

Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group

Working Charter

Background

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) must revise the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Portneuf River Subbasin. As part of its process for revising the existing TMDL, DEQ is required to convene a Watershed Advisory Group composed of people who have an interest in how the watershed is managed. The membership of the Watershed Advisory Group includes voting and non-voting members who represent agencies, communities, industries, other interested parties or individuals, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, all of whom affect or are affected by the management of the watershed. This Watershed Advisory Group will provide advice to the DEQ throughout the process, which is expected to take approximately one year.

Mission

The mission of the Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group is to advise DEQ in its efforts to develop a revised Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Portneuf River Subbasin.

Vision for the Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group

The Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group envisions a final product that will have the following characteristics:

- Defensible
- Clean
- Credible
- Workable
- Revised
- Agreement
- Improved
- Beneficial
- Implementable
- Restore
- Attainable
- Noticeable
- Acceptable
- Fair
- Useful
- Swimable

Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group's Planning Area

The Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group will focus its attention on the Portneuf Watershed as illustrated in Attachment 1.

Membership of the Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group

The following individuals are the voting members of the Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group:

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Candon Tanaka

It was noted at the April 17, 2007 meeting that Candon Tanaka expects that he will not be a voting member of the Watershed Advisory Group. He will inquire with Tribal officials and let the Watershed Advisory Group know who the official representative of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes will be.

Non-voting members of the Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group include:

Chris Banks, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation
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Additional members may be added in the future.

Proposed Process for Developing the Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group's Final Product

The original schedule was approved by the WAG on April 17, 2007. That schedule was followed until August, 2007. At that point in time, discussions required more time than had been allowed. One meeting was added to the schedule (for December). At the January 2008 meeting, additional changes were made. The following schedule was approved by the WAG in January of 2008:

April 17, 2007:

- Working Charter
- Clean Water Act and Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act
- Load estimates and targets from the 2001 TMDL

May 15, 2007:

- Review EPA guidance for reporting "daily loads"
- Review current estimates of sediment and TP loads against the 2001 TMDL
- Discuss process used to estimate loads

June 19, 2007:

- Review results of beneficial use reconnaissance program collections
- Discuss interpretation of beneficial use reconnaissance program assessment results
- Discuss and agree on pollutants for inclusion in the TMDL

July 17, 2007:

- Review impaired reaches of the mainstem Portneuf
- Review causes of impairment of the mainstem Portneuf

August 21, 2007:

- Discuss pollutant targets for the mainstem Portneuf
- Discuss load allocation for the mainstem Portneuf

September 18, 2007:

- Review impaired reaches of the Portneuf River tributaries
- Review causes of impairment of the Portneuf River tributaries
- Discuss other pollutants in the Portneuf Watershed and review of the process by which pollutants could be added to the scope of the Portneuf TMDL

October 16, 2007:

- Consider recommendation by the Technical Subcommittee for total phosphorus target on the mainstem
- Discuss load allocation for the mainstem Portneuf
- Review impaired reaches of the Portneuf River tributaries
- Review causes of impairment of the Portneuf River tributaries
- Review other pollutants in the Portneuf Watershed and review of the process by which pollutants could be added to the scope of the Portneuf TMDL

November 20, 2007:

- Review discussion related to the total phosphorus target on the mainstem
- Review of technical basis for TP levels in the Portneuf River
- Discuss proposed TP target

December 18, 2007:

- Consider how to communicate minority perspectives in final recommendation for total phosphorus target
- Review impaired reaches of the Portneuf River tributaries
- Review causes of impairment of the Portneuf River tributaries

January 15, 2008:

- Discuss which targets should be included in the revised TMDL
- Discuss whether approved mainstem targets should apply to the tributaries
- Discuss proposed target for nitrogen developed by TAC
- Develop recommendation regarding nitrogen targets

February 19, 2008:

- Discuss the target for oil and grease
- Discuss TSS waste load allocations (WLA) for point sources and load allocations (LA) for non-point sources

March 18, 2008:

- Discuss WLA/LA for TP

April 15, 2008:

- Discuss WLA/LA for TN, E-coli, and Oil and Grease

May 2008 – No WAG meeting scheduled

May 27, 2008 – WAG to receive Preliminary Draft TMDL from DEQ

June 17, 2008:

- Explore the potential for a WAG recommendation on the Preliminary Draft TMDL

June 24, 2008 – Deadline for comments by individual WAG members on the Preliminary Draft TMDL

July 8, 2008 – WAG to received Draft TMDL (incorporating comments from the WAG members)

July 15, 2008 :

- Discuss and approve the Draft TMDL for release to the public for a public comment period

Ground Rules for Meetings of the Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group

The Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group has agreed to the following ground rules:

No side conversations	Identify proxy if not here
Speak one at a time	Easy on people, hard on issues
No personal attacks	Speak up
Stay on task	Offer solutions (frame in the positive)
Abide by time limits	Everyone participate
No rhetorical questions	Treat all with respect

Process for Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group Decision-Making

The Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group agreed to work by consensus, if possible, within the schedule outlined in this Working Charter. Consensus is defined as “Everyone understands, agrees with, and will support the decision.” This definition means that when people leave the room following a decision, they should not voice a lack of support to others.

