



## St. Joe/St. Maries Watershed Advisory Group (WAG)

### Meeting Minutes

**Location:** St. Maries Fire Station, 308 West Jefferson Avenue, St. Maries, Idaho

**Date/Time:** March 20, 2015, 9-11:45am

#### Attendance:

Peg Carver	Landowner	Archie Gray	IDL
Scott Fields	CDA Tribe	Dean Johnson	Benewah Co. NR Committee
James Pierce	Benewah SWCD	Craig Nelson	IDEQ
Richard Furman	IDL	Chris Hurren	Opta Minerals/Benewah SWCD
Shane Randall	City of St. Maries	Ward Cooper	Potlatch
Ryan Dickison	Potlatch		

**Craig Nelson from IDEQ called the meeting to order at 9:05am**

**The meeting Agenda was provided to the group.**

**A reminder about the website for the St. Joe Wag: Available on the DEQ website**

**The Minutes from the December 05, 2014 meeting were recognized, approved, and signed.**

#### **Idaho Forest Practices Act: Class I Streamside Tree Retention Rules:**

**Archie Gray, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)**-Archie provided a detailed update on the changes to the Idaho Forest Practices Act that involve the harvest of timber near Class I Streams. The new rules took effect on July 1, 2014. Some of the changes involve new streamside tree retention rules using relative stocking values, change in policy governing IFPA (Idaho Forest Practices Act) inspections on State lands, and new education tools to assist landowners with the understanding and determination of the relative stocking values.

The main goal of the Idaho Forest Practices is to protect water quality. To assist in compliance to IFPA's goal of clean water, forest harvest activities require notifications to IDL. Once notification are received, a percentage of the notification sites are inspected to ensure adherence to IFPA rules and regulations. Attributes of sites that are most often inspected include sites with slopes over 45%, sites with close proximity to Class 1 or 2 steams,

sites with unstable or erosive soils, and sites with converting land uses. These inspection requirements will now also include State land sites.

Class 1 streams are important for spawning, rearing or migration of fish or are used as a domestic water supply. Class 1 Stream Protection Zones (SPZ) encompass an area of 75 feet (slope distance) on each side of the stream's ordinary high water mark. Shade over streams keeps water cool for successful spawning, and, creates structure when trees fall into the stream channel forming pools that enhance the ability of fish to feed, spawn, rest, and migrate upstream. Because it was determined that minimum shade rules need to be better quantified, the new shade rules using relative stocking values were recently implemented.

The new shade rule requires a 75 foot wide buffer on each side of Class 1 streams and provides landowners with two management options for retaining trees in this area. Only one option can be implemented within the stream protection zone of a harvest unit covered by a single notification.

Option 1 requires more trees to be left in the inner 25-ft next to the stream and fewer trees in the outer 50-ft. of SPZ. Within 25 feet from the ordinary high water mark on each side of the stream, live conifers and hardwoods will be retained to maintain a minimum relative stocking per acre of 60. A relative stocking per acre of 30 must be retained in the stream protection zone between 25 feet and 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the stream.

Option 2 requires more trees to be left in the inner 50-ft. next to the stream and fewer trees in the outer 25-ft. of the stream protection zone. Within 50 feet from the ordinary high water mark on each side of a stream, live conifers and hardwoods will be retained to maintain a minimum relative stocking per acre of 60. A relative stocking per acre of 10 must be retained in the stream protection zone between 50 feet and 75 feet from the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the stream.

To determine what trees can be harvested along a Class 1 stream, follow the six step process. The process includes determining forest type, management options, locating stream protection zones, and inventorying trees within the SPZ to provide the current relative stocking. Once the current stocking level is known, and, if the current stocking exceeds the required minimum to protect the stream, trees can be selected for harvest. If no harvest occurs in the SPZ, an inventory is not needed.

In certain situations, variances to the rules can be granted. If criteria is met, variances are considered: "especially if equivalent or better results over the long term" are perceived. The most common approved variances include the reuse of a road inside a SPZ and the skidding within a SPZ, as opposed to using new crossings.

These notes are based upon observation of Archie's detailed PowerPoint presentation and from reading the hand-out, *Class 1 Streamside Tree Retention Rules* provided by Archie at the meeting, along with the updated IFPA Manual on the subject.

**Next Meeting:** Friday, May 29, 2015, 9-11am, St. Maries Fire Station

**Potential Agenda Items:** Review of the 2011 Temperature TMDL Addendum and 2003 TMDL

**Meeting adjourned around 11:45am**

Minutes respectfully submitted,

James W. Pierce, Benewah SWCD

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_