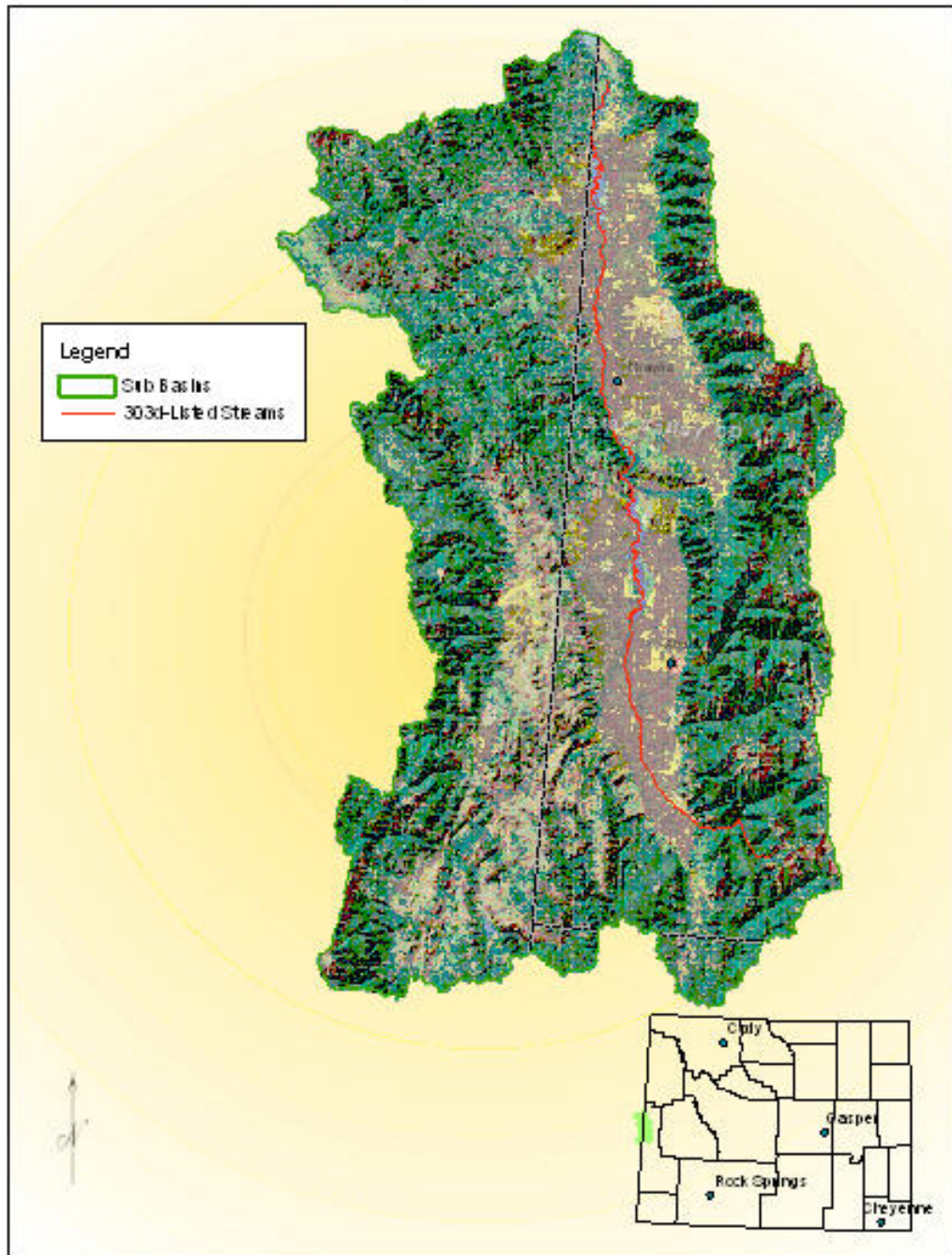


Salt River *Watershed Plan*

Sponsored by
Star Valley Conservation District
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Impaired Streams in the Salt River Watershed
Star Valley Conservation District



Salt River Watershed Plan

Mission Statement

It is the Mission of the Salt River Watershed Committee To Promote Voluntary Conservation and Strategic Management of Water through Providing Technical, Educational, and Financial Resources for the Betterment of the People, the Environment, and the Economics Within the Salt River Watershed

Purpose

- Evaluate and Summarize the Condition of Select Surface Waters Within the Salt River Watershed.
- Maintain Local Control through Voluntary Implementation of this Watershed Plan to Prevent Potential Federal Regulation.
- Research, Evaluate, and Recommend Options for Maintaining or Improving Water Quality in the Salt River Watershed.
- Help People Understand, Evaluate, and Implement Best Management Practices for Improvement of the Salt River Watershed.

Background

In 2002, the Salt River appeared on the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's 303(d) List of impaired waterbodies. Specifically, that section of the Salt River for an undetermined distance upstream and downstream of the Etna Gauging Station (3.4 mi. NW of Etna), on Table C, Waterbodies with Water Quality Threats, listed as threatened for recreational contact by fecal coliform, and was considered a high priority for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development. TMDLs are a formula based calculation to reduce a pollutant that is considered to be causing water quality impairments. TMDLs are usually developed by the department of state government responsible for that state's water quality.

To avoid the imposition of TMDLs, the citizens of the state were given the opportunity by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) to develop local Watershed Plans. WDEQ has the responsibility to protect Wyoming's waters and adhere to the Clean Water Act. For this reason, WDEQ must require that all of the state's impaired waters be addressed either through a TMDL or watershed planning effort. The development of this watershed plan involves local people developing their own watershed restoration goals and strategies to voluntarily address local water quality issues. Local citizens have an unparalleled understanding of the factors influencing the watersheds and add valuable insight on the most efficient course of action to address water quality concerns. Conservation Districts across the State have assumed a leadership role in this effort and facilitate the development of watershed plans by local people within the affected local community.

In October 2003, in response to the 303(d) listing of the Salt River, the Star Valley Conservation District submitted a grant proposal to fund the development of a locally led watershed plan to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. That proposal was subsequently awarded and under the guidance of the Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, organized in May of 2003, the Conservation District made the commitment to address the fecal coliform water quality issue. This plan is the end result of that effort. Proposed actions outlined in this plan include development and implementation of an education and awareness program highlighting general potential sources of fecal coliform bacteria and extent of the fecal coliform bacteria issues within the watershed. Also included are proposed Best Management Practices that when implemented minimize the potential for fecal coliform bacteria reaching ground and surface waters. This Watershed Plan clearly outlines timing and estimated funding requirements for BMP implementation.

Once approved by WDEQ, local watershed plans are implemented to insure that water quality issues are addressed locally according to the priorities of the Watershed Steering Committee and constituents of the Conservation District. Local conservation districts usually assume the responsibility for implementation of watershed plans. Funding for implementation is derived from a number of sources, including local, state and federal sources. These sources require local match funding which can come from a locally approved mill levy through the local conservation district. At this time the Star Valley Conservation District does not have the voter's authority to impose such a mill levy to address resource issues.

