

## NFPR WATERSHED SUMMIT, SESSION 2

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. **Question:** for Emily Washburn; There has been extensive aquatic weed growth in our area around the Donnelly Boat Dock that degrades primary contact recreation. We use to be able to have swimming, jet skis, and enjoy the water. Can this study draw any conclusions as to why this weed grow is now occurring.

**Answer:** *The study was not able to draw a definitive conclusion as to the extensive aquatic weed growth. What we do know is that the emergent seeps and the unnamed creek below site do not appear to be the smoking gun we are all looking for.*

2. **Question:** for John Dixon; Regarding the announcement that Tamarack made regarding expansion... how might this expansion effect the quality of water into Cascade?

**Answer:** *There would be runoff.*

3. **Question:** In Mr. Dixon's opinion; what's the greatest impact from our National Forest lands affecting water quality in the North Fork? *Thank you for the question!*

4. **Question:** for John Dixon; What in your opinion will be the watershed impact if the Midas Mine proposal is approved over a 20 year time span?

**Answer:** *Thank you for the question. I'm sorry that I cannot provide my opinion as I am a member of the FS interdisciplinary team. I would direct you to the Payette NF web site to review the PDEIS and the effects analysis for watershed impacts.*

5. **Question:** for Emily; Please define seep?

**Answer:** *As far as this study is concerned we are referring to an area where subsurface flow concentrates and begins emerging from the substrate to form some sort of diffuse surface flow.*

6. **Question:** for Emily. It was my understanding that those of us who have property on the edge of Lake Cascade were not to plant lawns that need to be fertilized. Many have lawns.

**Answer:** *That is likely a recommendation made as part of outlined Best Management Practices (but I would need to know a little more to be sure), if this the case BMPs are voluntary.*

7. **Question:** for Emily: What source did you used for 7q10 values for the seeps? Thanks!

**Answer:** *Streamstats and we were able to delineate a small area that corresponded to the unnamed creek below site*

8. **Question:** Any speculation if willows populated these eroded river banks in the past? If so, why didn't they persist?

**Answer:** *Good question. Yes, we believe willows populated all of these areas in the past. Willows are present in nearly every native riparian area in the West. Often, these willows are so dense that it is hard to see the stream. Land use practices have changed these systems.*

*Settlers wanted to make use of the fertile soils and cleared right to the water's edge to grow crops and planted pasture grass to feed livestock. Over time, most of the farming has been converted to pasture rangelands for cattle to make use of the lush and green vegetation near the creeks. As the*

*grass dries out, livestock tend to go after the woody willows as forage. Willows can handle browsing and will re-sprout, but over time, the willows lost their stored energy to re-sprout after repeated browsing and they die off. We are working with ranchers to promote grazing practices that allow for woody vegetation on streams."*

9 **Thank you! Informative and inspiring! Thank you!**

10 **Question:** Brian, fabulous info and science resources. Are all publicly available?

**Answer:** *There are two sources to find this information: <https://apps.sentinel-hub.com/sentinel-playground/> and the Idaho DEQ website: [deq.idaho.gov](http://deq.idaho.gov)"*

11 **Question:** Mr. Reese: what are the remote sensing data sensing on cyanobacteria growth revealing over time in Big Payette Lake and Cascade Lake? Are their respective trends similar or sharply different?

**Answer:** *They are sharply different. It appears Payette does experience blooms, but they are very small compared to the blooms the data shows on Cascade.*

12 **Question:** for Kati and 319 Grant funding. Can you apply for this funding to write/revise municipal stormwater regulations?

**Answer:** *That is not something that we typically fund since what you are asking about is regulated by permits. 319 and State Ag money is for projects that otherwise are not regulated. Feel free to give me a call and we can talk more about it.*

13 **Question:** Regarding the 319 grants, are the 40% match funds restricted to hard monies or can that also include soft matches, like volunteer hours, etc.?

**Answer:** *Yes, the match does not have to be hard money and can include things like volunteer hours.*

14 **Question:** For Emily: Are you aware of Prof. Paul Stamets of Univ Washington efforts in removing and remediation of eutrophic water sources feeding into Puget Sound? That persistent presence and remediation of non-point source phosphates might benefit from his insights. Forgive me if you already are aware of his work.

**Answer:** *I will look into his work, thank you for the recommendation.*

15 **Question:** For John Dixon. Where can I find a summary of Watershed Classifications (Class 1,2 3)?

**Answer:** *Here is a link to the USFS Watershed Condition Classification web site that has an interactive map that you can view and explore.  
<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=f4332e5b80c44874952b57e1db0b4407>*

16 **Question:** for VSWCD; is there any project in the works to keep the cattle out of the water and off the beach on the Northeast end of Lake Cascade where they can be seen daily in the summer?

**Answer:** *DEQ just funded a project with Valley County Soil District to install an exclusionary fencing project on the West side. Durena Farr included it in her presentation. Valley SWCD, IDFG and BOR are finishing the west side this summer, with a project in the works for the south side that should start this summer. Regarding the NE side, I'll have to discuss that with BOR and Valley SWCD. I boat the lake from time to time, and apparently have missed those cattle. Send me*

*photos when you see it. Lots to do to improve water quality for sure.  
michael.young@idfg.idaho.gov"*

- 17 **Question:** for Kati; What's been the 319 funding trend targeted to the North Fork Payette over the last 3-5 years?

***Answer:** I can get the numbers for you if you would like but it has been similar to the pie chart I showed. NF Payette has done very well with applying and receiving grant money from DEQ. Feel free to email me and I can get you more detailed information if you would like. Kati*

- 18 **Question:** for VSWCD; How can individual landowners get involved in the work being done by the conservation district?

***Answer:** Contact the Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, Durena.Farr@id.nacdnet.net.*

- 19 **Question:** How about fencing for the northeast end of Lake Cascade where cattle can be seen in the water daily all summer?

***Answer:** This is a more complicated issue with USBR grandfathered lifetime easements. We are currently working with Northeast grazers/landowners to establish alternate watering sources.*

- 20 **Question:** for VSWCD; Specifically, what is the conservation district doing to engage landowners regarding the water quality issues in the North Fork? Obviously this Summit is key; but what else?

***Answer:** "VSWCD Volunteer Board of Supervisors and District Manager work daily on watershed issues with landowners. Through our annual forestry tour, the District directly connects forestry landowners with technical resources, information on cost share programs available and schedules site visit evaluations.*

*Our District Educational outreach with schools and groups also cultivates expanded community watershed awareness.*

*With every project taken on, the District engages multiple landowners, multiple agencies. Regular project updates through The Star News also advises landowners.*

*Our District newsletter outreach every spring provides District information to 1500 landowners, partners, agencies, legislators, and local government. The strength of our relationships with partner agencies, leads to projects consistently referred to our district projects are evaluated and evolve into active projects. Please contact the District to further discuss your suggestions, Durena.Farr@id.nacdnet.net. Also visit [www.valleyswcd.org](http://www.valleyswcd.org)"*

- 21 **Question:** Is a storm water culvert discharging into a water body considered a point source?

***Answer:** Yes, if it is covered by a permit. Kati"*

- 22 **Question:** Never heard of the conservation district and work being done. Get the word out! This is good stuff!

***Answer:** Thank you! I am often overwhelmed by the historic work that has been done by the Valley Soil & Water Conservation District established in 1957. The Board of volunteer Supervisors meet monthly, first Thursday of every month to discuss watershed issues and project progress. Check out the website for a history of projects the District has undertaken.*

23 **Question:** For Frank; Are you doing any active research on Lake Cascade similar to Payette? They are very different lakes. Yet are all part of our watershed.

**Answer:** *We are currently not doing any research at Cascade, Heather is only one person and has her hands full with Payette. We are open to considering work at Cascade, but that needs to be a well-thought out approach.*

24 **Question:** Frank; At what distance were the boats when you measured the wave heights and turbidity? Was it measured boat type specific?

**Answer:** *Yes, we are keeping track of distance from shore, speed when we can time the boats between fixed markers, and we are keeping track of boat types as well. It's all part of the analysis and disentangling this.*

25 **Question:** Hi Frank; Do you have a sense of, or plans to study, the fate of total phosphorus that is "liberated" by mechanical wave action? Thanks!

**Answer:** *, yes, we are specifically attempting to quantify total and dissolved P liberated as boats go by, during calm periods (undisturbed), and during wind events.*

26 **Question:** Where have depth-based wake zones been established?

27 **Question:** To Alex Ray; Thank you for your presentation. Regarding NOAA data on wind conditions, on what scale do they provide that kind of data? Can you look up specific areas of one side of a lake including wind direction?

**Answer:** *Hi Anne, and thanks for your question. The NOAA data was taken at the airport, somewhat away from the lake, so there is very little correlation to specific areas of the lake. I used the NOAA data to corroborate my own data, as I had wind sensors deployed in the SW basin of the lake during the ice free months.*

28 **Question:** Shouldn't ski boats designed for low wake production be excused from wake boat restrictions?

**Answer:** *Possibly. This is dependent on many factors, but typically, yes, ski boats produce far smaller wakes than wake boats.*

29 **Question:** Can the presentations presented today be posted to the Valley County Soil and Water Conservation District site? Thank you

**Answer:** *Yes! We will post presentations - both PPT and the video*

30 **Question:** For Alex Ray. Do you have information of wakes caused by more tradition ski boats vs wake boats?

**Answer:** *Yes I do. Please email me at alex@payetteenvironmental.com and I will provide this info.*

31 **Excellent, thanks for the info!**

32 **Thank you**