

# Copper Creek

## Sediment TMDL Review & Delistings

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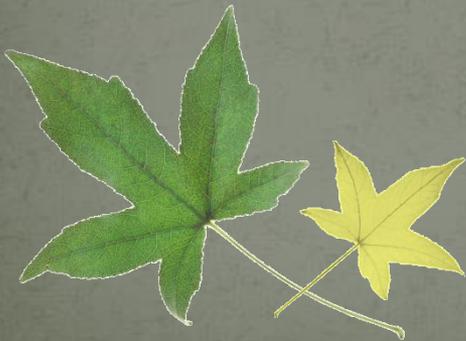
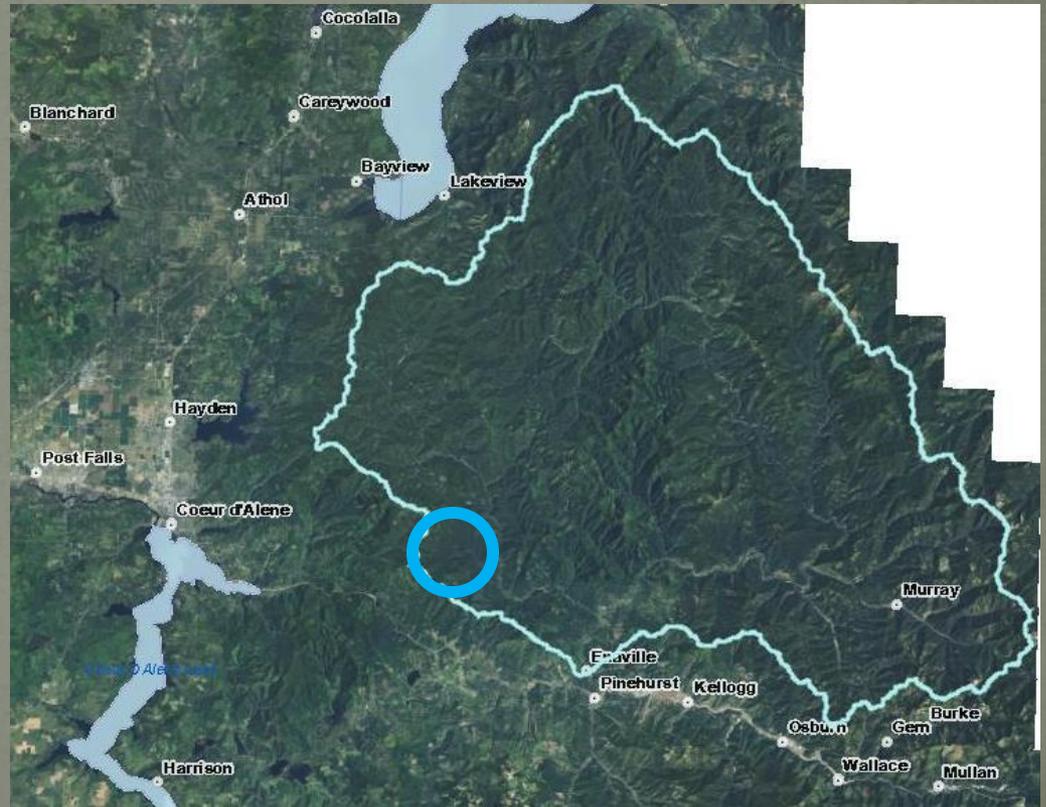
North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Subbasin  
Watershed Advisory Group (WAG)