Watershed Description¹

Homesteaders arrived in the Star Valley Basin in 1879. According to Granville Stuart, the Snake Indians interchangeably called the Salt River "To-sa car-nel" meaning "white lodges" in reference to a number of small white gyserrite cones left along its course by extinct mineral springs, and "O-na-bit-a-pah," which he translated to mean "salt water", referring to the salt ledges and saline springs which occur along its principal tributaries, Crow and Stump Creeks.

Located in Lincoln County south of Alpine, Wyoming, the Salt River is a major tributary of the Upper Snake River. The Salt River watershed, Hydrologic Unit Code #17040105, is 592,538 total acres in size and is divided by the Idaho and Wyoming state line. Approximately 325,896 acres (55%) are contained within Wyoming and approximately 266,642 acres (45%) are contained in Idaho. About 68% of the watershed, (402,926 acres) is federally owned and managed by either the U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. The remaining 189,612 acres (32%) is privately owned with some limited state ownership.

About 66,000 acres of the watershed are rangelands with an additional 360,000 acres of Forest also utilized for grazing. Generally, grazing lands are located in a narrow border surrounding the valley floor but they are more extensive on the west side of the upper valley. Much of the same rangeland area is also utilized as an important wildlife winter habitat, especially the shallow and stony south and west slopes. Vegetation in this area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Dryland and irrigated farming are practiced in the Salt River Watershed with barley, alfalfa / bromegrass, and native hay the principal crops.

The headwaters of the Salt River are located at the southern end of the watershed and flow northward to the confluence of the Snake, Salt and Greys rivers near Alpine, Wyoming. The average annual flow of the Salt River near Etna is over 800 cfs with maximums of over 3,700 cfs and minimums of 180 cfs.² The average width of the watershed is ten to twenty miles for much of the watershed's length but the valley floor constricts at the "Narrows" which geographically divides the southern "Upper Valley" from the northern "Lower Valley". Elevations in the watershed extend from a low of 5,570 feet at the Salt/Snake/Greys River confluence at the northern end of the lower valley to around 10,750 feet at the peaks on the eastern and southern boundaries of the watershed. The average elevation of the valley floor is around 6,000 feet.

The average³ annual precipitation in the Salt River watershed ranges from 18–21 inches/year with most of the precipitation received in the winter as snow pack. The main tributaries originating from the east of the Salt River are Cottonwood Creek, Dry Creek, Swift Creek, Willow Creek, Strawberry Creek, and Cedar Creek. These streams are characteristically short, steep gradient streams that have built broad alluvial fans extending from the canyon mouths to the middle portion of the valley. The main tributaries originating from the west of the Salt River are Spring Creek, Crow Creek, Stump Creek, Tincup Creek, and Jackknife Creek. These streams are long, moderately falling, meandering streams in the valley bottoms on which alluvial flats and marshy areas have developed. There are also numerous springs and sloughs throughout the watershed.

¹ SVCD Final Report "Self Directed Evaluation in the Salt River Watershed" April, 2002

² Wyoming Stream Water Quality Assessment, WY State Conservation Commission, Sept 1982

³ Based on NRCS 30 year average

Water Quality Investigation Summary⁴:

As part of a watershed assessment program, water quality was monitored in the Salt River and select tributaries. Monitoring began in 2000 and extended through 2003. During this period, the overall water quality in the Salt River and select tributaries was good to excellent as it related to the program's objectives. One of the specific objectives of the program was to determine if the practice of spreading dairy waste on cropland during winter months had an impact on concentrations of nitrate, ammonia and phosphorus in the watershed's surface waters. When detected, concentrations of nitrate, nitrite and ammonia were well within WDEQ water quality standards for human health drinking water criteria. Data for phosphorus concentrations in the Salt River was inconsistent and further monitoring was recommended.

While assessment of bacteria concentrations was not originally a primary objective, preliminary biological data indicated a need for additional scrutiny of bacteria concentrations in the watershed's surface waters. Subsequent monitoring in 2001 and 2002 revealed three general areas within the watershed at which the concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria exceeded WDEQ standards. Hence, by current rules and regulations for surface waters within Wyoming, contact recreational use is currently threatened, and likely is not fully supported.

Specifically, two sections of the Salt River exceeded standards for fecal coliform. One section begins at County Rd.140 Bridge west of Smoot, extending upstream to the Hwy 89 Bridge near Forest Dell. The second section begins at the northern end of the "Narrows" extending upstream to the southern end of the "Narrows". Monitoring locations on Stump Creek also exceeded WDEQ standards for fecal coliform bacteria.

Salt River Steering Committee Concerns & Issues

Water Quality – Based on historical and recent data, the quality of water within the Salt River watershed is a concern. Water quality monitoring performed by the U.S. Geological Survey revealed concentrations of bacteria that exceeded the current fecal coliform standard. Based upon that data, a regulatory water quality issue exists by the subsequent listing of the Salt River on Table C of the 2002 Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's 303 (d) list of water bodies with water quality threats. Based upon that listing, a locally developed watershed plan in accordance with WDEQ criteria is desirable.

Education/Information – There is a need for information and education to encourage landowners, land managers and the general public to voluntarily address potential water quality threats. Understanding the water quality issue is important and can be achieved through a locally led and effective information dissemination program.

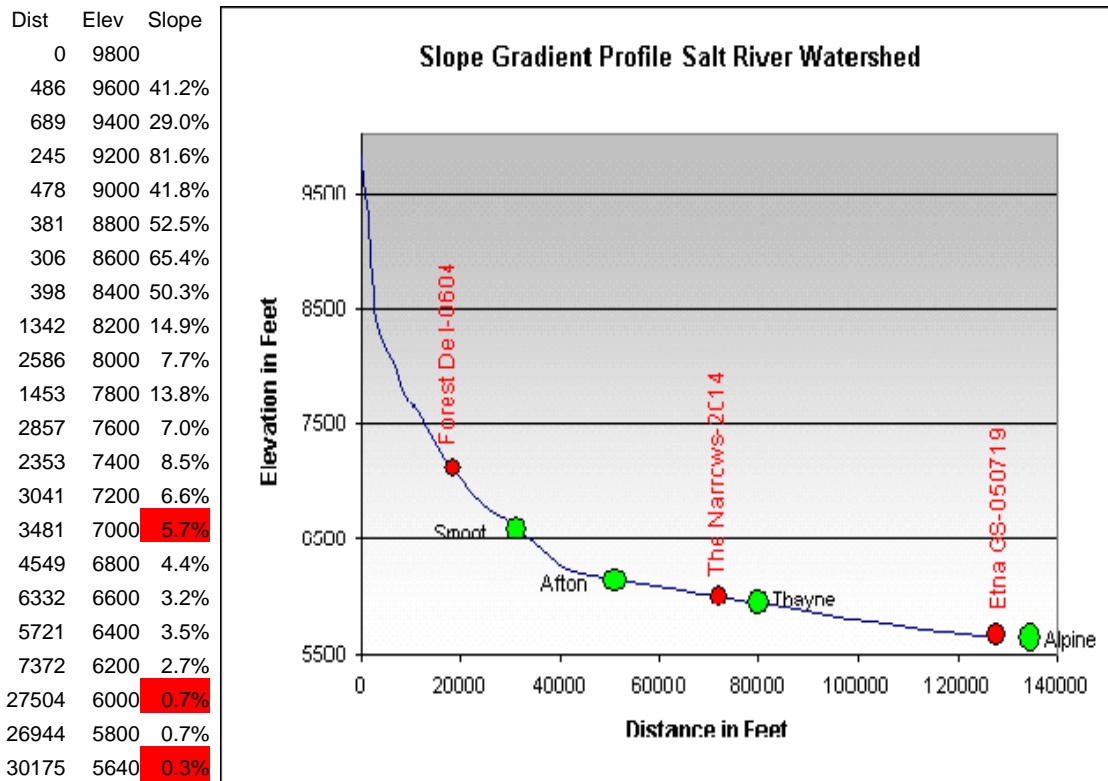
Funding – Cost share funding should be sought and made available to landowners, land managers, and organizations that voluntarily participate in the implementation of this watershed plan. Watershed improvement projects, Best Management Practices (BMP) for example, are important in addressing water quality issues. However, no

⁴ SVCD Final Report "Self Directed Evaluation in the Salt River Watershed" April, 2002

proposed projects should place an unreasonable financial burden on those who voluntarily implement them.

Wildlife Impacts – The potential impact that the substantial wildlife populations found within the Salt River watershed may have on the water quality issue is recognized. Difficulty in differentiating between natural and anthropogenic (human) sources further complicates our understanding of the relative importance of the potential sources and impacts of bacteria. Once BMP’s associated with human sources are implemented, the impact of wildlife on bacteria concentrations in the Salt River Watershed will be more easily understood.

River Classification – As illustrated in the table below, the Salt River at the upper end of the watershed is a high gradient montane stream. Then, as the river passes through the upper and lower valleys, its physical characteristics change dramatically. As the river passes the area west of Smoot its character is altered. So much so that the river will usually “sub-out” due to natural geology (losing reach) below Smoot and then resurfaces at the Burton springs area west of Afton.



Considering the varied characteristics and uses of the Salt River, such as the dry river sections within the watershed, it is appropriate to recognize the potential for variable classifications along segments of the watershed. The Salt River is currently designated a class 2AB waterbody⁵ and is protected for designated uses as defined in Chapter 1 of the Wyoming Surface Water Quality

⁵ WDEQ Wyoming Surface Water Classification List, June 2001

Standards. “Class 2AB waters are those known to support game fish populations and are designated as coldwater game fisheries unless identified as a warm water game fishery. Unless it is shown otherwise, these waters are presumed to have sufficient water quality and quantity to support drinking water supplies and are protected for that use. Class 2AB waters are also protected for nongame fisheries, fish consumption, aquatic life other than fish, primary contact recreation, wildlife, industry, agriculture and scenic value uses”⁶ The beneficial uses assigned through Stream Classification establishes chemical, biological and physical standards against which conditions found in that waterbody will be evaluated. Those relevant standards are found in the following table:

Class 2AB Surface Water Chemistry Standards⁷ and Recommendations⁸

Parameter	Criterion
Conductance	500 <i>mhos/cm</i> domestic use, 2000 <i>mhos/cm</i> irrigation, and 5000 <i>mhos/cm</i> livestock (Recommended)
Dissolved O ₂	Salmonids Present: Minimum 8.0 mg/l early life stages, 4.0 mg/l other (Cold Water Fisheries Criteria)
pH	6.5 – 9.0 (Criteria)
Phosphorus	.05 mg/l in streams that discharge into reservoirs (Recommended)
Fluoride	4.0 mg/l (Human Health/Drinking Water Criteria)
Chloride	Chronic 230 mg/l, Acute 860 mg/l (Aquatic Life Criteria)
Nitrate	10 mg/l (Human Health/Drinking Water Criteria)
Nitrite	1 mg/l (Human Health/Drinking Water Criteria)
Ammonia	Variable - Assuming a maximum recorded pH of 9.0 and a maximum recorded water temperature of 13.1 ^C for this project, the maximum concentration allowed would be .486 mg/l (Cold and Warm Water Fisheries Criteria)
Fecal Coliform	Concentrations shall not exceed a geometric mean of 200 fecal colonies per 100 ml (based upon a minimum of not less than 5 samples obtained during separate 24 hour periods for any 30 day period), nor shall the geometric mean of 3 separate samples collected within a 24hour period exceed 400 fecal colonies per 100 ml (Criteria)
Temperature	(a) For Class 1, 2 and 3 waters, effluent attributable to or influenced by the activities of man shall not be discharged in amounts which change ambient water temperatures to levels which result in harmful acute or chronic effects to aquatic life, or which would not fully support existing and designated uses. (b) When ambient temperatures are above 60° F in all Class 1, 2AB, and 2B waters which are cold water fisheries, effluent attributable to or influenced by the activities of man shall not be discharged in amounts which will result in an increase of more than 2° F (1.1° C) in existing temperatures. (d) Except on Class 3 and Class 4 waters, the maximum allowable stream temperature will be the maximum natural daily stream temperature plus the allowable change, provided that this temperature is not lethal to existing fish life and under no circumstance shall this maximum temperature exceed 68° degrees F (20° C) in the case of cold water fisheries and 86° F (30° C) in the case of warm water fisheries (Aquatic Life Criteria)

⁶ Section 4(b)(i), Chapter 1, Wyoming Surface Water Quality Standards

⁷ Appendices B, C, D, Chapter 1, Wyoming Surface Water Quality Standards

⁸ King 1993

Potential Issues
Adversely Affecting Water Quality including Fecal Coliform Concentrations
in the Salt River Watershed

Agriculture – The agricultural community has been an economic and cultural mainstay of the Salt River watershed for generations. Specific agricultural based issues and concerns include:

- *Waste Management* – Control commercial and private AG waste disposal and its proximity to surface waters. Seasonal feeding areas should be managed so as to minimize impacts to area streams.
- *Grazing Management* - Opportunities exist for enhanced grazing management practices to address potential fecal coliform loads as well as using grazing as a tool to enhance streambank stability and riparian area conditions.
- *Irrigation Management* – Appropriate irrigation management practices minimize the possibility for contamination of nearby surface waters.

Economics – The resources required need to be acquired to insure the completion of this watershed plan.

- *Economic Impacts of Remediation* – Remediation should not place an undue economic burden on those who participate in Best Management Practice implementation

Resources- Sufficient human and fiscal resources to implement this watershed plan are currently not available. However the District is committed to actively pursuing these necessary resources.

Industry – The influence of industry on fecal coliform and nutrient loading in the Salt River watershed appears to have been negligible in the past but the potential for future impacts exists.

- *Processing Facilities* – Facilities must comply with existing rules and regulations.
- *Aquaculture* - Facilities must comply with existing rules and regulations.

Recreation – Outdoor recreation plays an important role in the Salt River watershed. Recreational activities can have an adverse impact on water resources. Specific issues and concerns include:

- *Waste Discharge from RV's* – Discharge directly into or near surface waters adversely affects water quality.

- *Camping* – Camping too close to surface waters has the potential to adversely affect water quality and riparian areas through inappropriate waste disposal and excessive disturbance of soil and vegetation.
- *Pet Walking* – Pet waste can pose a threat to water quality if proper disposal is not practiced.

Recreation (cont)

- *Boating and other Water Related Activity* - Discharge of waste and contaminants directly into or near surface waters adversely affects water quality.
- *Off-Road Vehicle Use* – Excessive vehicle use too close to surface waters can adversely affect water quality and riparian areas by disturbing soil and vegetation.
- *Other Outdoor Recreation* – Activities such as hiking, biking, fishing, trail riding etc. also have the potential to adversely affect water quality.

Rural Subdivisions - Rural subdivisions are generally considered 35 acres or less. Development in these areas is occurring at a fast pace and has a potential impact on water resources within the watershed and on the Salt River.

- *Surface Runoff* – As non-point source pollution accumulates on land surfaces, stormwater runoff flushes those pollutants directly into surface waters.
- *Irrigation Management* – Watering of lawns, gardens, yards, and especially over-irrigation in conjunction with heavy use of chemicals in yards & gardens contributes to contamination of subsurface flow with nutrients, pesticides, etc. These pollutants may end up in ground water and/or surface water
- *Small Acreage Land-Use Management* – Concentrated land use activities such as hobby farming, concentrated livestock grazing, vehicle storage, fuels and hazardous materials storage all have potential to adversely impact the water resources in the Salt River Watershed.
- *Setbacks* – Inadequate setbacks or buffers between surface waters and land uses commonly found on small acreages have the potential to adversely affect surface water quality.
- *Sewage Treatment (aging systems or illicit discharge)*
Proper installation and periodic maintenance are very important to minimize the potential impact of waste management practices.

- *Hydrologic Modification* – Private in-stream pools, off-channel ponds, spring development and other channel modifications can have a cumulative adverse impact on water quality. Proper planning which considers those impacts, such as return flows, should be practiced.

Urban – The urban population continues to increase in Star Valley. Developers and planning officials need to have the appropriate information readily available to make informed decisions.

- *Surface Runoff* – As pollutants from a variety of point and non-point sources, such as fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides accumulate on land surfaces, stormwater runoff flushes those pollutants directly into surface waters.
- *Irrigation Management* – Watering of lawns, gardens, yards and especially over-irrigation in conjunction with heavy use of chemicals in yards and gardens contributes to contamination of subsurface flow with nutrients, pesticides, etc. These pollutants may end up in ground water and/or surface water.
- *Sewage Treatment (inadequate facilities and/or illicit discharge)* – Community wastewater treatment capacity needs to be addressed by municipal and county planners and be based upon projected population growth. For those not on community systems, individual on-site treatment systems require proper installation and periodic maintenance to minimize the potential impact of this waste management practice.
- *Solid Waste Management* – Municipal and county planning efforts should consider projected population growth when addressing landfill location and capacity to avoid adverse water quality impacts.

Wildlife - Wildlife populations in the Salt River watershed naturally contribute to fecal coliform concentrations and water quality degradation. Specific issues include the following:

- *Big Game* – Seasonal conditions cause big game animals to congregate near feeding areas. Seasonal feeding areas should be managed to minimize impacts to area streams.
- *Waterfowl* – Seasonal concentrations of waterfowl can create a localized increase of fecal coliform bacteria.
- *Other Mammals* – Coliform from mammals such as beaver, muskrat, raccoon, skunk etc. can have an adverse impact on water quality.

Coordination with WDEQ and Other Entities - SVCD will need assistance to ensure successful implementation of this watershed plan. Activities associated with this plan such as credible water quality monitoring and funding for BMP implementation will require training and guidance from WDEQ, WACD, NRCS and other local, state and federal agencies. All of these agencies need to be aware of the status of the watershed plan in order to assist with implementation. Caribou County Conservation District, NRCS personnel and USFS personnel from Idaho are on the SVCD mailing list and have attended and provided input to this watershed planning effort.

**Objectives that Address
The Mission, Purpose, Issues and Concerns
Upon which this Watershed Plan is Based**

Objectives are intended outcomes resulting from an action or actions that are measurable.

Agriculture

Waste Management – Including: Corrals, Animal Feeding Areas, Seasonal Feeding Areas, Waste Disposal, Waste Storage and Fertilization:

Within a 5-year period, inform all livestock owners within the Salt River Watershed of impacts associated with improperly situated corrals and other feeding areas; improperly situated waste storage and improper waste disposal in the Salt River Watershed. In areas that have nutrient related water quality issues, nutrient management plans will be developed and implemented.

Grazing Management – Including: Pasture Management & Rotation, Water Development and Fencing;

Within a 5-year period, inform all landowners with grazing animals within the Salt River Watershed that controlled grazing, with the intent of maintaining or improving water quality, will reduce the potential for introduction of fecal coliform to surface waters.

Irrigation Management – Irrigation Systems:

Many irrigation management conservation practices are available that will minimize wastewater produced by irrigation and therefore its impact on introduction of fecal coliform bacteria into surface waters. All irrigators within the Salt River Watershed will be informed of the benefits of these practices within a 5-year period.

Industry – Have ongoing technical review by the appropriate entities of all applications for point-source discharge permits pursued by industrial land uses within the Salt River Watershed. (This activity is already being done by WDEQ, and is only included as a consideration of the steering committee.)

Recreation - *Waste Discharge from Recreational Vehicles, Camping, Pet Walking, Off-Road Vehicle Use, Water Related Activity, and other Outdoor Recreation activities,*

Outdoor recreation plays an important role in the Salt River watershed. However, all recreational activities have the potential to adversely affect water quality. Within a 5-year period make information regarding the appropriate practices available to all recreationists within the Salt River Watershed.

Rural

Subdivisions - *Small Acreage Land-Use Management, Surface Runoff, Setbacks, Individual Septic Systems (maintenance and upgrading), and Hydrologic Modifications:* These activities have an impact on water quality. Within a 5-year period provide information and educational opportunities to all rural communities within the Salt River Watershed.

Urban - *Surface Runoff, Urban Irrigation Practices, Individual Septic Systems (maintenance and upgrading) and Solid Waste Management* These activities can all have an impact on water quality. Within a 5-year period provide information and educational opportunities to all municipalities within the Salt River Watershed.

Wildlife - Wildlife populations in the Salt River Watershed naturally contribute to fecal coliform concentrations and water quality degradation. Proposed wildlife management actions will be reviewed and commented upon within the purview of the issues and concerns within this document.

Economic Impact – Participation in any of the aforementioned BMPs will be on a voluntary basis only. Education and information will be the primary focus of remediation efforts. When infrastructure needs to be installed to meet the objectives of this plan, the conservation district with assistance from the Salt River Watershed Steering Committee will work to identify financial and technical assistance to those landowners and land managers who participate.

Coordination with WDEQ and Other Entities – SVCD and the Salt River Watershed Steering Committee will coordinate with WDEQ by providing an annual updated milestone table and a brief summary of activities regarding this watershed plan. This update will be sent to the Caribou County Conservation District and USFS (Caribou-Targhee National Forest) as well. Any updates received by SVCD regarding water quality activities from Caribou County Conservation District will be included in the update sent to WDEQ.

Action Items
That Address the Mission, Purpose, Issues and Concerns
Upon which this Watershed Plan is Based

Completion of the actions items found in the following section is contingent upon securing the economic and human resources required to implement the watershed plan. Funding will be sought from Local, County, State and Federal sources.

Agriculture

Best Management Practice Implementation

Corrals, Animal Feeding Areas, Seasonal Feeding Areas:

Task A-1) Inform all livestock owners within the Salt River Watershed of the water quality benefits associated with properly situated corrals and other feeding areas within the Salt River Watershed. Attempt to implement 15 BMP's, such as relocating corrals and/or feeding areas to an adequate distance from surface waters, based upon volunteer participation and cost share funding availability within a 5-year period.

Responsible Party(s): Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$5,000 to \$50,000 per practice

Waste Management, Waste Disposal, Waste Storage:

Task A-2) Inform all livestock owners within the Salt River Watershed of water quality benefits associated with properly situated waste storage and proper waste disposal. Attempt to install 5 BMP's, such as improving and/or relocating waste storage and disposal facilities, based upon volunteer participation and cost share funding availability within a 5-year period.

Responsible Party(s): Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$10,000 per practice

Grazing Management:

Task A-3) Inform all livestock owners in the Salt River watershed of water quality benefits associated with proper grazing management. Attempt to install 20 BMP's, such as developing off-stream watering sites, pasture rotation and protective fencing, based upon volunteer participation and cost share funding availability within a 5-year period.

Responsible Party(s): Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$10,000 per practice.

Irrigation Management:

Task A-4) Inform all livestock owners in the Salt River watershed of water quality benefits associated with optimized irrigation practices. Attempt to install 10 practices, such as converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation, based upon volunteer participation and cost share funding availability within a 5-year period.

Responsible Party(s): Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$50,000 per practice

Agricultural Information and Education Program:

Task A-5) Acquire four separate issue brochures for the above stated agricultural best management practices detailing what actions can be taken to implement those practices. Distribute a minimum of 200 brochures annually (County Fair, Direct Mailing to Producers, Business/Health Fair, Parades, Public Offices, Library, Rodeo, Utility Bills, FSA Newsletters)

Responsible Party(s): Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$1,000 total

Task A-6) Solicit participation from FFA, 4H, Scouts, school administrators, and county extension, in the creation and dissemination of information and education products

Responsible Party(s): Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$1,000

Task A-7) Produce two press releases/articles per year regarding beneficial agricultural management practices and water quality issues and have three radio spots (PSAs) per year.

Responsible Party(s): Star Valley Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Coordinated by the Salt River Watershed Steering Committee

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$2,500 total

Agricultural Information and Education Program (cont)

Task A-8) Host annual localized information and education Best Management Practices workshop.

Responsible Party(s): Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Lincoln County Extension, and Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Annually, after plan approval.

Estimated Cost: \$2,000 per workshop

Economics

Acquire Human and Fiscal Resources

Fiscal / Human Resources:

Task E-1) The Conservation District Staff and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will work with landowners for Best Management Practice implementation and habitat improvements through available federal, and/or non-federal financial assistance programs. Potential sources including but are not limited to USDA-EQIP, CRP, WHP, WHIP, Section 319, Wyoming Water Development Commission, Wyoming Game & Fish Habitat Extension & Trust Funds, and private sources such as Ducks Unlimited Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife, One-Fly of Jackson Hole, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trout Unlimited, and others.

Responsible Party: The Star Valley Conservation District will apply for funding. Assistance will be provided by the Western Wyoming Resource Conservation & Development Staff, the Lincoln/Uinta County Government Association, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture or other agencies and organizations named above for the implementation of the tasks presented in this watershed plan.

Timeline: Ongoing

Estimated Cost: \$1,000 per year

Recreation

Best Management Practice Implementation

Minimize the impacts of recreational activity on fecal coliform concentrations in the Salt River. Within a 5-year period provide information and educational opportunities to all recreationists within the Salt River Watershed as described in this section.

Recreation Information and Education Program:

Task R-1) Develop a brochure highlighting potential impacts on water quality of recreational activities to promote responsible recreation. Distribution of brochures shall be at fishing access points at signage, restrooms, sporting goods stores, and at campgrounds.

Responsible Party: Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$1,000 per year

Recreation Information and Education (cont)

Task R-2) Initiate an adopt-a-stream program utilizing school kids, scout programs, and other similar organizations.

Responsible Party: Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District with involvement of the Wyoming Game & Fish Department and the U.S. Forest Service

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$1,000 per year

Task R-3) Work with Salt River Watershed Steering Committee to identify public recreation areas which need additional waste management facilities, e.g. porta-potties, waste recepticals, doggie-do bags, and RV dump stations. Once identified, work cooperatively with public land management agencies to obtain funding to improve sanitation management in those areas.

Responsible Party: Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$5,000 total

Task R-4) Initiate a storm drain stenciling program utilizing school kids, scout programs and other similar organizations.

Responsible Party: Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District and the Salt River Watershed Steering Committee

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years..

Estimated Cost: \$2,500

Rural Subdivisions

Small Acreage Land-Use Management, Surface Runoff, Setbacks, Sewage

Rural Information and Education Program:

Task RS-1) Host five “Living on a Few Acres” workshops, focusing on rural issues such as: septic system maintenance, irrigation management, and appropriate planning and management of domestic livestock facilities.

Responsible Party: Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Lincoln County Planning and Zoning, and Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$2,000 per workshop

Task RS-2) Disseminate information pertaining to individual wastewater treatment facilities (septic systems), including potential sources for assistance, through distribution of the “Wyoming Homeowners Guide to Septic Systems” brochure to homes with individual septic systems within the watershed.

Responsible Party: Star Valley Conservation District and the Lincoln County Office of Planning and Development

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$5,000

Rural Education and Information (cont)

Task RS-3) Disseminate information regarding the impact of prestige ponds on water quality.

Responsible Party: Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Lincoln County Planning and Zoning, and Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$5,000

Urban

Urban Information and Education Program:

Task U-1) Keep elected officials apprised of water quality issues in urban areas through email and invitations to meetings and workshops.

