

NONPOINT SOURCE PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT FORM
(V1.5)

TODAY'S DATE: 9/15/2008

PROJECT STATUS: ON SCHEDULE

Please select which reporting period.

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT ANNUAL REPORT QUARTERLY REPORT

PROJECT TITLE: Snake River Watershed Plan

REPORT DATES: FROM: 03/15/08 TO: 09/15/08

SPONSOR NAME: Blue River Watershed Group

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1626

ADDRESS:

CITY: Frisco STATE: CO ZIP: 80443

PHONE: 970 668 0895 EXT:

FAX: 970 668 0895 EMAIL: jim@zeoponix.com

Is any of the above information new? Yes No

If yes, please explain in "Project Accomplishments" below.

PREPARED BY: James W. Shaw

NOTE: To add text "TAB" to the shaded area and type or cut/paste text from another document. You may type or cut/paste as much text as you like. The box will expand. However, text boxes will not accept formatted text such as bold, italics, bullets, or tables. Also, you will not be able to insert photos or other graphics or diagrams on this form. If these features are appropriate for the report, please create a new document, insert the tables, photos or graphics along with descriptive captions, and submit along with the semi-annual report.

"Control-Tab" will insert a normal paragraph indent in your text.

OVERALL PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Activities have been initiated on all of the objectives. Key participants have been identified. Meetings have been held with key participants to discuss future organizational structures. Coordination among key participants has occurred both within the Snake River Task Force and with key participants on important watershed planning activities. Field work has been mostly completed. All of the Snake River above Keystone as well as Peru Creek (and its tributaries Cinnamon Gulch and Warden Gulch), Deer Creek, Sts. John Creek, Grizzly Gulch, Jones Gulch and the North Fork of the Snake River have been walked from headwaters to confluence. Problem water quality sites have been identified. Previous research has been reviewed. Prioritization is underway. The most important sites have been reviewed and consensus achieved with EPA, various state agencies, and NWCOG. Water quality samples were collected at key problem sites and additional water quality sampling is scheduled by the EPA at a few key sites. Water quality data in the basin have been consolidated and reviewed. A model has been developed that will allow cleanup impacts to be projected at key locations in the watershed. Portion of the final report have been written. Rough designs of cleanup activities needed at various projects is beginning. As water quality data become available specific cleanup achievements will be forecast. Good support from and coordination with the Snake River Task Force key participants is being achieved.

NONPOINT SOURCE PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT FORM

(V1.5)

OBJECTIVES/TASKS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Objective 1: The BRWG has attended many meetings of Snake River Task Force, held other public events such as the State of the River, Future of Water and the Patagonia Film Fest. At each event the Snake River Watershed Plan update was given and interested parties were asked to join the BRWG group. With the Snake River Task Force being the primary participants in the stakeholder group, we have added many more names to our database who are interested in clean water in the Snake. The Task Force List, Core Group, and our current member list encompass all interested parties of the watershed.

Objective 2: The BRWG has held numerous meetings with the relevant parties to discuss the organization able to implement the watershed plan. At the start of this discussion the BRWG could not have taken on such a large project. However, as the discussions continued and the BRWG has worked on Objective #3, capacity building, the BRWG may be the entity to take on plan implementation along with the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments. These two groups have the technical knowledge to implement such a plan and also have the support of the community. With help from the EPA and the CDMSR these two groups will apply for another 319 grant to initiate clean up activities under the plan.

Objective 3: The BRWG has successfully established a website that contains updated information on Snake River Watershed Plan. The BRWG has also sent out newsletters in April, August and September 2008 regarding our work on the Snake. In addition, at all of the current meetings and events the BRWG has hosted, update progress on the Snake River Watershed Plan. The BRWG is currently gaining momentum with the Ski Areas and soliciting County and Town support for continued work on the Snake once the plan is finished. The BRWG will be holding a meeting with the Snake River Task Force, followed by a public meeting outlining some of the highlights of the Snake River Watershed Plan in October or November. This meeting will be arranged with the help of Jody Erikson of the Keystone Center.

Objective 4: Much information is historically available on the watershed. Existing maps, such as the USGS topographic maps show the most important features. We have walked the mainstems and tributaries of the Snake River, from headwater to Keystone, Deer Creek from headwater to confluence, Sts. John Creek from headwater to confluence, Grizzly Gulch, from headwaters to confluence, the North Fork from headwaters to confluence and most of Jones Gulch from headwaters to confluence. Even more information is available for Peru Creek and its two most significant tributaries Cinnamon Gulch and Warden Gulch. We have also walked these from headwaters to confluence. All of these have been photo documented and a list of problem sites has been developed. The highest priority sites have been documented, but other sites are still in the process of being identified. No new water quality data were contemplated in the proposal, however, eight sites have been sampled and metal analysis conducted by River Watch. The EPA has included several of these sites and a few others in a sampling program scheduled for late September. These data will allow more quantification of benefits than would have been possible if no new data were collected.

