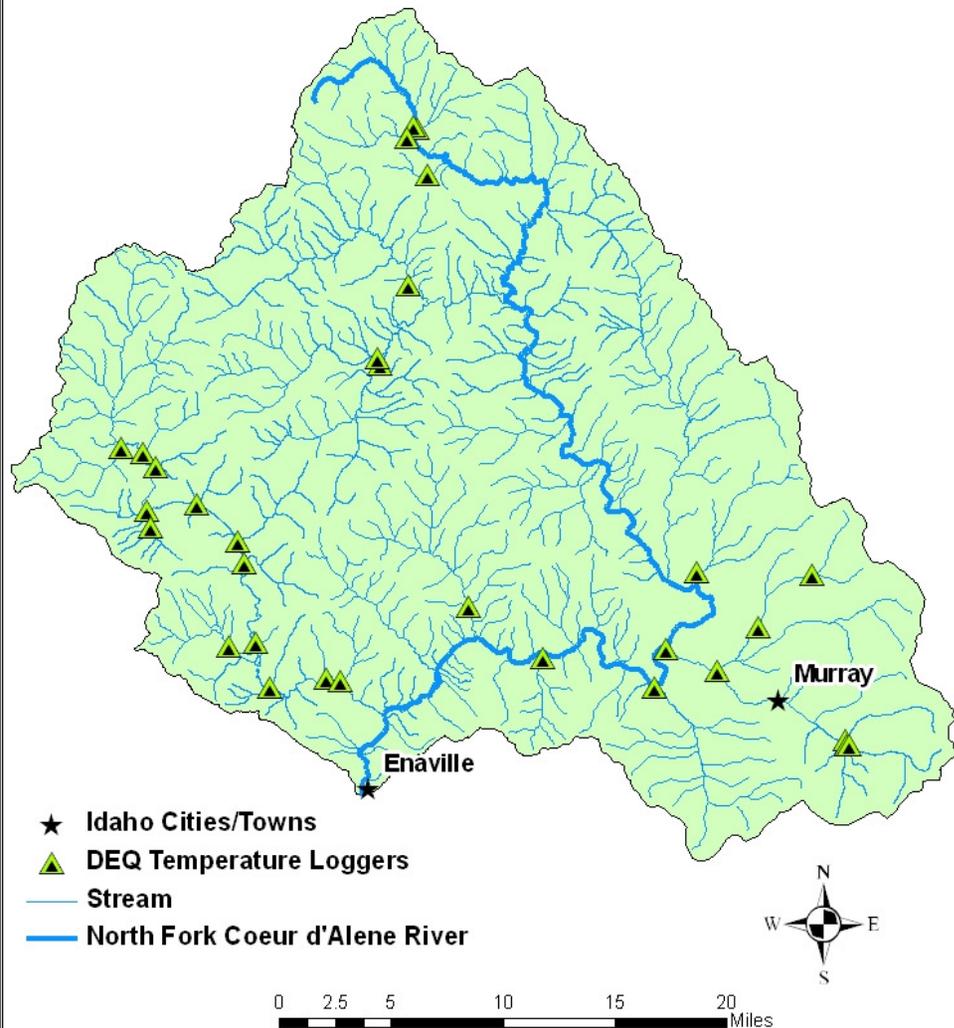


# BURP Monitoring Sites

109 sites

1995 - Present

## Idaho DEQ Temperature Logger Locations in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed



# Temperature Data Recorders

31 sites

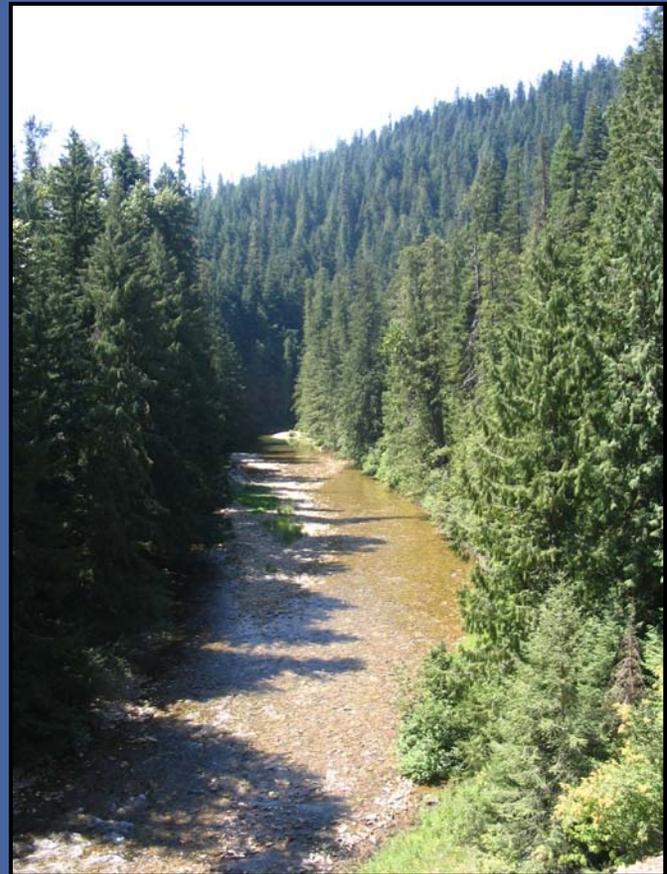
1997 - 1999

# Water Quality Status

- The Clean Water Act requires each state to assess all water bodies and report their status.
- Does the water quality support beneficial uses?  
Does it meet water quality standards?
- Or, is the stream water quality impaired and does not support beneficial uses?
- These determinations are listed in Idaho's "Integrated Report."

