

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Draft Meeting Notes

May 24, 2012

1:00 – 3:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Next meeting: Thursday, June 28 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

Participants: Carol Lapan, Kathy Farrell, Brittany Morlin, Ed Lider, Bob Clark, Bill Rust, Larry Yergler, Kajsa Stromberg, Del Kerr, Chris James, Hap Butler, Bob Bevins, Roy Faler, Sandy Schlepp

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

- WAG Membership: Sandra Raskell will now represent the Coeur d'Alene Tribe on the WAG. Thanks Sandra!
- Temperature TMDLs and Monitoring – The draft temperature TMDLs will be prepared for public comment and released for a 30-day public comment period as soon as possible. The draft is currently being reviewed by DEQ staff in Boise.

As agreed during the March WAG meeting, Kajsa requested assistance from the DEQ State Technical Services Office with monitoring to demonstrate attainment of PNV 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. We are talking about scheduling this for the last week in August.

- Bob Clark from North Idaho Fly Casters said their group will be holding their annual Conservation Festival on June 23rd at the Steamboat Pond beginning at 9am. After a day of working on a conservation and access project there, volunteers will meet at Country Lane Resort for music and food. Please RSVP and join us.

Cooperative Recreation Plan

Chris James provided an update from the USFS:

- The USFS draft plan for recreation in the river corridor is undergoing final edits and will be presented to the Counties before being released to the public at-large.
- Seasonal closure orders have been posted by the USFS at three boat access sites – Graham Creek, the Shoshone Gage Site, and Big Hank Meadows. This will prevent parking and camping at the launching site and allow for access.
- Colter Smart has been hired as a seasonal river ranger. He has several years of experience locally with the USFS and will be a valuable presence in the river corridor this summer.

Kajsa provided an update on recycling bins construction from the Boy Scouts:

- 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.
- Draft designs and a list of materials were passed around to the group for review and suggestions.
- Several folks had suggestions on obtaining materials such as working with Wallace HS and approaching local businesses such as Kellogg Lumber. Bob Clark said the Fly Casters hoped to sponsor one of the bins.
- Kingston Baptist Church would like to have one of the recycling containers placed at their site. We discussed building the containers at Albert's Landing, but there was some question about if they would be open this summer.

Birds of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene Riparian Zones: Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship

Brittany Davidson-Morlin (US Fish and Wildlife Service)

PowerPoint posted to NFCDA WAG website.

Brittany Davidson-Morlin of the US Fish and Wildlife Service presented a PowerPoint about bird monitoring they conduct in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. The program named Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) is part of the Coeur d'Alene Basin Environmental Monitoring Program to evaluate the effects of metals contamination and remediation. Sampling from a site along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River provides background information about birds in an environment not contaminated by metals and mine waste. They collect information such as species, male/female, adult/juvenile, and physical condition. They also band birds and record recaptures. In one season, they can collect more than 170 birds and 30 species. The PowerPoint contains pictures of sampling and birds that can be found along North Fork Coeur d'Alene River riparian zones.

Tepee Creek Success Story and Sediment Delisting Proposal

PowerPoint posted to NFCDA WAG website.

Kajsa presented a PowerPoint about upper Tepee Creek similar to work conducted for Yellowdog Creek showing sediment modeling results and biomonitoring results to evaluate the effectiveness of watershed restoration in the Tepee Creek headwaters. The USFS has completed several large restoration projects in upper Tepee Creek and sediment loads have been significantly reduced. Sampling in 2009 found habitat, fisheries and macroinvertebrate populations that were in good condition compared to reference conditions. All of the information suggests that Upper Tepee Creek is no longer impaired by sediment and DEQ would like to propose delisting the segment for sediment in the 2012 Integrated Report.

Kajsa asked the WAG if they agreed with this recommendation based on the information provided. Dell Kerr made a motion to support the delisting proposal. All members present voted yes, so there was unanimous support for delisting Upper Tepee Creek for sediment in 2012. Bill Rust and Chris James especially expressed support for the effort. Kajsa discussed with the group the possibility of middle Tepee Creek being the next stream in this success story and the WAG supported that idea.