



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
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OFFICE OF
 WATER AND
 WATERSHEDS

APR 17 2012

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

Re: Approval of the Raft River Subbasin Temperature Addendum TMDL (HUC ID17040210)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Raft River Subbasin Temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on January 26, 2012. IDEQ resubmitted the Raft River TMDL on March 5, 2012, with corrections to the listing. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve one TMDL for the water and pollutant listed in the table below. This water was included in Idaho's 2010 303(d) list (List) of impaired waters, as identified in Table 1.

Table 1: EPA-Approved TMDLs on Impaired Waters

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Pollutant
Cassia Creek	ID17040210SK005_04	Temperature

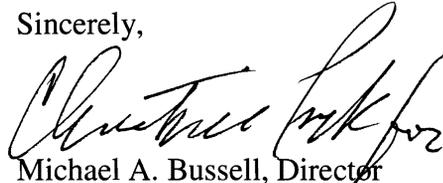
Our review indicates that this allocation has been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the water quality standards addressed by this TMDL. Therefore, the IDEQ does not need to include this water on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for the pollutant covered by this TMDL.

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.

We would like to recognize the cooperation and thoroughness of Katie Shewmaker in bringing this TMDL to completion.

By the EPA's approval, this TMDL is 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 Martha Turvey of my staff at (206) 553-1354.

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. Sonny Budihar, Water Quality Manager, Twin Falls, Regional Office, IDEQ
Ms. Katie Shewmaker, Twin Falls Regional Office, IDEQ
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice