



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

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

DEC 12 2011

Subject: Corrected Approval of the Lolo Creek Watershed TMDL

Dear Mr. Burnell:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Lolo Creek Tributaries Subbasin Assessment and TMDL(s) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on September 21, 2011. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve 5 TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the tables below. The five TMDLs in five 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
Eldorado Creek, ID17060306CL029_02	Temperature
Jim Brown Creek ID17060306CL031_02	Temperature
Jim Brown Creek ID17060306CL031_03	Temperature
Musselshell Creek ID17060306CL032_02	Temperature
Musselshell Creek ID17060306CL032_03	Temperature

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.

This submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. The EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA); therefore the Agency 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 the 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Bussell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Michael A. Bussell, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Mr. Doug Conde, Section Chief / DAG, AG Office Idaho (by email)
Mr. Mike McIntyre, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ (by email)
Ms. Marti Bridges, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ (by email)
Mr. John Cardwell, Regional Administrator, Lewiston Regional Office, IDEQ (by email)
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West (by email)
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice (by email)