

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Draft Meeting Notes
July 17, 2013
1:00 – 3:00 pm
US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Next meeting: TBD

Please visit the WAG website:

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/north-fork-cda-river-subbasin-wag>

Contact Kajsa Stromberg with any questions:

(208) 666-4633 or Kajsa.Stromberg@deq.idaho.gov

Participants: Kajsa Stromberg, Bob Clark, Leslee Stanley, Jim Best, Sandy Podsaid, Tarita Harju, Sandra Raskell, Doug England, Jim Ekins, Aaron Prussian

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.

Introductions, review agenda, & distribute previous meeting notes

Updates and Planning

- Draft temperature TMDLs - The comment period for the draft temperature TMDLs closed June 10, 2013 and 14 comments were received. Kajsa drafted responses to those comments now and sent the draft temperature TMDL to DEQ's state office for finalization and submittal to EPA. The only substantive change will be the addition of stormwater language at EPA's request. Once approved by EPA, the temperature TMDLs will take effect.
- 2012 Integrated Report - The draft 2012 Integrated Report of statewide water quality is available for review and comment. DEQ has extended the public comment period until August 9, 2013. Kajsa distributed a handout about the report and comment opportunity.

The only major changes in status for this subbasin are the sediment delisting proposals for Steamboat Creek, Yellowdog Creek, and two segments of Tepee Creek. Kajsa encouraged WAG members to submit comments on the Integrated Report.

- Recreation – Claire Pitner sent a written update regarding recreation management and projects along the river. We had great discussion with lots of good ideas from the WAG.
 - River Cleanup – This year's cleanup will be Saturday Sept. 7th. WAG members suggested a press release and coordinating with Sandy Podsaid on behalf of

Shoshone County. We can promote this even through the new ShoshoneCountry.info website as well as many other avenues.

- Recycling bins constructed last year are out and complete with signs, etc. There have been some troubles with bees/wasps in the bins.
 - Banner – The large banner has been up and highly visible. There was some wind damage, but we are hoping to have that repaired.
 - Float patrols – Colter Smart, USFS River Ranger, will be out floating nearly every weekend this summer to help educate people about our protecting our resources, promote river safety, and be a presence on the river.
 - Mesh bags – We have a boy scout interested in doing a related project as an Eagle Scout project. Working on ideas. There were many ideas about places to distribute the mesh bags to encourage recycling – County DMV, distribute bags on the shuttle buses, distribute bags at local businesses, special events like fairs, etc. Sandy P said he'd help with distribution.
 - Several WAG members suggested working with local stores to sell plastic or aluminum containers for drinks so there's an alternative to glass.
- Vault toilet – Shoshone County will be placing an order for a new vault toilet to go in at Bumblebee. It's expected to be highly used so O&M will be challenging. It's hoped to be installed later this year.
 - Beaver Creek Project – Aaron Prussian from the USFS came to discuss the Beaver Creek project and answer questions about the different alternatives. He described the purpose and need for the project, and described the 3 alternatives. There were several handouts with tables to compare the two action alternatives as well as maps.

There was extensive discussion as a group. There was consensus to develop a letter to the USFS on behalf of the WAG regarding this project. We drafted the following series of consensus statements:

- ✓ Support Alternative 2 with additions suggested to be considered from Alternative 3
- ✓ Strongly support economic impacts and benefits of harvest, jobs
- ✓ Support improved forest health and wildfire risk management
- ✓ Enthusiastically support water quality improvements
 - water quality issues sediment, temperature, metals, bank and channel instability
- ✓ Have observed success in similar watershed restoration projects in sediment-impaired waters, led to restoration of cold water aquatic life and delistings. (TP, Steamboat, Yellowdog)
- ✓ Maintain road access for future vegetation management, fire, and recreation

- Some problem areas have been identified by Watershed Assessment, suggest roads with those problem areas be treated and maintained by USFS, partners, and/or volunteers to reduce sediment loading to streams. (ie culvert maint. water bars, etc.)
- ✓ Suggest consider providing trails at some crossing removal sites (gentle slope for travel)
- ✓ Suggest also including the 4 aop projects along main road (additional as possible)
 - A priority esp Prospect? to address potential water yield/instability
- ✓ In addition to Aop on Carpenter Gul, suggest bridge along road # (nr Englands place) be maintained, stabilized to prevent washout.
- ✓ Suggest addressing slide upstream of Runkle's property either through this EIS and project, or by separate project and NEPA analysis. There is an example on Prichard Creek – BLM with EA that we could use as model and resource.
- ✓ Thank you for participation in WAG, presentations and updates, and participation in watershed assessment.
- ✓ Projects ongoing in watershed on private land – would like to work together this project and beyond to restore the watershed.

On Thursday, July 18th, Kajsa used the consensus statements to draft a letter for the WAG. This was emailed to the WAG for review and comment. Two minor wording changes were suggested by Sandy Podsaid, and those changes were made. No WAG members raised concerns and all responses were positive. The final version was submitted to the USFS July 22nd.

- 319 projects – We ran out of time and hurried through a quick discussion of 319 projects that will be proposed by the North Idaho Fly Casters. Two projects were selected as having the best chance for success this year – one on the main North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and one on Beaver Creek.