

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Draft Meeting Notes
Jan 26, 2017
1:00 – 3:00 pm
US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Next meeting: March 23, 2017

Please visit the WAG website:

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

Contact:

Kajsa Van de Riet at (208) 666-4633 or kajsa.vanderiet@deq.idaho.gov

Participants: Kajsa Van de Riet, Sandy Schlepp, Bob Clark, Fred Brackebusch, John Hansen, Caj Matheson, Rodney Cochrane, Edward Lider, Gordon Sanders

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.

If there are questions about these notes, mistakes or omissions, please contact Kajsa Van de Riet at DEQ.

- Introductions, review agenda, & distribute previous meeting notes
- **Coeur d'Alene Basin Restoration Partnership** - Caj Matheson, Communications Specialist for the Restoration Partnership, and Kajsa gave an overview presentation about a draft plan to restore natural resources in the Coeur d'Alene Basin that were injured by releases of historic mine waste. The draft plan was developed by the Restoration Partnership, an interagency group of trustees, and more information can be found at www.restorationpartnership.org. The draft plan and associated environmental impact statement were out for public review and comment through Feb 13. Kajsa and Caj encouraged the WAG to review the draft plan on the website and provide comments.

There were several questions and suggestions raised during discussion of the draft plan:

- We discussed the differences between Alternatives 2 and 3. WAG member(s) mentioned that the damage caused by people during recreational activities could continue under Alternative 3 while that damage could potentially be reduced through managed use improvements under Alternative 2.
- WAG member(s) mentioned there could be good opportunities to partner with private timber companies on restoration and that several own and manage large amounts of property in the CdA Basin.

- There was discussion about how to handle public benefits and benefits to individuals or corporations and concepts of property value, public access, and private hunting fees.
 - There was discussion about limiting factors for injured resources like trout and non-native species as limiting factors. WAG member(s) mentioned that non-native predatory fish like pike and small-mouth bass could be limiting factors for trout in places like the Coeur d'Alene River and Lower St. Joe. WAG member(s) wondered about the pike bounty program run by the Tribe and whether it has been effective at reducing predation on cutthroat by pike.
 - WAG member(s) wondered about boat wake erosion in the Coeur d'Alene River and how much boat wakes increase erosion of banks. Several asked whether a no wake zone could be adopted to reduce these effects.
- **DEQ Updates (Kajsa):**
 - **Map of Streams Sampled by DEQ BURP 2012-2016 - See handout.** Kajsa shared a map showing 42 stream sites recently visited by DEQ's crews. Of those, samples were collected at 25 sites to assess the conditions of streams through fish, insects, and physical habitat metrics. These data will be used for updated water body assessments. The maps also showed which segments are not assessed and could be used to help select sites for sampling in 2017.
 - **Selecting 2017 BURP sites - See handout.** DEQ is seeking the WAG's input on site selection for the 2017 season of wadeable stream sampling. Kajsa proposed two stream sites that are currently not assessed on Idaho's Integrated Report of water quality:
 - Independence Creek (btw Ellis and Declaration): This remote site is difficult to access. WAG members suggested using a motorcycle trail and getting assistance with transporting gear, perhaps from Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. The WAG supported DEQ's attempt to sample this site.
 - Cathedral Creek: This site is also remote and difficult to access, but not as far as the Independence Creek site. The crew could access from Jordan Camp along the National Recreation Trail. Other tributaries in the assessment unit are small and unlikely to have adequate flow for a sample. Cathedral Creek was recommended by the WAG.
- The WAG also suggested adding sites in the Shoshone Creek drainage as candidates for sediment delisting due to improved water quality. These include AU#s ID17010301PN012_03 and ID17010301PN010_03. These requests have been forwarded to DEQ's regional BURP coordinator.
- **Unassessed water bodies - See handout.** DEQ is seeking the WAG's input on assessments that are being completed. Kajsa shared an update on water bodies that are currently not assessed on Idaho's Integrated Report of water quality, and described which have current data that can be used for assessments. The outcomes of assessments will be shared with the WAG at our next meeting to get input.

- **Potential sediment delistings - See handout.** DEQ is seeking the WAG's input on streams that are listed as impaired by sediment, covered by the existing sediment TMDL, and have improved water quality as candidates for possible delistings. For the next round of assessments, DEQ is considering Lost Creek, Falls Creek, and segments of the Shoshone Creek watershed for possible sediment delisting. The WAG supported the idea. Information about possible delisting will be presented at the next WAG meeting.
- **Forest Service Updates (Barb Hansen):**
 - **Grizzly Fire Salvage Project** - The project has been implemented this winter to salvage timber after the Grizzly Fire of 2015. The project has several subsections in various ranges of completion with active logging going on. The River Rd was plowed this winter up to Big Hank as haul routes for the logging trucks. WAG members asked if we could get updates at our next meeting including the volume and value of sales.
 - **Kings Pass Project** - This sale was part of the Beaver Creek project. The contract is sold and work is beginning.
 - **Potters Wheel** - Planning for this project in the Trail/Tepee Creek watershed is continuing.
 - **Lone Cabin** - The first sale from the Bottom Canyon Project is planned for sale soon.

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