
University of Pennsylvania
Institute for Environmental Studies
presents



Claire Schary
US EPA Region 10

Water Quality Trading in the Lower Boise River

In 1997, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 partnered with the environmental agencies in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to study how water quality trading might help improve water quality in the region, and lower the overall cost of meeting pollutant reduction objectives established by the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) processes. The Lower Boise River in Idaho was selected as the first demonstration project in the region because the environmental and economic conditions indicated trading would be a useful tool to help achieve the significant phosphorus reductions that would be needed from both permitted and non-permitted sources.

The Lower Boise River watershed encompasses about 1290 square miles in southwest Idaho and is home to about a third of Idaho's population, while growing at nearly 10% annually. With half the phosphorus load coming from non-permitted sources, the stakeholders believe water quality trading is an important tool to entice all parties to participate in achieving the important water quality goals for the watershed. The objective of this project was to create a proposed trading system that works within existing regulatory programs; allows trades to occur in a dynamic, market-based manner; and that is grounded in environmentally protective requirements. Although the Lower Boise's phosphorus TMDL has been delayed by other issues in the larger Snake River Basin, it will be completed in 2006 and NPDES permits authorizing trading will likely be issued in 2007.

Claire Schary, the water quality trading coordinator for EPA Region 10 in Seattle, WA, will describe the Lower Boise River trading framework and the stakeholder-based process used to develop this unique design. She will also explain how it incorporates many of the trading principles used in the cap-based trading model of EPA's sulfur dioxide emissions trading program. Other water quality trading efforts in Idaho and the region will also be briefly discussed.

Date: November 30, 2005

Time: NOON - 1:30 pm

Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium

On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building:
34 & Spruce Sts. (enter on 34th St)

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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NO FOOD OR DRINK PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM