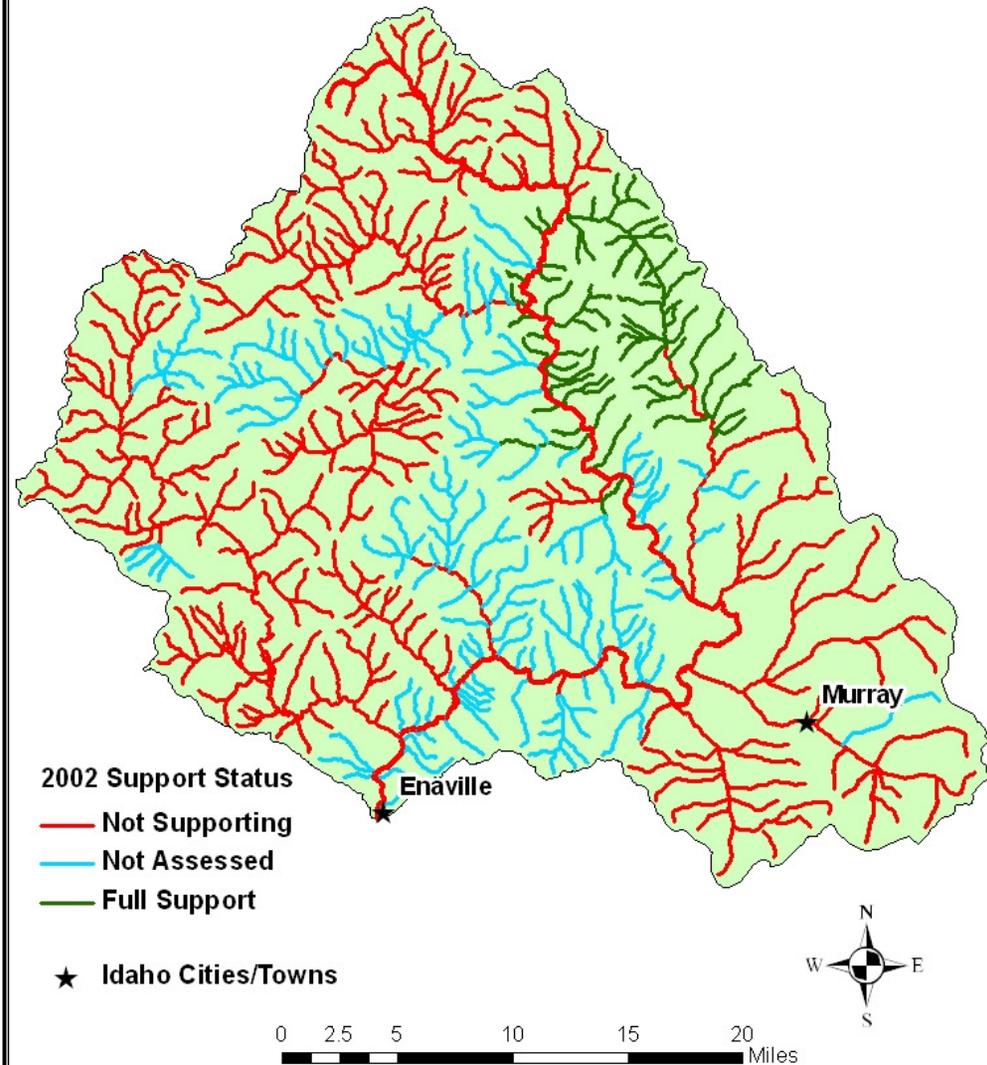
# Water Quality Status

- Most recent Integrated Report approved by EPA is 2002. An update is in progress.
- There are streams that are “fully supporting some uses” and small tributaries that are “not assessed.”



# 2002 Water Quality Status

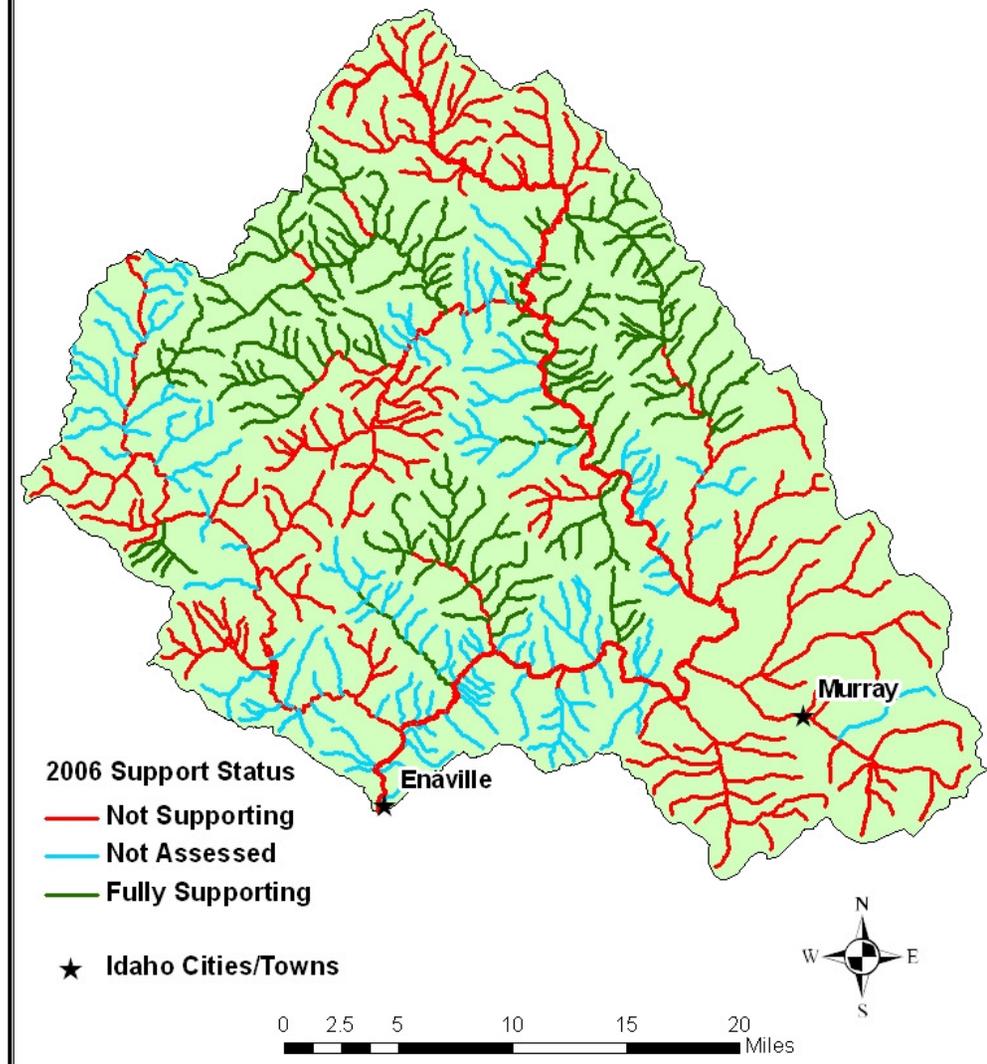
## 2002 Support Status in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed



2006  
Water  
Quality  
Status

*draft*

2006 Support Status in the  
North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed



# TMDLs Required

- Impaired water bodies are required by the Clean Water Act to have TMDLS.
- Existing TMDL for sediment (2001).
- Need to develop TMDLs for streams impaired by metals and temperature.