October 9, 2014



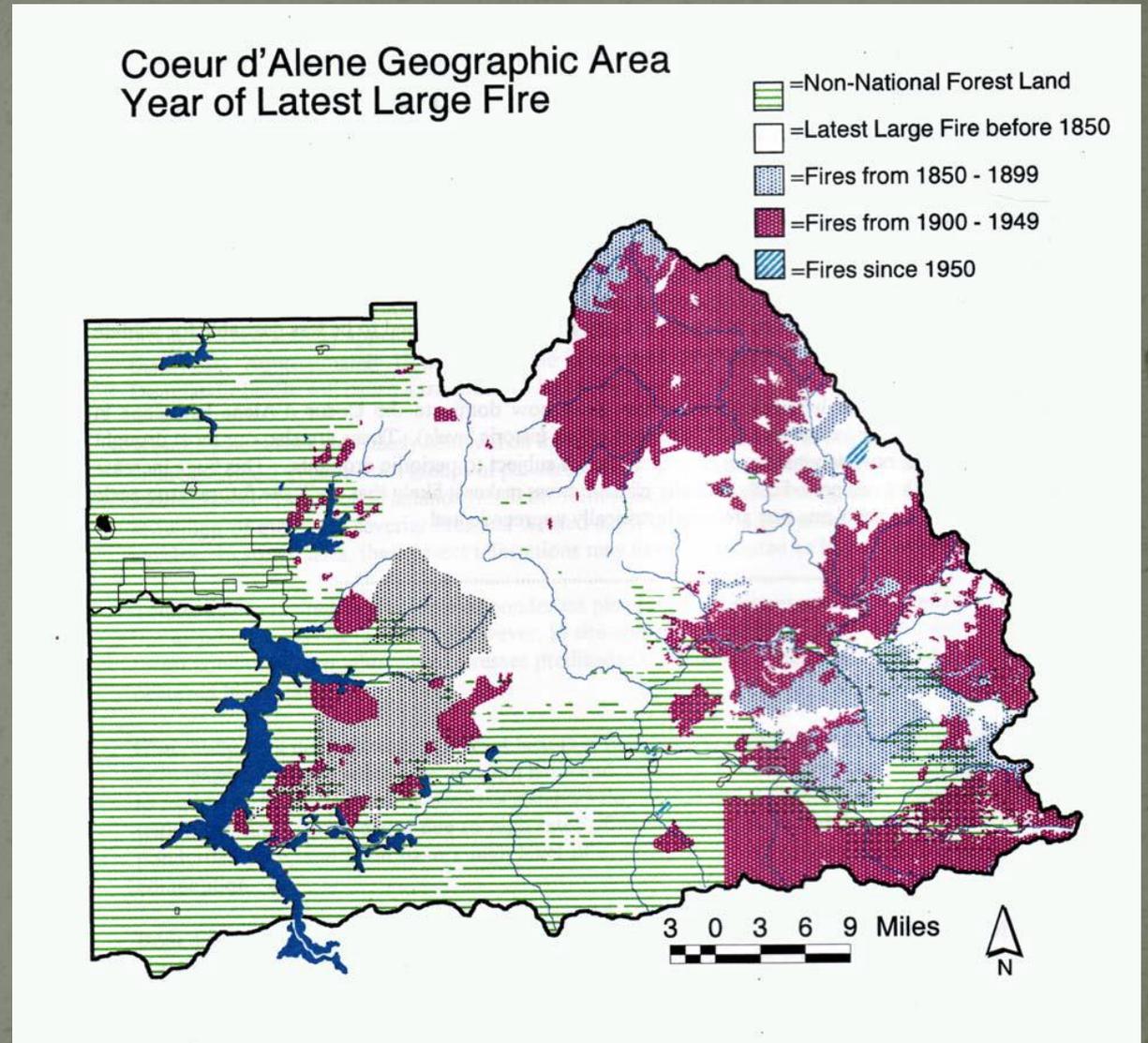
# Location and Description

- Copper Creek Watershed
- 100% Forest Service
- 21 stream miles
- 2 assessment units (AUs)



# History

- Latest large fire <1850
- Road-building and timber harvest
- Haven't dug into details of history
- Road densities look high from aerial photos



