Respect the River!

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) and USDA Forest Service Coeur d'Alene River RD

Recreation Issues

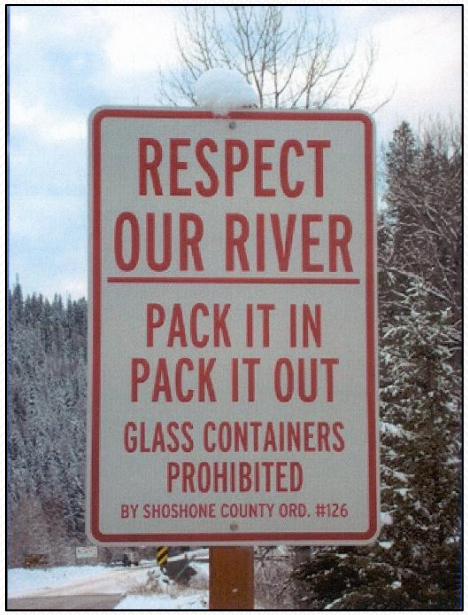
Recreation Issues

Down by the River…

Need for Action

- Safe and adequate public access to the river
- Resource protection
- Sanitation along the river corridor

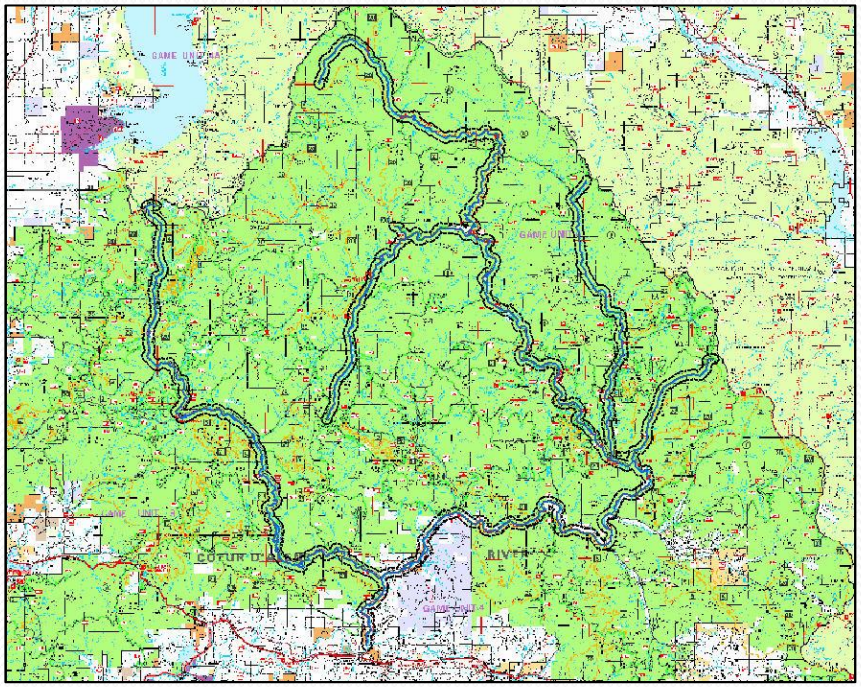
North Fork CdA River Cooperative Recreation Plan



- Adopted by WAG August 2011
- Focuses on lower 35 miles of the river
  - Enaville upstream to Shoshone Creek
- Public and private land

CdA River Corridor Management Plan

- Management tool for the USFS
- Adopted June 2012
- Covers 150 miles along the North Fork and Little North Fork CdA River, Shoshone Creek, Lost Creek and Tepee Creek



Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Planning Area

Coordination & Partnership

Both plans share:

- Goals
- Strategies
- Education Plan

Seamless implementation across jurisdictions

Goals

1. Provide recreation users with a variety of safe, enjoyable, high quality recreation experiences along the corridors of the North Fork and the Little North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.

2. Restore and rehabilitate riparian areas where resource damage has occurred and prevent new impacts associated with recreational use.

Goals continued…

3. Educate river corridor users about the river environment, safety, recreation opportunities, “Leave No Trace” ethics, and how to avoid negative environmental impacts.

4. Maximize efficiency and effectiveness by developing partnerships and volunteer opportunities with federal and state resource management agencies, counties, landowners, user groups and other entities.

Goals continued…

5. Encourage development and rehabilitation that supports the local economy by promoting existing local businesses and increasing local employment.