Responsible Party: Salt River Watershed Steering Committee

Timeline: Continual

Estimated Cost: \$500

Task U-2) Host or participate in five workshops with focus on issues related to storm water runoff in urban areas

Responsible Party: Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Lincoln County Planning and Development, and Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$5,000

Task U-3) Promote the installation and maintenance of pet waste baggie stations in key locations on pathways by the Lincoln County Parks and Recreation Dept., and municipalities.

Responsible Parties: Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$500

Water Quality

Task WQ-1) Continue water quality monitoring in compliance with WDEQ monitoring standards and protocols to establish degree of improvement in water quality due to implementation of this plan.

Responsible Party(s): Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval and complete in 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$30,000

Water Quality (cont)

Task WQ-2) Develop a Web Site to disseminate information regarding Salt River Watershed planning and implementation efforts. (Links to I&E resources, ISP, Chamber of Commerce, etc)

Responsible Party(s): Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, and Coordinated by Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin 3 months after plan approval. Web site to be fully developed within 2 years

Estimated Cost: \$2,000

Task WQ-3) Sponsor Youth Oriented Poster Contest on issues specific to the objectives in this watershed plan.

Responsible Party(s): Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Coordinated by Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Annually at County Fair for 5 years.

Estimated Cost: \$5,000

Task WQ-4) Continue the formal existence and involvement of the Salt River Watershed Plan Steering Committee during implementation of this plan. Group will meet annually or more often as needed. Periodic updates will be at the discretion of the SVCD Chair.

Responsible Party(s): Salt River Watershed Steering Committee, and Coordinated by the Star Valley Conservation District

Timeline: Begin upon approval to completion of plan implementation.

Estimated Cost: \$5,000

Coordination with WDEQ and Other Entities

Task C-1) Provide WDEQ, Caribou County Conservation District and USFS (Caribou-Targhee National Forest) with an annual updated version of the action register/milestone table along with a summary of activities related to this watershed plan. This update will also be available to any interested party upon request.

Responsible Party(s): Star Valley Conservation District and Salt River Watershed Steering Committee

Timeline: Annually, for the five years of the watershed plan.

Estimated Cost: No Cost

**ACTION REGISTER/MILESTONE
TABLE**

ACTION REGISTER/MILESTONE TABLE	2005				2006				2007				2008				2009			
	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D
Inform all livestock owners of water quality benefits associated with properly situated corrals and other feeding areas in the Salt River Watershed.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Attempt to install 15 practices, such as relocating corrals and/or feeding areas to an adequate distance from surface waters		1	2			1	2			1	2			1	2			1	2	
Inform all livestock owners in the Salt River watershed of water quality benefits associated with properly placed waste storage facilities and proper waste disposal.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Attempt to install 5 practices, such as improving and/or relocating waste storage and disposal facilities			1				1				1				1				1	
Inform all livestock owners in the Salt River watershed of water quality benefits associated with proper grazing management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Attempt to install 20 practices, such as developing of off-site watering, pasture rotation and protective fencing		2	2			2	2			2	2			2	2			2	2	
Inform all livestock owners in the Salt River Watershed of water quality benefits associated with optimized irrigation practices	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Attempt to install 10 practices, such as converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation		2				2				2				2				2		
Acquire four separate issue brochures for agricultural best management practices and distribute a minimum of 200 brochures annually			200				200				200				200				200	
Solicit participation from FFA, 4H, Scouts, school administrators and county extension, in the creation and dissemination of information and education products				X				X				X				X				X
Produce press releases/articles – emphasizing 1 BMP per quarter (20 total) and submit to local papers and to the WDA and WACD newsletters	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Produce six radio spots (PSAs) per year emphasizing BMPs for water quality improvement	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1
Host annual localized information and education Best Management Practice workshop				1				1				1				1				1
Within a five-year period, provide information and educational opportunities to all recreationalists within the Salt River Watershed.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Develop a brochure highlighting potential impacts of recreational activities on water quality for distribution at fishing access points, Forest Service restrooms, campgrounds and sporting goods stores					1															
Initiate an adopt-a-stream program utilizing school kids, scout programs and other similar organizations							1				X				X				X	
Identify public recreation areas which need additional waste management facilities, e.g. porta-potties, waste receptacles, doggie do bags, and RV dump stations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Work cooperatively with public land management agencies to obtain funding to improve sanitation management at identified areas.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Initiate a storm drain stenciling program utilizing school kids, scout programs and other similar organizations. Complete 20% of the stenciling each year for 5 years			20%				20%				20%				20%				20%	
Host 5 “Living on a Few Acres Workshops”, focusing on rural issues such as: septic system maintenance, irrigation management, and appropriate planning and management of domestic livestock facilities.	X				X					X				X				X		
Distribute Wyoming Homeowners Guide to Septic Systems.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Disseminate information of the impact of too many prestige ponds on water quality.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Keep elected officials apprised of water quality issues in urban areas through meeting invitations, e-mail, etc.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Host or participate in 5 workshops addressing storm water runoff in urban areas			X				X				X				X				X	
Lobby city and county officials and Forest Service to install and maintain pet waste baggie stations in key locations on pathways.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Continue water quality monitoring																				
Develop web site to disseminate information regarding Salt River Watershed planning and implementation effort with links to I&E resources, ISP, Chamber of Commerce, etc.)					X															
Sponsor community poster contest on issues specific to objectives.			X				X				X				X				X	
Continue the formal existence and involvement of the Salt River Watershed Plan Steering Committee during implementation of this plan. This group will meet at least annually or more often as needed.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Provide WDEQ, Caribou County Conservation District and USFS (Caribou-Targhee National Forest) with an annual updated version of the action register/milestone table along with a summary of activities related to this watershed plan. This update will also be available to any interested party upon request				X								X						X		X

Response to Comments

Comment 1

Comment: Lines 45, 46, 49. TMDL's should be TMDLs.

Response: Changed as recommended.

Comment 2

Comment: Line 49. For clarity we suggest replacing the words "State of Wyoming was" with "citizens of the state were".

Response: Changed as recommended.

Comment 3

Comment: Lines 109-111. The average width of the watershed in Wyoming may be 10-15 miles, but is larger if Idaho is considered. The watershed probably does not narrow at the Narrows, but the valley floor does.

Response: Changed as recommended.

Comment 4

Comment: Lines 128-136. It is true that nitrates were well within WDEQ water quality standards, but the District should mention that the only numeric nitrate criteria (10 mg/l) is a human health drinking water criteria. Nitrate levels much lower than this human health threshold (commonly as low as 0.75 mg/l) can indicate nutrient enrichment and stimulation of aquatic plant growth.

Response: The sentence regarding the Nitrate standard was further defined to accurately reflect the human health criteria. The Salt River Steering Committee recognizes that nitrogen may have impacts on water quality but current data suggests that concentrations are low enough to not be a concern at this time.

Comment 5

Comment: Line 139. Fecal bacteria are a biological and not a chemical parameter.

