

Northwest Biological Assessment Workgroup

20TH Annual Meeting - McCall, Idaho

Wednesday - November 4, 2009

Agenda

12:30 - 1:00

Sign-in

1:00 - 1:30

Welcome, Logistics, etc.

Gretchen Hayslip, EPA Region 10

TOPIC#1: USING BIOTA TO ASSESS WETLAND CONDITION

1:30 - 2:00

National Wetlands Survey

Michael E. Scozzafava, Wetlands Division, EPA HQ

2:00 – 2:30

Utah Wetlands Monitoring and Assessment

Jeff Ostermiller and Ben Holcomb, Utah DEQ

2:30 – 3:00

Discussion on Topic#1

Facilitators: Tina Laidlaw, EPA Region 8 and Mike Scozzafava, EPA HQ

3:00 - 3:30

BREAK

3:30 – 4:00

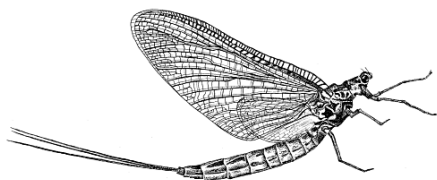
Quality Assessment Techniques and Tools for Diatom Analysis

Diane Winter, Rhithron

4:00 – 5:00

Updates – Part 1

1. **Update on the Western Monitoring Center**
Chuck Hawkins, Utah State University
2. **Update on Idaho Statewide Surface-Water Quality Network**
Dorene MacCoy, USGS
3. **Riparian System Biological Diversity: Non-vascular Plants, Invertebrates, and Periphyton**
Bob Danchy, Weyerhaeuser
4. **Other Updates**



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Thursday, November 5, 2009 - Agenda

TOPIC#2: STRESSOR RESPONSE

- 8:30 – 9:00 **Predicting Environmental Reference Conditions in Streams from Watershed geology**
John Olson and Chuck Hawkins, Utah State University
- 9:00 - 9:30 **Influence of Nutrients and Co-factors on Agricultural Stream Ecosystems: Integrating Bioassessment and Experimental Information**
Chris Mebane, USGS
- 9:30 – 10:00 **Identifying Causes of Impairment: An Application of Oregon's Stressor ID Models**
Shannon Hubler, Oregon DEQ
- 10:00 – 10:30 **BREAK**
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Establishing Thermal Reference Conditions: Development of Stream Temperature Models in Support of Biological Monitoring and Assessment in the Western USA.**
Ryan Hill and Chuck Hawkins, Utah State University
- 11:00 – 11:30 **Macroinvertebrate Responses to Trace Elements in Watersheds with Varying Mineralogy and Land Use in the Western United States**
Dorene MacCoy, USGS
- 11:30 – 12:00 **Using Bioassessment Methodologies to Assess Recovery of Silver Bow Creek, Montana**
Sean Sullivan, Rhithron
- 12:00 - 1:30 **LUNCH**
- 1:30 – 2:00 **Montana Diatom Biocriteria Development to Address Nutrients, Clean Sediment, and Metals**
Michael Suplee, MT Dept. of Environmental Quality

TOPIC #3: SETTING THRESHOLDS TO DETERMINE BIOLOGICAL IMPAIRMENT

- 2:00 – 2:30 **Method of Predicting Reference Condition Biota Affects the Performance and Interpretation of Ecological Indices**
Chuck Hawkins, Yong Cao, and Brett Roper, Utah State University
- 2:30 - 3:00 **Colorado Biocriteria and Threshold Setting**
Chris Theel, Colorado DPHE

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Thursday (Continued), November 5, 2009 - Agenda

3:00 – 3:30

BREAK (Sponsored by Terra Graphics)

3:30 – 4:30

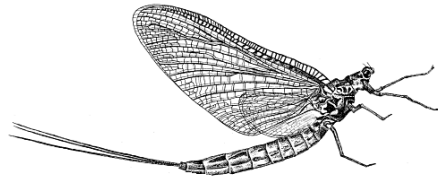
State Methods for Setting Thresholds (10 min. each)

- Oregon – Shannon Hubler, Oregon DEQ
- Montana – Mike Suplee, Montana DEQ
- Idaho - Jason Pappani, Idaho DEQ
- Utah - Jeff Ostermiller and Ben Holcomb, Utah DEQ

4:30 – 5:00

Discussion on Topic #3:

Facilitator: Tina Laidlaw, EPA Region 8 and Susan Jackson, EPA HQ



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Friday, November 6, 2009 - Agenda

- 8:30 – 9:00 **Rare Invertebrate Taxa: Bioassessment Step-Children or True Bioindicators**
Dave Stagliano, Montana Natural Heritage Program
- 9:00 – 9:30 **Differences Between Depth and Season on Macroinvertebrate and Periphyton Communities in the Upper Columbia River.**
Darren Brandt and Nichole Manley, TerraGraphics Environmental Engineering, Inc.
- 9:30 - 10:00 **Effects of a Short-term Drawdown on the Kootenai River Benthic Macroinvertebrate Community, July-August 2008**
Gary Lester, Michael Bilger, Steve Wells, Patrick Barrett, and Karen Schnake, EcoAnalysts;
Greg Hoffman, US Army Corps of Engineers and Charles Holderman, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- 10:00 - 10:30 **BREAK**
- 10:30 – 11:30 **Updates – Part 2**
1. **Washington Status & Trends Monitoring Project**
Glenn Merritt, Ecology
 2. **Puget Sound Freshwater Sentinel Sites**
Lil Herger, EPA Region 10
 3. **Landscape GIS Data Layers Update**
Peter Leinenbach, EPA Region 10
 4. **Update on USGS Biological Database**
Dorene MacCoy
 5. **Other Updates**
- 11:30 – 12:00 **Wrap-up, next steps, and discussion of next years meeting**