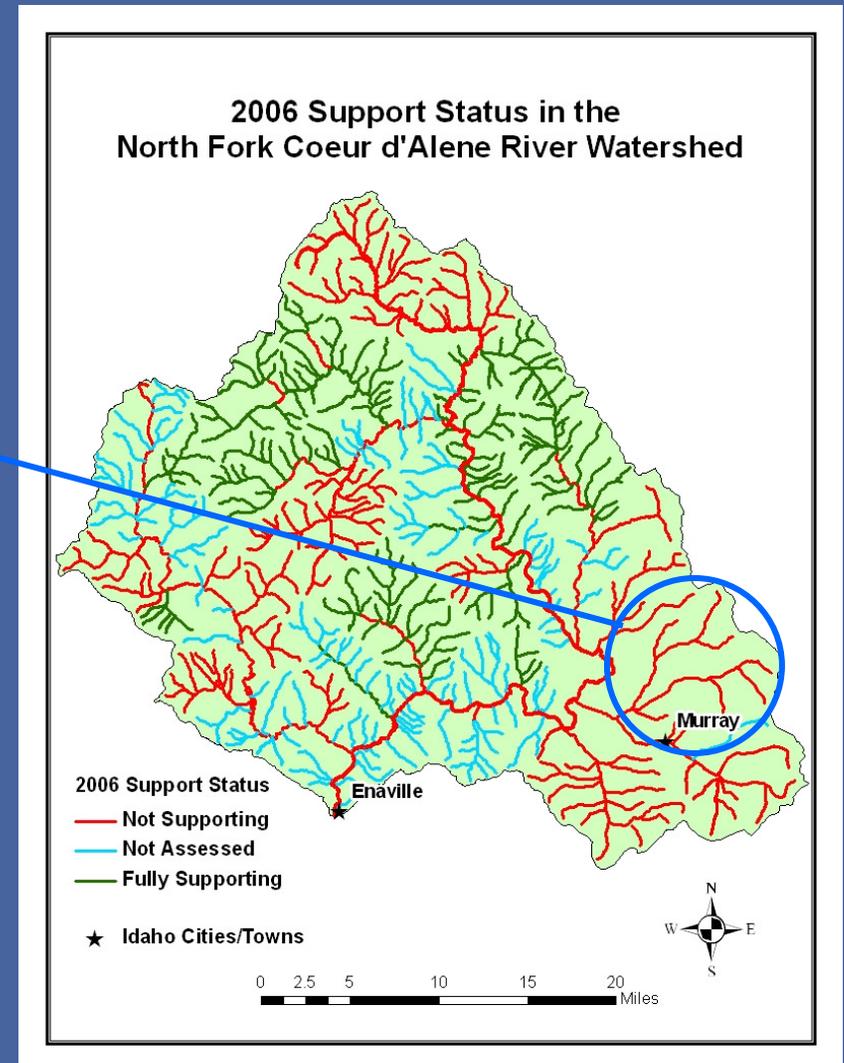
# Impaired Streams - Metals

- Three streams are considered impaired by metals (Cadmium, Copper, Lead, Nickel, and Zinc).
  - Beaver Creek
  - Eagle Creek
  - Prichard Creek



