

ABSTRACT

JIM FORD CREEK TMDL: A SUCCESS STORY

Mike Hoffman, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission, 2200 Michigan Avenue, Ste. C, Orofino, Idaho 83544-9010, (208) 476-5313, mhoffman@agri.state.id.us

In December of 1996, concerned citizens and various agency staff met in Weippe, Idaho to discuss conservation interests in their area. As a result, the Jim Ford Creek Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) was formed. The WAG was comprised of local landowners as well as representatives of the private timber industry, various state agencies, EPA and the Nez Perce Tribe. Although a total maximum daily load (TMDL) would not be required for Jim Ford Creek until 1999, WAG members felt immediate action would yield the greatest results. Consequently, they found themselves with a luxury most WAGs today do not have – time.

Jim Ford Creek was one of the first TMDLs written in North Central Idaho. The project was initiated with a Sub-Basin Assessment, which allowed for the completion of a comprehensive TMDL. Ultimately, the Implementation Plan was written and a variety of funding sources were secured.

This presentation highlighted the challenges the Jim Ford Creek WAG encountered as well as the successful strategies used to overcome them. The Jim Ford Creek TMDL was approved in May of 2000 and the first implementation efforts were seen in August of 2000. The lessons learned from this concerted planning effort should be a model for other groups who have the challenge of not only developing a TMDL for their watershed, but also following through to the funding and implementation stages.

Emphasis was also placed on the successful completion of numerous Best Management Practices focusing on riparian restoration efforts, livestock grazing issues, animal feeding areas, road and culvert upgrades, and tree and shrub establishment