

Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP): a 20 Year Retrospective (1994-2014)

Department of Environmental Quality

Michael McIntyre

Michael.McIntyre@deq.idaho.gov

208-373-0570 (State Office)

Jason Pappani

Jason.Pappani@deq.idaho.gov

208-373-0515 (State Office)

Daniel Stewart

Daniel.Stewart@deq.idaho.gov

208-983-0808 (Lewiston Regional Office)

Lynn Vanevery

Lynn.Vanevery@deq.idaho.gov

208-239-5013 (Pocatello Regional Office)

BURP is DEQ's flagship surface water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting program. BURP is intended to answer a simple basic question: what is the nature of water quality in a water body? DEQ took a relatively straight forward approach in answering this question: look at the health of the biology, macroinvertebrates, fish, and algae that are dependent on that water quality. This concept is not so simple when applied to different water body types in Idaho from the Nevada to the Canadian border. Factor in elevation and climate and the concept becomes even more complicated. Nonetheless, DEQ has relied on this basic idea, look to the biology to tell you what the water quality is, for the last 20 years. If a program is to be successful, it must be based on sound scientific principles so you and the public have confidence in the final water quality determinations. For a program to be successful there needs to be: 1) a stable funding source; 2) a plan on how you progress from planning to training to implementation; 3) data storage/handling; and 4) reporting. This must be done at low cost to be effective as a statewide program. This talk will involve four people intimately involved in the planning, execution, and reporting of water quality monitoring generated through the BURP program.

- How the program came to be and how it got off the ground and into the field as a true program; (Michael McIntyre)
- How the methods and water body types we sample have evolved over 20 years; (Jason Pappani)
- How sampling methods, equipment, and training have evolved, and finally; (Daniel Stewart)
- How the use of BURP data/results have evolved and grown in importance over the last 20 years (Lynn Vanevery).