

**Coeur d'Alene Lake Tributaries
Watershed Advisory Group
Wednesday May 2, 2012
1000 – 12:00
Idaho Fish and Game**

Meeting Notes

Next Meeting: Wednesday June 6th from 1:00 – 3:00 (please note this is not our regular time!)

Meeting Attendees: Kristin Keith, KK Prussian, David Fortier, Glen Rothrock, Bill Rust, Diane Partridge, Janet Funk, Steve funk, Larry Mundt, Miles Benker, Aubrey Woodcock, Gordon Sanders, Bob Clark, Laura Laumatia, Steve Wilson

The focus of the meeting was to continue discussions about implementation opportunities in the Wolf Lodge Creek watershed. At the previous WAG meeting, a list of homework items were determined. The meeting started by summarizing those homework items (see Feb 8 2012 meeting notes).

Geomax was contracted in 1990 to make an assessment of the watershed and come up with some restoration recommendations. A main issue they point out is the excessive bedload in the creek. One restoration recommendation was to regularly mine gravel at strategic areas in the creek to eliminate some of the excessive gravel. There was discussion around the efficacy of such a practice. It was noted this was a common practice in the past, which some suggested was successful in eliminating some of the problems with excessive in-stream gravel (particularly at bridges). This practice is for the most part not allowed anymore without getting a permit –which can be challenging because agencies don't always condone such a practice.

There was discussion as to whether the in-stream gravel excavation should/could be one restoration technique to continue in lower Wolf Lodge Creek. While there was agreement that the Eastside Highway District (EHD) does still excavate gravel from the channel from time to time, it was unclear as to the frequency and location of in-stream gravel excavation by the). KK said she would contact EHD to find out. It was agreed upon that they should be invited to our next meeting.

There was much discussion about obtaining permits to do restoration work on the banks or in the channel. Frustration was raised as to the perceived disconnect between Kootenai County , ID Dept of Water Resources, and the Army Corp or Engineers. Kristin suggested the WAG host a permit workshop with a panel of agency and county representatives who could answer questions local landowners may have. The WAG agreed this would a good thing to do in the future.

Much of the discussion for the rest of the meeting was centered on gaining landowner trust in the watershed. Much mistrust prevails. It was unanimous that meeting people face to face and walking their property just to evaluate the creek and to understand landowner perspectives/goals was an important start. This cannot be done without the presence of the Funks or Steve Wilson. David Fortier, KK Prussian, and Kristin Keith will be the people to sometime in June or early July to meet landowners with the Funks or Steve. Aubrey Woodcock may attend as well. It was agreed that not everyone should

go at once. It would be best to meet the land owner first (which could be on a Saturday), then coming back during the work week to walk the creek. During the initial visits they will talk about the WAG and ask questions to gain understanding of the landowner perceptions of the creek and what does or does not need to be done. They will also ask if the landowner would be willing to attend a workshop educating them about the basics of stream processes and ecology. This workshop would be done by Rob Sampson, NRCS.

Once this reconnaissance evaluation is complete, a list of stream concerns and restoration ideas perhaps would be generated. If there is enough information, perhaps it could be written in the context of a restoration plan. It was suggested eventually this plan could be taken to Kootenai County and Agency officials in charge of permitting to get feedback to eliminate any permitting roadblocks once funding is secured to do the work.

Laura Laumatia brought up the watershed assessment and restoration work the Coeur d'Alene Tribe has done in Benewah Creek. This has been a long process, particularly with respect to gaining landowner trust. Laura offered to ask Angelo Vitale to present at the next WAG meeting about this project, emphasizing the human dimension of this project and gaining trust. They also have an excellent prioritization process they used to prioritize projects in the watershed. The WAG expressed interest in hearing about that as well.

Miles Benker suggested we invite Ned Horner, Retired ID Fish and Game, to talk about his experience/perceptions of fisheries in Wolf Lodge Creek. Miles will contact Ned.

Next Steps:

1. Contacting Eastside Highway District to ask about frequency and location of gravel excavation from the creek. Invite Eastside Highway District to next WAG meeting. (KK Prussian)
2. Walking as much of Wolf Lodge Creek and Marie Creek as possible and meeting land owners with the Funks and Steve Wilson. (KK Prussian, David Fortier, Kristin Keith, Aubrey Woodcock)
3. Drafting a series of discussion points with the landowners.
4. If landowners are interested, invite Rob Sampson up to give a workshop on basic stream processes and ecology.
5. Begin conceptualizing a restoration plan and/or list of restoration ideas for the watershed.
6. Invite Angelo Vitale to talk at next WAG meeting (Laura Laumatia)
7. Invite Ned Horner to talk at next WAG meeting (Miles Benker)