

WAG – Watershed Advisory Group

-An Overview-

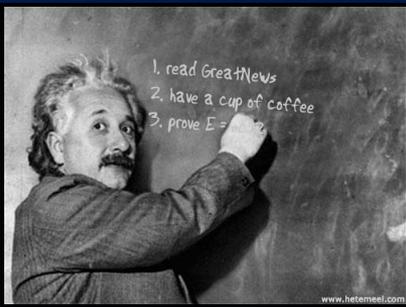
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality



What is a WAG?

- A group representing interests in the watershed having a stake in the way water quality is managed
- An opportunity for public involvement
- An integral part of the TMDL process
- WAG input is important in TMDL development and implementation





Role of the WAG

- Advise about matters of concern to the community
- Help educate residents about water quality issues
- Help identify contributing pollution sources
- Assist in dividing pollutant reduction allocations
- Recommend specific actions to control pollutant sources
- Help develop a strategy to meet the water quality targets identified in the TMDL
- Implement the strategy by organizing and prioritizing projects in the watershed

Watershed Advisory Groups

- Lower Boise Watershed Council
- Snake River Hell's Canyon WAG



Who Serves on a WAG?



- Balanced representation of watershed interests
 - Agriculture
 - Mining
 - Forest products
 - Livestock
 - Water-based recreation
 - Point source dischargers
 - Local government
 - Land management and regulatory agencies
 - Environmental interests
 - Citizens-at-large
 - Others???

Time Commitment



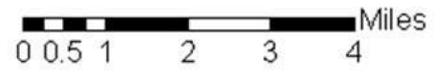
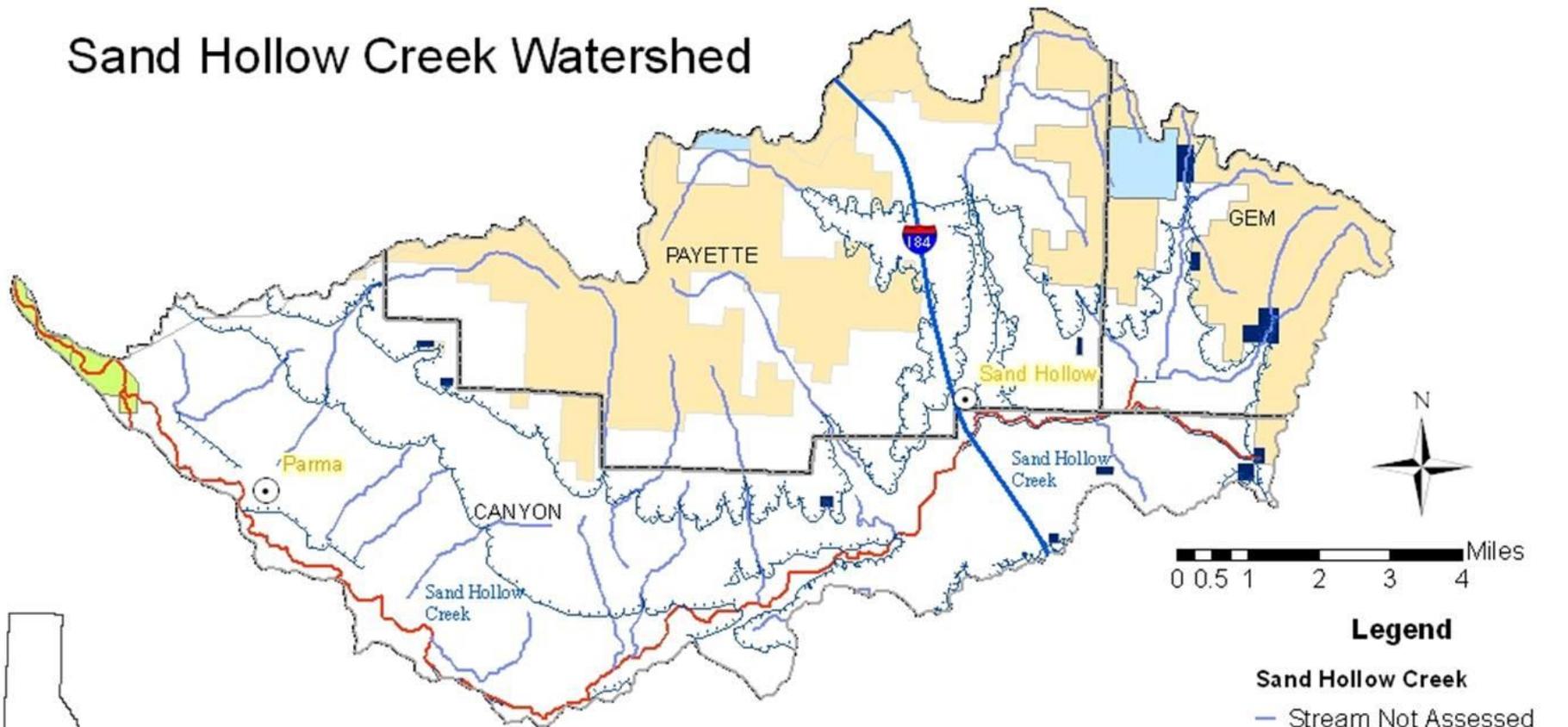
- TMDLs average 2 years to develop
- WAG may meet only once every few months
 - More frequently during critical decisions (e.g. load allocations, document review)
- WAG involvement continues through the implementation phase

Does the WAG make a difference?

- TMDL's are directly impacted by the WAG
 - WAG recommendations incorporated to the degree possible
- A TMDL with community support is more like to succeed



Sand Hollow Creek Watershed



Legend

- Sand Hollow Creek**
 - Stream Not Assessed
 - Stream Not Supporting
 - Canal/Ditch
- Land Stewardship**
 - BLM
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - Private
 - State
 - State Fish and Game
 - Interstate 84
 - Idaho Cities/Towns
 - County Boundary



TMDL AT A GLANCE

Subbasin:	Lower Boise River
Water Body:	Sand Hollow Creek
Uses Affected:	Cold Water Aquatic life Primary / Secondary Contact Recreation
Pollutants:	Sediment E. Coli Bacteria
Sources Considered:	PS - Municipal NPS - Agriculture, Grazing, Construction, Urban, Animal Feeding Operation