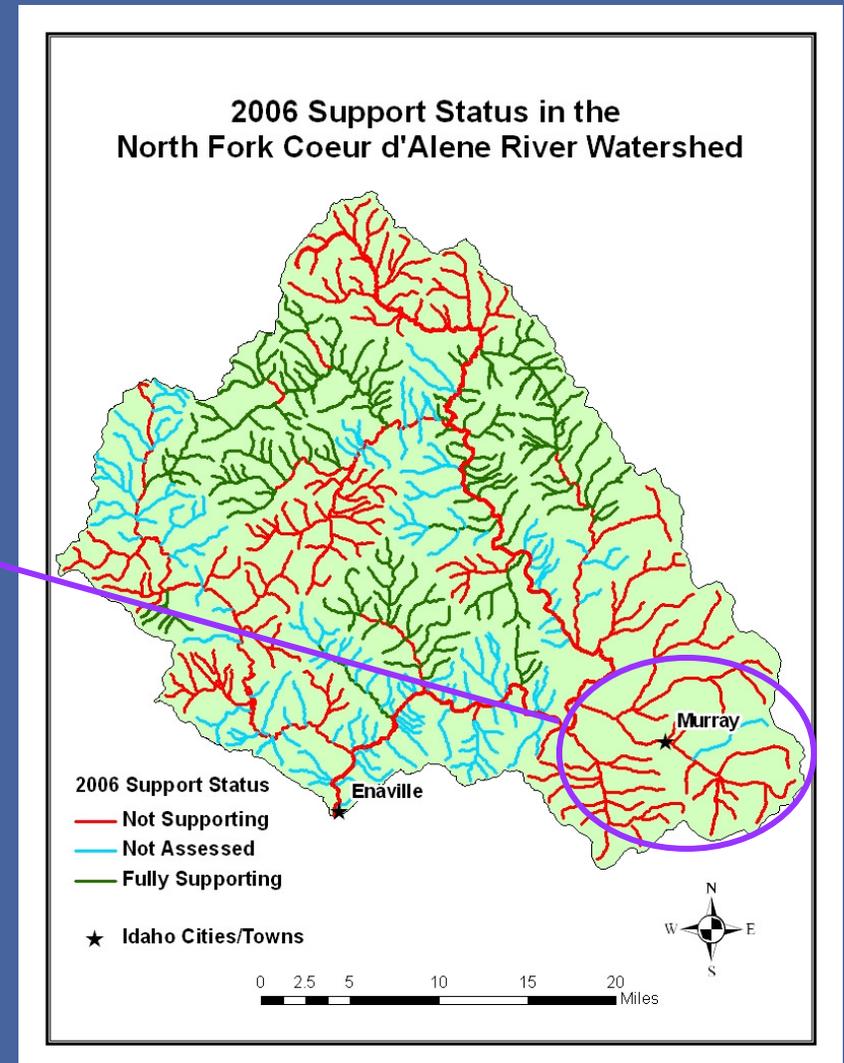
# Impaired Streams - Metals

Metals TMDLs are likely to include the red highlighted portions of Eagle Creek, Prichard Creek and Beaver Creek



