

North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Cooperative Recreation Plan

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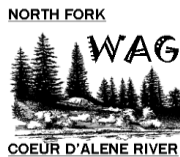
Version 1

Preparation

The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Cooperative Recreation Plan represents a collaborative effort to manage recreation on the river in conjunction with the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Management Plan and other plans within the corridor. The plan was developed by Nick Brown, Kelly Purnell, and Tammi Laninga of the University of Idaho Department of Conservation Social Sciences, the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group, and volunteers from the Coeur d'Alene River Preservation Committee with special support from Shoshone County and the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Resource Advisory Committee. Project coordination was led by Kajsa Stromberg, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Watershed Coordinator, and Claire Pitner, U.S. Forest Service Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District Recreation Planner.

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Executive Summary



Weekend floaters

Photo Courtesy of Shoshone County



"Respect our river" sign

Photo Courtesy of Shoshone County

Purpose

Over the last decade recreational activities have significantly increased on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River, resulting in the need to manage recreation on and near the river to protect the safety of all river users and the health of the resource. There are serious problems of garbage, lack of restrooms, trespassing, parking, safety, and damage to riverbanks and floodplain areas. The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River flows past lands managed by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF), the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), Shoshone County, and privately owned land. No single entity manages recreation use or the impacts of human activities on the river between the confluence with the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River and the confluence with Shoshone Creek. The aim of this document is to provide a coordinated recreation plan for the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River that addresses the impacts of recreation and proposes solutions to improve and enhance the river corridor for visitors and residents alike. This cooperative plan is voluntary and complementary to existing agency plans, can be utilized by Shoshone County, private landowners and other interested entities, and provides agreement on recreation management and site enhancements along the lower North Fork Coeur d'Alene River corridor.

Scope

The planning area addressed in this plan covers the lower 35 miles of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River from the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River confluence near Enaville upstream to the mouth of Shoshone Creek in Shoshone County, Idaho.

Vision

To provide a safe and enjoyable range of recreational experiences for river users while ensuring protection of natural resources, private property rights, and economic development.



Figure 1. Location of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River in north Idaho and river segments covered by the Cooperative Recreation Plan.

Goals

- Goal 1:** Provide recreation users with a variety of safe, enjoyable, high quality recreation experiences along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River corridor.
- Goal 2:** Restore and rehabilitate riparian areas where resource damage has occurred and prevent new impacts associated with recreational use.
- Goal 3:** Educate river corridor users about the river environment, safety, recreation opportunities, leave no trace ethics, and how to avoid negative environmental impacts.
- Goal 4:** Maximize efficiency and effectiveness by developing partnerships and volunteer opportunities with federal and state resource management agencies, counties, land owners, user groups and other entities.
- Goal 5:** Encourage development and rehabilitation that supports the local economy by promoting existing local businesses and increasing local employment.



Westslope cutthroat trout

Photo Courtesy of Kajsa Stromberg

Introduction

Vision

To provide a safe and enjoyable range of recreational experiences for river users while ensuring economic development and protection of natural resources and private property rights.

Scope

The planning area of the plan covers the lower 35 miles of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and its floodplain from the confluence with the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River near Enaville upstream to the mouth of Shoshone Creek in Shoshone County, Idaho.



North Fork Coeur d'Alene River
Photo Courtesy of Kajsa Stromberg

Preparation

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Overview

The plan includes a background overview of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River watershed, followed by a description of current recreational uses and existing supporting infrastructure. The next section outlines the plan's overall goals and objectives. Getting more specific, the lower North Fork Coeur d'Alene River corridor was divided into five segments. For each river segment, the plan includes descriptions of current conditions, desired future conditions, and recommendations to meet desired future conditions aligned with plan goals and objectives.



Figure 1. Location of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River in north Idaho and river segments covered by the Cooperative Recreation Plan.

Background

Watershed Description

The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and its tributaries drain from a forested, mountainous area approximately 900 square miles in size just east of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The North and South Forks of the Coeur d'Alene River merge near the small community of Enaville. From the confluence, the Coeur d'Alene River flows west into Lake Coeur d'Alene. Elevations in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River drainage range from approximately 2,200 feet to approximately 6,800 feet, with Granite Peak in the Prichard Creek drainage as the highest point. The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Subbasin is assigned the 8 digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 17010301 by the US Geological Survey (USGS). The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River watershed is managed for timber production, mining, recreation, drinking water supply, and various urban and residential uses. The Idaho Panhandle National Forests Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District manages 536,605 acres of land in the watershed - 93.5%; the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 3,378 acres - 0.6%; and IDL manages 9,309 acres - 1.6%. Private property makes up 4.3% at 24,385 acres in the watershed (State of Idaho).

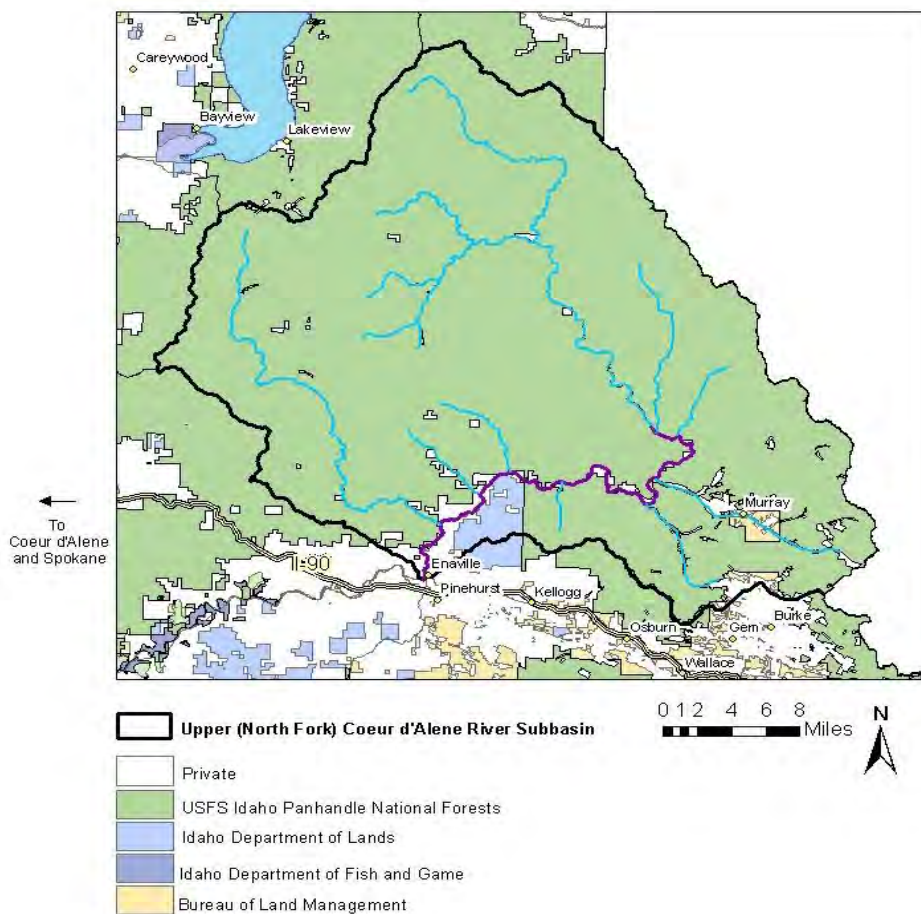
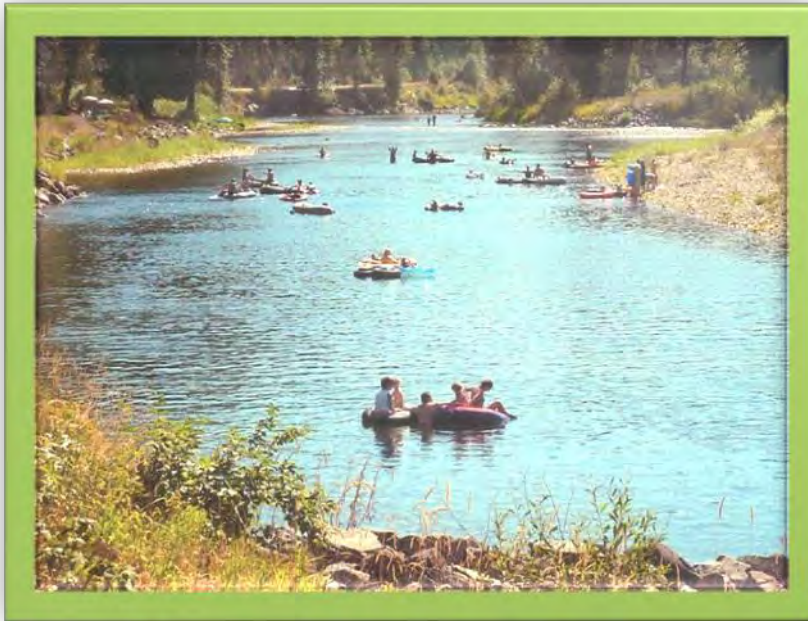


Figure 2. Land management and ownership patterns in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Subbasin.

The area of most concentrated recreational use is the lower five miles of the river just above Enaville. To the East on I-90 there is fairly constant population with the towns of Pinehurst, Smeltonville, Kellogg, Osburn, Wallace, and Mullan. To the West on I-90 are the larger population centers of Coeur d'Alene, ID about 30 miles away and Spokane, WA, which is about 60 miles away. Coeur d'Alene had a metro population of over 131,000 as of 2006 while Spokane's metro area in 2007 had a population of over 462,000. This mass of population combined with natural amenities and quick travel due to I-90 makes this a very popular region for river recreation in the summer.

Much of the floodplain areas and riparian zones along the lower North Fork Coeur d'Alene River are privately owned and affected by historical and present-day development. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the discovery of gold in Prichard Creek led to an influx of settlers and development. Timber was rapidly harvested from the river bottomlands and cedar stumps still dot the floodplains where large cedar forests once stood. Roads and railroads followed as log drives, agricultural development and mines led to growing communities and industry. Today, private properties are primarily located in the bottomlands along the lower North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and the bulk of the watershed is managed by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District.



Summer floaters

Photo Courtesy of Shoshone County

Land use in the watershed is primarily in forest management for multiple resource outputs (timber, grazing, water, and recreation). Recreational and retirement homes as well as recreational vehicle camps are located in bottomlands along the lower river, which is in the planning area for this plan. Three small towns, Enaville, Prichard, and Murray, are located in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River subbasin. None of these communities have a population in excess of 50. Resident and seasonal population is sparse in the

remainder of the watershed. The subdivision and sale of bottomlands for recreational lots along the lower North Fork Coeur

d'Alene River has increased summer occupancy in the area in recent years. For the most part recreational vehicles, structures, and other personal property (excluding those with special County permits) are allowed on recreational lots in the river corridor between March 31 and November 1

except when floodwaters threaten to encroach on the property (Shoshone County). Cabins near Prichard and youth camps at Lutherhaven add to the summer population numbers.

Water Quality

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) manages water quality assessments and leads implementation of Clean Water Act programs by the State of Idaho. Beneficial uses of surface waters in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River drainage include cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, primary contact recreation, and drinking water supply. Working with the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG), DEQ has collected and compiled water quality data for assessments, analyzed water quality status, and developed plans for pollution reduction to improve water quality where impaired. The reaches of the lower North Fork Coeur d'Alene River included in this plan are considered impaired by excess sediment and temperature along with alterations of flow and habitat. Impaired beneficial uses include cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning. To address these issues, DEQ and the WAG are using a sediment total maximum daily load (TMDL) plan and have prepared a draft temperature TMDL. Reductions in sedimentation and water temperatures are needed to fully support cold-water aquatic life in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River.

In addition, several miles of the lower North Fork Coeur d'Alene River have been identified as a source water protection area for drinking water treatment at the Central Shoshone County Water District. The primary well for the Water District is the Enaville Well located near the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Coeur d'Alene River and the well is under the influence of surface water. A new water treatment plant with advanced technologies was recently constructed to provide improved water treatment capabilities, but it is still important to protect the area as a drinking water source to ensure protection of the treatment infrastructure and clean drinking water.



Enaville well drinking water source

Photo Courtesy of IDEQ

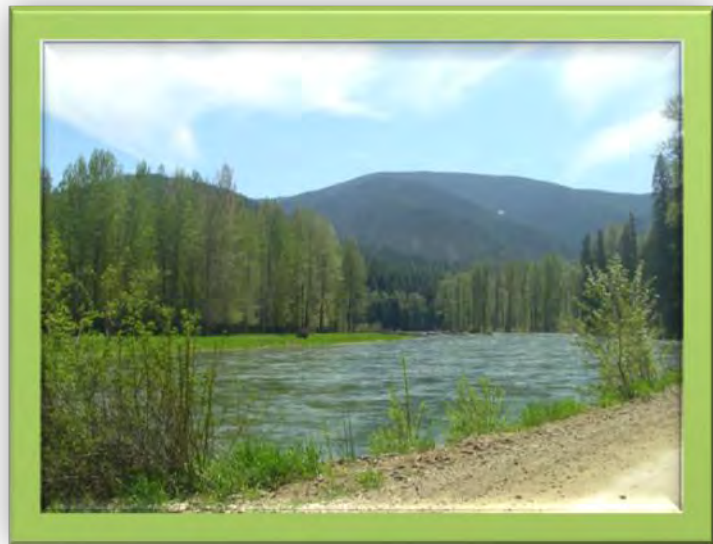
Floodplain, Riparian Areas, and Bank Conditions

The floodplain is the low-lying land adjacent to the stream that becomes submerged when the stream overflows its banks during flood events of varying degrees. The floodplain of the lower North Fork Coeur d'Alene River often exceeds 660 feet in width and has historically been a prime location for fishery habitat due to the river's shifting to form new side channels frequented by fish. These side channels within the floodplain act as important flood regulators and have vital habitat functions. For example,

they can serve as thermal refuge for salmonids when temperatures in the main body of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River exceed levels between 70° F to 73° F. This is in addition to the fact that 36% of the floodplain has been lost to human development and that further losses in the floodplain could contribute to displacement of cutthroat trout by rainbow trout in the lower reaches of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River (Stevens and Joe DuPont 2007).

Riparian zones are the vegetated land adjacent to streams and rivers that affect or are affected by the presence of water (Fischer et al. 2001). Riparian zones are located within the floodplain and contribute to unique ecosystems that perform a wide variety of ecological functions and play an important role in providing wildlife and fisheries habitat, wildlife movement corridors, erosion and nonpoint-source pollution control. Riparian zones in the Western US comprise less than one percent of the total land area, but are used by more species of breeding birds than any other habitat; many terrestrial species also rely on riparian zones either year-round or for a portion of their life-cycle.

Plant communities in the watershed vary with elevation and aspect. South facing slopes at lower elevations support shrubs, grasses and ponderosa pine. On north slopes, and with increasing elevation, forest stands become denser with a greater number of coniferous species. The presence of Douglas fir, grand fir, western larch, lodgepole pine, western red cedar, and western white pine increases with increasing elevation and precipitation. Invasive plant species prevalent in the area include knapweed, tansy, blueweed, and hawkweed. Common riparian species include willows, hawthorn, dogwood, alders and larger trees like cottonwoods and cedar.



North Fork Coeur d'Alene River riparian zones

Photo Courtesy of DEQ

Large wood and log jams are natural parts of a large river system like the North Fork Coeur d'Alene and perform important functions by stabilizing river banks and beds, providing important habitat for fish and other aquatic species, and by significantly affecting sediment transport, temperature and formation of pools. Over time, wood has been removed from the channel and recruitment of new wood into the channel has been reduced after significant timber harvest historically in the riparian areas. Even in recent years, log jams and large wood have been removed from the river channel associated with risks to infrastructure and safety. In some cases, this may be necessary; however, large wood removal can be detrimental to channel stability, water quality, and aquatic habitats.

