

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION UPDATE

WaterWatch

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

Fifty Master Water Stewards certified

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Fifty Stewards certified

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Contact Information

IDAH₂O Master Water
Steward Program
Ashley McFarland
Program Coordinator
1031 North Academic Way Suite
#242
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
208-215-0407
idah2o@uidaho.edu
www.uidaho.edu/cda/idah2o

story by Ashley McFarland

It has been very hard to buckle down and write the Spring WaterWatch Newsletter—but it is finally starting to feel like spring! The fun combination of snow/sleet/hail that we were getting made me want to go back into hibernation!

I've got good news to share, which gave me just the push I needed.

The IDAH₂O Master Water Steward program has officially certified fifty volunteers in north Idaho!

I never imagined we would grow this quickly, so I please ask for patience from all of my volunteers as I work to keep up with you. I'm actively seeking funding to secure some assistance, but if you ask me, that's a great problem to have!

We will also be soon scheduling the first Snapshot event where we will collect water samples to analyze at the UI Coeur d'Alene Center Water Lab for Nitrate, Phosphorus and bacteria. Be looking for an e-mail to provide input on scheduling this event. Although we had hoped to conduct the snapshot in the Spring, the water levels are pushing us into June.

Happy Monitoring,



Ashley McFarland

IDAH₂O Program Coordinator

University of Idaho Extension Educator

Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs.

I am haunted by waters. —Norman Maclean



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New partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Service formed

story by Ashley McFarland

IDAHO₂O is excited to announce a new partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The program was recently awarded a *Connecting People with Nature* grant through the agency. The mission of this program is to:

“Work with others to provide meaningful, enjoyable experiences in the outdoors for people of all ages that connect them with nature, foster a conservation ethic and assist the USFWS in accomplishing its mission and conserving the nature of America.”

The vision of the program is to work with individuals and communities to gain a greater connection with nature, sense of place, respect for their environment, and a lifelong interest in and participation in the

conservation, protection, and enhancement of fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats.

Partnership with USFWS on this grant is an excellent marriage, bringing together our goals and objectives to get people in nature and understanding their environment.

Support includes funds to purchase water monitoring kits and allows staff to participate in workshops and IDAHO₂O events. In April, Toni Davidson from the Spokane USFWS office participated in a certification workshop in Coeur d’Alene. She even attended the field portion and was a tremendous help in the field. Her expertise is invaluable.

This relationship is just another example of how citizen science programs can truly engage the public

and those that serve them. We are very excited about other potential opportunities like these to enhance the sustainability of the IDAHO₂O program.



Nonpoint Source Management \$319 Grant Application Period for 2012 Funding Cycle

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality announces the start of the 2011 Nonpoint Source Management 319 grants funding cycle.

Applications accepted from April 11 until August 1, 2011.

For more information, visit our website at www.deq.idaho.gov/water/prog_issues.cfm.

In the 2012 Grant Funding Cycle, DEQ will award grants for water pollution cleanup or protection projects such as:

- Installing fencing to exclude livestock from sensitive streambanks and wetland
- Stabilizing and re-sloping damaged stream banks
- Preventing erosion from road surfaces
- Developing nutrient management plans and practices

The grant pre-application, application, and the Project Application Guidance are available at www.deq.idaho.gov/319Subgrants



Pre-applications recommended but not required—due May 8th.

Final applications due August 1, 2011.

Spring Flood Outlook

story by Katherine Rowden—National Weather Service—article from *The Weather Watcher Newsletter* March 2011

The 2011 water year, which started in October 2010, has been in a La Niña pattern. This usually means a colder and wetter than normal winter for the Pacific Northwest. Most of Eastern Washington and North Idaho have seen average to above average precipitation during the winter, as would be expected, although some areas along the east slopes of the Cascades have actually received *below* average precipitation this winter. The combination of the above average precipitation in most areas and seasonably cold temperatures in the higher elevations has allowed for good accumulations of the snow pack that feeds the area's rivers, streams, and lakes throughout the spring and into the summer as it melts off.

Along with the average to above-average snowpack, comes an increased risk of snowmelt flooding. Additionally, moist soil present across the region will increase runoff amounts and favor higher peak flows in the rivers and streams.

As part of their river forecasting process, the NWS Northwest River Forecast Center (NWRFC) in Portland creates spring peak flow forecasts for the area based on current snowpack and historical runoff behavior in the different drainages. These peak flow forecasts are updated as the snow accumulation season progresses. It is important to note that it is not possible to forecast flooding from specific rain storms or rain-on-snow events more than 4 to 7 days into the future. Therefore, while the seasonal peak flow forecasts for the season can provide good guidance, short term weather and river forecasts should be closely monitored during rain events on the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services (AHPS).

For more information on spring runoff and peak flow forecasts, please visit:

www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/peak/peak.cgi and
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=otx>.

Additional IDAH₂O certification workshops scheduled

story by Ashley McFarland

Three more certification workshops are planned for June. Details for Black Lake and Hayden Lake are tentative so please call 208-215-0407 or e-mail idah2o@uidaho.edu to receive updates once finalized. Only 15 spots per workshop, so please call or e-mail to reserve a spot. *Workshop cost \$15, payable to UI Bursar, due at training.*

Moscow

Thursday, June 2nd
8—4 (hour lunch on your own)
Federal Building Conference Room #221

Black Lake

Wednesday, June 8th —*tentative*
8—4 (hour lunch on your own)
Medimont Grange

Hayden Lake

Thursday, June 16th—*tentative*
8—4 (hour lunch on your own)
TBA



WaterWatch

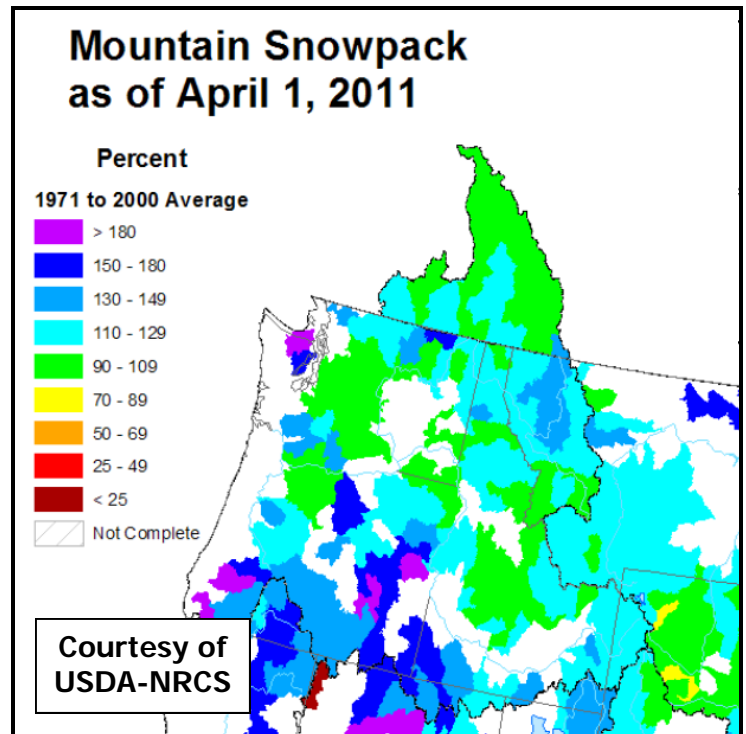
IDAH₂O Website

The IDAH₂O website is now accessible at:

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.



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