



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
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 Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
 WATER AND
 WATERSHEDS

FEB 22 2012

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

Re: Approval of the Cascade Reservoir Tributary TMDLs

Dear Mr. Burnell:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Cascade Reservoir Tributary TMDL Addendum to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on November 15, 2011. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve 4 TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the tables below. The three TMDLs in three assessment units in the table below were included in Idaho's 2010 list of impaired waters (List).

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

Water Body Segment/ Assessment Units (AUs)	Pollutant
Boulder Creek ID17050123SW011_03	Sediment
Mud Creek ID17050123SW015_02	Sediment
Mud Creek ID17050123SW015_03	Sediment

IDEQ also completed a TMDL for a waterbody which was not meeting water quality standards for sediment but had not previously been included on Idaho's List. This TMDL and waterbody is identified in the table below. The EPA understands that this waterbody would have been included on the List had the State been aware of the impairment at the time the List was completed.

EPA-Approved TMDLs on Unlisted Waters

Water Body Segment/ Assessment Units (AUs)	Pollutant
Gold Fork River (from below Gold Fork Ditch to mouth) ID17050123SW008_05a	Sediment

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 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 Code 17050123 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. The EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA); therefore, the 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 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,



Michael A. Bussell, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Mr. Doug Conde, Attorney General, Idaho (via email)
Mr. Mike McIntyre, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ (via email)
Ms. Marti Bridges, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ (via email)
Mr. Pete Wagner, Regional Administrator, Boise Regional Office, IDEQ (via email)
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West (via email)
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice (via email)