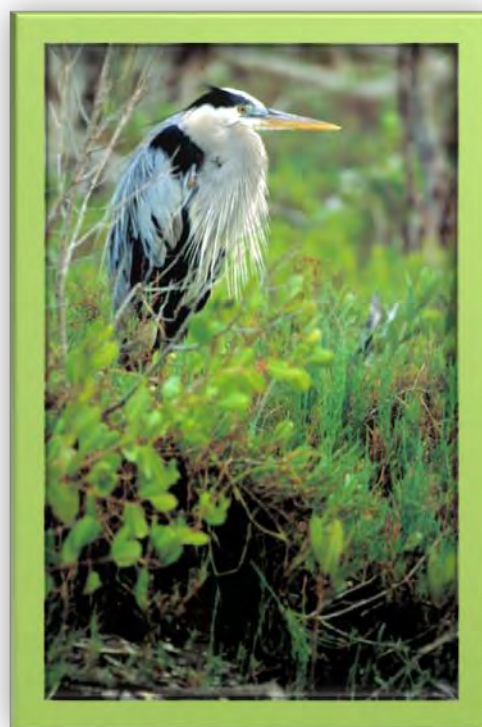
Floodplains, riparian zones, and stream banks are very much affected by land use practices such as mowing and vegetation removal. Mowing and vegetation removal result in loss of plant diversity, reduces the filtering capacity of the streamside vegetation, and decreases bank stability. There are numerous sites along the lower North Fork Coeur d'Alene River that show excessive erosion and contribute to water quality and habitat concerns. Stream bank erosion and channel stability is a major concern for water quality and property management in the area. Erosion affects water quality, river aesthetics, and over time, threatens bank stability and may result in significant property damage. Intact riparian vegetation and functioning floodplains protect property, decrease instability and erosion, and improve both water quality and habitat values. Many property owners are interested in learning more about stewardship of riverside properties and seek guidance on streambank stabilization projects.

Fish and Wildlife

The Idaho Panhandle is home to more than 300 wildlife species and many of these are present in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River drainage. These include large animals such as elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, bear, moose, and bald eagles as well as small animals such as calliope hummingbirds and pygmy shrews. Abundant surface water attracts a wide variety of waterfowl, eagles, and osprey. Wildlife species identified as sensitive species by the Forest Service that may occur in the area include the Coeur d'Alene salamander, western toad, black-backed woodpecker, Townsend's big-eared bat, fringed myotis, fisher, northern goshawk, pileated woodpecker, pine marten, elk and migratory birds.

The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and its tributaries are home to many species of fish, including both native and introduced species. The river also hosts a range of invertebrates and amphibians for a diverse aquatic community. Native fishes to the watershed include westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, mountain whitefish, northern pikeminnow, largescale sucker, longnose sucker, torrent sculpin, shorthead sculpin, mottled sculpin, redbelly shiner, longnose dace and speckled dace. Introduced fishes include rainbow trout, brook trout, Chinook salmon, and kokanee salmon.

Salmonids, the family of fish that includes trout and salmon, are popular sportfish and are important for conservation. Native salmonids in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River subbasin include westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, and mountain whitefish. Westslope cutthroat trout, Idaho's State Fish, are widespread but face threats including genetic hybridization with rainbow trout, competition and predation from introduced species, habitat loss and water quality degradation. They are listed as a "Sensitive Species" by Region 1 of the Forest Service and listed as a "Species of Special Concern" by the



Great blue heron

Photo Courtesy of US Fish and Wildlife Service

State of Idaho. In recent years, Idaho Department of Fish and Game reports increasing numbers of larger cutthroat trout and cite changes in fishing regulations as a primary reason for the increase. Currently, all cutthroat trout fishing in the subbasin is catch and release only.

Bull trout were once widely distributed in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River watershed, and were occasionally detected into the 1980s; however, they are most likely no longer present in the watershed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) lists bull trout as "Threatened" with respect to the Endangered Species Act, and the FWS has recently designated critical habitat in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River including the entire stretch of river addressed by this recreation plan.

Salmonids in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Subbasin require cold water temperatures, clear water, and diverse habitats. In general, bull trout have more specific habitat requirements than other salmonids and are more sensitive to temperature and fine sediment impacts. Other threats to local native trout include competition and predation from introduced species, habitat loss and water quality degradation. Recent studies have focused on water temperature and found that trout depend on cold-water refuge areas to survive the summer months. Based on stream temperature measurements (DuPont et. al., 2006), water temperature appeared to increase as the river flowed through confined reaches where little floodplain existed, and decreased when the river flowed through unconfined areas with wide floodplains. This pattern was observed in the mainstem North Fork Coeur d'Alene River downstream of Prichard Creek as the river enters a wide floodplain and temperatures continually decline to the point where they did not exceed 71° F in much of the free flowing reach of the river. Without this cooling effect much of the lower river would frequently reach water temperatures that would not support salmonids (DuPont et. al., 2006). For this reason, they recommend that future activities or development affecting the floodplains need to be carefully planned to ensure the floodplains maintain their fully functioning benefits (Watershed Professionals Network 2007).

Recreational Uses and Issues

Recreational Uses

The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River corridor provides local residents and visitors with a wide range of recreational activities including fishing, hunting, camping, tubing and wildlife viewing. There are a number of year-round recreational opportunities. This plan focuses on summer issues because high numbers of visitors cause resource damage and complaints. There are also a number of safety concerns and potential for increased opportunities. The area of most concentrated recreational use is the lower five miles of the river just above Enaville, but there is a high level of summer recreational use in the lower 35 miles of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River corridor.

The IPNF manages three developed campgrounds along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River which are operated by a concessionaire. All are located upstream of this plan's focus area and include: 1) Devils Elbow Campground with 20 tent/RV sites and one group site for up to 25 people; 2) Kit Price Campground with 53 tent/RV sites; and 3) Big Hank Campground with 30 tent/RV sites. There are also other developed campgrounds on tributaries (Honeysuckle, Bumblebee, and Berlin Flats), and numerous undeveloped, dispersed campsites along the river. There are also several private campgrounds, lodging facilities, and summer camps in the river corridor. There are data gaps in terms of recreational usage numbers, watershed capacity for recreational use, and river corridor user preferences.

Issues

Parking and Traffic

Visitor parking is a major issue along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River. There are many car pullouts along both the Old River Road and Coeur d'Alene River Road. Some are paved and others are just long wide shoulders. One of their primary purposes has been to allow people to access the river. During summer weekends, parking is particularly limited near Albert's Landing, Bumblebee Bridge, and The Rock swimming hole, causing visitors to park along the side of the road in all directions.



Trash receptacle

Photo Courtesy of Shoshone County

Trash Management

There are very few public trashcans, the largest of which is a dumpster located between Bumblebee Bridge and Albert's Landing on the opposite side of the river from these popular parking areas for river recreation.

Litter is a major problem in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River corridor. Large amounts of trash are often littered along roadways, parking areas, camping areas, along river banks, and in the river itself. This can be unsightly, unsanitary and harmful to fish and wildlife.



Cans on river bottom

Photo Courtesy of USFS

Restrooms

There are limited public restroom facilities within the planning area along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River corridor. Currently restrooms are located at the Trail of the Coeur d'Alene trailhead, Graham Creek, Clee Creek, the Prichard Creek picnic area, and Avery Creek area. A portable toilet is also located at Steamboat Pond during the summer. There are also a number of other portable toilets at various locations along the river during the summer, especially in the lower 5-mile section. Many of the outhouses are either not easily accessible from the river or people are not aware of them. This situation creates problems such as putting pressure on local businesses to offer restroom facilities to non-customers and the reality of people relieving themselves in or near the river.



Summer floaters

Photo Courtesy of Shoshone County

Private Property

Currently the largest land use conflict that arises in the area occurs between private residential landowners along the river and river users. This is especially noticeable during peak floating season when tubers trespass onto private property.

Safety and Law Enforcement

There are several emergency service organizations operating within the river corridor including the following Fire Departments and Districts: Pinehurst and Kingston, the Prichard Volunteer Fire Department, and the Shoshone County Sheriff Department. It is difficult for these services to adequately cover the safety and law enforcement needs during the peak of summer usage, especially since financial resources are limited.



Wrecked car in river corridor

Photo Courtesy of Shoshone County

Alcohol and drug use can cause significant safety problems in the river corridor. Swimming and boating while intoxicated can be very dangerous and even deadly. Driving while under the influence of drugs and alcohol is also a serious concern.

Glass containers are no longer allowed on the river to prevent injuries and litter. Compliance is fairly good, but glass still manages to be dumped in the river and cause a hazard.

Overcrowding and parking along roads can be another problem for safety and law enforcement. At times, travel lanes have been blocked by parked cars and made it impossible for emergency vehicles to pass.

Natural hazards in the river corridor can also be safety concerns during recreation. Cold, swiftly flowing water, rocks, vegetation and logs are all potential hazards. In recent years, there have been near drownings and even fatalities among people floating the river. Visitors need to be aware of the hazards and follow appropriate safety precautions, and educational outreach and signage could help warn and inform people of risks inherent in river recreation. Additionally, a clear safety strategy that balances recreational and ecological concerns among management agencies and local government could help address these issues.