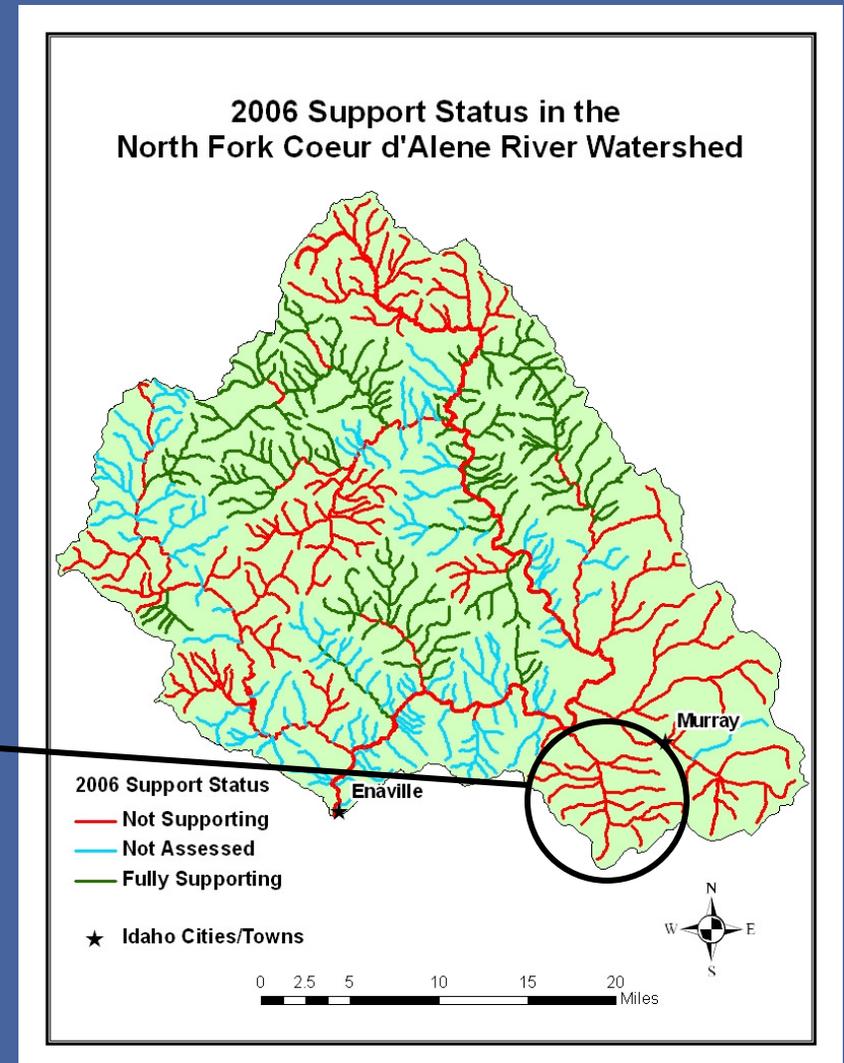
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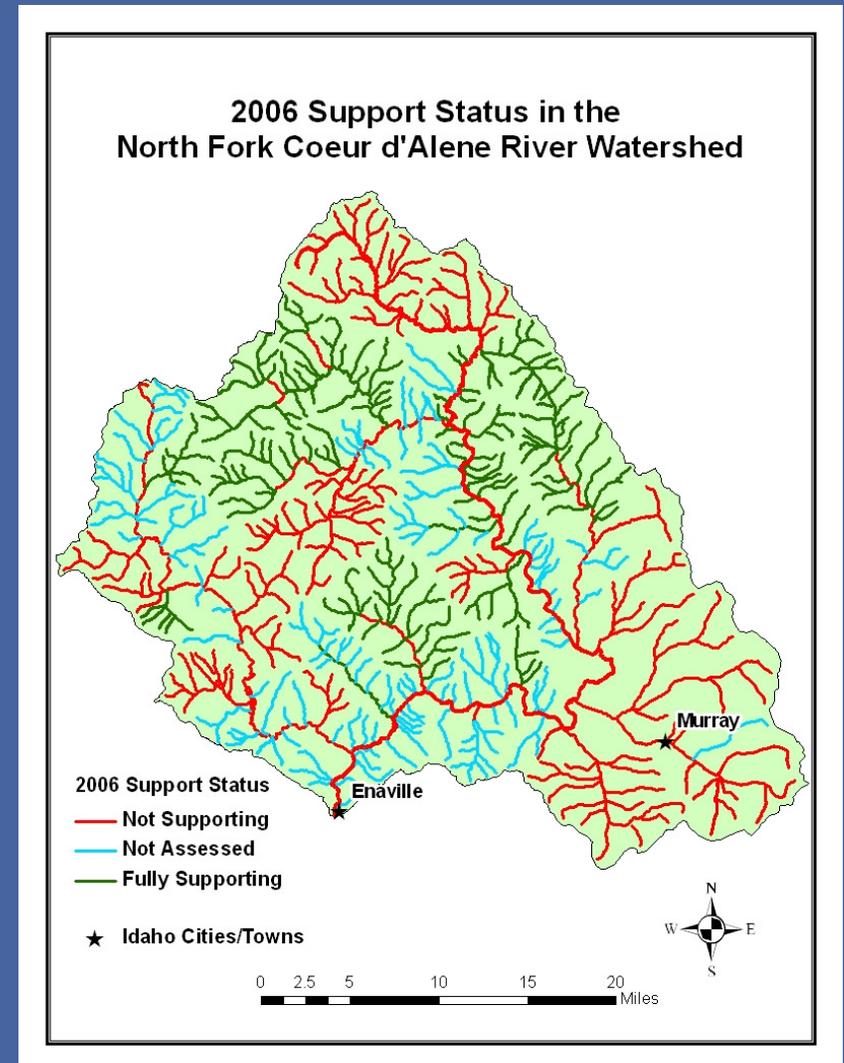
# Impaired Streams - Temperature

- Approximately 570 stream miles in the subbasin are considered impaired by high water temperatures (27 Assessment Units/ 50 percent of stream miles in subbasin).



# Impaired Streams - Temperature

Temperature TMDL is likely to include all red streams except portions of Beaver Creek, Prichard Creek and Eagle Creek.



# Next Steps

- TMDL development schedule with the WAG - Discuss timeline.
- Detailed look at:
  - Individual streams and assessment units
  - Monitoring data and water quality info
  - TMDL methods and drafts
- Questions???

