Watershed Advisory Group Background Information

What is a Subbasin Assessment?
" 'Subbasin assessment' means a document that describes a watershed or watersheds for which a total maximum daily load is proposed, the water quality concerns, the status and attainability of designated uses and water quality criteria for individual water bodies, the nature and location of pollutant sources, past and ongoing pollutant control activities, and such other information that the director with the advice of the local watershed advisory group determines is pertinent to the analysis of water quality and the development and implementation of a total maximum daily load." *Idaho Code 39-3602*

What is a TMDL?
" 'Total Maximum Daily Load' (TMDL) means a plan for a water body not fully supporting designated beneficial uses and includes the sum of the individual wasteload allocations for point sources, load allocations for nonpoint sources, and natural background levels of the pollutant impacting the water body. Pollutant allocations established through TMDLs shall be at a level necessary to implement the applicable water quality standards for the identified pollutants with seasonal variations and a margin of safety to account for uncertainty concerning the relationship between the pollutant loading and water quality standards." *Idaho Code 39-3602*

Duties of a WAG
Watershed Advisory Groups are voluntary participants in the TMDL development process. Members are appointed by the director of the DEQ at the advice of regional basin advisory groups, and its general duties are outlined in *Section 39-3615 of Idaho Code*:

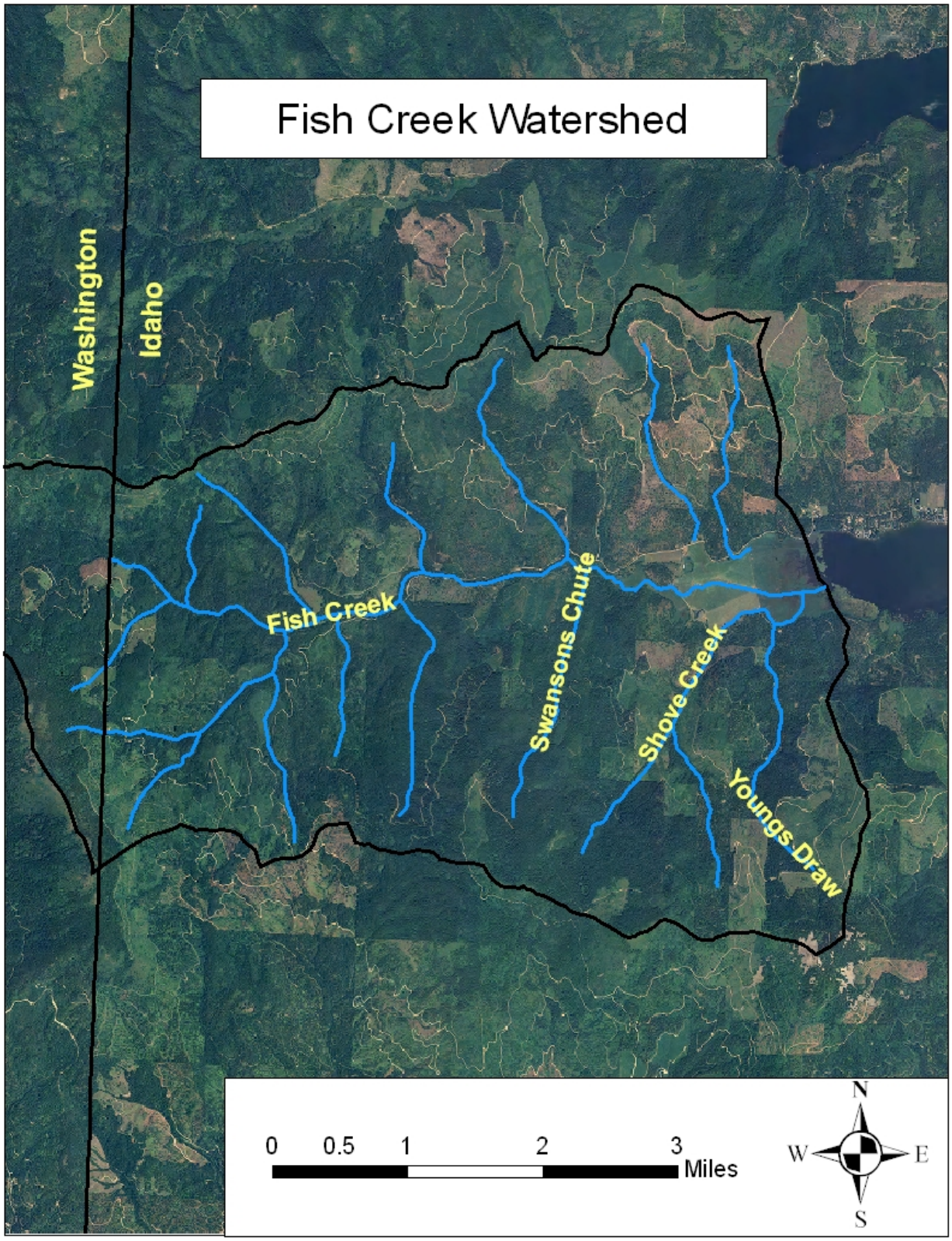
"The director, upon the advice of the appropriate basin advisory group, shall name watershed advisory groups which will generally advise the department on the appropriateness, attainability and status of existing and designated beneficial uses and water quality criteria within the watershed, and on the development and implementation of TMDLs and other state water quality plans, including those specific actions needed to control point and nonpoint sources of pollution within the watersheds of those water bodies where designated beneficial uses are not fully supported."

More generally, WAG members are encouraged to:

- Attend WAG meetings regularly
- Bring their own perspectives and knowledge regarding the watershed to the table
- Be open to dialogue regarding all interests and be committed to maintaining and improving the water quality
- After approval of the Subbasin Assessment and TMDL, it is hoped that WAG members choose to continue to participate in the development of Implementation Plans

DEQ will:

- Work collaboratively with the WAG to produce the SBA, TMDL and Implementation Plans for the watershed
- Consult with WAGs while developing the Subbasin Assessment and TMDL and present all requested information in a timely fashion
- Produce a Subbasin Assessment and TMDL in accordance with state and federal water quality laws



Current Impaired Water Bodies, pollutants of concern and designated, presumed and/or existing beneficial uses in the Hangman Creek Watershed.

WATER BODY NAME	POLLUTANTS	PRESUMED USES
Fish Creek	Sediment, Temperature, and Unknown	CWAL and SCR

*CWAL – cold water aquatic life, SCR – secondary contact recreation