

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

DRAFT

Meeting Notes

June 30, 2011

1:00 – 4:00 pm

WORKSHOP – North Fork Coeur d'Alene River

Next Meeting: *TBA*

Please Visit the WAG Website:

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/regional-offices-issues/coeur-d'alene/basin-watershed-advisory-groups/north-fork-coeur-d'alene-river-wag.aspx>

Contact:

Kajsa Stromberg, DEQ Watershed Coordinator
(208) 666-4633 or Kajsa.Stromberg@deq.idaho.gov

Participants: Carol LaPan, Sherry Klaus, Bob Clark, Diane Partridge, Bob Bevins, Sandy Schlepp, KK Prussian, Kajsa Stromberg, Ed Lider, Nina Eckberg, Bill and Teresa Orton, Judy and Fred McMurray, Tim and Wendy Trout, Ingrid Madsen, Ray and Tamie Eberhard

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. Meeting notes for the April 2011 meeting were posted on the WAG's website for review. This meeting was an educational workshop and tour.

Workshop Summary:

Instead of meeting in our usual USFS Smeltonville office meeting room, the WAG held a workshop on the banks of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Thursday afternoon June 30th from 1-4 pm. A group of approximately 20 people met at a river location about 5 miles upstream from Enaville. Three neighbors with adjoining properties agreed to work together in cost-share with Benewah Soil and Water Conservation District (BSWCD) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with funding from the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation. Engineering and technical support was provided by Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission staff. Overall goals were to improve water quality, increase fish and wildlife habitat, and to enhance private property.

- Tour of bank stabilization and riparian restoration sites: Kajsa Stromberg, DEQ Watershed Coordinator, with Bill Orton of Orton Contracting.



Kajsa Stromberg describes the function of rock barbs.

During fall 2010, a series of 9 rock barbs were constructed to shift the river's energy and reduce the river's erosive power on unstable banks. This helped scour small pools, reduce bank erosion and lateral channel migration, and provide areas behind barbs for plants to reestablish. This construction was followed by willow and dogwood pole plantings to reestablish a vegetated buffer area in the riparian zone next to the stream. These plants will further stabilize unstable bank areas, increase fish and wildlife habitat value, and provide shade for the river. Additional plantings are planned for 2011.

The workshop started with a walking tour of all three properties and a view of all 9 rock barbs with discussion of their design, function and construction. Project participants feel the barbs have been successful during their first year after construction, even through high flow events this winter and spring. We also viewed the willow and dogwood pole plantings and discussed private land management along the river. A bare minimum 25-foot buffer of plants is recommended to prevent excessive erosion, maintain water quality, and provide fish and wildlife habitat benefits. Shoshone County ordinance calls for a minimum 25-ft buffer area of undisturbed vegetation. Sometimes vegetation has been removed and grasses are mowed right up to the edge of the bank. This causes excessive erosion, degrades water quality, and harms fish and wildlife habitat.

- Introduction to local noxious and invasive weeds: Nina Eckberg, Treasurer Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Council.



Nina Eckberg describing local noxious weeds identification and management.

Following the walking tour of the barbs and plantings, Nina Eckberg led a short introduction to local noxious and invasive weeds. The most current “Idaho Noxious Weed Handbook” was distributed. Additional copies are available. Nina also displayed example weeds and described related laws and management recommendations. Nina said she’s available to assist people with weeds-related questions and there are also contacts with Shoshone County available as a resource.

Shoshone County Noxious Weeds Website:

http://www.shoshonecounty.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=44&Itemid=22

Nina Eckberg, Treasurer
Panhandle Lakes RC&D Council
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- Introduction to native plants and planting techniques: Diane Partridge, Private Forestry Specialist Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) with assistance from Kajsa and Sherry Klaus, BSWCD.



Diane Partridge (center) describing native plants and planting tools.

Sherry Klaus provided samples of native trees and shrubs that are recommended for planting near rivers in our area. These included: western red cedar, red-osier dogwood, chokecherry, Douglas hawthorn, mallow ninebark, black cottonwood, woods rose, serviceberry, quaking aspen, blue elderberry, mountain alder, and white pine. Plants were obtained from USFS nurseries and Plants of the Wild (<http://www.plantsofthewild.com/>). We also noted that there is a local nursery outside of Osburn called Living Gardens Nursery that may also be a source for finding native plants (208-752-3603).

Diane Partridge described the plants, planting tools and planting techniques. Plant selection, site preparation, and planting techniques are all important considerations. Plant selection depends on your site and features like shade/sun, sand/rocky soils, amount of moisture, and elevation. Choosing the right plant for the right site is important for maximizing survival and growth. Some species can be planted as cuttings and other's purchased as various size stock from nurseries. She said plants should be treated with care to prevent damage. Site preparation may involve grass removal or treatments to prevent competition of grass with the new tree or shrub. Plant protectors might be used to prevent wildlife from grazing on the new plants. When planting trees, the hole should be larger than the container and root mass of the new plant and the roots should not be bent when planted. Soil should be replaced around the new plant and care taken to ensure there aren't air pockets around the roots. Watering may or may not be needed during the first year after planting. Planting tools can include shovels, hoedads, planting spades, and dibble or planting bars. Stakes and a variety of plant protectors are also available. Diane is available if you have questions at dpartridge@idl.idaho.gov or (208) 769-1577.

- Planting trees and shrubs.

Once we reviewed plants and planting techniques, the group was equipped with gloves, shovels and plants to plant all of the sample plants and additional white pines on two of the properties in the riparian restoration cost-share. Approximately 65 trees and shrubs were planted and participants were given white pine to take home and plant if desired.



One of 65 native riparian trees and shrubs planted during the workshop.

Don't forget to check the WAG website for updates and materials:

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/regional-offices-issues/coeur-d'alene/basin-watershed-advisory-groups/north-fork-coeur-d'alene-river-wag.aspx>