

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

**DRAFT**

**Meeting Notes**

**August 18, 2011**

**1:00 – 3:00 pm**

**Next Meeting:** Thursday September 29, 2011 1-3pm @ USFS Office, Smelterville

**Please Visit the WAG Website:**

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

**Contact:**

Kajsa Stromberg, DEQ Watershed Coordinator  
(208) 666-4633 or [Kajsa.Stromberg@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Kajsa.Stromberg@deq.idaho.gov)

**Participants:** Sherry Klaus, Bob Bevins, Sandy Schlepp, Larry Yergler, Kajsa Stromberg, Ed Lider, Chris James, Larry Runkle, George Hemphill, Roy Faler, Nick Brown, Tammi Laninga, Claire Pitner, Alex Edstrom

**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. Meeting notes for the June 30 Workshop were posted on the WAG's website for review. This meeting was focused on the Cooperative River Recreation Plan.

### **WAG Updates:**

June 30<sup>th</sup> WAG Workshop: Kajsa had shared meeting notes from the June 30<sup>th</sup> WAG meeting and they are posted online. It was a very successful, well attended workshop.

Idora Mine and Mill Site cleanup: There was an update on the Idora Mine and Mill Site cleanup prepared by Geoff Harvey and Rob Eachon of DEQ's Waste and Remediation Section. The preparation work was all completed this summer including road construction. Sorting and hauling of mine waste to the repository began August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Once contaminated material has been removed, stream reconstruction and revegetation will occur this fall.

Moose Drool: Kajsa brought up the USFS Moose Drool Aquatic Restoration Project that has been presented to the WAG by KK Prussian, USFS Hydrologist. The project is located up in the headwaters of the Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and will include road decommissioning, treatment of stream crossings, and instream habitat improvements. The project scoping period, the first public comment period, has already occurred and there are general project descriptions available. The full Environmental Assessment and more detailed descriptions will be available this fall for a second public

review and comment opportunity. Kajsa suggested the WAG consider preparing a letter of support for the project for its water quality benefits and as TMDL implementation. The scoping notice will be recirculated to the group for familiarity with the project and we will discuss the project again at the September WAG meeting.

### **North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Cooperative Recreation Plan:**

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Tammi Laninga and Nick Brown of the University of Idaho with Claire Pitner (USFS) and Kajsa Stromberg (DEQ). This PowerPoint is posted on the NFCDA WAG website.

Tammi described the origins of the Cooperative Recreation Plan and described how we came to have this plan developed. Nick described the plan's structure, goals and contents. Claire described how the WAG's Cooperative Recreation Plan interfaces with the USFS river corridor recreational planning effort. Kajsa described next steps including WAG endorsement of the plan and implementation.

Following the PowerPoint, there was discussion about the plan including comments, questions and suggestions from WAG members. Kajsa shared comments from WAG members who could not be present including Bob Burke (IDL), Jim Fredericks (IDFG) and Mike Mihelich (KEA).

#### Changes agreed to by consensus were:

P. 25, part A, second sentence should read "Previously, the public was allowed to access the river on private land on the south side of the confluence." Then, the 4<sup>th</sup> sentence should read, "The public is no longer allowed access across this property."

P. 31, part L, This site will be called "The Rock" Swimming Hole. The name should be changed throughout the document. The group agreed this is not a great place to encourage a lot of river recreators to congregate. Since development of parking and other amenities would likely encourage more use, we decided to remove the recommendations about parking, trash and restrooms as bullet items for this site. This change should also be reflected in the Implementation section of this document.

P. 33, part O, The second bullet item under recommendations should be removed. The group felt this was a good access site for foot traffic but not for boats.

#### Other discussion items:

The group decided to keep the "responsible use of alcohol" in the plan rather than to discourage any alcohol use. Encouraging responsibility through education was seen as the best tool for public safety for our group.

Bob Burke said IDL can possibly lease the Spring Creek access site if conditions of the lease benefit the State Endowment Fund. Through this lease agreement, a plan for development could possibly be developed and implemented.

Larry Yergler indicated that Shoshone County is not likely to pass an ordinance on motorized watercraft.

The group discussed long-term sustainable funding for implementing this plan and how to ensure that costs are borne fairly. We discussed possible parking fees, tolls, etc. Tammi Laninga mentioned the South Fork of the Snake River as a possible model for interagency fee collection to support recreation-related needs in a river corridor.

Claire Pitner shared that the IPNF Resource Advisory Council has agreed to help fund education and a seasonal river ranger. The USFS hopes that the ranger will be trained with the ability to write tickets. There was some discussion about what tickets could be written and where the revenue would go. The issue will be determined in the future between the USFS, the State, and the County.

We discussed the need for a car count and a survey of license plates.

We discussed that volunteers be sought for support of the Sherriff's Dept. along the river.

IDFG has indicated that there may be funds available to help with educational signs and there may be sign space already available as well.

Roy Faler mentioned that people are securing mining claims on federal land in order to use the land for recreation and camping.

Many WAG members were concerned about campgrounds being open longer during the fall for hunting season. Claire Pitner (USFS) said she was working on the issue and considering options.

#### VOTE

All WAG members present desired to vote on endorsement of the recreation plan during the meeting. All WAG members present voted to endorse the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Cooperative Recreation Plan with the 3 changes listed above.

**There was a consensus agreement among all WAG members present to adopt the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Cooperative Recreation Plan.**

Kajsa said she would check with the 2 members who had contacted her but were unable to attend in order to ensure they were in agreement after the meeting's discussion.