

## Presentation to LBR WAG 1/10/2013...Plans for 2013 Integrated Report

### Background

#### **1994**

The Idaho 1994 303(d) list was drafted by EPA as part of a federal court case. Waters listed on the §303(d) list were not geospatially located. Instead they used text to describe the boundaries of waters listed. By 1998 this had been rectified and listings were geospatially located and mapped.

#### **2000**

DEQ implemented a new indexing tool, WBID to catalogue all the waters in the state based on the USGS National Hydrography Data Set.

#### **2002**

DEQ switched from WBID to Assessment Units (AU's). AU's were WBID that were further subdivided by stream order and land use. Tracked waterbodies went from roughly 2,500 WBID's to 5,200 AU's.

#### **2002**

1. EPA implemented the current Integrated Report format in 2002, combining the former 305(b) report and 303(d) list, into one comprehensive report.
2. To support this change EPA rolled out Assessment Data Base (ADB). ADB is a relational database application to assist states with tracking water quality assessment information and generating reports. ADB tracks all waters in the state, placing each AU in one or more Categories (1-5) of the IR along with the rationale for that decision.
3. Tracking assessments is particularly important when it comes to delisting an AU-cause from Category 5 (delist). Delisting occurs only under 3 circumstances:
  - a. Moving an AU-cause from Category 5 to Category 4a, through an approved TMDL
  - b. AU cause now meets WQS
  - c. Listed in error
4. EPA asked Idaho not to use the pollutant cause "nutrient" or "metals" in ADB/IR for the 2002 cycle. EPA wanted Idaho to specify the type of nutrient or metal. In most cases DEQ did not have the information to specify the type of nutrient or metal. In those cases the agencies agreed to use "Cause Unknown". A comment was to be added in ADB at the Cause Comment screen stating that "Nutrients or metals are the suspected impairment. However, in the 1998 Report "Unknown" was the cause used to identify a biological impairment. If an assessor was not aware of this decision on how nutrients and metals

were to be captured in ADB, Cause Unknown (place holder for nutrients or metals) could be mistaken as biological impairment.

5. Difference between delist and delete. In ADB the proper way to move an AU pollutant from Category 5 is to delist it. There are a number of steps in ADB to accomplish this, the most important being the justification. A very similar action, though inappropriate, is to delete the AU pollutant. In that case it disappears without any tracks. Early on staff did not fully understand the implications of deleting versus delisting a pollutant.

DEQ has developed more accountability, tracking, training and QA/QC to reduce these kinds of errors noted above.

#### History of listings on Indian Creek

**Indian Creek AU ID17050114SW002\_04** (Lower-Sugar Avenue to mouth). This AU was listed for DO, nutrients and sediment on 1998 303(d) list. DO, nutrients and sediment were “deleted”, not delisted, on 20002 IR.

DEQ’s plans for 2012

Since nutrients were deleted in error, DEQ is proposing to relist TP.

**Indian Creek AU ID17050114SW003a\_04** (Upper-NY Canal to Sugar Avenue). This AU was listed for DO, nutrients, and sediment on 1998 303(d) list. Cause unknown was “delisted” on the 2010 IR as temperature was identified as causing the biological impairment. Staff did not understand that Cause Unknown was a placeholder for nutrients.

DEQ’s plans for 2012 IR

DEQ will not list TP due to lack of information. Temperature is believed to be the cause of the impairment. DO sags have not been observed since 1996-1999.

See Table C-5 from DEQ 2009 Five Year Review

BURP Site 2003SBOIA051 scored 16.9 Fail

#### History of Listings on Five and Ten Mile Creeks

**Five mile Creek AU ID17050114SW010\_03** (Headwaters to Fifteenmile Creek). Cause unknown was “delisted” in the 2010 IR as sediment was identified as causing the impairment. Staff did not understand that Cause Unknown was a placeholder for nutrients.

DEQ’s plans for 2012

Since nutrients were not addressed in delisting as they should have been, DEQ is proposing to relist TP.

**Ten mile Creek AU ID7050114SW008\_03** (Headwaters to Fifteenmile Creek). Cause unknown was “delisted” in the 2010 IR as sediment was identified as causing the impairment. Staff did not understand that Cause Unknown was a placeholder for nutrients.

DEQ’s plans for 2012

DEQ will not list TP due to lack of information. Sediment is believed to be the cause of the impairment.

See Table(s) C-1 and C-2 from DEQ 2009 Five Year Review

BURP Site 1997SBOIA003 (lower) scored 27.3 Fail

BURP Site 1997SBOIA004 (upper) scored 15.3 Fail

#### Primary Data Sources

1. DEQ 2001 Lower Boise River Nutrient and Tributary Subbasin Assessments
2. USGS MacCoy 2004 Water Quality and Biological Conditions in the Lower Boise River, Ada and Canyon Counties, Idaho, 1994-2002
3. DEQ 2009 Lower Boise River TMDL Five-Year Review
4. ISDA
5. City of Nampa

#### Other impairment actions for the 2012 Integrated Report

1. Mason Creek listed for Malathion ISDA 2012
2. Five Mile Creek Chlorpyrifos ISDA 2012
3. Ten Mile Creek Chlorpyrifos ISDA 2012
4. Mill Slough Temperature (contious) DEQ 2011

