

36TH ANNUAL

Idaho Water Quality Workshop

JOIN ONLINE

March 3 - 4, 2026 | Simplot Ballroom, Boise State University

Cover photograph: Chatcolet Lake

IDAHO WATER QUALITY WORKSHOP
MARCH 3 - 4, 2026

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
SIMPLOT BALLROOM

Tuesday, March 3

Sign-in and Registration ..... 8:00 - 9:00 AM

SESSION 1: Mercury and Hydrology ..... 9:10 - 11:55 AM

SESSION 2: Funding, Data, and Fire ..... 1:25 - 4:30 PM

Poster Session and Social Hour ..... 4:30 - 6:00 PM
—in-person only

Wednesday, March 4

Sign-in and Registration ..... 8:30 - 9:00 AM

SESSION 3: Wastewater and Metals ..... 9:00 - 11:50 AM

SESSION 4: Nutrients and Restoration ..... 1:20 - 4:05 PM

JOIN ONLINE

View presentation abstracts at https://sites.google.com/view/wqw2026

The Idaho Water Quality Workshop is organized by Idaho DEQ.

SESSION 1
TUESDAY, MARCH 3

MERCURY AND HYDROLOGY

MORNING COFFEE *Sponsored by Brown and Caldwell*



9:00 AM - 9:10 AM

WELCOME:
Mary Anne Nelson, Idaho DEQ
Kevin Feris, BSU School of the Environment



9:10 AM - 9:30 AM

Mercury in Idaho's Salmon River basin

AUSTIN BALDWIN, U. S. Geological Survey



9:30 AM - 9:50 AM

30-Year WRTDS trends of the middle Snake River

NICK GASTELECUTTO, Idaho Power Company



9:50 AM - 10:10 AM

Management opportunities to reduce freshwater mercury risk

CAILIN SINCLAIR, Oregon State University

SNACK BREAK *Snacks sponsored by Alta Science & Engineering, Coffee sponsored by Western Consulting Group*



10:35 AM - 10:55 AM

Parafluvial surfaces and their role in the ecological function of the Boise River

ROBERT TIEDEMANN
Boise River Enhancement Network



10:55 AM - 11:15 AM

Improving spawning habitat below tailwater dams: gravel augmentation and migration tracking

TROY PEARSE, Boise Valley Fly Fishers
ANDY BRUNELLE, Trout Unlimited





11:15 AM - 11:35 AM

The role of pools in reach-scale thermal buffering

ANDY TRANMER, University of Idaho



11:35 AM - 11:55 AM

Idaho Water Research Priorities: IWRRI

MEG WOLF
Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (IWRRI)

11:55 AM - 1:25 PM LUNCH BREAK *(on your own)*

SESSION 2
TUESDAY, MARCH 3

FUNDING, DATA, AND FIRE

AFTERNOON COFFEE *Sponsored by EutroPHIX*



1:25 PM - 1:45 PM

Water quality funding and technical assistance opportunities

KRISTINA GILLESPIE-JAQUES, Great West Engineering



1:45 PM - 2:05 PM

NGO conduits for watershed protection on public and private lands

ERIC PANKAU and HANNAH CLAWSON
Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust





2:05 PM - 2:25 PM

Five years of results from the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program

ROBIN PARKER, U. S. EPA



2:25 PM - 2:45 PM

Understanding Idaho's water quality data landscape: current status and gaps

MARINA STEINER, ANGEL MONSALVE, EMILY BEDWELL
University of Idaho

SNACK BREAK *Sponsored by HDR Engineering, Inc.*



3:10 PM - 3:30 PM

Rapid watershed assessment from field to prioritization

ELIZABETH HANSEN, Cramer Fish Sciences



3:30 PM - 3:50 PM

Water quality impacts of the 2024 Wapiti Fire and debris flows in the South Fork Payette watershed

ANNA BERGSTROM, Boise State University



3:50 PM - 4:10 PM

Post-fire assessment of the Copper Creek watershed, Lemhi County, Idaho

JOANN HOLLOWAY, U.S. Geological Survey



4:10 PM - 4:30 PM

Predicting post-wildfire ash transport risk to inform water quality management

SARAH LEWIS-SCHOLES
USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station



4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

POSTER SESSION AND SOCIAL HOUR

REFRESHMENTS SPONSORED BY XYLEM YSI

SESSION 3
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

WASTEWATER AND METALS

MORNING COFFEE *Sponsored by Clean Water Partners & Idaho Water Engineering*



9:00 AM - 9:20 AM

Using ATP measurements to assess dissolved oxygen delivery systems

ROY HENSON, Boise State University / Idaho DEQ



9:20 AM - 9:40 AM

Waste to energy: a potential solution for PFAS destruction in biosolids

TOM POINTS, City of Nampa



9:40 AM - 10:00 AM

Geographic and temporal distributions of microplastics within the Boise River basin

RACHEL HEADLEY, The College of Idaho



10:00 AM - 10:20 AM

How have water budgets evolved in the Snake River basin and why?

MEETPAL KUKAL, University of Idaho



10:20 AM - 10:30 AM

Demonstrating a multi-objective optimization framework for nitrate land management

PHILIP MARGARIT
Idaho Water Resources Research Institute

SNACK BREAK *Snacks sponsored by Cramer Fish Sciences Coffee sponsored by OTT Hydromet*



10:50 AM - 11:10 AM

Coeur d'Alene Lake expanded screening level risk evaluation

JEREMY JOHNSON
Alta Science and Engineering

HALEY McDANIEL, Idaho DEQ





11:10 AM - 11:30 AM

Long-term trends in metals and nutrients at the Bunker Hill Superfund site

LAUREN ZINSSER, U.S. Geological Survey



11:30 AM - 11:50 AM

Selenium dynamics and ecological impacts in the Kootenai River

MANUEL CARBALLO, University of Idaho

11:50 AM - 1:20 PM LUNCH BREAK (on your own)

SESSION 4
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

NUTRIENTS AND RESTORATION

AFTERNOON COFFEE *Sponsored by Frontier Precision*



1:20 PM - 1:40 PM

Automated in-situ nutrient monitoring: informing assessment and water quality management

RYAN VAN GOETHEM, EutroPHIX



1:40 PM - 2:00 PM

Quantifying “Very Big Organic Matter” (VBOM) transport and nutrient flux in the Henry’s Fork

JACK McLAREN, Henry’s Fork Foundation



2:00 PM - 2:20 PM

Evaluating the performance of water quality ponds in the Twin Falls Canal Company irrigation project

KOSSI NOUWAKPO, USDA Agricultural Research Service



2:20 PM - 2:40 PM

Sensitivity of water clarity to drawdown in reservoirs across the climatic 100th meridian

STEVE POWERS
Idaho Water Resources Research Institute

SNACK BREAK *Sponsored by IWRRI*



3:05 PM - 3:25 PM

Theory and practice of watershed-scale flow restoration for stream corridors

TYLER ROCKHILL and ZACK DELUCA
Cramer Fish Sciences





3:25 PM - 3:45 PM

Applying remote sensing to pre- and post-restoration rangeland stream monitoring.

PAIGE SARGEANT, Working Lands Conservation



3:45 PM - 4:05 PM

Rock Creek watershed restoration master plan

ERIN COX, Jacobs

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