Access Sites

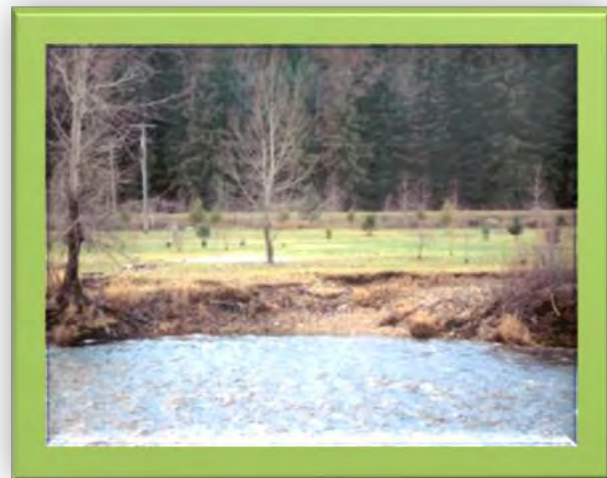
Currently there are no developed access points on the river. However, there are a number of undeveloped access sites where visitors can launch rafts, canoes, non-motorized boats and/or other floatation equipment (e.g., inner tubes). Current access sites are located on property managed by the IPNF, IDL, IDFG, and Shoshone County (e.g., road right-of-ways). Since these sites are undeveloped, in some cases rafts/boats need to be carried in and/or out of the river.

Natural resources protection

The highly intense level of recreation often observed in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River has impacts to natural resources including cutting and removal of vegetation, increased erosion, bank trampling, biological contamination from waste, and littering. Unauthorized motorized travel in riparian zones can be especially detrimental.

Development

Over time, properties managed for pastures and agricultural land uses have been converted into residential and recreational properties along the river corridor. This happened rapidly into the mid-



Development and mowing
Photo Courtesy of Shoshone County

2000s, but has slowed somewhat due to the lack of financial incentive in the current housing market. In 2008, Shoshone County completed a floodplain district overlay code that addresses development and habitat protection on the river, particularly in the riparian zone. New recreational subdivision lots along the river, for example, now must have three hundred feet of river frontage and must maintain a twenty-five foot riparian buffer of natural vegetation along the river. Development can greatly affect the recreational experience and natural resources.

Trails

Currently there are no formal trails along the lower 35 miles of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River; this is due primarily to the fact that the majority of the land in the lower section of the river is privately owned. There are quite a few hiking trails in the nearby National Forest.

Motorized watercraft

Motorized watercrafts are uncommon in the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River. Low summer flows and shallow water depths generally discourage motorized watercraft. If motorizes use increases, there are likely to be conflicts and safety concerns among floaters, concerns about wake-related erosion, and noise complaints among residents.

Planning Goals and Objectives

The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Coordinated Recreation Plan has five goals with corresponding objectives. To ensure consistency in recreation management throughout the river corridor, these goals have been developed to coincide with goals established by IPNF for their Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Management Plan. The goals and objectives are outlined below.

Goal 1: Provide recreation users with a variety of safe, enjoyable, high quality recreation experiences along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River corridor

Objective 1: Manage the river for a wide range of safe recreation opportunities including overnight and day use options

Objective 2: Identify locations for developed river access (e.g., through hardened ramps)

Objective 3: Ensure emergency vehicle access for rapid response and provide emergency phones at key access sites

Objective 4: Conduct visitor use surveys to determine amount of recreational use, patterns, and needs

Objective 5: Provide dumpsters and recycling containers in key locations

Objective 6: Provide restrooms at access sites

Objective 7: Provide adequate parking at access sites

Objective 8: Improve signage indicating major access sites, hazards and other points of interest

Objective 9: Create mile markers for the river

Objective 10: Explore potential interpretive trail areas

Objective 11: Consider developing a policy on motorized watercraft

Objective 12: Evaluate access to recreational opportunities for visitors with disabilities

Objective 13: Evaluate needs and feasibility for RV dump station

Objective 14: Conduct a river capacity study for future planning needs

Objective 15: Develop safety strategy among management agencies and local government that balances recreational and ecological concerns to help address natural safety hazards

Goal 2: Restore and rehabilitate riparian areas where resource damage has occurred and prevent new impacts associated with recreational use

Objective 1: Maintain and improve aquatic habitat and water quality

Objective 2: Maintain and improve terrestrial habitat

Objective 3: Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species

Objective 4: Develop interagency and public-private partnerships for cooperative implementation of habitat improvement projects

Objective 5: Encourage use of developed access sites and rehabilitate other access points

Objective 6: Consider policies and incentives for current and future property owners and land managers to protect the riparian zone

Goal 3: Educate river corridor users about the river environment, safety, recreation opportunities, leave no trace ethics and how to avoid negative environmental impacts

Objective 1: Develop a river "code of conduct"

Objective 2: Educate river users on private property rights and trespassing

Objective 3: Encourage responsible use of alcohol on the river

Objective 4: Create major signs/kiosks at put in and take out areas, portals, and major confluences

Objective 5: Consider an adopt-a-river program or annual clean-up events

Objective 6: Create a pack-it-in/pack-it-out program and inform visitors about leave no trace ethics

Objective 7: Educate anglers on best management fishing practices

Objective 8: Educate visitors about safety hazards

Goal 4: Maximize efficiency and effectiveness by developing partnerships and volunteer opportunities with federal and state resource management agencies, counties, land owners, user groups, and other entities

Objective 1: Secure funding for high priority projects

Objective 2: Coordinate this plan with new and existing management plans in the corridor

Objective 3: Support interagency cooperation for management, enforcement and restoration

Objective 4: Use consistent information for signage throughout the river corridor

Objective 5: Develop a seasonal river ranger program

Objective 6: Investigate possibility of user fees or other revenue sources

Goal 5: Encourage development and rehabilitation that supports the local economy by promoting existing local businesses and increasing local employment

Objective 1: Improve and increase commercial shuttle services for transporting visitors

Objective 2: Hire local contractors for development and rehabilitation work

Objective 3: Coordinate and partner with local businesses to implement this plan

Objective 4: Incorporate information about local businesses in education and outreach materials and encourage sponsorships for advertising

Objective 5: Network with local chambers of commerce, North Idaho Tourism Alliance, Idaho Department of Commerce and other entities

