United States Environmental Protection Agency

This document is one of the project summaries from the EPA's Targeted Watershed Grants 2005 Annual Report published in December 2005. The reference number is EPA 840-R-06-001. You can find the entire document at **http://www.epa.gov/twg**.

EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHED GRANTS 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

December 2005

2003 Grantee

UPDATE

Clark Fork-Pend Oreille

MT, ID, WA

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- Degradation of riparian areas
- Excessive nutrients and algae growth
- Rapid population growth and urbanization

Macroinvertebrate sampling on Warren Creek.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Tri-State Water Quality Council is focusing both on reducing nutrients that are causing excessive algae blooms and threatening to remobilize heavy metals contamination, and on addressing the effects of population growth on water quality. It is working with the Blackfoot Challenge, the Flathead Basin Commission, and the Watershed Restoration Coalition to improve livestock management practices, expand water quality monitoring efforts, and complete restoration work on key tributaries to the Clark Fork River and Pend Oreille Lake. Thus far, the council and its partners have:

- Installed six off-stream livestock watering tanks, miles of riparian fencing, and over 37,000 feet of pipeline to divert cattle away from stream and river corridors, thereby reducing sediment and nutrients
- Initiated streambank restoration measures to reduce erosion and sedimentation, restore riparian habitat, and improve stream channel morphology on over five miles of streams
- Implemented a land application system for dairy cow manure effluent at a major dairy farm to reduce phosphorous loading
- Expanded monitoring programs, analyzed and assessed trends in nutrients and algae growth, and developed a nutrient pollutant model

Stream restoration work on Warren Creek, a tributary to the Blackfoot River.

"From growth and urban issues to ranching and rural issues, this grant enabled our basin-wide organization to form a new partnership with three large, existing watershed groups in our main tributary rivers, to address both point and nonpoint sources with some 15 on-the-ground projects, to leverage a vast amount of matching funds, and to monitor our progress towards improving water quality."

– Diane Williams
Executive Director
Tri-State Water Quality Council
Sandpoint, Idaho