

## North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Draft Meeting Notes  
January 21, 2016  
1:00 – 3:00 pm  
US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

**Next meeting:** February 18, 2016

**Please visit the WAG website:**

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/north-fork-cda-river-subbasin-wag>

**Contact Kajsa Van de Riet with any questions or suggestions:**

(208) 666-4633 or [kajsa.vanderiet@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:kajsa.vanderiet@deq.idaho.gov)

**Participants:** Amanda Parrish, Dan Martinson, Rodney Cochrane, Melissa Hendrickson, Tarita Harju, Kajsa Van de Riet, Barb Hansen, Jim Ekins, Bob Burke

**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.

- Introductions, review agenda, & distribute previous meeting notes
- Rodney Cochrane (IDL) reported that there were no major wildfires on lands managed by IDL in the North Fork CdA Subbasin during 2015.
- The Forest Service fire salvage project was not ready for public review yet. The topic will be moved to the February meeting.
- **Idaho Panhandle National Forests Resource Advisory Committee Grants:** Kajsa distributed a press release from IPNF regarding RAC grants and proposals. Information, including application form, is available here:  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=48585>
  - *River Ranger:* Barb Hansen said that CdA River Ranger District had already submitted a proposal for funding the temporary seasonal river ranger position. The WAG offered to prepare a letter of support for this application. We also discussed the benefits of converting this position from a temporary seasonal position to a permanent seasonal position, and Kajsa will also draft a letter of support for this change on behalf of the WAG. The letters will be drafted and shared for the WAG's review.
  - *Dumpsters and Vault Toilets:* We discussed WAG support for a potential proposal from Shoshone County to obtain funds to help provide dumpsters and maintain vault toilets along the river. Dan Martinson said he'd talk about this idea

with the County Commissioners and help provide some estimated dollar amounts if needed. Kajsa will draft a letter of support and share for the WAG's review.

- *Horse Haven*: Another potential proposal the WAG discussed was to address water quality and recreation impacts on private lands near the Horse Haven landing strip. We had previously partnered with the landowner to submit grant requests that had not yet been successful. The WAG suggested approaching North Idaho Fly Casters about sponsoring a proposal to the RAC for funding if the landowner and Forest Service were supportive of the idea. Kajsa will draft a letter of support and share for the WAG's review.
- **Bull Trout Recovery Plan**: Kajsa shared a press release from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and a copy of the new Bull Trout Recovery Plan that was published in September 2015. This information is available here: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/bulltrout/>.
  - Kajsa described how the North Fork CdA Subbasin is included in critical habitat designated by the FWS, and is included in the recovery plan, but bull trout have not been confirmed present for many years.
  - Melissa Hendrickson (USFS) said that there will be samples collected this year for eDNA (environmental DNA) to assess presence/absence of bull trout in North Fork CdA watersheds. This technique involves collecting and analyzing water samples for small fragments of genetic material that can be used to determine whether certain fish species are present in a water body.
  - The WAG suggested having a short presentation about eDNA in the future to explain how it works and what kind of information it will give us. We'll ask if Will Young can give that presentation or suggest someone who can.
- **Fisheries Update**: Kajsa will invite Andy Dux, Regional Fisheries Manager for Idaho Department of Fish and Game, to give the WAG an update about IDFG's fisheries studies and management in the North Coeur d'Alene Subbasin.
- **DEQ Call for Water Quality Data**: Kajsa reminded the group about DEQ's call for relevant water quality data for the 2016 Integrated Report.
- **2016 Priorities**: Kajsa shared a handout with ideas about 2016 priorities to get WAG feedback. Proposed priorities:
  - completing the Water Quality Improvement Plan for Sediment and Temperature TMDL Implementation
  - assessing water bodies that have not yet been assessed
  - reviewing sediment impaired water bodies that are likely to have attained water quality standards for potential delisting
  - selecting 2016 BURP sites with a focus on remaining unassessed waters
  - implementation projects
  - others?

- **Firewise Workshop:** The WAG talked about hosting a workshop with Chris Schnepf, UI Extension, to help educate landowners about Firewise landscaping and management of properties. We talked about incorporating a riparian vegetation component because we know how important those plants are for streams. Dan Martinson mentioned that he'd like to share information with people about the county's floodplain management. There are other resource experts at the Forest Service and IDL that might be able to help as well. Possible timing – a Saturday in June. Possible location – Prichard/Murray Fire Hall. We'll keep working on logistics at the next meeting.
- **Water Quality Improvement Plan for TMDL Implementation:** We discussed some options for our plan and the right scale for watershed planning. We shared some maps and ideas about smaller vs. larger watersheds. The HUC6 scale was selected because it's a common management unit for the forest service, provides a reasonable scale to show on a printed map, and is relatable for ease of planning and implementation. At the next meeting, we'll have some draft maps to review and will brainstorm project types and ideas for the future.

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