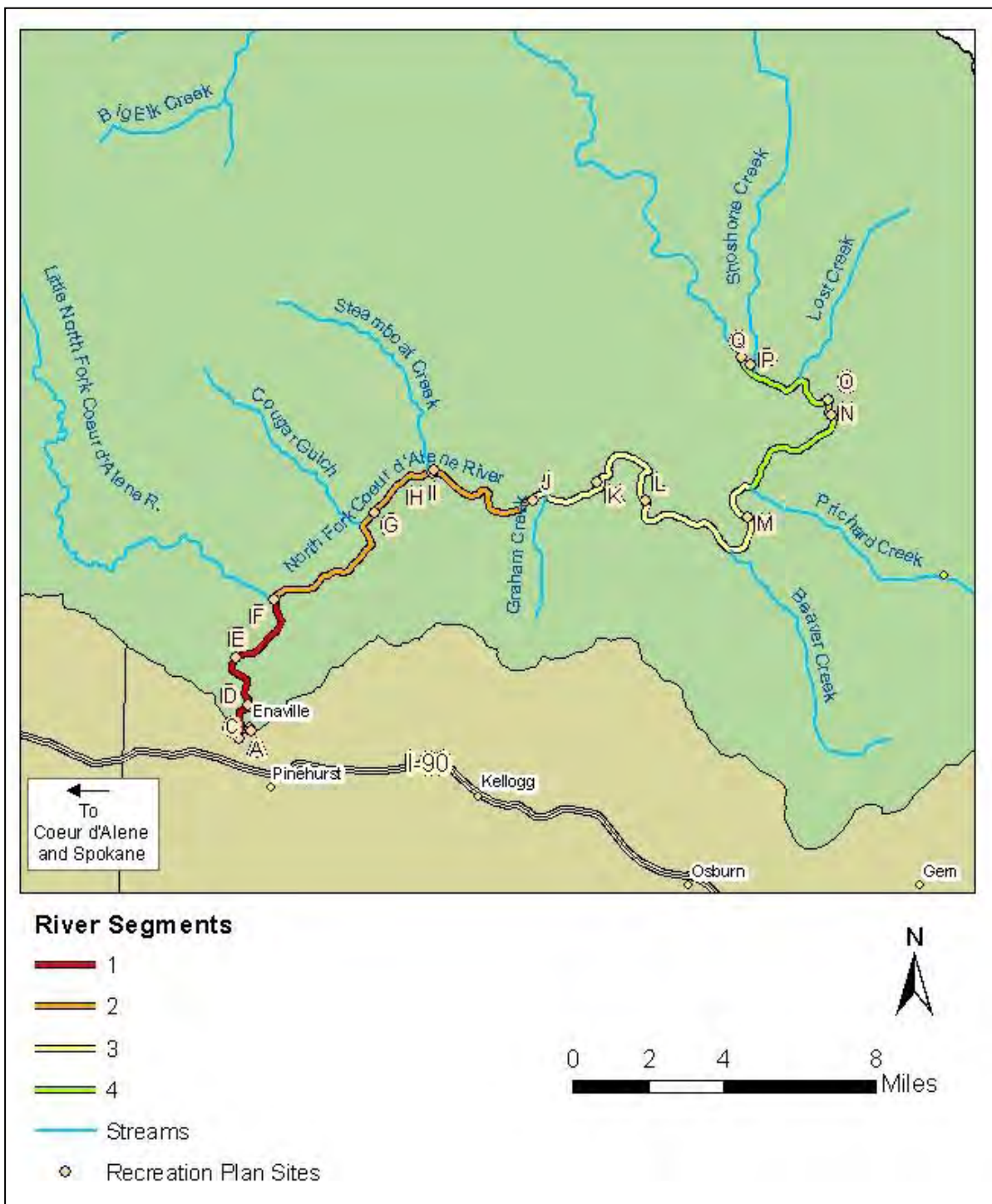


Floaters on North Fork Coeur d'Alene River

Photo Courtesy of DEQ

Current Conditions, Desired Future Conditions, and Recommendations

This section is based on the goals and objectives of this plan and reviews current conditions in the river corridor, briefly describes desired future conditions, and provides recommendations for 17 sites within 4 river segments. The 35 miles of river corridor addressed in this plan have been divided into 4 segments. The first segment is the lower 5 miles of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene from the confluence with the South Fork Coeur d'Alene up to Bumblebee Bridge, at the confluence with the Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene River. The second segment is the 10 miles upstream from Bumblebee Bridge to Graham Creek. The third segment is the 10 miles upstream from Graham Creek to Prichard Creek. The fourth segment is the 10 miles from Prichard Creek to Shoshone Base Camp. Within these river segments, an initial 17 sites of interest have been identified. These sites are either highly used recreationally or may be of use in the future. It is probably not necessary or desirable to develop all of the sites identified, but this plan has included all of the best known options. It is recommended that a few developed as boat access sites with others developed as tubing access sites along with adequate parking and services. As the plan is implemented, new sites may be identified and recommendations may change.



Segment 1: Confluence to Bumblebee Bridge

The lower 5 miles of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River is the most heavily used portion of the river corridor for recreation. This stretch of river is located between the Bumblebee Bridge at the Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and the confluence with the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River. It is easily accessible by visitors from population centers along Interstate 90, and summer flows are visited by large numbers of visitors in tubes and rubber rafts for casual floats.

Most of the land ownership along this river segment is privately owned, but some portions are managed by the US Forest Service. There are highly used recreational access points in this river segment, several businesses and the small community of Enaville. Just downstream on the Coeur d'Alene River near Interstate 90 is the town of Kingston.

Floating, camping, swimming, and bike riding are popular recreational experiences in this portion of the river corridor.

There are several businesses near Enaville that offer dining opportunities as well as tube rentals and supplies. The Enaville Resort, commonly referred to as the Snake Pit, is a bar and grill near the entrance to the river corridor. The Bear Creek Mercantile Beer and Gear is a commercial operation in Enaville that is one of several places where people can rent tubes. Albert's Junction is located upstream and includes camping, undeveloped river access, and a bar and grill. Several businesses offer shuttle services for floaters.



The Enaville Resort, aka Snake Pit

Photo Courtesy of University of Idaho

Shoshone County owns a piece of property in Enaville that could potentially be developed for recreational use. It could be a good site for a parking lot with shuttle service, picnic area, bathrooms, and dumpsters along with informational signs and maps. It may also be desirable to buy or get an easement on riverside property nearby for improved river access from the potential parking area.

A. Confluence of North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River

The area at the confluence of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River and the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River is where the Coeur d'Alene River begins and is the southern edge of the planning area. Previously, the public was allowed to access the river on private land on the south side of the confluence. There was dispersed camping, swimming, fishing, and the area was used as a boat access point using unpaved roads on the property. The public is no longer allowed access across this property. A possible alternative launching site for boats and floaters is located upstream on the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River on private land. It is not really feasible as a take-out for boats on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River, but could possibly be used for launching to float downstream on the Coeur d'Alene River. Historic mine waste disposal practices have resulted in widespread metals contamination in the bed, banks, and floodplains of the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River. Because concentrations of metals like lead can pose a public health risk, it may be desirable to investigate development of a public access site upstream on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River.

Recommendation:

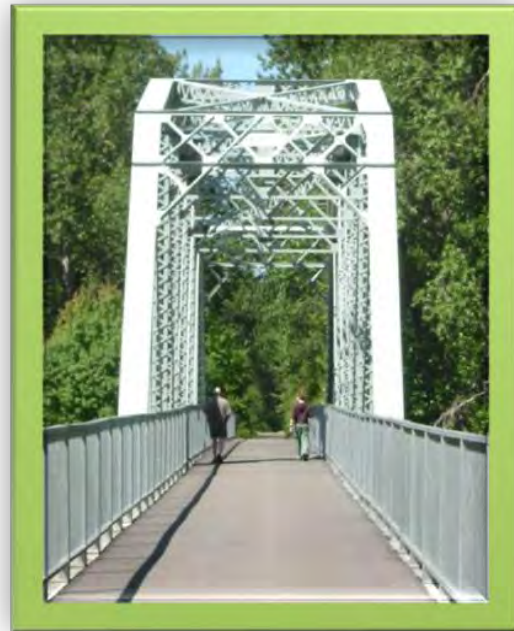
- Investigate alternative public river access on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River near the confluence area

B. Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes

The Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes is a 73-mile paved trail extending across much of the Idaho Panhandle along an old railroad grade. The trail is managed by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. There is a trailhead located at Enaville with a small parking lot and an outhouse. This is one of the few public outhouses located in the area. The paved parking lot is often filled to capacity. The trail crosses the river close to the trailhead. At the bridge is a popular swimming hole as well as a view of the Enaville well that supplies public drinking water for the Central Shoshone County Water District and much of the Silver Valley.

Recommendations:

- Install signs with information about the river corridor, drinking water, and recreational opportunities
- Consider adding additional restroom facilities
- Consider expanding parking lot
- Consider adding trash receptacles and service



Pedestrian bridge

Photo Courtesy of University of Idaho

C. Silver Bridge

The Silver Bridge allows visitors to cross the river from the Coeur d'Alene River Road to the Old River Road. The area is heavily used in the summer by river users, particularly floaters. The area is also a popular swimming hole and there is a small paved parking area across the road from the river. The U.S. Geological Survey gage station for North Fork Coeur d'Alene River data collection is also located here. Challenges at the site include safety, litter, crowding, graffiti, and trespassing onto adjacent private land.

