

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION UPDATE

# WaterWatch

University of Idaho, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Idaho counties cooperating.

## Master Water Steward program launched

### Highlights

*Spring workshops scheduled*

*New website launched*

*Hauser Watershed spotlight*

*Winter flooding*

### Contact Information

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story by Ashley McFarland

*What was once a dream, is now reality!*  
That is the thought that comes into my head when I think about the successful launch of the IDAH<sub>2</sub>O program in north Idaho this past fall.

In just two workshops, we were able to certify twenty-two volunteers through the program. These volunteers represent ten different watersheds throughout the region.

Winter came on strong early this year, so monitoring has been a little slow, but the general feeling amongst volunteers are that they are ready to get out! No better way to combat spring fever, than to get out and check on your monitoring site.

High winter flows have surely made for some interesting water conditions and if you can safely, grab data during these events!

As the IDAH<sub>2</sub>O program continues to expand, we also hope to improve the education and resources that are provided through the program. If you have

any suggestions or comments for the technical advisory group, please feel free to get those to me via e-mail — idah2o@uidaho.edu.

I hope to communicate to my Master Water Steward network through this newsletter, so please pass on any note worthy events and stories so that I can get them out to the group.

I have greatly enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you! Thank you so much for your participation in the IDAH<sub>2</sub>O program!

Happy Monitoring,



Ashley McFarland  
IDAH<sub>2</sub>O Program Coordinator

University of Idaho Extension Educator

*"All water has a perfect memory and is forever trying to get back to where it was." – Toni Morrison*



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# Spring workshops seek to expand IDAH<sub>2</sub>O throughout Idaho

story by Ashley McFarland

In response to the growing interest for IDAH<sub>2</sub>O, three workshops are now scheduled for the Spring.

If you or your group would like to host an IDAH<sub>2</sub>O workshop, please contact us at [idah2o@uidaho.edu](mailto:idah2o@uidaho.edu). The calendar is filling up quickly, but we would also like to certify an additional 50 volunteers this summer—help us reach our goal!



Sandpoint MWS volunteers learn to read pH strips in the field

The following workshops are open, but seating is limited. Please contact the workshop coordinator to reserve your spot.

## Plummer

March 17th and 18th  
3—7 p.m. each night

Coeur d'Alene Tribe Wellness Center  
Contact: Laura Laumatia (686-1716)

## Coeur d'Alene

Friday, April 1st  
8 a.m.—5 p.m.

or

Saturday, April 9th  
8 a.m.—5 p.m.

University of Idaho Coeur d'Alene Center  
Contact: Ashley McFarland (215-0407)

*"The finest workers in stone are not copper or steel tools, but the gentle touches of air and water working at their leisure with a liberal allowance of time." — Henry David Thoreau*



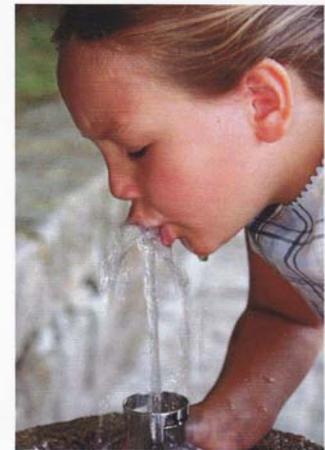
## Source Water Protection Grants Now Available

### Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Source Water Protection Program

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is pleased to announce the availability of Source Water Protection Grant Funding.

Grants are available to implement projects to protect sources of public drinking water including:

- Contaminant source identification (research)
- Contaminant pathway removal (closure of abandoned or unused wells)
- Contaminant removal (hazardous waste collection, pollution prevention, and waste reduction)
- Contaminant management (implementation of best management practices (BMPs), development and implementation of a source water protection plan, structures to divert contaminated runoff from the source)
- Education and information sharing (brochures, workshops, media campaigns)



Eligible applicants include:

- Public Water Systems
- Local Government
- Special Districts
- Associations
- Educational Institutions
- Non-Profit Organizations

**Applications will be available online January 18, 2011.**

**For more information or to apply for funding, please visit:**

[www.deq.idaho.gov/swpGrant/](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/swpGrant/)

# Hauser Lake: Past History and Current Issues

story by John Wallis—Volunteer, Hauser Lake Watershed Coalition (HLWC)

Hauser Lake is located at the southernmost extent of the Selkirk mountains that extend from British Columbia southward along the Idaho-Washington border to its terminus halfway between Spokane, Washington and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Hauser Lake rests quietly in one of the many heavily wooded shallow mountain valleys that encircle the Mt. Spokane Complex that straddles the border of both states.

The Hauser watershed consists of 12,900 acres (approximately 20 square miles) of which approximately 85% is heavily timbered private forest land, 6% agricultural, 5% rural suburban, 3% suburban and 1% wetlands. All this wonderful sloping topography leads down to Hauser Lake and the City of Hauser with a population of 668.

Hauser Lake was formed, as many of the water bodies in north Idaho and eastern Washington, by the Missoula Floods that took place during the final stages of the Pleistocene epoch around 20,000 years ago. Dozens of catastrophic glacial outburst floods inundated the area with several hundred feet of flood water from Clark Fork, Montana, through Rathdrum, Spokane, Pasco, Portland and eventually all the way to the Pacific Ocean. These glacial outburst floods carried massive amounts of glacial debris which was deposited in and around the mountain valleys essentially damming up the valley streams and forming the many lakes we use and enjoy today.

Like other small shallow lakes in the area, Hauser Lake is experiencing similar cultural eutrophication symptoms. Hauser is a mere 625 acres (less than one square mile) and is up to 41 feet deep. About 47% of the lake is shallower than 18 feet in depth and recent plant surveys have shown robust populations of Big Leaf and Fern Leaf pond weeds to depths of 18 feet at Hauser. Hauser's nutrient rich and warm shallow water could provide an excellent opportunity for non-native species to quickly become established.



***A boat passes through the rinse station at Hauser Lake***

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) has been identified in almost every large water body in north Idaho and Hauser is proximal to many of the lakes that are infested with EWM. As a result Hauser is at extremely high risk to become another casualty of EWM.

*The Hauser Lake Watershed Coalition (HLWC) believe that people will demonstrate good practices to protect their watersheds, water quality, and recreational opportunities provided that they know three things: why protection is important, what they can do to address the problem, and how to use available tools to implement behavioral changes. Over the last four years, the roll out of two major projects by the HLWC follow this strategy.*

## ***EWM Rinse/Inspection Station***

In an effort to keep Hauser EWM free, volunteers of the HLWC applied for and received a grant from the Idaho Department of Agriculture to construct a EWM Rinse Station. In May of 2007, the first and only permanent invasive species rinse station in Idaho was opened at Hauser Lake. This facility offers opportunities for invasive species educational outreach and provides lake users the proper tools to inspect and rinse their watercraft and equipment prior to launching into Hauser Lake.

Additional funding in 2010 and 2011 was awarded to the HLWC for staffing of the rinse station on weekends for a majority of the boating season. Annual

summer aquatic plant surveys as recent as summer 2010 indicate Hauser Lake is still free of EWM.

## ***LAKE\*A\*SYST***

Additional efforts led by the HLWC to improve water quality of Hauser Lake throughout the watershed is the implementation of LAKE\*A\*SYST (Lakeshore Assessment System). Hauser Lake is a designated impaired water body (303-d, EPA) due to nutrient loading of phosphorous.

Through funding obtained from the City of Hauser, this educational outreach program consists of a booklet that discusses watershed stewardship concepts. The booklet includes: 1) information on how certain land use practices can impact water quality; 2) a list of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on how to minimize those impacts; 3) an assessment sheet for home owners to rate their property; and 4) a list of local and state agency contacts to assist with advice on how best to implement BMPs on their property.

We also invited experts to Hauser for our monthly HLWC meetings and share with us their knowledge and insight of each particular chapter topic. By far the most popular was having Phyllis Stevens discuss the best management practices of lawn care and gardening.

For more information on the EWM Rinse Station and the LAKE\*A\*SYST program at Hauser Lake visit us at [www.hauserwatershed.org](http://www.hauserwatershed.org).

# WaterWatch

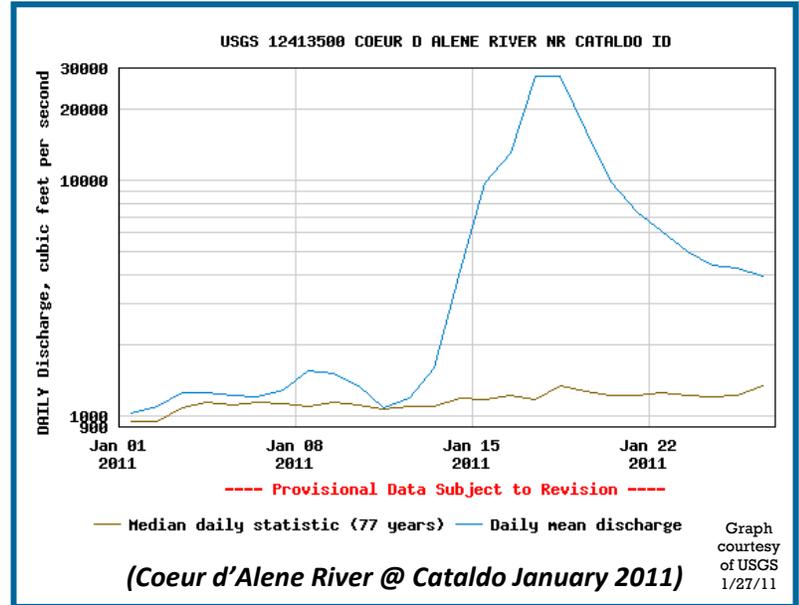
## IDAH<sub>2</sub>O Website Launched!

The IDAH<sub>2</sub>O website is now accessible at:

[www.uidaho.edu/cda/idah2o](http://www.uidaho.edu/cda/idah2o)

Check out the site for the latest monitoring news and data, along with resources and tools for your watershed. All forms and web links are posted on the site, along with this newsletter.

Any suggestions? Please e-mail them to [idah2o@uidaho.edu](mailto:idah2o@uidaho.edu).



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