

**Summary of notes from the Lower Basin Project Focus Team (PFT) meeting 9/18/09
9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

Notes taken by: Rebecca Stevens- Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Introductions started the meeting and presentations/discussions followed. Due to PFT member travel arrangements, the agenda was slightly modified to accommodate.

Update on the Recreation PFT

-David White (IDPR) informed the group that a comprehensive draft inventory of recreation areas throughout the Coeur d'Alene basin had been started utilizing AVISTA info and land management agencies/governments provided additional information.

-David has identified some data gaps for example; he needs information from the following entities: Benewah County, Shoshone County (he will follow up with Jerry Cobb at PHD), Spokane Valley, and Spokane County. He asked that if PFT members have contact information for the above list that they get them to David. He also asked that when folks are out in the field and they identify a site that appears to be a dispersed recreation area, then please get the general location to David and he can add it to the inventory.

-Mark Masarik (EPA) updated the group that a Trends Analysis was drafted and remains in draft form acknowledging the dynamic nature of recreation trends. A Table of Contents for a Recreation Management Strategy and Guidelines document has also been drafted. The draft includes a vision statement, purpose of document, and objectives/outcomes. Mark mentioned that work on the document has stalled due to budget cuts and competing priorities. He also requested some assistance from the group as to how to move forward.

-ACTION ITEM- Mark will work with the Communications PFT to evaluate what additional awareness and outreach task could help reduce the risk to recreationists. Bonnie Douglas (CCC) and Communications PFT member offered to work with Mark.

-Bill Rust (Shoshone County) informed Mark that a North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Recreation Management Plan was recently completed and a citizen's group was in the process of identifying grant support for its' implementation (i.e.: outhouse installation, designated parking, garbage receptacles, etc.) Bill suggested that someone from the Recreation PFT (currently under the auspices of the Lower Basin PFT) get in touch with Kaiysa Stromberg (DEQ).

-David Fortier suggested having land management agencies get together to review their individual operational plans to identify commonalities that could be incorporated into an area wide recreation management strategy. Rebecca said that she will make the request at the next full TLG meeting.

Sediment Deposition Workgroup Update

-Mark informed the group that PHD in Kellogg has offered to serve as a clearing house for land management agency contact info in the event of high water/high sediment

deposition events. This could serve to potentially avoid duplication of efforts. Bryan Helmich (IDF&G) did announce that they cleaned off some sites after the last event with some assistance from USFS.

Gene Day Pond Update

- Mark and Bryan gave an update on plans to develop Gene Day pond into an urban fishery. There was a recent site tour and meeting to discuss opportunities and some potential challenges. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Real Estate office has been tasked to accomplish delineation of land ownership around the pond by BLM and Shoshone County IDFG would be responsible for maintaining the facility. Sediment sampling around the pond was recently conducted above and below the surface water. The samples showed results below the EPA action level for As, Pb, and Cd. The adjacent slope near the outfall did show some higher levels. As of this Lower Basin PFT meeting there are some key components being considered: 1) should there be access to the fishing pond via the 'Trail of the Coeur d'Alene's'? 2) How to protect the foundation of the trail with raising the water level of the pond? 3) Are the re water right issues that need to be addressed? After land ownership is delineated, the next phase will be conceptual design.

'Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes'

-David White announced that the next 'Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes' Trail Commission meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2009 9:00am-12:00pm at the Cataldo Mission Visitor's Center. There will be notices posted in the local newspapers.

Enhanced Conceptual Site Model (ECSM)

- Ed Moreen (EPA) provided an overview of the objections for today's meeting.

- Review and discuss the following Technical memos (TMs), 1) Executive Summary (new), 2) Hydraulics and Sediment Transport (D), 3) Geomorphology and aerial photography (E), and 4) Modeling Selection Criteria and Process (H)
- Request feedback from PFT members on the entire ECSM
- Identify substantive issues based on discussions
- Provide a general timeline for Lower Basin work path forward

-Ed provided an overview of the ECSM in that is a depiction of a working hypothesis of the Lower Basin based on current knowledge. EPA is looking at answering the following information needs in the Lower Basin: 1) a focused understanding of sediment transport and deposition, 2) a better understanding of key sediment deposition sources and sinks, 3) the development of a predictive tool and, 4) identification of appropriate bio-metrics to aid in the selection of a comprehensive remedy for the Lower Basin which in turn will be incorporated into a future Lower Basin ROD amendment.