Recommendations:

- Evaluate safety of promoting this site for swimming and river access, and consider encouraging people to alternative site
- Install sign with information about the river corridor and recreational opportunities
- Consider adding trash receptacles and service
- Partner with local businesses to develop a fee program for providing access, parking, restroom use, and/or shuttle services
- Consider installing permanent public restroom facility



Silver Bridge

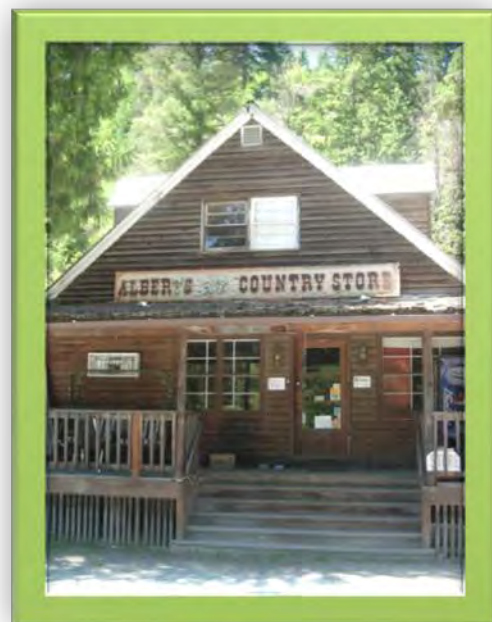
Photo Courtesy of University of Idaho

D. Albert's Landing

Albert's Landing is a local business and the site of the most popular take-out point on the river. There is a campground with RV spots located near the river as well as a bar and grill. Albert's Landing allows tubers to cross the property to get to their vehicles. Parking right in front of the grill is reserved for patrons, but nearby parking is open for river users. Albert's Landing has operated a shuttle for tubers. Challenges at the site include crowding, parking, and litter.

Recommendations:

- Partner with Albert's Landing to establish developed access site for boats and tubes
- Consider adding public restrooms
- Consider partnership to improve parking
- This location could be an excellent site for a dumpster and recycling container



Albert's Landing

Photo Courtesy of University of Idaho

E. Sliver of Forest Service Land near Prado Creek

There is a small sliver of land between Old River Road and the river. It is one of the few pieces of Forest Service land in the lower section of the river. There is currently dispersed camping in this area and undeveloped roads and boat access to the river. The area will be addressed in USFS Coeur d'Alene River Corridor planning.

Recommendations:

- Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate Consider assessment and improved use of the area
- Consider designating camping sites and travel routes
- Consider creating a developed access site



USFS land near Prado Creek

Photo Courtesy of University of Idaho

F. Bumblebee Bridge

This is the main put-in area for tubers on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River. There are two parking areas here and two access trails to the river; one is a gentle slope on the south side of Bumblebee Bridge, while the other is a steep path down an embankment on the north side. It is difficult to launch or take out boats on the Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene. Land management is US Forest Service and Shoshone County. Crowding, parking, and garbage can become issues here. Near the Bumblebee Bridge are two businesses, the Country Lane Resort and Malloy Lumber. The Country Lane Resort offers cabin rentals and RV spaces, as well as a restaurant.



Floaters from Bumblebee Bridge

Photo Courtesy of University of Idaho

Recommendations:

- Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate
- Create a designated access site for floaters and other river users
- Provide restrooms and trash facilities
- Explore possibility of creating more parking areas and permanent outhouses
- In existing parking areas, create designated spots to take advantage of space
- Install large informational sign explaining rights and responsibilities of using the river, specifically in regard to private property, trash, and safety
- Work with nearby businesses to identify possibilities for relieving parking pressures (or providing restroom facilities, etc) through a public private partnership
- Increased availability of shuttle services could help relieve congestion

Segment 2: Bumblebee Bridge to Graham Creek

The 10-mile stretch of North Fork Coeur d'Alene River above Bumblebee Bridge is an area of concentrated recreational use, especially during summer. This segment extends from Bumblebee Bridge at the Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene River upstream 10 miles to the Graham Creek dispersed camping area. This stretch of river has the Old River Road on one side and the Coeur d'Alene River Road on the other, and recreational access on both sides. Most of the adjacent land is privately owned, though there are portions managed by Idaho Department of lands, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Shoshone County, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the US Forest Service. Upstream of Steamboat Fishing Pond, the majority of adjacent land is under US Forest Service management. Recreational usage of this river segment is not as intense as the downstream segment, but the area does receive a lot of summer visitors and similar issues are observed with crowding, resource damage, parking, garbage and lack of restroom facilities. Near the Bumblebee Bridge are two businesses, the Country Lane Resort and Malloy Lumber. The Country Lane Resort offers cabin rentals and RV spaces, as well as a restaurant.

G. Spring Creek Access Site

A few miles upstream of the Bumblebee Bridge there is a piece of land managed by Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). There is a small site open to the public with access to the river; boat launching can be difficult here due to shallow water. The site is not well marked, and has not had as many reported problems with crowding, parking and litter as other sites. The location could be used to relieve overcrowding at Bumblebee Bridge and to offer a longer or staggered float opportunity.



Spring Creek Access
Photo Courtesy of Ed Lider

Recommendations:

- Coordinate with IDL to develop and rehabilitate
- Consider creating a well-marked, developed access point
- Develop signage to inform the public of this additional access area to the river
- Provide additional parking nearby

H. Steamboat Fishing Pond

Steamboat Fishing Pond is a public fishing area located just off Coeur d'Alene River Road managed by IDFG. This pond provides an off-river fishing alternative stocked yearly by IDFG. This site has a large parking lot and an outhouse. The pond and outhouse are wheelchair accessible. There is a short trail that extends from the pond toward the river, although it does not quite reach the river. This site also has invasive plant species like knapweed, blueweed, and hawkweed.



Steamboat Fishing Pond

Photo Courtesy of University of Idaho

Recommendations:

- Coordinate with IDFG to develop and rehabilitate
- Consider developing river access at the site
- Install interpretative signs for education and outreach
- Consider installing permanent public restroom facility

I. Scott Creek Site

There is an undeveloped river access site off of the Old River Road near Scott Creek. There is a steep access road down to the river on property managed by IPNF, within Shoshone County right-of-way.

Recommendations:

- Coordinate with IPNF and Shoshone County to develop and/or rehabilitate.



Scott Creek Site

Photo Courtesy of Ed Lider

J. Graham Creek Camping Area

This is a dispersed camping area managed by the IPNF that can accommodate a large number of campers, day-use visitors, and has an undeveloped boat launch. There is potential to improve this area with increased parking, designated travel paths, designated campsites, and a developed boat access. This could also be a site for dumpster and restroom facilities. There is currently one outhouse on the site. Eroding banks are large and affected by foot traffic as visitors climb on banks to reach the river. Boat access is often blocked by campers. IPNF will address this site in ongoing planning for the Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Management Plan.

Recommendations:

- Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate
- Consider creating a developed boat access site
- Consider placement of dumpsters and outhouses
- Install informational signs

K. Grizzly Creek Camping Area

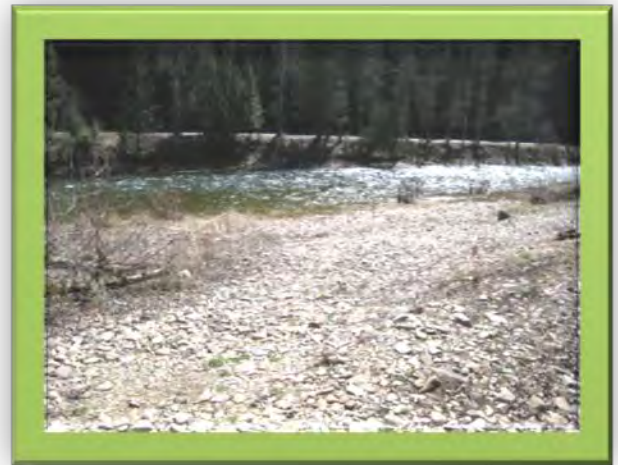
Like Graham Creek, this site is on land managed by the IPNF. It is located off the Old River Road and is used for dispersed camping and river access. This area has limited space for parking. It does not have an outhouse.

Recommendations:

- Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate
- Consider creating a developed boat access site
- Consider placement of dumpsters and outhouses
- Install informational signs



Eroding bank at Graham Creek site
Photo Courtesy of University of Idaho



Grizzly Creek Access
Photo Courtesy of Ed Lider

Segment 3: Graham Creek to Prichard Creek

The stretch of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River from Graham Creek upstream to Prichard Creek is about 10 miles. Approximately half of the adjacent land is under private ownership and the other half is managed by the US Forest Service. This area receives a lower amount of recreational use than the downstream segments, but is still visited by many, many summer visitors for floating, fishing, and other recreational uses. Babin's Junction is located at the intersection near where Beaver Creek enters the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River. From there, the Forest Road 456 travels south over Dobson Pass to Wallace. The Prichard Volunteer Fire Department and a convenience store are located at Babin's Junction. There are several businesses on the upper end of the river including Cedar Village RV Park that provides camping opportunities, and the Golden Beaver Saloon that offers drinks and food. The small community of Prichard is centered just upstream from Babin's Junction and features several homes and small businesses including the Prichard Tavern. A right turn at Prichard takes visitors on Forest Highway 9 to Murray, Thompson Pass, and Thompson Falls, Montana. Murray is a small community with homes and businesses including the Sprag Pole Inn and Museum and the Bedroom Gold Mine Restaurant. Murray is also home to a historic Shoshone County courthouse and other historic attractions.

