



# Idaho Environmental Literacy Plan

## Public Stakeholder Meetings



# Stakeholder Meeting Overview

## Purpose:

- Gather input from additional EE stakeholders across Idaho
- Use that input to draft an ELP
- Document a shared vision of environmental literacy
- Develop and informed network of support for the ELP through information and outreach activities

## Meetings:

- Eight formal meetings + Be Outside, Idaho! education committee meeting
- Approximately 140 participants

## Handouts:

- Sign-in sheet w/ affiliation
- Public Dialogues agenda, 2 (3) questions, project overview
- ELP brochure
- How You Can Help w/ check off for stakeholder group identification

Outcome: Individual, organizational, governmental partners supporting reframing local efforts, increased support for EL and IELP.

# ELP Stakeholder Meetings

## Boise – Nov 17

- 11 participants
- Host: Be Outside, Idaho! Education Committee

## Hailey – Jan 11

- 3 participants
- Host: City of Hailey

## Twin Falls – Jan 13

- 6 participants
- Host: US Forest Service

## Idaho Falls – April 4

- 9 participants
- Host: Gonzales-Stoller Surveillance/ INL ESER

## Pocatello – April 5

- 37 participants
- Host: City of Pocatello

## Coeur d'Alene – May 2

- 7 participants
- Hosts: Coeur d'Alene Tribe & City of CDA Fire Department

## Moscow – May 3

- 38 participants
- Hosts: Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute & City of Moscow