# Location and Description

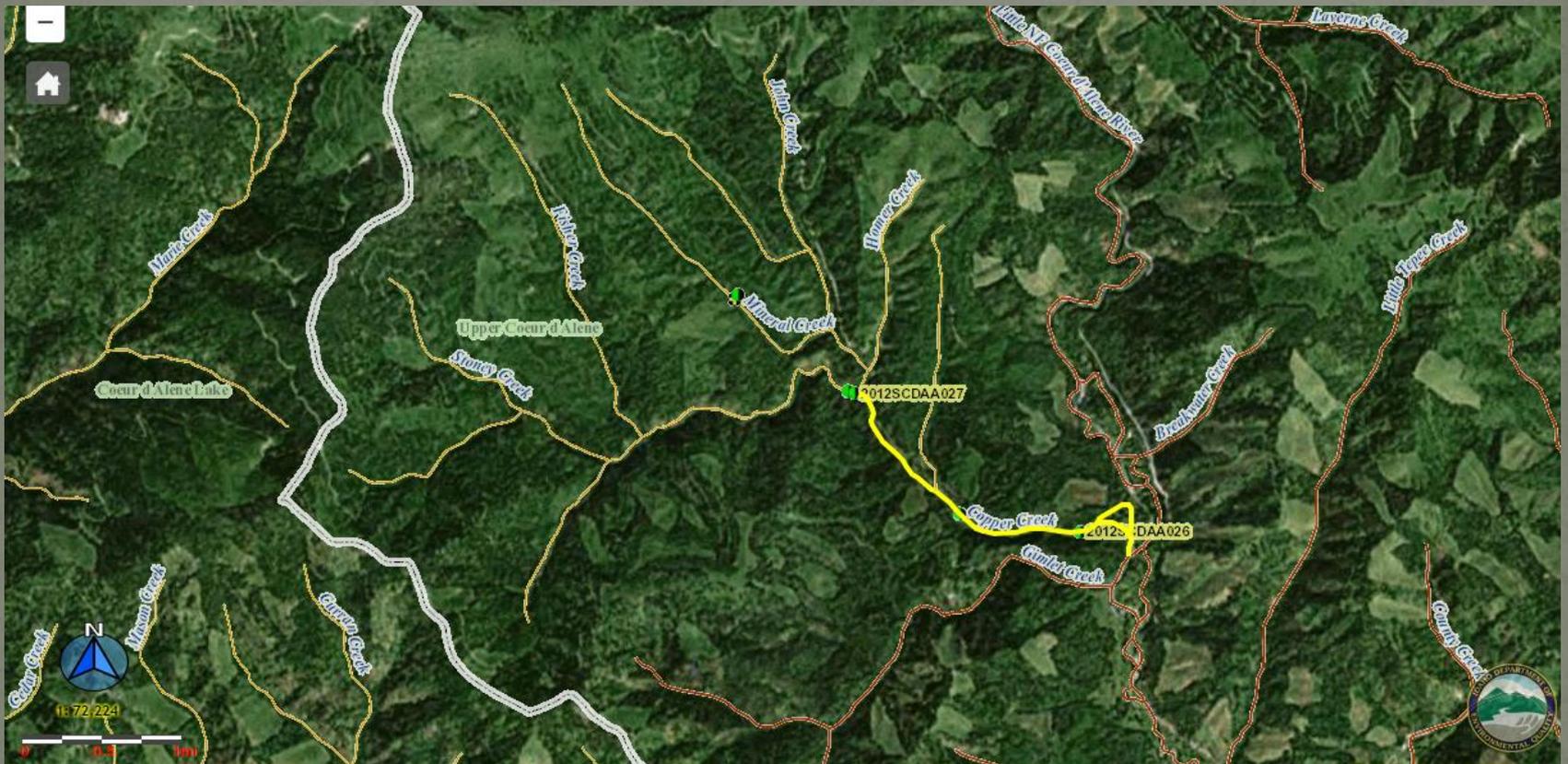
- Copper Creek, headwaters and tributaries
  - ID17010301PNo39\_02
  - 18.89 mi
- Copper Creek, lower
  - ID17010301PNo39\_03
  - 2.75 mi



