

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION UPDATE

WaterWatch

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



Highlights

Fall 2015 photos

Fall snapshot data

New AmeriCorps Member

Contact Information

Jim Ekins
Area Water Educator
208-292-1287
jekins@uidaho.edu

Marie Pengilly
IDAH₂O Volunteer Coordinator
208-292-2540
mpengilly@uidaho.edu

Idah2o@uidaho.edu
www.uidaho.edu/cda/idah2o

1031 North Academic Way
Suite #242
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Hello Master Water Stewards,

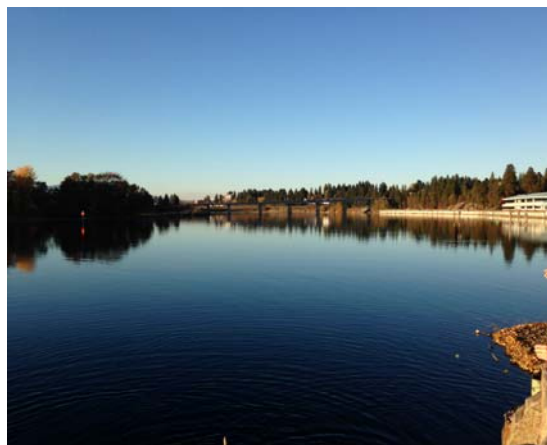
This will be a shorter than average newsletter, since my primary objective is to get the Fall 2015 Snapshot data out to everyone. This year we had ten sites to analyze, plus a randomly chosen duplicate of one of the sites and a blank sample of deionized water. We are partnering with SVL labs to run the total phosphorous (TP) tests since their more sophisticated equipment can detect very low levels of TP. It is paying off in that almost all of the sample analysis return values well below what our own lab can detect. Phosphorous is a very powerful nutrient, and is the limiting nutrient in most of the waters of northern Idaho.

As fall progresses, IDAH₂O staff be diving into program development and grantwriting as usual. I will also continue with video production for a series of short videos about stormwater. This production is supported by funding from the Mountaineers Foundation and also the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Interpretive signs will be developed with the help of University of Idaho Service-Learning students in the College of Art and Architecture's Graphics Design program.

Happy monitoring!

Jim Ekins

P.S., let me know if you need monitoring kit resupplies!



University of Idaho
Extension

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Fall 2015 Snapshot Event Data

*Remember! Check your monitoring kit equipment for expiration dates!
Contact us for replacements.*

story by Jim Ekins

9-Oct-15 Fall 2015 Snapshot Event		Nitrate (mg/L)	Phosphorus (mg/L)	Coliforms (MPN/100mL)	E. coli (MPN/100mL)
Site #	Site Description	Testing range 0.23-13.50 mg/L	Testing range 0.004-1.50 mg/L		
121012	Brickel Creek	ND	0.0237	89.2	42.2
121131	Brickel Creek	ND	0.0227	1986.3	118.7
121204	Pack River	ND	0.0131	1299.7	28.2
131201	Cougar Ck. at Priest Lk.	ND	0.0184	28.4	1
131202	Priest Lk.	ND	0.0049	5.2	<1.0
671308	Paradise Creek_Berman Park	ND	0.237	>2419.6	260.3
671308D	Paradise Creek_Berman Park	ND	0.258	>2419.6	686.7
841521	Middle Potlatch at Joel	0.866	0.76	>2419.6	>2419.6
991129	Moon Creek	ND	0.0095	40.0	6.2
991130	Sacheen Creek	ND	0.0142	22.6	2
991207	Diamond Lake	ND	0.006	158.5	<1.0
000001B	Blank	ND	ND	<1.0	<1.0

“ND” = below detection limit of our equipment

Volunteers in Idaho’s five northern counties have had an opportunity to help IDAH₂O to collect a separate set of water quality data twice a year during our Snapshot Events. Master Water Stewards collect a grab sample of water from the monitoring site. These samples are kept cold and hand-carried to our Coeur d’Alene Lab.

These snapshot events provide high quality bacteria, nitrate and total phosphorous data using standardized methods. These data are sent back to each participant, and are published on our website. IDAH₂O now outsources the phosphorous test to SVL Labs in Coeur d’Alene, ID. These data will be useful in supporting TMDL nutrient (phosphorous) implementation and assessment.

IDAH₂O held the Fall 2015 Snapshot event in conjunction with the Boise Watershed Watch event. Their event is on a Saturday, but we held ours on the Friday before, October 9th.



WaterWatch

Summer, Fall 2015 Photos



Meet Jennifer Bokma

IDAHO will be home to a new University of Idaho 4-H Natural Resource Facilitation Coach under AmeriCorps, Jennifer Bokma. Jennifer will be developing natural resources science education programs for the region around Lake Coeur d'Alene, with the goal to find new audiences for 4-H programming and to increase the numbers of kids involved in 4-H. Jennifer is a North Idaho local raised on a multi-generational farm with years in 4-H, now raising 3 children in Coeur d'Alene. Jennifer has served 15 years coordinating nonprofit initiatives or teaching. Her passions include yoga, welding and camping in prime locations in the Northwest and beyond.



New urban clubs and after school programs are the current areas of focus, and parents are encouraged to contact their local 4-H office for additional information.

Jennifer will be working with two AmeriCorps counterparts, Lisa Hutcheson and Ava Isaacson, in Boise and Moscow/McCall respectively.

2015 New Master Water Stewards

Spring through Fall 2015 was a highly successful season in terms of recruiting and training new Master Water Stewards. 108 new Master Water Stewards have been added to the roster, and 33 new sites are being regularly monitored.

In fact, the trainings are not yet done for the year. I am happy to provide IDAH2O training to any group of ten or more people if we can safely access a local creek. Please contact IDAH2O@uidaho.edu for more information.

I will be assembling the Summer 2016 Master Water Stewards workshop schedule in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for that. In addition to these workshops, remember that U-Idaho Extension also provides Master Forest Stewards: <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry/content/masterstewards>, and of course Master Gardeners courses.

Call for Unused Kits!

Do you have an IDAH₂O monitoring kit collecting dust? If you find that, for whatever reason, you are unable to monitor for us at this time, please contact us about returning your kit. We do have limited funds so we need to make sure our kits are being used as much as possible.

