

## Priest River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) Meeting

March 19, 2012  
Priest River, Idaho



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## Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Re-cap from January meeting
  1. DEQ – Who we are and what we do
  2. Surface water beneficial uses
  3. Idaho water quality standards
3. The TMDL process – what we hope to accomplish
4. WAG Roles and Responsibilities
  1. WAG operating procedures
5. Future WAG meetings



## Introductions

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## Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

- Mission – *To protect human health and preserve the quality of Idaho's air, land, and water for the use and enjoyment today and in the future.*
- Surface water section
  - Implement portions of the CWA

**DEQ webpage:**  
<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/>



## Clean Water Act

- Requires that states and tribes restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters
- Idaho's implementation of CWA
  - Develop WQS to protect beneficial uses
  - Approved by EPA

**Idaho Water Quality Standards**  
<http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/rules/idapa58/0102.pdf>



## Beneficial Uses

- Aquatic Life
  - Bull trout
  - Cold water
  - Salmonid spawning
- Recreation
  - Primary contact
  - Secondary contact



## Idaho Water Quality Standards

- Identifies the water quality necessary to protect beneficial uses
- Numeric Water Quality Criteria
- Narrative Water Quality Criteria



## Idaho Water Quality Criteria

- Numeric Water Quality Criteria
  - Water temperature - max and daily average (see handout)
  - Dissolved oxygen - 6% or 90%, >5%
  - Bacteria (*E. coli*) - 126 cfu/100ml
  - pH - 6.5 - 9
  - Turbidity - 50 NTU or 25 NTU



## Idaho Water Quality Criteria

- Narrative Water Quality Criteria
  - Shall be "free from" pollutants such as oil and scum, color and odor, and other substances that can harm people and fish.
  - Sediment
  - Nutrients



## Surface Water Quality Monitoring

- Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP)
  - Physical
  - Biological
  - Chemical



## What we hope to accomplish

- New TMDLs for Category 5 pollutants
- Revise old temperature TMDLs
- Develop TMDL 5-year Review
- EPA-approved TMDLs
  - 2001 - Sediment
  - 2003 - Sediment and Temperature
- New TMDLs
  - Temperature, sediment, and unknown

## WAG Roles and Responsibilities

- Supply water quality data
- Review beneficial uses and water quality standards
- Review documents
- Develop TMDL implementation plan

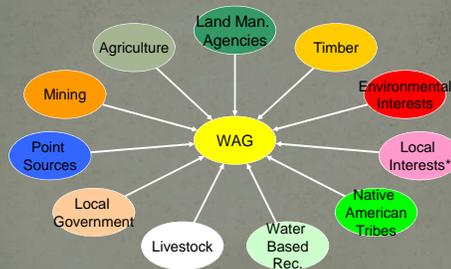


## WAG Operating Procedures

- Informal meeting format and open to public
- Operate on consensus
- When consensus can't be reached a vote will be taken
  - 50% quorum of voting members needed
  - Votes can be cast by proxy
  - One vote per affiliation



## WAG Membership



## DEQ §319 Grant

- Pre-application opens April 9, 2012
- Pre-applications accepted through May 6, 2012
- Final applications are due August 1, 2012
- Maximum of \$250,000
- 40% local match
- Past projects include: bank stabilization, stream crossing improvements, road rocking, WQ education and outreach

## Future WAG Meetings

- Monday April 16th
- Continue meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month
- Meeting topics
  - Water quality listing status, EPA approved TMDLs, Future TMDLs

## Priest River WAG Webpage

- Post documents, meeting material, and other resources

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/priest-river-wag>