If consensus is not possible within the schedule outlined in this Working Charter, the Portneuf Watershed Advisory Group may elect to resort to a majority of voting members at the scheduled meeting. A quorum will be defined as 7 voting members.

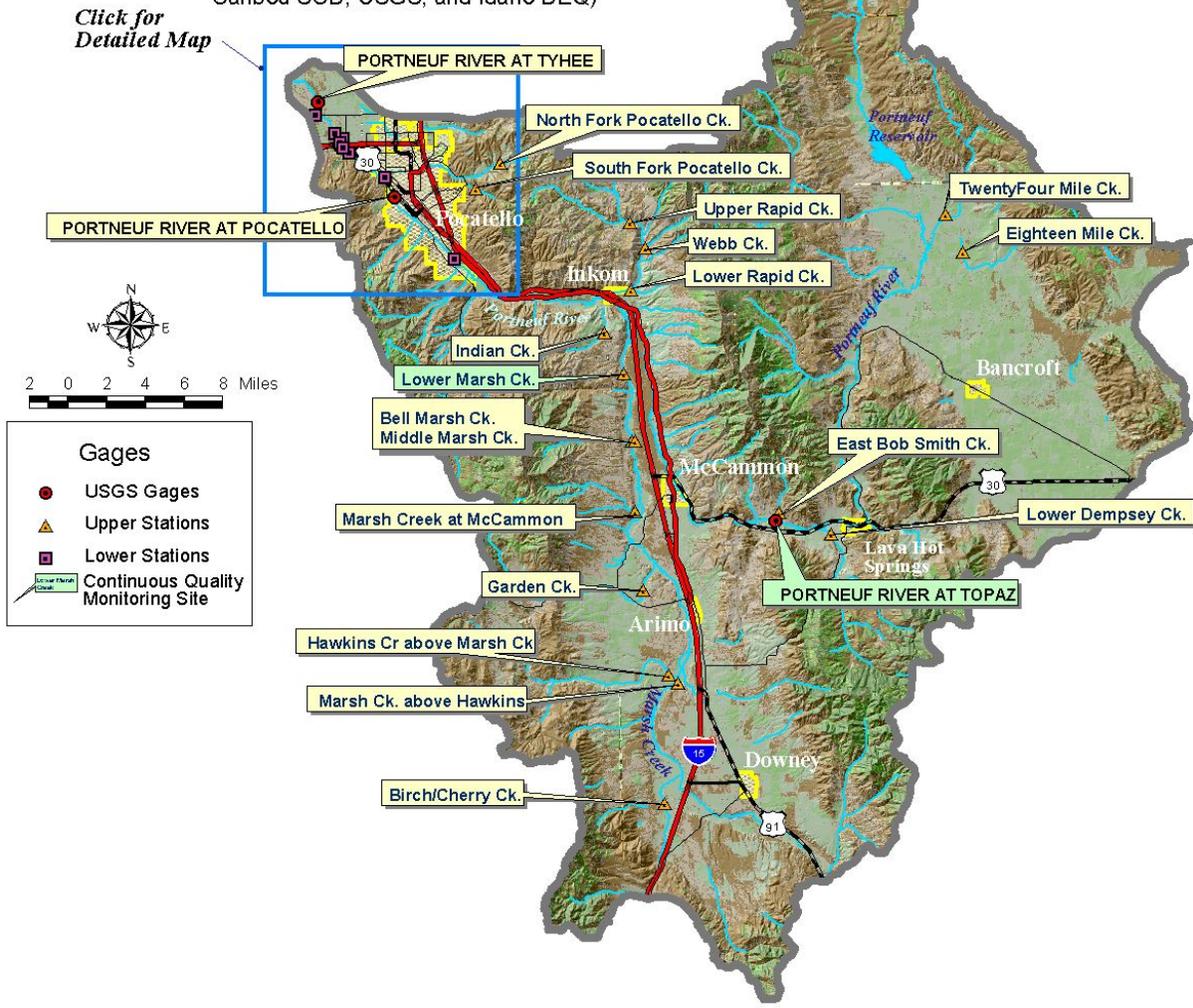
Non-voting members will actively participate in all discussions leading up to decisions.

If a vote is taken, the minority perspective will be respectfully communicated in addition to the majority decision.

Attachment 1.

Portneuf River Subbasin (17040208)

Bannock & Caribou Counties, Idaho
 Water Quality Monitoring Sites
 (City of Pocatello, Portneuf SWCD,
 Caribou SCD, USGS, and Idaho DEQ)



Click for Detailed Map

2 0 2 4 6 8 Miles

Gages

- USGS Gages
- ▲ Upper Stations
- Lower Stations
- ▬ Continuous Quality Monitoring Site