-Paul Burnet (CH2MHill) provided the following handouts:

- a printed out copy of the ECSM Overview PowerPoint
- the Draft Synopsis of the ECSM for the Lower Basin for the Coeur d'Alene River

-Ryan Mitchell (CH2MHill) provided an overview of the water, sediments, and lead budgets developed for the Lower Basin ECSM. Highlights include:

- Water, sediment, and lead budgets were developed using USGS gage data and evaluated over a period of 20 years.
- Water sediment load from the North Fork is approximately 4 times greater than the load from the South Fork.
- The relative contributions of water, sediment, and lead from the NFK and SFK vary as a function of total flow.
- Evaluation of the gage data and the associated mass balance budgets indicate the existence of a threshold depositional response in the lower basin when the flow at Cataldo reached approximately 20,000 cfs. When flows are below 20,000 cfs, the systems is purely erosional; when flows exceed 20,000 cfs the river experiences both channel erosion and floodplain deposition although the dominate process at these higher flows is floodplain deposition.
- Lead budget analysis found the following, 1) approximately 34 tons of Pb/ year are coming into the Lower Basin and 2) approximately 357 tons of Pb is going out. The probable source of additional lead discharging from the basin must be coming from in channel sources (beds and banks), not the floodplain. The lead budget was constructed from depositional samples since lead concentration data of suspended sediment is not currently available.

-After discussion among the PFT, the following data gaps need to be filled:

- additional core sampling
- track down Cataldo dredge (cross sections and simulation modeling) data from the Mine Owners Association
- Bill Rust recommended that EPA incorporate capping of the sediments in the bottom of the lower Coeur d'Alene River into their list of possible remedial actions for the Lower Basin. It appears to me that it may be feasible and economic to incorporate coarser sediments into the river bottom to greatly reduce remobilization from this source. He would like to see EPA evaluate that when considering remedial actions for the Lower Basin.

-Ed Moreen wrapped up the discussion with the following items: 1) Deadline for comments on all TMs that were posted on the BEIPC website is 10/15/09, 2) EPA plans to revise and distribute the TMs around the week of December 15, 2009 and will continue for a period of about two months, 3) Selection of a computational model, 4) Development of a digital terrain model with LIDAR data (still need aerial photo layer) and other data sources, 5) prioritize and begin filling the most critical data gaps.

-Ed said that it will probably be 2 years or more before the initial model could be run and will be highly dependent on funding stream and the ability to fill critical data gaps. They will also be addressing NAS comments and evaluating remedies that have been identified in the OU-3 ROD as well as the comprehensive cleanup remedies such as contained in the Alternative 3 of the Basin Remedial Investigation.

-Terry Harwood (BEIPC) suggested that the PFT continue to identify projects and initiate some cost estimates for Lower Basin in order to get a better understanding of the needs.

Meeting attendees: Bill Rust (Shoshone Co.), Rusty Sheppard (Kootenai County), Terry Harwood (BEIPC), Nick Zilka (DEQ), Glen Pettit (DEQ), Kristin Keith (DEQ), Ed Moreen (EPA), Rebecca Stevens (Coeur d'Alene Tribe), Brian Spears (USFWS), Steve Clayton (CH2MHill), Jim Stefanoff (CH2M Hill), Paul Burnet (CH2M Hill), Steve Hicks (CH2M Hill), Ryan Mitchell (CH2M Hill), Randy Connelly (Spokane Tribe), Glen Rothrock (DEQ), Bryan Helmich (IDFG), David Fortier (BLM), Don Carpenter (DEQ), Kathleen Moynan (USFWS), Bonnie Douglas (CCC), David White (IDPR), Mark Masarik (EPA), and Julie Dalsaso (CCC)