

St. Joe/St. Maries WAG

March 19, 2010



Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Beneficial uses
3. Idaho water quality standards
4. Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program
5. Other types of data
6. Future WAG meetings

Introductions

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Clean Water Act

- Requires that states and tribes restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters
- Idaho's implementation of CWA
 - Develop WQS to protect beneficial uses
 - Developed and approved by EPA

Beneficial Uses

- Aquatic Life
 - Bull trout
 - Cold water
 - Salmonid spawning
- Recreation
 - Primary contact
 - Secondary contact



Beneficial Uses

- Water Supply
 - Domestic
 - Agricultural
 - Industrial
- Wildlife Habitat
- Aesthetics



Beneficial Uses

- Designated
 - assigned to a specific water body in Idaho water quality rules
- Existing uses
 - uses that are/were actually attained in a water body on or after November 28, 1975
- Presumed
 - Idaho presumes most undesignated waters will support cold water aquatic life and either primary or secondary contact recreation

Idaho Water Quality Standards

- Identifies the water quality necessary to protect beneficial uses
 - Numeric Water Quality Criteria
 - Narrative Water Quality Criteria

Idaho WQS:

http://www.deq.state.id.us/water/data_reports/surface_water/monitoring/standards.cfm

Idaho Water Quality Criteria

- Numeric Water Quality Criteria
 - Water temperature - max and daily average
 - Dissolved oxygen - 6% or 90%, >5%
 - Bacteria (*E. coli*)- 126 cfu/100ml
 - pH - 6.5 - 9
 - Turbidity - 50 NTU or 25 NTU



Idaho Water Quality Criteria

- Narrative Water Quality Criteria
 - Shall be "free from" pollutants such as oil and scum, color and odor, and other substances that can harm people and fish.
- Sediment
- Nutrients



Monitoring Surface Water Quality

- Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP)
 - Physical
 - Biological
 - Chemical



Monitoring Surface Water Quality

248 BURP sites from 1994-2008



Other Types of Data

- Tier 1
 - High scientific rigor with monitoring plan, QA/QC, collect by professionals, and analyzed by qualified lab
- Tier 2
 - Collected under less stringent conditions
- Tier 3
 - Collected under less stringent conditions

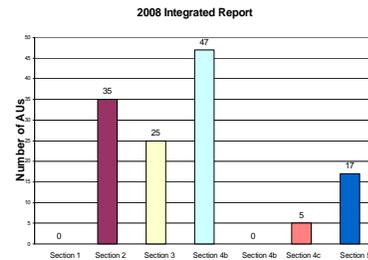
Other Types of Data

- Temperature logger data
- Discharge reports
- Photographs
- Water chemistry data
- Observations

Report Water Quality to EPA

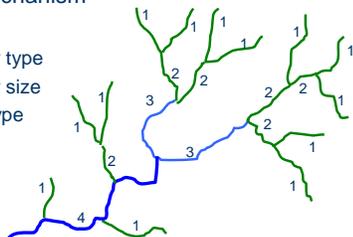
- Integrated Report "303(d) List"
- Every 2 years
 - 1998, 2002, 2008 and 2010
- Reports status of all waters
 - Supporting, not assessed, not supporting, not supporting with TMDL

2008 Integrated Report



Assessment Units

- Tracking mechanism
- Grouped by
 - Water body type
 - Water body size
 - Land use type



2010 Integrated Report

- Draft is underway
- 30 day public comment period
- Submitted to EPA for approval
- Will guide DEQ in TMDL development

Future WAG Meetings

- Friday April 16th
- Continue meeting every 3rd Friday of the month
- Meeting topics
 - 2003 TMDLs, Implementation, WAG house keeping

St. Joe/St. Maries WAG Webpage

- Post documents, meeting material and other resources

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/about/regions/st_joe_st_maries_river_wag/index.cfm