Getting Started

Setting up your water quality monitoring plan
Why a plan matters...

- Keeps you on task to accomplish your goals
- Efficient use of resources
- Strategic work within the watershed
- Submit a monitoring plan worksheet when registering a site
The Why?

- Why are you monitoring?
- What do you want to accomplish?
  - Goals
  - Objectives
  - Expected outcomes
The What?

- What are you monitoring for (which parameters)?
- How do you plan to quantify the results?
- Will you participate in Snapshot events?
The Where?

- Where will you monitor?
- Do you have access?
- Is the location safe?
- How many sites will you monitor?
Site Selection

- Adhere to Code of Ethics
- Be representative of stream
- Avoid manmade structures
- SAFETY
Monitoring Methodologies

- Paired watersheds
- Nested watershed
- Before and After
- Upstream / Downstream
The When?

- When will you monitor?
  - Seasonally?
  - Year-round?

- Frequency
  - Habitat—annually, unless significant changes
  - Biologic—bi-annually, low flow
  - Chemical/Physical—monthly
  - Snapshots—Spring, early Fall

- Consistency
The Who?

- Who will monitor with you?
- How many students will you be working with?
- SAFETY!
Credibility

- Be careful when trying to “interpret” data
- Long time to build, easy to tear down
- Adhere to Code of Ethics
- Contact IDAH$_2$O with any questions, comments or concerns!
Quality Assurance/Quality Control

- Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)
- Adhere to IDAH$_2$O protocol
- We want data to mean something!
- We want data to be used!
Questions?