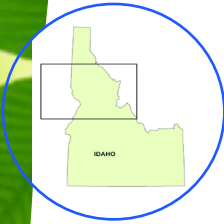


Spirit of Cooperation Results in a Successful Waste Stream Analysis for North Central Idaho



The Nez Perce Tribe is currently developing plans for future handling and disposal of municipal solid waste generated on the Nez Perce Reservation. Recognizing that improving waste management systems on the Reservation and achieving an efficient, cost effective, and sustainable program calls for integration and collaboration with surrounding communities, the Nez Perce Tribe helped initiate and conduct a regional waste stream analysis in North Central Idaho. The region has no municipal solid waste landfills, and the majority of municipal solid waste is shipped out of the region for disposal at one of four municipal solid waste landfills in Montana, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. The high cost of hauling solid waste to these landfills has compelled community leaders and solid waste managers to identify discarded materials that can be diverted from the waste stream for reuse, recycling, composting, or conversion to energy.

David Zwerneman of the Nez Perce Tribe was assigned as Waste Stream Analysis Project Administrator. His job was to coordinate a study to determine the quantities of waste in various categories (paper, metal, demolition debris, food waste, etc.) that could potentially be diverted from the combined solid waste stream, to save the Tribe, counties, and municipalities waste hauling and disposal fees. The Tribe received funding for the waste stream analysis from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Clearwater County, Idaho County and Lewis County. Stakeholders that participated directly in the study and provided resources included Clearwater County Economic Development, Clearwater County, Idaho County, Lewis County, Idaho/Lewis Economic Development, and the Nez Perce Tribe Solid Waste Program.

The Nez Perce Tribe retained Ridolfi to compile and process the waste stream data, determine volumes and weights of waste components, and to produce a Waste Stream Analysis (WSA) Report that the Tribe and other stakeholders can use to plan for the future. The project team conducted reconnaissance throughout the study area, visited city and county offices to obtain information about each community's solid waste management program, and visited recycling facilities and solid waste transfer stations. The WSA Report was distributed to county commissioners, city and county officials, and the other stakeholders. Mr. Zwerneman participated in a series of meetings to review the WSA Report with several stakeholders, and the project team presented the WSA to the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Board. The WSA was comprehensive, and the information was well received by the Board and regional stakeholders who acknowledged that the WSA successfully built on existing information, provided new and more accurate information, and would be a reference tool that everyone could use to plan for the future and meet the region's solid waste management challenges.