

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Draft Meeting Notes
February 18, 2016
1:00 – 3:00 pm
US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Next meeting: April 21, 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

Participants: Amanda Parrish, Rodney Cochrane, Melissa Hendrickson, Kajsa Van de Riet, Fred Brackebusch, Sandy Schlepp, Gordon Sanders, Ed Lider, Leslee Stanley

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
- **Idaho Panhandle National Forests Resource Advisory Committee Grants:** The WAG submitted letters of support for two applications:
 - *River Ranger:* The CdA River Ranger District submitted a proposal for funding temporary seasonal river ranger positions.
 - *Dumpsters and Vault Toilets:* Shoshone County submitted a proposal for funds to help provide dumpsters and maintain vault toilets along the river.

We had discussed a third application for projects in the Horse Haven area. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time to prepare the application this time around.

- **Fisheries presentations:** The WAG requested a short presentation about fisheries topics at the next meeting. Will Young (USFS) will share a short presentation about environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling techniques that 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. This tool will be used for North Fork CdA streams this summer. Staff from Idaho Department of Fish and Game will also give a presentation about fisheries topics at our April WAG meeting.
- **2016 Priorities:** Kajsa shared information about BURP sites requested for streams bioassessment this summer. We also discussed possible water body assessments that

can be completed with data collected in recent years. A handout with maps will be posted to the WAG web page.

- **Firewise Workshop:** The WAG continued discussions to plan 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. We are hoping for Saturday June 4th at the Prichard/Murray Fire Hall.
- **North Idaho Fly Casters Conservation Festival:** The annual festival will be June 25th. Details TBA.
- **River Cleanup:** We will have a river cleanup this year, but the date won't be set until we know more about runoff and weather this year.
- **USFS Fire Salvage Project:** Melissa Hendrickson described the proposed Grizzly Timber Salvage Project and shared maps and information about the proposal. The project was in public scoping, but the WAG elected not to submit a comment letter on the project. For more information on the project, visit: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=48585>.
- During the discussion, we also discussed the effects of wildfires on the Settler's Cedar Grove. Melissa shared photos and said that the area remains unsafe, but would be assessed soon. With that assessment, we'll have more information about damage and potential timing for reopening access.
- **Water Quality Improvement Plan for TMDL Implementation:** We reviewed some draft maps and the WAG provided feedback on the maps' contents and display. We also shared ideas about how to identify project types. We'll continue work on the maps and draft document for later WAG review.