



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
 1200 Sixth Avenue
 Seattle, WA 98101

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MAY 20 2002

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
 STATE WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS

MAY 15 2002

Reply To
 Attn Of: OW-134

David Mabe, Assistant Administrator
 Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 1410 North Hilton
 Boise, ID 83706-1255

Re: Approval of Big Wood River Subbasin TMDLs (HUC 17040212)

Dear Mr. Mabe:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10 hereby approves the Big Wood River Subbasin Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) submitted to us on January 25, 2002, with amendments submitted on March 11, 2002.

This TMDL addresses sediment, nutrients and bacteria in 17 waterbodies listed in the table below. Amongst these are two segments of the Big Wood River which were not included in the Idaho 1998 303(d) list (denoted with an asterisk). Information provided by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) demonstrates that these non-listed waters are in fact water quality limited segments in need of a TMDL. The state need not include these waters in its next Section 303(d) list for the pollutants listed below now that a TMDL for them has been approved.

Waterbody	Boundaries	Pollutant
Big Wood River	Glendale Diversion to TINR18ES35	Sediment, nutrients
Big Wood River*	TINR18ES35 to Magic Reservoir	Sediment*, nutrients*
Big Wood River	Magic Reservoir to Highway 75	Sediment, nutrients
Big Wood River	Highway 75 to Little Wood River	Sediment, nutrients, bacteria
Big Wood River	Little Wood River to Interstate	Sediment, nutrients, bacteria
Big Wood River*	Interstate to Snake River	Sediment*, nutrients*
Eagle Creek	Headwaters to Big Wood River	Sediment, nutrients
Lake Creek	Headwaters to Big Wood River	Nutrients
Placer Creek	Headwaters to Warm Springs Creek	Nutrients
Cove Creek	Headwaters to East Fk Wood River	Sediment, nutrients
Greenhorn Creek	Headwaters to Big Wood River	Sediment, nutrients
Quigley Creek	Headwaters to mouth	Sediment, nutrients
Croy Creek	Elk Creek to Big Wood River	Sediment, nutrients
Seamans Creek	Headwaters to Big Wood River	Sediment, nutrients
Rock Creek	Headwaters to Magic Reservoir	Sediment, nutrients, bacteria
East Fork Rock Creek	Headwaters to Rock Creek	Sediment, nutrients
Thorn Creek	Thorn Reservoir to Schooler Creek	Sediment, nutrients

We appreciate the commitment and hard work shown by your staff, the Watershed Advisory Group, and the many individuals and agencies who contributed to this TMDL. In particular, Sonny Buhidar of the Twin Falls Regional Office was extremely helpful in clarifying numerous matters as we conducted our final review. Mr. Buhidar's local knowledge, optimism and his spirit of cooperation are greatly appreciated, and we hope that continued collaboration will bring about effective implementation of the TMDL and restoration of water quality in the Big Wood Subbasin.

By EPA's approval, the TMDLs for these waterbodies are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the Clean Water Act. If you have comments or questions, please feel free to call Christine Psyk, Manager, Watershed Restoration Unit at (206) 553-1906, or Lorraine Edmond at (206)553-7366. I will be on extended leave into September.

Sincerely,



Randall F. Smith
Director
Office of Water

cc: Doug Howard, IDEQ Twin Falls Regional Administrator
Sonny Buhidar, IDEQ Twin Falls Regional Office
Doug Conde, IDEQ Attorney General
Marti Bridges, IDEQ TMDL Program Manager
Kristin Boyles, Earthjustice