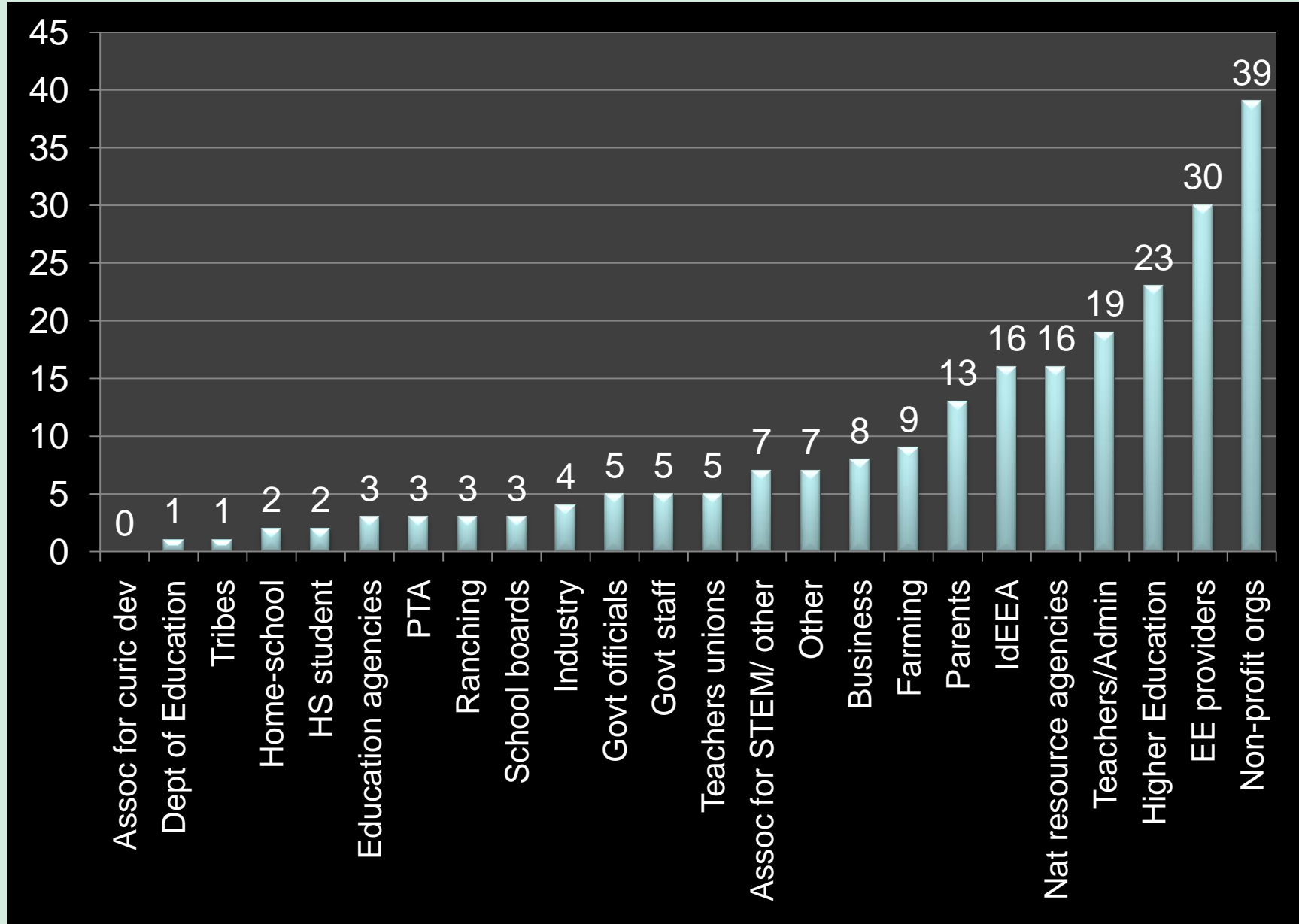
## McCall – May 4

- 11 participants
- Hosts: McCall Outdoor Science School & City of McCall

## Boise – May 9

- 8 participants
- Host: MK Nature Center/ Idaho Department of Fish and Game

# Stakeholder Group Identification



# Meeting Agenda

- 6:00 pm Sign in**
- 6:05 Welcome. Overview. Brief Introductions. Thank partners.**
- 6:10 PowerPoint:** Overview of Idaho's environmental literacy planning efforts
- 6:30 Follow up Q & A**
- 6:45 Group Dialogues**
- 7:45 What do you find most exciting about Idaho's Environmental Literacy efforts?**
- 7:50 Review. Staying involved.**
- 8:00 Thanks. Conclude.**

## Follow up Q & A...

- Does the Idaho Department of Education support this plan, especially in light of new education reform?
- Will there be funding to support class activities, esp field trips?
- When can we see the actual plan? Can we comment on it and how will those comments be incorporated?
- Does the plan address the role of parents in children's education?
- Why aren't there any representatives from conservation organizations on the advisory committee? It's industry heavy.
- How come only two classroom teachers on the advisory committee?
- Doesn't the ELP duplicate other efforts – science literacy, conservation literacy, ecological literacy, etc.?

**Question 1** - Share some of the environmental projects & initiatives that already are happening in your schools and community? Could some be replicated elsewhere to bring us closer to an environmentally literate Idaho? = CURRENT MODELS

- Generated the most “buzz” each evening. Groups needed little urging to name dozens of exemplary local EE activities, programs and events.
- Participants quickly realized that EL efforts are already happening, often extensively, in their communities.
- Gathered well over 100 examples.

**Question 2** - What are some ways to foster environmental literacy in Idaho? What is important for Idaho's plan to accomplish? Who should be involved? How do we measure success? = FUTURE VISION

### Fostering EL

- Teach in “place” & encourage sustainability
- Provide incentives and support
- Expand constituency base
- Encourage collaboration

### Who else involved

- Parents and other adults
- Agriculture and environmental organizations
- SDE, school districts and curriculum directors

### Vision & success

- Environmental, economic and social dimensions integrated
- Statewide effort coordinated
- EE taught in most schools; trustworthy resources available
- Classroom & outdoor experiences integrated
- Student’s EL knowledge built over succeeding years
- Business, industry, governments, etc. engaged
- Career choices in STEM, natural resources, ag increased



# Concerns

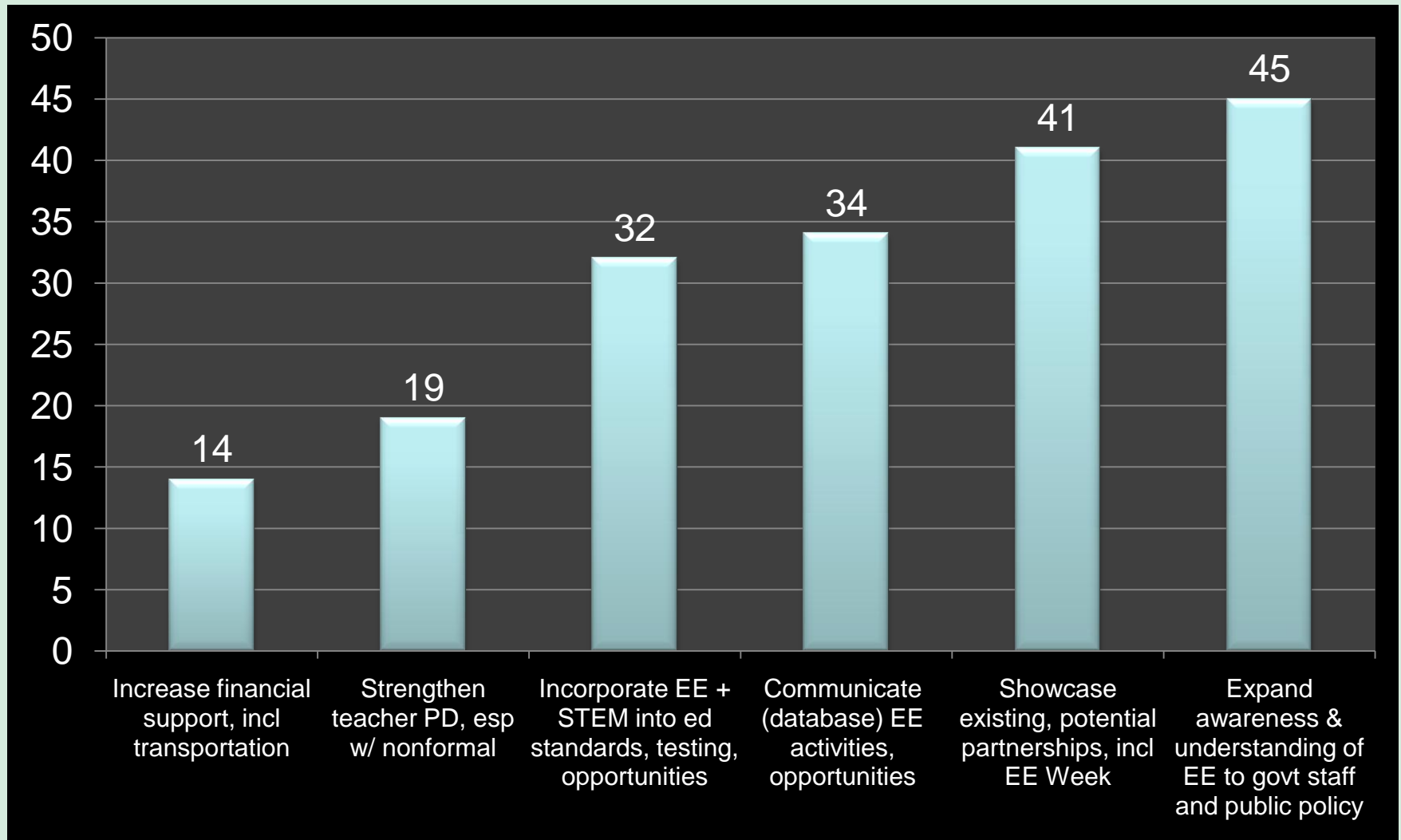
- Lack of support and funding from Idaho Department of Education & legislature
- Is this plan going to make a difference or just disappear?
- Questions about incorporating EE into content standards and HS graduation requirements; **no more testing! (1 person)**
- Composition of Advisory Committee (a few negative comments)
  - No environmental organizations
  - Too much industry representation
- **Do we know if EE efforts really affect change? (1 person)**

## Observations

- Tremendous eagerness and excitement around EL. However, many were not previously familiar with the term.
  - Abundant local, grassroots support, although many were surprised and pleased to learn of the scale of this statewide effort.
  - Communities already offer a plethora of great EE activities which an ELP can integrate into a larger framework.
  - Statewide leadership is essential.
  - Outdoor, hands-on, place-based efforts strongly endorsed.
- Inspirational partnership between local environmental education organizations (PCEI, MOSS) and local government can identify and articulate EE as a **community value**, support EE practitioners and engage a wide constituency over time.

# EE Conference Whole Group Session

*“What does Environmental Literacy mean to Idaho?”*



# Recommendations - Supporting I-ELP and EL

- ★ **Keep momentum going!**
- ★ Maintain contact and provide updates > participating stakeholders
- ★ Expand awareness & understanding of EE to legislature and Dept of Education, and into public policy
- ★ Support existing community EE activities that support EL
- ★ Enlarge EL constituency by fostering additional partnerships; need to include environmental organization/s
- ★ Link PK-12 to higher education
- ★ Develop way to network educators and providers
- ★ **Market EL and ELP! (1 person)**
  - ★ PSAs
  - ★ Rack card
  - ★ Partner w/ existing venues/organizations like libraries
- ★ Envision and plan long term to observe trends



**Thank You!**