L. The Rock Swimming Hole

There is a very popular day-use recreational area at "The Rock" located off the Old River Road. The large rocks beside the road combined with deep pools make this one a popular area on the river where swimmers can jump off high rocks. There is often inadequate parking at this site, garbage and lack of restrooms can also cause problems. Floating the river from this point or further up is less viable during low water flows and there are more in-stream natural hazards in this section of river. It may be desirable to reduce overcrowding by not developing this site as a recommended river access point.



Recommendations:

- To reduce overcrowding and maintain safety for tubers, do not make this a suggested river access site for floating
- Install informational signs

M. Prichard Bridge Picnic Area

Near Prichard, is a day use area managed by IPNF. There is ample parking, easy access to the river on foot, as well as an outhouse and picnic tables. This could be a good site for development of boat access.

Recommendations:

- Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate
- Consider creating a developed boat access site
- Upgrade existing sign board



Prichard Bridge Picnic Area

Photo Courtesy of University of Idaho

Segment 4: Prichard Creek to Shoshone Base Camp

The stretch of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River from Prichard Creek upstream to Shoshone Base Camp is about 10 miles. This area receives less recreational use from boaters and floaters than downstream reaches, but is still considered a high use area in the river corridor. Land ownership adjacent to the river is a mix of private land and land managed by IPNF.

N. Clee Creek Day Use Area

The Clee Creek Day Use Area is located on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River off of the Coeur d'Alene River Road upstream of Prichard Creek on land managed by INPF. There is a fishing pond stocked by IDFG, some parking, and an outhouse. There is access to the river by foot traffic, which could be improved for easier access.

Recommendations:

- Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate
- Consider river access for foot traffic, but evaluate safety
- Install informational signs
- Install dumpster for trash disposal

O. Avery Creek Day Use Area

The Avery Creek Day Use Area is located on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River off of the Coeur d'Alene River Road near Avery Creek upstream of Prichard. It is managed by INPF and includes picnic areas, parking, an outhouse, swimming and foot traffic access to the river.

Recommendations:

- Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate
- Increase parking
- Upgrade existing sign board



Avery Creek Day Use Area

Photo Courtesy of Shoshone County

P. Shoshone Base Camp and Rest Area

The Shoshone Base Camp is located where Shoshone Creek meets the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River approximately 35 miles upstream from Enaville and Kingston. The camp is owned and operated by Lutherhaven Ministries of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The camp offers a variety of retreats, camp experiences, meeting space, and school outdoor education events. Located nearby is the Shoshone Rest Area managed by IPNF. There are outhouses, an RV dump station, and informational sign space located near the Coeur d'Alene River Road.

Recommendations:

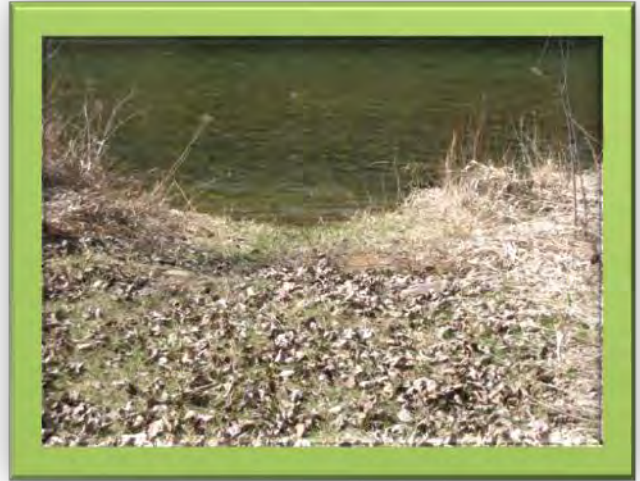
- Coordinate with Lutherhaven to share educational information about river corridor issues
- Coordinate with IPNF for improvements to Rest Area
- Consider adding dumpster service for recreational visitors near outhouses

Q. Shoshone Gage Station Site

The Shoshone Gage Station Site is located on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River off of the Coeur d'Alene River Road just upstream of Shoshone Creek on land managed by INPF. There is a USGS Gage Station located here for monitoring river conditions, and the area is largely undeveloped. There is an area where boats can be launched at most flows and there are some areas for parking. This could be a good site for development of a hardened boat access site. Travel routes and parking would need to be considered.

Recommendations:

- Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate
- Consider creating a developed boat access site
- Install informational signs



Undeveloped boat launch at Shoshone gage station site

Photo Courtesy of Ed Lider

Implementation

Our vision is to provide a safe and enjoyable range of recreational experiences for river users while ensuring protection of natural resources, private property rights, and economic development. To achieve this vision, setting priorities for actions over the short- and long-term to implement this plan is very important. A large number of possibilities have been identified during development of this plan along with a large number of recommendations. These recommendations will adjust with public input, feedback from various agencies, and as circumstances change over time. Implementation of the plan should be focused on priorities, but also flexible to take advantage of opportunities or adjust to changing needs in the watershed.

Currently, the highest priorities and most pressing needs are to:

- 1) Secure funding to implement the plan;
- 2) Integrate local businesses and solidify interagency and public-private partnerships;
- 3) Provide strategic, consistent education and outreach with key messages;
- 4) Develop and implement cooperative safety strategy and educate public regarding safety hazards;
- 5) Add restrooms and trash services, and to improve parking;
- 6) Expand recreational opportunities including improved access sites; and
- 7) Assess resource damage related to recreation and rehabilitate sites.

This section describes a framework for management of the river corridor. It is intended to address the issues and respond to the vision described and provide a basis for an action plan. These recommendations are intended to give an overview of actions that could be taken to address problems on the river. From this overarching recommendations list, short-term action plans can be developed based on cost, feasibility, and priority of each recommend action.

Table 1. General recommendations for cooperative management in the river corridor

Goal 1: Provide recreation users with a variety of safe, enjoyable, high quality recreation experiences along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River corridor	
	Manage the river for a wide range of safe recreation opportunities including overnight and day use options
	Identify locations for developed river access (e.g., through hardened ramps)
	Ensure emergency vehicle access for rapid response and provide emergency phones at key access sites
	Conduct visitor use surveys to determine amount of recreational use, patterns, and needs
	Provide dumpsters and recycling containers at key locations
	Provide restrooms at access sites
	Provide adequate parking at access sites
	Improve signage indicating major access sites, hazards, and other points of interest
	Create mile markers for the river
	Explore potential interpretive trail areas
	Consider developing a policy on motorized watercraft
	Evaluate access to recreational opportunities for visitors with disabilities
	Evaluate needs and feasibility for RV dump station
	Consider a river capacity study for future planning needs
	Purchase property or acquire easements for conservation and recreation in the river corridor
	Develop safety strategy among management agencies and local government that balances recreational and ecological concerns to help address natural safety hazards
Goal 2: Restore and rehabilitate riparian areas where resource damage has occurred and prevent new impacts associated with recreational use	
	Maintain and improve aquatic habitat and water quality
	Maintain and improve terrestrial habitat
	Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species

	Develop interagency and public-private partnerships for cooperative implementation of habitat improvement projects
	Encourage use of developed access sites and rehabilitate other access points
	Consider policies and incentives for current and future property owners and land managers to protect the riparian zone
Goal 3: Educate river corridor users about the river environment, safety, recreation opportunities, leave no trace ethics, and how to avoid negative environmental impacts	
	Develop a river “code of conduct”
	Educate river users on private property rights and trespassing
	Encourage responsible use of alcohol on the river
	Create major signs/kiosks at access sites, portals and major confluences
	Consider an adopt-a-river program or annual clean-up events
	Create a pack-it-in/pack-it-out program and inform visitors about leave no trace ethics
	Educate anglers about best management fishing practices
	Educate visitors about safety hazards
Goal 4: Maximize efficiency and effectiveness by developing partnerships and volunteer opportunities with federal and state resource management agencies, counties, land owners, user groups, and other entities	
	Secure funding for high priority projects
	Coordinate this plan with new and existing management plans in the corridor
	Support interagency cooperation for management, enforcement and restoration
	Use consistent information for signage throughout the river corridor
	Develop a seasonal river ranger program
	Investigate possibility of user fees or other revenue sources
Goal 5: Encourage development and rehabilitation that supports the local economy by promoting existing local businesses and increasing local employment	
	Improve and increase commercial shuttle services for transporting visitors