# Copper Creek headwaters (39\_02)



# Copper Creek, lower (39\_03)

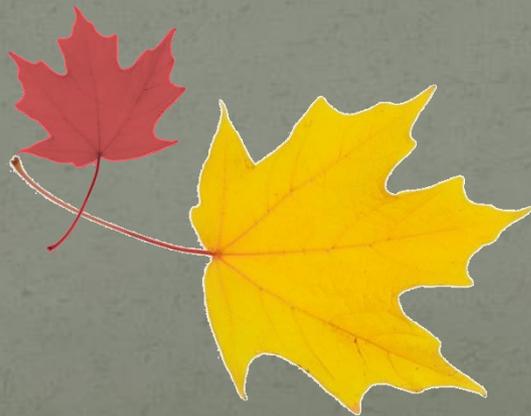


# History

- 1996: Copper Creek first listed as impaired by sediment (PNRS ID 1487). (headwaters to Little NFCDA)
- 2001: Subbasin Assessment and TMDL concluded Copper Creek sediment impaired (WQLS #3487). (headwaters to Little NFCDA)
- 2002: Copper Creek headwaters and tribs listed as sediment impaired (AU# ID17010301PNo39\_02). Copper Creek, lower listed as impaired by sediment and temperature (AU# ID17010301PNo39\_03).

# History

- 2010: Copper Creek headwaters and tribs listed as sediment impaired. Copper Creek, lower listed as impaired by sediment and temperature.
- 2012: same



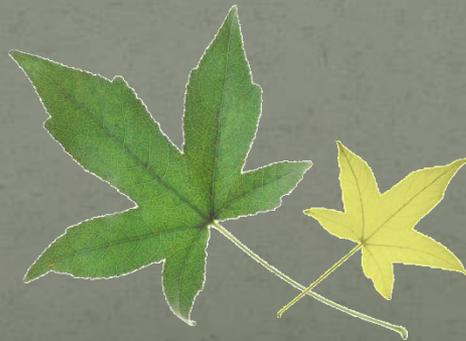
# Sediment TMDL

- No specific load allocations for Copper Creek.
- These waterbodies included in Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed allocation at 1.5 times modeled natural background (3,746 t/y).

Little NFCDA Watershed	Tons per Year
Natural Background	2,497
Target Load	3,746
2001 Load	6,645
Load Reduction Needed	2,899

# Restoration & Management

- Unknown, need documentation



# Previous Monitoring

- Copper, upper 1996
  - SMI = 1
  - SFI = nd
  - SHI = 1
  - Avg = 1.0
- Mineral 2010
  - SMI = 3
  - SFI = 2
  - SHI = 3
  - Avg = 2.7
- Copper, lower 1996
  - SMI = 3
  - SFI = nd
  - SHI = 1
  - Avg = 2.0

# 2012 BURP Monitoring

- Copper, upper 2012

- SMI = 3
- SFI = 2
- SHI = 3
- Avg = 2.7

- Copper, lower 2012

- SMI = 3
- SFI = 3
- SHI = 3
- Avg = 3.0

# Copper Creek, upper 2012



# Copper Creek, lower 2012



# Sediment TMDL Review Model

- Did not have opportunity to use sediment TMDL review model.
- Can't use review model anymore due to database changes at USFS, some data layers no longer available.



# Preliminary Findings

- Copper Creek headwaters and tributaries (39\_02)
  - Original listing rationale?
  - 1996 BURP data indicated impairment.
  - 2012 BURP bioassessment data indicate full support.



# Preliminary Findings



- Copper Creek, lower (39\_03)
  - Original listing rationale?
  - 1996 BURP data borderline, showed possible impairment.
  - 2012 BURP bioassessment data indicate full support for cold water aquatic life.

# Next Steps

- Need documentation for restoration activities of USFS in these watersheds
- Compile any additional data
- WAG feedback, if supported:
- Propose sediment delisting proposals for 2014 draft Integrated Report
- Public comment for 2014 draft Integrated Report





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