

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

### Draft Meeting Notes

April 26, 2012

1:00 – 3:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 24 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the US Forest Service Building in Smelterville, ID.

**Please visit the WAG Website:**

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

**Contact Kajsa Stromberg with any questions:**

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

**Participants:** Ed Lider, Larry Runkle, Fred Brackebusch, Dale Helbig, Bob Clark, Larry Yergler, Kajsa Stromberg, Bob Burke, Dan Guy, Ingrid Madsen, Melo Maiolie, Del Kerr, Nina Eckberg, Carol Lapan, Aubrey Woodcock, Larry Yergler

**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**

- 2012 DEQ BURP monitoring sites were discussed. DEQ is soliciting input and suggestions for summer monitoring activities on north Idaho streams. WAG members suggested streams with restoration and likely to have now attained water quality standards, similar to Yellowdog Creek. These included: *Steamboat Creek (nr mouth), Cub Cr, Calamity Cr, Buckskin/Spruce/other streams in the upper NFCD headwaters area*. Kajsa agreed these were great suggestions and proposed several sites for summer 2012 sampling: *Cub Creek, Calamity Creek, Jordan Creek, Burnt Cabin Creek, Copper Creek (upper) and Copper Creek (lower)*.
- News Articles and Other Items:
  - Unknown Gulch culvert removal (DEQ handout)
  - Bull trout recovery planning update (FWS handout)
  - Warm temps boost risk of floods (Shoshone News-Press)
  - County gives update on Dobson Pass (Shoshone News-Press)
  - Prescribed burns planned in forest (CDA Press)

- Temperature TMDLs and Monitoring – The draft temperature TMDLs will be prepared for public comment during May and released for a 30-day public comment period as soon as possible. As agreed during the March WAG meeting, Kajsa requested assistance from the DEQ State Technical Services Office with monitoring to demonstrate attainment of PNW temperature TMDL goals in at least one pilot stream (Graham Creek). Ed Lider asked about volunteers being needed for assistance and how it would be scheduled. Scheduling with volunteers will be flexible to account for volunteers' schedules. Next steps with Technical Services assistance will be development of a monitoring plan, Quality Assurance Performance Plan (QAPP), and a safety plan. Bob Burke said IDL may have safety plan templates available.
- Bob Clark from North Idaho Fly Casters said their group will be holding their annual Conservation Festival on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Steamboat Pond. After a day of working on a conservation and access project there, volunteers will meet at Country Lane Resort for music and food.

### **Aubrey Woodcock – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

Aubrey is the new District Conservationist for NRCS and she's been in that position about 7 months replacing Mark Addy who retired. Aubrey described programs available from NRCS for forestry and agriculture- related projects on private property. Applications for many of the programs are due in the fall and we invited Aubrey to come back during the application period to tell us more details.

For more about NRCS, visit their website:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/home>

You can also contact Aubrey directly:

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### **Melo Maiolie – Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)**

Melo is a regional Fisheries Biologist for IDFG, and he came to discuss fisheries in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River system. Melo distributed a handout that will be posted on the WAG website. He described a long-term dataset from annual snorkel surveys taken most years from 1973 to the present. The snorkel surveys include identifying the fish and estimating the size. These data are then used to estimate densities of trout of various sizes over time and space. The number of cutthroat trout per 100 square meters was estimated for various stream reaches.

In general, densities of cutthroat trout have been increasing dramatically in most of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed streams, especially since 2000. This is primarily due to improving habitat, water quality and changes in regulation. Densities of large cutthroat trout in the Coeur d'Alene River system are approaching densities observed in the St Joe River.

Melo also presented information about cutthroat trout and hybridization with rainbow trout, a concern for long-term conservation of cutthroat trout as an important native species.

Approximately 10% of the sample was hybrids and most of the hybrids were found in the lower reaches of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River.

There was a lot of discussion about regulations, the desire among some anglers to allow harvest of cutthroat trout, and stocking ponds for catch-and-keep fishing.

### **River Recreation**

A Boy Scout troop from Washington has volunteered to build and install 2 seasonal containers for aluminum can recycling. We will need to provide the materials and they will do the rest. A lunch meeting and site visits will be scheduled for Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and anyone interested is welcome to attend but please RSVP to Kajsa.

Dale Helbig from the Kingston Baptist Church again attended the meeting to discuss the church's proposal to organize a "rest area" for river floaters during summer 2012 on private land upstream of Albert's Landing. He said they'd like to provide port-a-potties, garbage disposal, and recycling, and would have the location staffed by volunteers. He said the church would like to have one of the recycling containers placed at their site.