	Hire local contractors for development and rehabilitation work
	Coordinate and partner with local businesses to implement this plan
	Incorporate information about local businesses in education and outreach materials and encourage sponsorships for advertising
	Network with local chambers of commerce, North Idaho Tourism Alliance, Idaho Department of Commerce and other entities

Table 2. Recommended actions at specific sites for cooperative management in the river corridor

Sites	Recommended Actions	Goal(s)
A. Confluence of North Fork and South Fork Coeur d'Alene		
	Investigate alternative public river access on the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River near the confluence area	1
B. Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes		
	Install sign with information about the river corridor, drinking water, and recreation opportunities	3
	Consider adding additional restroom facilities	1
	Consider expanding parking lot	1,5
	Consider adding trash receptacles and service	1
C. Silver Bridge		
	Evaluate safety of promoting this site for swimming and river access, and consider encouraging people to alternative site	1,3
	Install sign with information about river corridor and recreational opportunities	3
	Consider adding trash receptacles and service	1
	Partner with local businesses to develop a fee program for providing access, parking, restroom use, and/or shuttle services	
D. Albert's Landing		
	Partner with Albert's to establish developed access site for boats and tubes	1,5
	Consider adding public restrooms	1
	Consider partnership to improve parking	1,4,5
E. Sliver of Forest Service Land near Prado Creek		

	Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate	2,4
	Consider assessment and improved use of the area	1
	Consider designating camping sites and travel routes	1
	Consider creating a developed access site	1,2
F. Bumblebee Bridge		
	Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate	2,4
	Create a designated access site for tubers and other river users	1
	Provide restrooms and trash facilities	1
	Explore possibility of creating more parking areas	1
G. Spring Creek Access Site		
	Coordinate with IDL to develop and rehabilitate	2,4
	Consider creating a well-marked, developed access point	2,3
	Develop signage to inform the public of this additional access area to the river	3
	Provide additional parking nearby	1
H. Steamboat Fishing Pond		
	Coordinate with IDFG to develop and rehabilitate	2,4
	Consider developing river access at the site	1
	Install interpretive signs for education and outreach	3
I. Scott Creek Site		
	Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate	2,4
J. Graham Creek Camping Area		
	Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate	2,4
	Consider creating a developed boat access site.	1,5

	Consider placement of dumpsters and outhouses	1
	Install informational signs	3
K. Grizzly Creek Camping Area		
	Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate	2,4
	Consider creating a developed boat access site	1
	Consider placement of dumpsters and outhouses	1
	Install informational signs	3
L. The Rock Swimming Hole		
	To reduce overcrowding and maintain safety for tubers, do not make this a suggested river access site for floating	1,2
	Install informational signs	3
M. Prichard Bridge Picnic Area		
	Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate	2,4
	Consider creating a developed boat access site	1
	Install informational signs	3
N. Clee Creek Day Use Area		
	Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate	2,4
	Consider river access for foot traffic, but evaluate safety	1,2
	Install informational signs	3
	Install dumpster for trash disposal	1
O. Avery Creek Day Use Area		
	Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate	2,4
	Increase parking	1

	Install informational signs	3
P. Shoshone Base Camp and Rest Area		
	Coordinate with Lutherhaven to share educational information about river corridor issues	3,4,5
	Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate	2,4
	Consider adding dumpster service for recreational visitors near outhouses	1
Q. Shoshone Gage Station Site		
	Coordinate with IPNF to develop and rehabilitate	2,4
	Consider creating a developed boat access site	1
	Install informational signs	3,5

Potential Funding Sources

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Environmental Education Grants: The Grants Program sponsored by EPA's Office of Environmental Education (OEE), Office of External Affairs and Environmental Education, supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality. EPA awards grants each year based on funding appropriated by Congress.

<http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>

5 Star Restoration Program: The Five Star Restoration Program brings together students, conservation corps, other youth groups, citizen groups, corporations, landowners and government agencies to provide environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams. The program provides challenge grants, technical support and opportunities for information exchange to enable community-based restoration projects. <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/>

National Park Service (NPS)

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program: The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects.

<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/>

American Rivers

Restoring Rivers: Stream Barrier Removal Grants: Since 2001, American Rivers and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program have provided financial and technical assistance for river restoration projects benefiting diadromous fish species.

<http://www.americanrivers.org/our-work/restoring-rivers/dams/noaa-grants-program.html>

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Grants Program Index: Lists a number of grant programs that could be relevant, including Aquatic Resource Education Program, Boating Access Program, Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, Landowner Incentive Program, Sport Fish Restoration Program and more.

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/GrantProgramsIndex.htm>

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Appendix A. Education and Outreach Strategy

Education and outreach are vitally important to the successful implementation of the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Cooperative Recreation Plan and the USFS Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Management Plan. Key information must be shared widely with the full range of recreational users of the river corridor to achieve the plans' goals. Clear and consistent coordinated messages will be most effective.

The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Cooperative Recreation Plan was developed in cooperation with the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG), and it focuses on recreation management along the lower North Fork Coeur d'Alene River from the confluence at Enaville upstream to Shoshone Creek. The North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Cooperative Recreation Plan addresses public and private lands and input from the WAG included a range of agencies and stakeholder groups.

The U.S. Forest Service is a member of the WAG and has participated in preparing the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River Cooperative Recreation Plan. Along with this plan, the U.S. Forest Service Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests has also been developing a Coeur d'Alene River Corridor Management Plan to address recreation management on U.S. Forest Service lands along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River, Little North Fork Coeur d'Alene River, Shoshone Creek, Lost Creek and Tepee Creek.

The two plans combined address recreation management on the river comprehensively and are intended to work together. The plans share five common goals:

- Goal 1:** Provide recreation users with a variety of safe, enjoyable, high quality recreation experiences along the North Fork Coeur d'Alene River corridor
- Goal 2:** Restore and rehabilitate riparian areas where resource damage has occurred and prevent new impacts associated with recreational use
- Goal 3:** Educate river corridor users about the river environment, safety, recreation opportunities, leave no trace ethics, and how to avoid negative environmental impacts
- Goal 4:** Maximize efficiency and effectiveness by developing partnerships and volunteer opportunities with federal and state resource management agencies, counties, land owners, user groups and other entities
- Goal 5:** Encourage development and rehabilitation that supports the local economy by promoting existing local businesses and increasing local employment

Since these goals are shared and education is a key goal in both plans, this education and outreach strategy has been developed jointly. This strategy does not contain any requirements, is intended to be voluntary and adaptable, and contains suggested messages and outreach tools for all parties to use in the future.

In order to reach the recreation plans' goals, the river's many stakeholders need to know about the river environment, safety, recreation opportunities, leave no trace ethics, and how to avoid negative environmental impacts. We recommend a common message of "RESPECT OUR RIVER!" to encourage increased attention to the river corridor's values, risks, and benefits. We also recommend that the education and outreach strategy address the following topics and help river stakeholders with the following educational key messages:

- Learn about river corridor geographic features including:
 - The names and locations of rivers and streams in the area
 - Land ownership patterns
 - The location of access sites, parking, bathrooms and other points of interest
 - The location of floodplains
- Become familiar with river corridor ecology and associated rules and recommendations for natural resources protection including:
 - Local fish and wildlife habitat needs
 - Surface water quality concerns
 - Drinking water source protection
 - Motor vehicle use guidelines
 - Leave No Trace ethics
- Know about river safety and associated rules and recommendations for a safe and fun experience, including:
 - No glass containers are allowed on the river
 - Fire safety
 - DUIs, drugs and drinking
 - Traffic and parking
 - Natural hazards like high flows, debris and snags, cold temperatures
 - Life jackets
- Respect private property and do not trespass.
 - Ask First! Before you hunt or fish on private property.
 - Use the golden rule and treat the land as you would your own.

We recommend that the education and outreach strategy use a wide range of tools and techniques to get the word out to the variety of river stakeholders, including:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Portal signs | • Brochures |
| • Maps | • Local business partnerships |
| • Smaller signs | • Port-a-potty posters |
| • Banners hanging from bridges | • Website |
| • School programs | • Mesh bags |
| • Media outreach | |