

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group

Meeting Notes

February 26, 2009

1:00 – 4:00 pm

US Forest Service Bldg., Smelterville, ID

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 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:

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

Jan. 29, 2009 Meeting Notes

Participants: Dan Guy, Earl Frizzell, Mike Mihelich, Bob Flagor, Dewey Skaggs, Roy Faler, George Hemphill, Bob Burke, Vern Hanson, Dustin Hinson, Bob Clark, Ed Lider, Sandy Schlepp, Bill Rust, Kim Johnson, Jamie Davis, Jon Cantamessa, Kajsa Stromberg

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 TMDL implementation and project ideas, review of WAG duties, discussion of Arsenic and Cadmium water quality standards, temperature standards, and TMDLs in progress.

WAG Business:

- Meeting Notes from Jan. 29, 2009 were distributed.
- Meeting notes and new website postings were reviewed.
- We reviewed WAG roles and responsibilities according to Idaho law.
- We discussed the draft 2008 Integrated Report.
- We discussed potential cuts to the DEQ BURP program.
- We discussed a draft rule to revise water quality criteria for cadmium and arsenic. The WAG had many questions about the rulemaking for these changes and Kajsa agreed to investigate.

Questions regarding Cadmium and Arsenic rule changes:

- *How will this change in the Cd and As standards affect us in the CDA Basin?*
- *What about naturally mineralized areas?*

- *What are the analytical limits associated with testing for Cd and As?*
- Are there new methods recommended for testing water quality samples?*
- *What would the Cd and As criteria be with the new hardness caps?*
- *What causes black tissues on fish in the NFCDA?*
- *What damage does this excessive Cd and As cause and what benefit will the rule change provide?*
- **MICA CREEK VIDEO:** We viewed a 10 minute DVD produced by the Conservation District, DEQ and a local landowner conducting some restoration and bank stabilization on Mica Creek. Following the video, we discussed a workshop to be held later this spring to learn more about practices that can be employed for water quality improvements and restoration.
- **Project Concept Form and Ranking by WAG:** The WAG reviewed a draft one-page form to collect TMDL implementation project ideas. The WAG provided some ideas to improve the form and Kajsa will distribute a revised version at the next meeting. The WAG agreed that a formal scheme to rank and prioritize projects was not needed at this time. The WAG preferred to concentrate on generating good project ideas.
- **Bull trout and temperature criteria:** Kajsa reviewed the WAG's comments and questions on bull trout and temperature criteria. She said a conference call was planned between EPA and DEQ in early March to discuss the issues and she would bring further information back to the WAG at the next meeting.
- **Temperature data analyses and TMDL development:** DEQ has nearly completed assessment of USFS temperature datasets for the CDA Basin including 100s of streams in the NFCDA. The results will be reported to the WAG as soon as they are compiled. These will further inform our development of a temperature TMDL.

WAG REVIEW AND COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Draft Assessment of Compliance with EPA bull trout criteria:** A draft report has been 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.
- **Draft 2008 Water Quality Status Report:** A draft report on the 2008 Integrated Report status for North Fork Coeur d'Alene subbasin streams is available for review and comment.
- **Draft Chapter 2 of Subbasin Assessment Update:** A draft chapter from the Subbasin Assessment in development has been distributed for WAG review and comment. This chapter focuses on water quality criteria and water quality status in the subbasin.