

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

### **2017 RESPECT THE RIVER CLEANUP**

**August 19, 2017**

**9:00am - Noon**

**Graham Creek Dispersed Camping Area, Shoshone County, ID**

On Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup>, the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) held our 4<sup>th</sup> river cleanup day as part of our Respect the River program. It was a fun, successful event and involved a lot of supporters.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forests staff were very helpful in the planning and running the event. We also had support from Shoshone County, and they picked up the garbage we piled up at the end of our cleanup day. All aluminum cans were recycled. Ed Lider and the North Idaho Fly Casters were key supporters. Ed donated a river float trip, and we drew the lucky winner out of a raffle at the end of the day. Centennial Distributing donated waters.

In all we had close to 30 volunteers of all ages. We met at the Graham Creek dispersed camping area at 9am and distributed from there along the river corridor to pick up trash left behind along the river, roadways, and at access locations. In just a few hours we had a large pile of garbage compiled back at the Graham Creek dispersed camping area. We had some time for snacks, our contest for the most interesting garbage [It was an old shot up sign saying "No Dumping" that had, in fact, been dumped], and drew for our raffle prize.

The event was held earlier this year than in past years and we moved upriver compared to past events due to recommendations from the WAG. We also were unable to provide a lunch this time. Potential volunteers may have had difficulty locating our site at the Graham Creek dispersed camping area. These might have been factors in the lower turnout. Hopefully, we will be able to boost participation in the future and continue to build on our success with these cleanup events. There's still plenty of need!

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