

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Notes

January 29, 2009

1:00 – 4:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Participants: Edward Lider, Mike Mihelich, Fred Brackebusch, Roy Faler, George Hemphill, Bill Rust, Bob Burke, Sandy Schlepp, Kristin Keith, Kajsa Stromberg, Bob Clark, Larry Runkle, Don Martin, Kim Johnson, Len Young, Vern Hanson, Kenny Hicks, Denna Grangaard, Ed Warner, Kelli Duncan, Earl Frizzell

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. The meeting focused on water quality improvement projects, updates on grants and projects, temperature data analyses updates, and documents available for WAG review and comment.

WAG Business:

- Meeting Notes from November 20 were distributed.
- A new report from IDFG was distributed, "Summer Use of Side Channel Habitat by Fishes in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River"
- The IPNF quarterly SOPA was distributed.
- An update about the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan was presented – the DEQ response to comments is available.
- Other handouts: DEQ budget update, IDWR north Idaho water rights adjudication info, EPA to amend upper basin Record of Decision.

- NF COEUR D'ALENE RIVER RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: The Coeur d'Alene River Preservation Committee has been working to develop a river management plan for the NFCDA from Shoshone Camp to Enaville with an emphasis on recreational uses of the river and environmental issues. Ed Warner discussed progress with the WAG including a funding proposal through the USFS Resource Advisory Committee that would fund a UI graduate student for plan development.

- EPA Grant to DEQ and USFS: The EPA has funded a \$55,000 grant request for a joint DEQ-USFS project to review TMDL implementation effectiveness in the North Fork CDA subbasin. We will receive funding from Region 10 and the national headquarters office for monitoring and analysis in 2009.

- Grant from Office of Species Conservation: DEQ and the local Conservation District are finalizing a subgrant agreement to implement \$140,000 of habitat enhancement and water quality improvement work on private lands in the subbasin.
- DEQ Beaver Creek mine tailings removal: DEQ's Waste and Remediation Section received a Section 319 grant for mine tailings removal from private land streamside areas in Beaver Creek. They are planning for a 2010 construction season.
- Draft Assessment of Compliance with EPA bull trout criteria: A draft report was discussed and distributed for WAG review and comment. DEQ used USFS and DEQ temperature data to assess compliance with EPA bull trout criteria in three streams: Brown, Falls and Graham creeks. WAG comments are requested, and we will discuss the issues further at meeting in February.
- Draft 2008 Water Quality Status Report: A draft report on the 2008 Integrated Report status for North Fork Coeur d'Alene subbasin streams was discussed and made available for review and comment.
- Draft Chapter 2 of Subbasin Assessment Update: A draft chapter from the Subbasin Assessment in development was distributed for WAG review and comment. This chapter focuses on water quality criteria and water quality status in the subbasin.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 26, 2009 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the US Forest Service Building in Smelterville, ID.

Please visit the WAG Website:

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/about/regions/north_fork_cda_river_wag/index.cfm

Contact Kajsa Stromberg with any questions:

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