

Summary of notes from the Lower Basin Project Focus Team (PFT) meeting 1/20/09

Notes taken by: Rebecca Stevens- Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Introductions started the meeting and a presentation followed.

Estimating Riverbank Erosion on the Coeur d'Alene River- Kristin Keith (DEQ)

Kristin and Bob Flagor (Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District (KSSWCD)) worked jointly on this Clean Water Act project during the summer and fall of 2008 and Kristin provided a PowerPoint presentation on the recent work they conducted along the Coeur d'Alene River. The following are some bulleted items taken from the presentation:

- The project objective was to start prioritizing bank stabilization projects from Cataldo to the mouth of the river by estimating annual bank erosion at representative sites
- In order to calculate recession rates they targeted they selected sites at random
- In the past, bank pins were installed (by KSSWCD) and erosion rates along the river were estimated at 5 ft/yr
- Kristin gave an overview of the 6 different bank types that were used during the inventory of the 34 sites. Some characteristics include; presence or absence of vegetation, bank angle, root density, bank erosion hazard, and near bank stress. They came up with a preliminary assumption that boat wakes may cause moderate near bank stress
- Soil samples were also collected at each site and tested for As, Pb, Zn, and P. A scatter plot of the soils metal data was generated and compared the results to those that were provided from the Tribe when Rebecca XRF'd some of the samples

Some discussion followed and Kristin offered to present the final project findings to the Lower Basin PFT once the project is complete.

Enhanced Conceptual Site Model (ECSM) - Ed Moreen (EPA) and Paul Burnet (CH2MHill)

Ed gave an overview of the ECSM and opened up by stating that EPA is looking for the Lower Basin PFT to provide knowledge and input throughout the data collection process. The following are some bulleted items taken from the presentation:

- Ed showed several pictures from May 2008 where significant sediment plumes and deposition occurred throughout the lower basin
- The definition of a conceptual site model is- a depiction of a working hypothesis of a site based on current knowledge. The ECSM is being developed to help guide effective decision-making regarding remedial actions for the Lower Basin
- CH2MHill completed the first CSM in 2000 for use in the RI/FS and OU-3 ROD
- Segments of the lower basin were split out based on characteristic flows

- What do we want from the ECSM? 1) a focused understanding of contaminant transport and deposition mechanisms, 2) fundamental understanding of key sources and sinks, 3) develop a tool to predict contaminant transport, and 4) to get a better understanding of data gaps
- Paul Burnet reminded the PFT that the Coeur d'Alene River system is dynamic and there are several pathways and receptors and they are looking to capture results from all studies in order to start identifying specific remedies. It is known that; 1) there is a lot of documented information on sources, 2) deposition information is available and on an annual basis is revised, 3) the pathway piece is challenging (there has been some one dimensional modeling however not powerful enough, and 4) we need to look at 'what if' scenarios
- CH2MHill plans to prepare a series of technical memos over the next year in order to assist EPA in the 'data dumping' process. Technical memo A was distributed to the PFT which consists primarily of an overview of the ECSM and background information as well as a timeline for EPA review. **Feed back on the memo should be submitted to the PFT Chair Rebecca Stevens at rstevens@cdatribe-nsn.gov by 2/4/08.** Rebecca will also send the memo to Jeri Delange to distribute to the TLG and CCC.
- Bill Adams (EPA) mentioned that the Upper Basin Eco-prioritization is being looked at as a more comprehensive approach but that both processes are on a parallel track.

Lane Marsh Site Characteristics- Anne Dailey (EPA)

Anne introduced the presentation by stating that funding for site characterization was awarded to EPA through the Asarco Environmental Trust Fund (AETF). The following are some bulleted items taken from the presentation:

- The goal is to gain additional understanding of Lower Basin wetlands
- Why Lane Marsh? 1) high water fowl use area, 2) limited samples showed high Pb levels, 3) included in the OU3 Interim ROD, 4) largely government ownership, and 5) easy access from State Hwy 3 (site is ~ 847 acres in size and six creeks flow into the marsh via 4 culverts). There is a direct connection to the Coeur d'Alene River and the area is mostly palustrine shrub/ scrub wetlands with abundant bird populations
- In 2008, EPA conducted a topographic survey, vegetation/habitat survey, hydrologic assessment, and soil sample collection (tested for metals, herbicides, pesticides, Semi volatiles, and PCBs. Key findings include: elevated metals in most of the top 6" and in 6-18" in limited areas, deeper soil samples mostly around background Pb levels but highest soil lead (~10,000mg/kg) near the breach of the trail at 18-24" in depth, non-metal analytes below detection, and need a better understanding of recontamination potential and groundwater conditions
- An analysis was not conducted on the other side of the trail due to the potential for recontamination

- Anne will provide updates to the PFT and seek input as the future of the project progresses

Other items

-There was some discussion regarding a database that would be helpful during the data gathering. Paul Burnet (CH2MHill) is organizing information so it can all be reviewed and evaluated and reminded the PFT that the schedule of memo releases is a living document and tasks were broken up so data gathering is more manageable. When they have the most updated database they will send it to the PFT through the Chair.

-Glen Rothrock (DEQ) suggested that there be a panel discussion at the next Lower Basin PFT meeting with ACOE, DEQ, NRCS, and the KSSWCD to discuss permitting of bank stabilization projects along the Coeur d'Alene River. Rebecca will look into it.

-The PFT then worked on a new mission statement, it is as follows:

The Lower Basin PFT will dedicate itself to improve the human and ecological health of the lower Coeur d'Alene River basin (confluence to Harrison) by collaborating and coordinating planning actions affecting Operable Unit (OU)-3.

Meeting attendees: Bill Rust (Shoshone Co.), Terry Harwood (BEIPC), Nick Zilka (DEQ), Tom Herron (DEQ), Kristin Keith (DEQ), Rog Hardy (Benewah Co.), Toni Hardy (CCC), Dave George (WADOE), Ed Moreen (EPA), Rebecca Stevens (Coeur d'Alene Tribe), Brian Spears (USFWS), Bob Flagor (KSSWCD), Jim Stefanoff (CH2MHill), Randy Connelly (Spokane Tribe), Bill Adams (EPA), Anne Dailey (EPA), June Bergquist (DEQ), and Paul Burnet (CH2MHill)