

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION UPDATE

WaterWatch

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



Happy New Year!

Highlights

MWS Annual Meeting

QAPP Approved

New Display at the CWRC

Workshop Schedule for 2013

Contact Information

Marie Pengilly
1031 North Academic Way
Suite #242
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
(208) 292-1287
idah2o@uidaho.edu
www.uidaho.edu/cda/idah2o

story by Marie Pengilly

Well it's the start of another year for IDAH₂O! Hope you all had a wonderful holiday season.

We had an exciting year at IDAH₂O; we held four certification workshops, expanded into southern Idaho, and reached over 100 certified Master Water Stewards! We also held two snapshot events, and had our Quality Assurance Project Plan approved by the EPA! Following a busy fall, it has been a pretty quiet winter for IDAH₂O. I graduated from the University of Idaho with a M.S. in Environmental Science and Water Resources in December. Now I'm back to work full time for IDAH₂O and looking forward to a busy spring! I'd love to hear from you if you have any questions or ideas for the program.

Fortunately for us, though Ashley has moved to Michigan, she is continuing to work for IDAH₂O from afar. I will be the main point of contact for Master Water Stewards, but you may be hearing from her too.

Thanks for your interest and participation in the program. Check out the rest of the newsletter for stories from 2012 and for information on events coming up in 2013!

Happy Monitoring,

Marie Pengilly

Marie Pengilly



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



University of Idaho
Extension

The University of Idaho is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational organization. We offer our programs to persons regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

Master Water Stewards: Be sure to register a monitoring site with us if you haven't yet. It's easy! Just visit our website at www.uidaho.edu/cda/idah2o/volunteers/registersite to enter your coordinates.

2012 Master Water Steward Annual Meeting

story by Marie Pengilly

The second Annual IDAH₂O Program Meeting on November 7th was a huge success! Thanks to all of our volunteers and partners that were able to come. I enjoyed meeting some new Master Water Stewards and seeing some familiar faces. These types of events provide great opportunities for networking between Master Water Steward and our partners from Idaho DEQ, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and the University of Idaho.

After a reception and some pizza, Charles Buck, CEO of UI North Idaho, spoke about the Community Water Resource Center at the UI Harbor Center. I also gave an update on the Master Water Steward

Program. We had an exciting year at IDAH₂O; we held 3 workshops, expanded into southern Idaho, reached over 100 certified Master Water Stewards, held two snapshot events, and had our Quality Assurance Project Plan approved by the EPA!

Tom Woolf from the Idaho Mussel Patrol gave a very interesting and informative talk on the importance of monitoring Idaho's lakes and streams for zebra or quagga mussels. The Idaho Mussel Patrol is a volunteer program coordinated by the Idaho Department of Agriculture. I highly encourage all of our Master Water Stewards to learn how to identify these invasive spe-

cies and to watch for them at your monitoring sites. For those of you with boats, it is imperative to Clean, Drain, and Dry to avoid transporting mussels. For more information, visit www.invasivespecies.idaho.gov or come by the Community Water Resource Center to pick up brochures or a mussel monitoring kit.

Thanks again for those of you that participated, and for those of you who couldn't make it, I hope to see you next year! If you have any suggestions or comments regarding this year's event, please feel free to share those with us at idah2o@uidaho.edu so that we can keep improving!

2013 Workshops

story by Marie Pengilly

We have several prospective workshops planned for this spring and summer. Official dates have not been set yet, but workshops will likely begin in May, weather permitting. Stay tuned to our website for scheduling updates!

Additionally, if there is enough interest, I would like to schedule a refresher course for certified Master Water Stewards to brush up on monitoring methods. Please let me know if you feel that would be helpful!

If you are interested in hosting a workshop in your area, please contact us at idah2o@uidaho.edu. To register for 2013 workshops, visit our site: www.uidaho.edu/cda/idah2o/workshops

Planned Workshops:

Sandpoint

Moscow

McCall

Priest River

Coeur d'Alene

Quality Assurance Project Plan Approved

story by Marie Pengilly

The big news this fall was that the IDAH₂O Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) was approved by the EPA. The EPA requested we develop a QAPP to guide how we would conduct quality assurance for the program. It was approved October 22, 2012.