Response: Changed as recommended.

Comment 6

Comment: Lines 142-143. Suggest adding some wording to the end of this sentence: "Hence, by current rules and regulations for surface waters within Wyoming contact recreational use is currently threatened, and likely is not fully supported." Retaining the "threatened" listing and not going to an "Impaired" listing on these waters was due to QA/QC issues identified with the monitoring data. If those data had been identified as Credible Data, the status of the Salt River would have been changed from "threatened" to "impaired" and Stump Creek would have been listed as "impaired". The additional language to this sentence would hopefully provide notice to the citizens that they should not be surprised if additional credible data show these waters to be impaired, and also that such a change in listing would not necessarily mean the water quality has deteriorated between the time of initiation of the Watershed Plan, but only that sufficient credible data have been collected to identify the condition.

Response: Changed as recommended.

Comment 7

Comment: Line 187. The text states the river will usually “sub-out” below Smoot then resurface at the Burton Springs area. Does it truly go subsurface because of the natural geology or is this where water withdraws transfer a significant amount of flow out of a losing reach of channel?

Response: Regardless of water development in the area, geology dictates that this section of the stream would naturally dry up as a “losing” reach.

Comment 8

Comment: Line 189. The slope gradient profile indicates the Salt River is only 26.5 miles long. The straight line distance between Forest Dell and Thayne is about this length, but the river length is about 3 times that distance. It would be more proper to make the wording in this section clearly identify that you are discussing Valley Gradient and not stream gradient. Additionally, it is not very clear as to why this discussion aids this plan.

Response: The slope gradient graph was only added to assist in describing the watershed and was modified to reflect “valley” gradient.

Comment 9

Comment: Lines 192-207. The plan suggests there is potential for different stream classifications in the watershed, but does not discuss what these new classifications might be or provides any rationale for doing a classification change.

Response: The rationale, dry river sections, was included in the text.

Comment 10

Comment: Line 206 (Table). There are several suggestions for this table. These can be divided into two general topics, the first is to make certain the reference for the ‘recommended’ criteria are cited and also that people realize these recommendations are not contained in the Chapter 1 water quality standards. The second item is to make sure that people are aware that some of these numeric criteria pertain to certain uses only, and because a numeric criteria for one use support is met, it does not mean that lesser concentrations of the pollutant can not result in a narrative standard for another use not being fully supported.

- a. Title. Suggest that the #7 superscript be placed after the word “Standards”.
- b. Title. Suggest a new #8 superscript be placed after the word “Recommendations.” A new #8 superscript footnote would reference: “King, 1993. A bioassessment method for use in Wyoming stream and river water quality monitoring.” This would clearly show where the criteria and where the recommendations come from.
- c. Dissolved Oxygen criteria. Where the plan identifies a parameter as a water quality standard, it is best to identify the specific use that the criteria applies to. For example, in the dissolved oxygen criteria given the reference (Standard) would be replaced with (Cold Water Fisheries Criteria).
- d. pH criteria. (Standard) replaced with (Criteria). No additional descriptor is necessary because this criteria applies to all waters.
- e. Fluoride criteria. Following the above recommendation; (Standard) would be replaced with (Human Health/Drinking Water Criteria).
- f. Chloride criteria. (Standard) would be replaced with (Aquatic Life Criteria).
- g. Nitrate criteria. (Standard) would be replaced with (Human Health/Drinking Water Criteria).
- h. Nitrite criteria. (Standard) would be replaced with (Human Health/Drinking Water Criteria).
- i. Ammonia criteria. (Standard) would be replaced with (Cold and Warm Water Fisheries Criteria).
- j. Fecal coliform criteria. (Standard) would be replaced with (Criteria).

- k. Temperature. For sub-item (d), (Standard) would be replaced with (Aquatic Life Criteria).

Response: The term “standard” was used given this document was written for the general public and is more generally recognized by the public, in the steering committee’s opinion, but the table was changed as recommended.

Comment 11

Comment: Lines 232 and 233. This sentence states “the human and fiscal resources are not currently available to implement this watershed plan” and gives the impression that the plan from this point on may not be applicable because there are no resources. The department feels that the District is truly committed to this plan and the resource issue is a hurdle that will be actively overcome. Potential replacement language could be: “Sufficient human and fiscal resources to implement this watershed plan are currently not available, however the District is committed to actively securing these necessary resources.”

Response: Changed as recommended.

Comment 12

Comment: Line 239. It is not clear how aquaculture and fecal coliform are linked. Aquaculture does have the potential to add nutrients and organic matter to streams. Maybe within the “Industry” heading on Line 235 should be: “The influence of industry on fecal coliform and nutrient loading in the Salt River...”

Response: Changed as recommended.

Comment 13

Comment: Lines 290 and 597. It is not clear how an off-channel pond can affect water quality.

Response: Return flows from off channel ponds do have the potential for introduction of pollutants during runoff events if not properly designed.

Comment 14

Comment: Line 338. Objective. The following comments pertain to the next two pages of objectives. These suggestions are designed to try and clearly distinguish the Nonpoint Source items that the District can address in this Watershed Plan from the regulated point source items that are NPDES permitting issues.

- a. Line 344. Suggest changing “Confined Feeding Areas” to “Animal Feeding Areas.” This suggestion is made because those AFOs that are classified as large CAFOs under the pre-2003 regulations (1,000 or more animal units) are currently in the point-source permit requiring arena.

Response: Changed as recommended.

- b. Line 346. The plan gives a 5-year period for information dissemination. Outreach has been going on in the valley for some time now. Also, there are some important 2006 dates associated with the new CAFO strategy that we currently are not exactly sure how they will affect owner-action time tables. An additional 5 year schedule for getting the information out may not be aggressive enough. The District may want to change this schedule to 2 years for information dissemination on different AFO classifications and the respective requirements associated with each, and then 5 years to assist the informed owners in initiating appropriate actions (permitting, modification, nutrient management plans, etc.)

necessary for each specific operation. Note: please be in contact with WACD on this issue they are currently doing Information Education on this topic and can provide guidance.

Response: Information and education efforts will be implemented concurrently with BMP implementation for the entire five years covered by this watershed plan. There are no known animal feeding operations existing that would require a discharge permit. Therefore the 2006 deadline would not be applicable.

- c. New Line 368. Suggest a possible additional Agriculture category; that being Solid Waste Disposal. Agricultural solid waste disposal (on one's own land) is not a regulated activity, and as stated in the Urban section of this plan, can have an impact on water quality. It is suggested the District may wish to include information dissemination concerning Agricultural solid waste disposal as an objective over the next five years.

Response: Solid waste disposal is addressed in the objectives lines 350 – 357 and in the action items under this heading.

- d. Lines 369-371. Suggest removing the Industry section from the objectives. The proposed objective of having DEQ do their necessary technical reviews on point source permit applications does not really need to be an objective of the Watershed Plan.

Response: This was considered by the Steering Committee only to inform readers that this topic was considered, but not to suggest additional action items.