Objective 5: The majority of problem sites have been identified. However, field work is not completed because new sites have been identified from other reports and the desire for the report to be as comprehensive as possible. The majority of problems are leaking adits and waste rock/tailings piles.

The data available outside of Peru Creek have been found, to the extent possible and summarized. There are continuous updates of the water quality database in Peru Creek. The latest summary in the TMDL report is being used for the watershed study. Tim Steele of TDS Consulting is in negotiation with EPA to fund another water quality update. If this is completed in time it will be included in the watershed plan report.

A model has been developed that will allow the benefits of cleanup to be forecast in different places on the Snake River has been developed. Work is currently underway to identify the location and amount of cleanup possible in the various tributaries and on the mainstem of the Snake River. That effort

NONPOINT SOURCE PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT FORM

(V1.5)

must await the complete listing of the problem sites and preliminary design/BMP assessment of the sites. This effort is ongoing.

Considerable work is underway to identify the best long term monitoring program. EPA and various state agencies are discussing this constantly relative to Peru Creek and the Pennsylvania Mine. Monitoring is being conducted by a number of entities and reasonable coordination exists among the different agencies. The most important monitoring site is just below the confluence of the Snake River and the North Fork of the Snake River. The Blue River Watershed Group collects monthly samples at this site for River Watch, continuing to provide a long term data base that summarizes the water quality of the Snake River watershed.

Work is underway on the final report. Much of the report can be written prior to the analysis of the problem sites and the assessment of clean up opportunities. The draft work underway can be made available to the WQCD at any time.

CONCLUSIONS

The watershed plan is clearly on schedule. The most difficult issue remaining is how to present the voluminous information that exists in the basin. The EPA has sponsored considerable research at the Pennsylvania Mine and immediate vicinity as well as Cinnamon Gulch. A TMDL report is being issued on the basin. A draft Use Attainability Analysis has been written. The challenge is to present a comprehensive plan, consistent with all of the ongoing activities without redoing or conflicting with the ongoing work. A further complication is that much of the work is ongoing, with 2009 field activities already being planned. The watershed plan will only be able to incorporate work completed this fall. Modifications will be needed.

The additional challenge is that much of the poor water quality in the watershed is due to the geology of the area and not anthropogenic sources that can be dealt with. Natural acid rock drainage in the basin is a significant problem. Ultimately this will mean that improvements will likely only be significant in the lower portions of the Snake River, below the confluence of Peru Creek. Much of the basin will continue to have poor water quality.

NONPOINT SOURCE PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT FORM (V1.5)

POLLUTANT LOAD REDUCTIONS ACHIEVED DURING REPORTING PERIOD

Please select the pollutant and enter the Current Year Estimate

<u>Pollutant Type</u>	<u>Current Year Estimate</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>TMDL</u>
	Numerical	Implemented	yes/no

POLLUTANTS:

ADDITIONAL POLLUTANTS:

WETLANDS/STREAMBANKS/SHORELINES PROTECTED, CREATED OR IMPROVED

Please select the appropriate item as it relates to the project or task. For this reporting period there should be an actual (when available) positive numerical value for each selection

- Wetlands Restored
- Wetlands Created
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection
- Stream Channel Stabilization

Description	Actual	Units
Wetlands Restored		Acres
Wetlands Created		Acres
Streambank and Shoreline Protection		Feet
Stream Cannel Stabilization		Feet

NONPOINT SOURCE PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT FORM
(V1.5)

NOTE: To add text just TAB to the shaded area and type or cut/paste text. You may type or cut/paste as much text as you like. The box will expand.

**SUMMARIZATION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LAST PROGRESS
REPORT AND CURRENT PROGRESS REPORT**

Summary of Finances (including non-match contributions).

LAST REPORT:

THIS REPORT:

Task or Project Outputs (products).

LAST REPORT:

THIS REPORT:

Key Partners.

LAST REPORT:

THIS REPORT:

Scheduling Changes.

LAST REPORT:

THIS REPORT:

Adjustments to Budget.

LAST REPORT:

THIS REPORT: