

Follow-up to 12/05/11 Sediment TAC Meeting

At the sediment TAC meeting yesterday (12/5/2011), the determination of existing uses in a water body as described in the *Water Body Assessment Guidance, Second Edition* (Grafe, et al. 2002) was discussed. These are excerpts from that document. Please feel free to review this portion of that guidance below or the entire document at the following website: http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/457010-wbag_02_entire.pdf

Macroinvertebrates:

Thus for assessment purposes, DEQ will assume that cold water aquatic life is an existing beneficial use for undesignated streams when using the *empirically-derived* cold water taxa list (Appendix A), greater than or equal to 2 macroinvertebrate cold water indicator taxa are present, or when using the *literature-derived* cold water taxa list (Appendix B), greater than or equal to 3 macroinvertebrate cold water indicator taxa are present, or when greater than or equal to 3 percent of the assemblage consists of cold water indicator taxa. A simplified example follows (Table 3-2).

Fish:

Cold water aquatic life should be considered an existing use if the fish assemblage at a site is dominated by cold water adapted species. "Dominated by" means that either greater than or equal to 50 percent of the species present, or greater than or equal to 50 percent or more of individual fish in a sample, are classified as cold water species. A listing of fish species temperature classifications is in Appendix C.