- e. Lines 381-382. Under Rural Subdivisions, suggest removing the item: "Sewage Treatment (aging systems or illicit discharge) and replace with: "Individual Septic Systems (maintenance and upgrading)". This suggestion is made because rural subdivisions that provide community sewage treatment are under regulated design criteria and discharge permit criteria if they discharge to waters of the state. Any upgrades to aging systems need to have the new designs reviewed and approved by DEQ. Also, any illicit discharges from a community system are a regulatory issue. The District can have an enormous impact on getting the word out to homeowners with individual septic systems on maintenance and upgrading these systems and should be an objective.

Response: Changed as recommended

- f. Lines 388-389. Suggest replacing "Sewage Treatment (inadequate facilities and/or illicit discharge), and Solid Waste Management" with the following: "Individual Septic Systems (maintenance and upgrading), and Household Waste Disposal". Again, the first part of this suggestion follows the idea presented above. The second part makes the distinction between the municipality's responsibility dealing with a permit for a landfill and the individual homeowner's need to be an informed citizen when it comes to what they should and should not put in their trash can or down their drain and ultimately becomes the responsibility of the municipality in the operation and maintenance of their landfill or waste water treatment plant.

Response: Changed as recommended.

- g. Line 400. Suggest a minor word addition to this sentence: "Participation in any of the aforementioned Nonpoint Source Pollution conservation measures will be on a voluntary basis only." This is recommended because the point source items already mentioned are not on a voluntary basis only.

Response: Changed as recommended.

Comment 15

Comment: Line 426. Again, suggest replacing “Confined Feeding Areas” with “Animal Feeding Areas.”

Response: Changed as recommended.

Comment 16

Comment: Line 432. Suggest the paragraph continue with the addition of another sentence. The suggested wording is: “The initial focus of these cost-share implementation projects will be in areas that have the immediate potential to reduce pathogen levels in the three reaches identified by the District as having elevated fecal coliform bacterial levels.” Improving water quality and getting a waterbody delisted is a principle objective of Watershed Plans. The fastest and most cost effective way to do this is to prioritize the implementations on these known areas. Additional monitoring may identify other areas to concentrate on, but initially this is the most effective way to try and address water quality concerns.

Response: This plan is focused on non-point sources. The Committee does not have control over distribution of cost-share funds from the variety of programs from which funds are solicited. If 319 funds are solicited, then funding will be prioritized according to areas of “impairment”.

Comment 17

Comment: Lines 444 and 456. Again, it is suggested that the additional language found in comment No. 16 be added to the end of these two paragraphs for the same reasons.

Response: See response to comment #16.

Comment 18

Comment: Line 435. Suggest possible additional language at the end of this sentence: “The Star Valley Conservation District will also be active in the cooperation and coordination with Caribou County, Idaho conservation district personnel.” Knowing what the sister district in Idaho is doing could help your district with planning and implementation programs.

Response: A new section, “Coordination with WDEQ and Other Entities”, was added to the watershed plan in response to the above comment. The steering committee and SVCD will make every attempt to keep interested parties updated on water quality activities within the watershed. In addition any information provided by the Caribou County Conservation District (Idaho) will be forwarded to WDEQ as part of the annual update.

Comment 19

Comment: Line 456. Suggest similar language as provided in comment No. 18. This language would also include the U.S. Forest Service and BLM: “The Star Valley Conservation District will also be active in the cooperation and coordination with federal land management agencies and the Caribou County, Idaho conservation district personnel.”

Response: See the response to comment 18.

Comment 20

Comment: Line 470. Suggest adding the Wyoming Water Development Commission as a responsible party. This agency could be an important source of cost-share funds for these types of projects.

Response: The only entities included as responsible parties were involved and consulted during the development of this plan. The Committee did not want to include entities that had not first been consulted. WWDC was included as a potential funding source in Task E-1

Comment 21

Comment: Line 522. Suggest adding the Wyoming Water Development Commission as a possible funding source for the reasons given above.

Response: See the response to comment 20.

Comment 22

Comment: Line 548. Suggest adding the following language: “The Star Valley Conservation District will also be active in the cooperation and coordination with the U.S. Forest Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and state and county officials.”

Response: See the response for comment 18.

Comment 23

Comment: Line 573. Suggest adding the following language: “The Star Valley Conservation District will also be active in the cooperation and coordination with appropriate municipalities and the Wyoming Department of Transportation.”

Response: See the response to comment 18.

Comment 24

Comment: Line 593. Because the permitting of septic is a regulatory issue, suggest the responsible party list also include: Lincoln County Office of Planning and Development.

Response: Changed as recommended.

Comment 25

Comment: Line 603. The estimated cost of \$5,000 for this activity, if information is readily available, seems somewhat high.

Response: One member of the Salt River Watershed Steering Committee represents the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and is investigating what is currently available. Therefore \$5,000 was estimated to produce information if it is not available. As of this date no relevant information has been identified.

Comment 26

Comment: Line 608. Suggest that the District also use “attendance at City Council meetings” as another option to keep officials informed.

Response: City Council meetings will be used as an option to inform officials, but the Salt River Watershed Steering Committee does not want to commit to attending their meetings.

Comment 27

Comment: Lines 615-681. Suggest adding municipalities and the Wyoming Department of Transportation to the list of responsible parties for urban stormwater runoff.

Response: WDOT and the municipalities will not have a role in the hosting of the five workshops.

Comment 28

Comment: Lines 633-635. The District should be prepared to possibly expand monitoring beyond the goal of determining water quality improvements associated with the implementations. For example, if the implementations do not show the desired and predicted improvements in water quality, additional monitoring outside of the unknown areas or subwatersheds that contribute a significant load to the impaired streams. Additionally, if there are significant changes in land use that may affect water quality (i.e. a new major housing development), the District may wish to add monitoring to that area to see if new loading sources are showing up.

Response: This watershed plan is intended to be flexible in its implementation. If future water quality monitoring data indicates additional issues then the plan may be amended to address those issues. The SVCD supplies water quality monitoring data as a public service to its constituency and is not intended to become regulatory in nature.

Comment 29

Comment: Lines 642-644. Will the website also have all water quality monitoring data posted?

Response: The website will provide a link to the WDEQ Ecological Database Application System (EDAS) database for that information.

Comment 30

Comment: Line 668. Having as few as one meeting per year for the Steering Committee during the implementation of this plan does not seem adequate. Quarterly meetings would most likely be necessary. The estimated cost of \$5,000 for as few as 5 meetings seems excessive.

Response: While your comment is appropriate, the committee does not want to commit to meeting more often than necessary. The issue is addressed by “or more often as necessary”, providing flexibility.

Comment 31

Comment: Addendum. An addendum with the names and affiliations of the Salt River Watershed Committee would be helpful and also provide the citizens with a better idea of who this group is (and who they can informally talk to about water quality at the Post Office, grocery store, or on the street).

Response: Changed as recommended.