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

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The Why?

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

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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?

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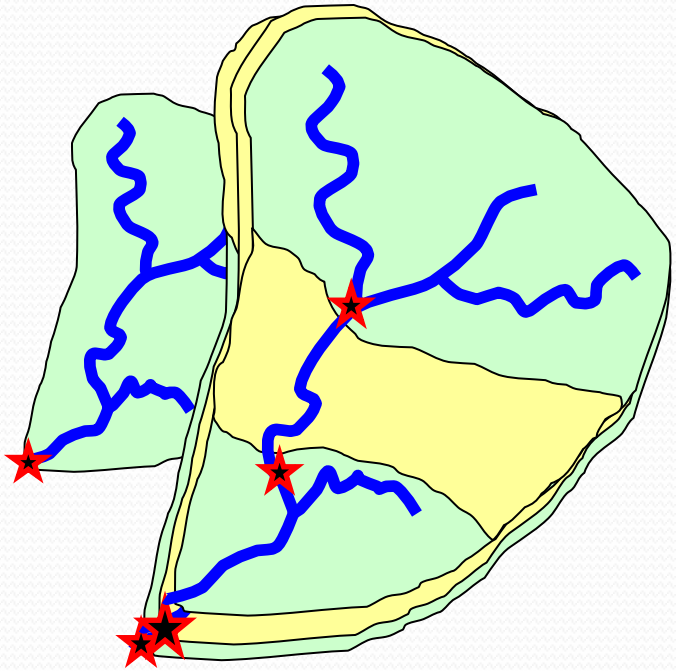
Site Selection

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

Monitoring Methodologies

- Paired watersheds
- Nested watershed
- Before and After
- Upstream / Downstream



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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

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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!***

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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?


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