# Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

 Quarterly Report (10/1/13 – 12/31/13)

**Project Staff:** Chris Page, Facilitator; Aubri Denevan, Project Coordinator; Michael Kern, Strategic Advisor; Cheryl Rajcich, Budget Manager

**Project Purpose:** The Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF) is a collaborative group of governmental agencies, private industries, and environmental organizations attempting an innovative approach to the reduction of PCBs within the Spokane River.

**Q6 Meeting Schedule:**



**Project highlights:**

* **Meetings:** Project facilitator, Chris Page has developed meeting agendas and facilitated nine meetings, including three Task Force meetings, four Technical Track Work Group meetings, one Funding Work Group meeting, and a two day Monitoring Workshop. Meeting notices, agendas and materials, and summaries were drafted and distributed for each meeting by Aubri Denevan.
* **2013 Monitoring Workshop:** *The bulk of the Center’s work this quarter was focused on the planning and execution of the Monitoring Workshop.* The Center in collaboration with the Technical Track Work Group planned the 2013 Monitoring Workshop on Dec. 4 & 5, 2013. The purpose of the workshop was to provide a forum for the open exchange of information on the goals for and the design of a comprehensive monitoring plan for establishing the current state of PCBs in the Spokane River Watershed. Chris Page facilitated several additional Technical Track Work Group meetings, as well as the Workshop itself, and recruited Dr. Joel Baker to attend as an expert to inform the Task Force from his experience with PCBs. Aubri Denevan oversaw the logistical planning needs, such as venue, meeting materials, timeline, and an extensive meeting summary.
* **Website Management:** Aubri Denevan managed and updated the web page on behalf of the Task Force for the nine meetings facilitated by the Ruckelshaus Center. This included posting meeting announcements, materials and supporting documents, and meeting summaries.
* **Identifying Future Funding Sources:** The Task Force submitted several proposals to the Department of Ecology’s Environmental Assessment Program for 2014. Those include: 1) Sampling Activities for Spokane River Synoptic Studies; 2) Spokane River Water Quality Monitoring Long Term Trends Analysis; 3) Wet and Dry Deposition of PCB in the Spokane River Watershed; 4) Seasonal Variability in Spokane River Headwaters PCB Loading; and 5) Assessment of PCB Concentrations in Spokane Valley Groundwater.
* **Technical Advisor:** The Task Force worked with the Technical Advisor, Limno Tech, to complete Tasks 7-8.

**Center Staff will continue to work with Task Force members and Work Groups in support of their project activities:**

* The Task Force and two work groups will continue to meet on a monthly basis.
* The Task Force will continue to work with the Technical Consultant on completing their assigned tasks.
* EPA and the Idaho parties plan to join the Task Force formally in early to mid-2014 (after Idaho discharger permits are finalized). The Center will facilitate the Task Force’s consideration of, and agreement on, needed changes to the group’s Memorandum of Agreement.
* With the Center’s facilitation, Ecology will incorporate Task Force input in defining the term “measurable progress” for this work to reduce PCBs within the Spokane River.

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