

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

### Draft Meeting Notes

October 26, 2017

1:00-3:00 pm

Smelterville, ID

**Next meeting:** January 2018

**Please visit the WAG website:**

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

**Contact:**

Kajsa Van de Riet at (208) 666-4633 or [kajsa.vanderiet@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:kajsa.vanderiet@deq.idaho.gov)

**Participants:** Melissa Hendrickson, Wade Jerome, Joe Holzinger, John Hansen, Rodney Cochrane, Chantilly Higbee, Barb Hansen, Kajsa Van de Riet

**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. This meeting was a special field trip for the WAG to see Graham Creek and get hands-on demonstrations of monitoring procedures and equipment.

If there are questions about these notes, mistakes or omissions, please contact Kajsa Van de Riet at DEQ.

**River Cleanup** - The 2017 River Cleanup was our 4<sup>th</sup> event and held on Saturday, August 19. Notes were prepared with some photos and are posted to the NFCDA WAG web page for more details. We discussed a slightly lower turnout this year and that the location might have been hard for people to find. We debated timing and whether it's better to be before or after Labor Day. In the end, the WAG recommended August 2018 and hosting the event at IDFG's Steamboat Pond site - so mark your calendars!

**New Respect the River Banner** - Barb Hansen worked with Silver Valley Sign Works to print a new large banner with a freshened up look. It looks great! We discussed finding a location for the small banner and WAG members suggested posting it where it's visible for people coming over from Fernan or Hayden and down the Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene. We will look for good locations up that direction to post the smaller banner next year.

**WAG Field Day** - The September 14<sup>th</sup> WAG meeting was a field trip at Graham Creek, and was a lot of fun. See meeting notes posted to the NFCDA WAG web page for more details. Kajsa suggested planning another field trip for the WAG next year.

**2017 BURP Sites** - DEQ's stream monitoring crews sampled four of the sites recommended by the WAG: Independence Creek, Shoshone Creek (2 assessment units), and Graham Creek.

Kajsa shared a handout with more information and a map. This will be posted to the WAG web page.

**Potter's Wheel** - Acting Deputy District Ranger, Joe Holzinger, shared more information about the Forest Service's proposed Potter's Wheel project. This project recently went out for public scoping and 30-day comment period. Joe shared a couple of large maps to illustrate proposed harvest areas, and proposed watershed restoration opportunities. The scoping notice and maps are available online: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52130>.

Comments on the scoping proposal are due 30 days from publication of the scoping notice (so mid-November). There was interest in crafting a WAG comment letter, but given the tight turnaround time, Kajsa encouraged the WAG to consider submitting letters individually.

**Graham Creek Shade Monitoring** - Kajsa shared preliminary results from the shade monitoring of Graham Creek requested by the WAG. DEQ crews collected shade measurements in September 2017 and Kajsa is beginning the process of comparing these values to the temperature TMDL targets. Preliminary results suggest Graham Creek could be a good candidate for temperature delisting since its shade is at system potential, natural background conditions.

Kajsa will continue to crunch the data and draft a report to share with the WAG and EPA.

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*Note: There will be no November or December meetings, and the next WAG meeting will be in January 2018.*