6. *Identify locations where development may be appropriate to improve access and safety for recreationists.*

Goals continued…

7. *Provide a framework for identifying locations that need rehabilitation.*

8. *Maintain and restore watershed, riparian, and stream channel conditions needed to conserve fish habitat for westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, and other aquatic species, and to provide a high quality recreational fishing experience on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River.*

Implementing Respect the River

Education

Access

Outreach and Enforcement

Rehabilitation

2012 Accomplishments

USFS Site Prioritization

Sites prioritized using the following resources:

- Condition and use inventories of dispersed sites
- WAG Cooperative Recreation Plan
- Professional judgment (recreation, aquatics, etc.)

USFS High Priority Sites for Development and Rehabilitation

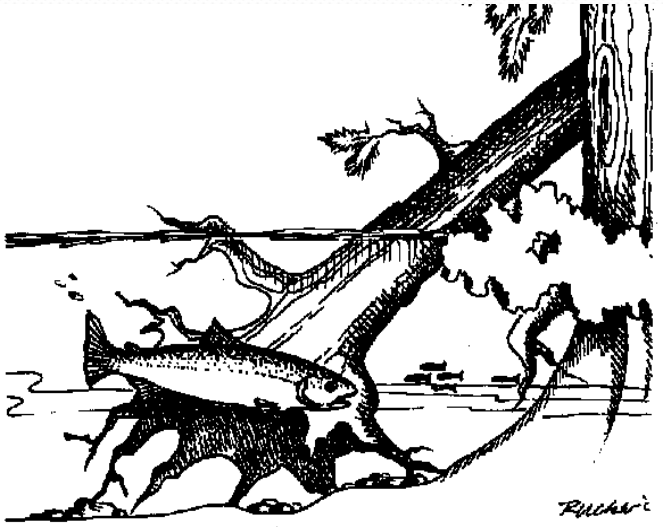
1. Graham Creek
2. Hudlow Junction
3. Prichard Bridge Day Use
4. Presidents Flats
5. Grizzly Creek
6. Shoshone Gauge Station
7. Big Hank Meadows
8. Milepost 2.8 on Old River Road
9. Kit Price
10. Bumblebee Bridge

USFS River Ranger Program

- Forest Protection Officer
- Emphasis patrols on North Fork and Little North Fork
- Floated North Fork at least once a week
- Enforced rules and regulations
- Handed out ‘Respect the River’ educational materials and safety messages

Education

- Respect the River campaign
- Leave no Trace
- Pack it in/Pack it out
- River safety
- Fishing regulations
- Access and local amenities
- River ecology and habitat protection



Signs and Brochures

- 8 day-use and dispersed campsites with billboards
- Brochures developed and distributed to recreationists and local businesses

River Access Sites

- Designation of three launch/access sites:
  - Graham Creek dispersed site
  - Shoshone gauging station
  - Big Hank Meadow

River Clean-Up Day

- September 15, 2012
- Over 40 volunteers
- Removed garbage along 18 miles of the North Fork
- Albert's Landing provided food and refreshments for volunteers
- Plan on making this an annual event

Recycling Bins

- Boy Scout project
- 2 containers constructed that can each hold 2 fifty gallon drums
- Will be installed and utilized during 2013

Recycling Bags

- Centennial Distributing
  - 200 mesh recycling bags for use on the river
  - 400 plastic liners to use in the recycling bins

Goals for 2013

- Respect the River Fund
- River Ranger
- Signs and Brochures
- Banners on bridges
- Education and outreach funding
- ***More*** recycling Bins
- Upgrades at Shoshone Gauging Station
- River Cleanup (Sept 7, 2013)

Banners

RESPECT
THE RIVER
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AVISTA
NORTH FORK
WAG
COEUR D'ALENE RIVER

Adopt-a-Campsite/River Mile Program

- Groups or individuals may sign-up
- Must clean site(s) 4 times each year
- Duties include:
  - Clean out fire rings
  - Pick up garbage
  - Remove signs of human activity (such as tent trenching, ropes and wires, nails in trees, dismantling primitive benches, tables, toilets)
  - Break up excessive fire rings
- Sign placed at site will show who adopted it

Partners

Local landowners and businesses
North Fork Coeur d'Alene Watershed Advisory Group (WAG)
USDA Forest Service (USFS)
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Shoshone County
Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D)
North Idaho Fly Casters
Avista
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Environmental Protection Agency
University of Idaho
Kootenai County

We need your help

- Provide feedback and ideas
- Volunteer
- Assist with fundraising
- Participate in the 2013 River Cleanup (Sept 7)
- Adopt a campsite/ stretch of river

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/north-fork-cda-river-subbasin-wag

THANK YOU!