Introducing the Community Water Resource Center

story by Ashley McFarland

An exciting new venture at University of Idaho, Coeur d’Alene, has just been launched! After hearing requests from stakeholders throughout northern Idaho, a framework, titled the Community Water Resource Center has been born to help facilitate and serve the education, outreach and research needs of water stakeholders.

This framework will assist with providing education and outreach opportunities, working cooperatively with other agencies and organizations, such as Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Coeur d’Alene Tribe. Furthermore, it will help facilitate research ventures, connecting University of Idaho faculty and staff with local water research questions.

Also hosted at the UI Coeur d’Alene Center will be an Information and Science Resource library, containing brochures, newsletters, research papers and books on relevant local, water quality issues. This library is open to the public during normal business hours. Come and check us out!

The Community Water Resource Center is a true collaborative effort, and any agency or organization that would like to become a partner is welcome to join this synergistic effort between water professionals and the general public. If you have any questions regarding this effort, please feel free to contact me.

Check out the rest of the newsletter for updates on scheduling the Spring Snapshot, staffing changes and workshops that will be offered in Summer 2012!

Happy Monitoring,

Ashley McFarland

IDAH2O Program Coordinator
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Spring Snapshot Scheduled
story by Ashley McFarland

For all of you that participated in the Fall 2011 Snapshot, a big thanks for making it so successful. I think everyone will agree that we learned some valuable information about numerous IDAH20 monitoring sites!

We are looking forward to replicate that effort in just a couple months and hopefully this Spring, water levels will cooperate more than they did last year!

Once again, any samples submitted from registered IDAH20 monitoring sites will be tested for Nitrate-N, total Phosphorus, Total Coliform bacteria and E. coli bacteria. All samples will be analyzed at the UI Coeur d’Alene Water Lab and once again, Master Water Stewards are welcome to assist with sample analysis.

The most exciting news I can update you with is the decrease in cost. For the Spring 2012 Snapshot, sample analysis will only cost $10/sample! Hopefully this price reduction will get even more volunteers involved. We’ll follow the same protocol as in the Fall and notices will go out as the date gets closer on how to sign-up your monitoring site for the snapshot.

Currently, the Spring 2012 Snapshot is Scheduled for Thursday, May 17th. Of course this will be contingent on water levels, keeping your safety in mind! All samples will need to be collected on that day and returned to the UI Coeur d’Alene Center by 4 pm. Sample pick-up locations may be available throughout the Panhandle if needed.

Hope you can all participate, stay tuned for details!

Staffing changes
story by Kelli Duncan

Upon returning from a nice, long Holiday break, I learned that our Program Assistant, Charlene Gibson, had been offered an exciting new job opportunity with PAML labs in Spokane. We quickly posted the job, received a number of very qualified applicants, and I can now happily announce that our new Program Assistant is Ms. Kelli Duncan. Please help me in welcoming Kelli to the crew! I’ll leave the rest of the introduction up to her! —Ashley

Hello,

I’m Kelli Jo Duncan and I am a graduate from the University of Idaho in Environmental Science with an emphasis in Water Quality. I recently worked for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in the Coeur d’Alene Regional office for the Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP). I am from this area, and am excited to be employed with the University and still get to live in the area I love. I have always enjoyed working and learning about water through education and experience. When I have free time, I like to recreate outdoors, fishing and camping with family, friends and my dog. I’m looking forward to working with University of Idaho Extension to help promote water stewardship in this region and gaining experience in any water-related field.
After an overwhelming response in northern Idaho for the IDAH2O program, we have gotten the opportunity to expand the program south to the Boise Valley region. This summer, a minimum of two workshops will be held to certify Master Water Stewards that would like to conduct volunteer monitoring in and around the Boise region.

The decision to expand came after an exciting meeting with the Boise WaterShed Advisory Group this past fall. Thanks to Cindy Busche for bringing this group together. I am looking forward to spreading this program statewide!

All workshops will be posted on our online registration site: www.uidaho.edu/cda/idah2o/workshops. Please contact idah2o@uidaho.edu if you have any questions about the workshops. They are 8-hours in length and include a classroom and field portion.

Additional dates may be added to the calendar, so please stay tuned to the website! As always, if your watershed group or organization would like to schedule a workshop, please contact us for availability.

Dates are also scheduled throughout northern Idaho.

**Friday, July 27th**
8 am—5 pm
Boise WaterShed Environmental Education Center
11818 West Joplin Road

**Saturday, July 28th**
8 am—5 pm
Boise WaterShed Environmental Education Center
11818 West Joplin Road

**Friday, July 20th**
8 am—5 pm
University of Idaho Sandpoint Center
1904 North Boyer Avenue

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**Spring Rains and Run-Off**

Most local Rivers have crested or will crest over the next day, and although no major flooding occurred, infrastructure was tested throughout northern Idaho. Many landslides, culvert failures and road washouts have been reported. Be sure to keep an eye on your local hydrology at: water.weather.gov.
Area Events

Earth Day Coeur d’Alene

Earth Day In Your Backyard

Leave this event feeling empowered with the tips and tools you need to go out and begin making an immediate impact on bettering our local environment.

Vendors and activities for adults and youth.

Coeur d’Alene Library

Sunday, April 22nd Noon—3:00 pm

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)

Applications will be available online March 23, 2012. For more information or to apply for funding, please visit: www.deq.idaho.gov/swpGrant/

Eligible applicants include:
- Public Water Systems
- Local Government
- Special Districts
- Associations
- Educational Institutions
- Non-Profit Organizations