

**Pend Oreille River TMDL Watershed Advisory Group**  
**June 17, 2008**  
**Panhandle Health District**  
**322 Marion Ave. Sandpoint, ID**

**Participants:** Michele Wingert and Ken Merrill, Kalispel Tribe; Gary Wescott, Southside Water and Sewer District; Jamie Davis, Idaho Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts and Idaho Soil Conservation Commission; Robert Steed, Kristin Keith, and Tyson Clyne, Idaho DEQ; John Sugden and Ruth Watkins, Tri-State Water Quality Council.

On the phone: Kent Easthouse, Corps of Engineers and Helen Rueda, EPA Region 10.

**Introductions:** Ruth Watkins (facilitator) opened the meeting, had everyone present and on the phone introduce themselves, and reviewed the agenda.

**Pend Oreille River Total Dissolved Gas TMDL:**

DEQ presented a draft of this TMDL at the February WAG meeting and received comments from the Washington Department of Ecology, the Corps of Engineers, and the Kalispell Tribe. DEQ addressed many of the comments they received. Lake Pend Oreille and spill data at Albeni Falls Dam (2005-2007) were added to this TMDL since the February draft.

The Kalispel Tribe will not support bringing this TMDL to public comment because Avista is not mitigating its gas contributions at Cabinet Gorge Dam. These contributions cause tribal waters to exceed tribal water quality standards. Changes to the draft TMDL, and comments received were discussed.

DEQ is providing those who commented a chance to see how DEQ responded to WAG stakeholder comments prior to public comment. DEQ is planning to open the document for public comment on July 21. DEQ will address issues until July 11<sup>th</sup>. DEQ will call Ecology and inform them of those dates. DEQ will respond to these comments informally by phone until the public comment period later in the summer. During the public comment period, DEQ will respond to comments more formally.

**Tributary Implementation Discussion:**

TMDLs have been written on North Idaho tributaries like the Pack River and Cocolalla Creek and now implementation plans are being developed. Agricultural management plans have been written for the Pack and Cocolalla. These will be attached to the existing management and implementations plans as addendums.

Some implementation plans have been written for the tributaries, but decisions need to be made as to who will work in between groups writing implementation plans and the BAG. Currently, the Pack River Watershed Council and the Cocolalla Lake Association have to work through this WAG, which gives recommendations to the BAG. The WAG's authority could be passed to DEQ, but the WAG may have an interest in these tributaries. The WAG can be in charge of approving these plans, but smaller groups need to be in

charge of implementation. DEQ will be in touch with the WAG about internal decisions that are made.

**Next Steps:**

The next WAG meeting date is uncertain, but depends on if and when Ecology decided on the appropriate pooling period and decides to use a frequency analysis.