A QAPP is a document outlining the procedures of a monitoring project to ensure the samples and data collected, as well as subsequent reports, are of a high enough quality to meet project objectives. They

seek to answer questions such as, “why is monitoring needed?” or “what decisions will be made based on the data?” How the data will be used determines the quality standards.

Here is an example of one of the Quality Assurance/Quality Control procedures set forth in the IDAH₂O QAPP: 10% of sites monitored by volunteers each year will also be monitored by IDAH₂O field staff to compare data collected.

Our QAPP stresses the importance for Master Water Stewards to follow proper monitoring protocols, check expiration dates of testing equipment, and to be honest with the IDAH₂O staff.

Remember, we all want the data to mean something! Please let us know if you have any questions at all on monitoring procedures or on the QAPP.

The IDAH₂O QAPP is available on our website: www.uidaho.edu/cda/idah2o/volunteers.

Is your stream frozen? Now is the perfect time to enter monitoring data from 2012! Get caught up before the spring monitoring season begins! Enter your data at:

www.uidaho.edu/cda/idah2o/volunteers

New Display at the Community Water Resource Center

story by Marie Pengilly

The Community Water Resource Center at the UI Harbor Center is a collaborative effort between local agencies and organizations to help facilitate and serve the education, outreach, and research needs of water stakeholders.

We are very excited to announce a new interactive exhibit of the Lake Coeur d’Alene watershed at the

CWRC. Come learn about the topography, geology, and history of the region.

We also have an Information and Scientific Resource library which contains brochures, newsletters, research papers and books on relevant local, water quality issues.

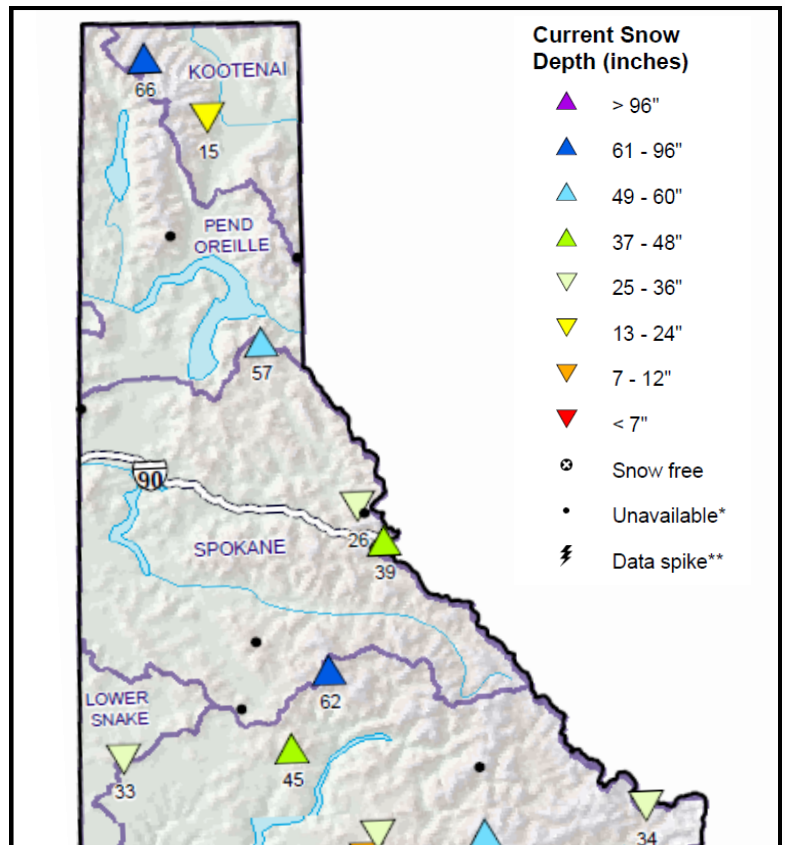
The CWRC is open to the public during normal business hours. Come check us out!



WaterWatch

Check out the newest edition of the National Water Monitoring News!

This is a great resource that provides tools such as educational online seminars and helpful websites. Read all about monitoring efforts across the country and the meaningful applications these programs can have.



Idaho SNOTEL Snow Depth Data Jan. 7, 2013

http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ftpref/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/id_snowdepth.pdf

*Hope all of our Master Water Stewards,
 IDA_H2O program partners and supporters
 had a wonderful holiday season!
 Here's to a great 2013!*