



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

RECEIVED
FEB 11 2010
Department of Environmental Quality
State Water Quality Programs
OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

February 9, 2010

Mr. Barry Burnell, Administrator
Water Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

Re: Approval of the Lower Salmon River and Hells Canyon Tributaries Assessments and TMDLs

Dear Mr. Burnell:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Lower Salmon River and Hells Canyon Tributaries Assessments and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on July 21, 2009. Following our review, EPA is pleased to approve 30 TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the tables below. The nine TMDLs in seven assessment units in the table below were included in Idaho's 2008 list of impaired waters.

Table of EPA-Approved TMDLs for §303(d) listed waters

Water Body Segment/ Assessment Units (AUs)	Pollutant
Wolf Creek, Basin Creek to Mouth ID17060101SL024_04	Temperature
Divide Creek, Source to Mouth ID17060101SL028_03	Temperature
Billy Creek, Source to Mouth ID17060209SL004_02	Bacteria, Sediment
Rock Creek, Source to Grave Creek and Grave Creek to Mouth ID17060209SL057_03 ID17060209SL056_04	Sediment
John's Creek, Rock Creek source to Graves Creek ID17060209SL057_02	Sediment
Deep Creek, source to unnamed tributary ID17060209SL060_02	Sediment Bacteria

* Refers to Section 4a of the integrated report (DEQ 2005), which is the section of the report for waters with completed TMDLs.

IDEQ also completed TMDLs for waterbodies which were not meeting water quality standards for the pollutant(s) shown in the table below, but had not previously been included on Idaho's 303(d) List (List). These 21 TMDLs in 15 assessment units are contained in the table below. EPA understands that these waters would have been included on the List had the State been aware of the exceedances at the time the List was completed.

Table of EPA-Approved TMDLs for Unlisted waters

Water Body Segment/ Assessment Units (AUs)	Pollutant
Wolf Creek, Basin Creek to Mouth ID17060101SL025_02, _03, _04	Temperature
Divide Creek, Source to Mouth ID17060101SL028_02	Temperature Bacteria
Divide Creek, Source to Mouth ID17060101SL028_03	Bacteria
Allison Creek, West Fork to Mouth ID17060209SL028_03	Bacteria
Telcher Creek, Rock Cr source to Grave Creek ID17060209SL057_02	Temperature
Rice Creek, Rice Creek tributary ID17060209SL007_02 ID17060209SL007_03	Temperature Bacteria
Rock Creek, Source to Grave Creek and Grave Creek to Mouth ID17060209SL057_03 ID17060209SL056_04	Bacteria, Temperature
Graves Creek, Headwaters to unnamed tributary, unnamed tributary to Rock Creek ID17060209SL058_02 ID17060209SL058_03	Bacteria
Cottonwood Creek, Source to unnamed tributary 17060209SL003_02	Bacteria
John's Creek, Rock Creek source to Graves Creek ID17060209SL057_02	Temperature, Bacteria

* Refers to Section 4a of the integrated report (DEQ 2005), which is the section of the report for waters with completed TMDLS.

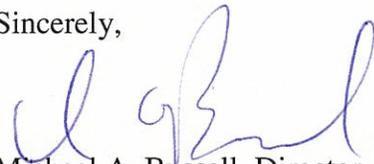
Our review indicates that these allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the water quality criteria addressed by these TMDLs. Therefore, the IDEQ does not need to include these waters on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for the pollutant(s) covered by these TMDLs.

This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for the proposed de-listing of waters within Hydrologic Unit Codes 17060209 and 17060101 from the Idaho §303(d) list. Any proposed de-listing of waters will be considered at the time of submission of the next §303(d) list of impaired waters.

This submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA); therefore, EPA is not taking action on these strategies. Implementation is the critical next step to realize improvements in water quality, and we encourage IDEQ to continue their work with responsible parties on implementation of these strategies.

By EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the CWA. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-4198, or you may call Bill Stewart of my staff at 208-378-5753.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Bussell, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Mr. Doug Conde, Attorney General, Idaho
Mr. Mike McIntyre, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ
Ms. Marti Bridges, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ
Mr. John Cardwell, Regional Administrator, Lewiston Regional Office, IDEQ
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice