



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

Reply To
Attn Of: OW-134

April 25, 1997

Wallace N. Cory, Administrator
Idaho Division of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706

Re: *Middle Snake River Watershed Management Plan*

Dear Mr. Cory:

Thank you for your March 25, 1997 submittal of the Middle Snake River Watershed Management Plan Phase 1 TMDL for Total Phosphorus. After careful review and extensive discussions with your staff, we are pleased to approve the Middle Snake River Watershed Management Plan as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), for the following water quality limited waterbodies:

<u>Waterbody</u>	<u>Boundaries</u>	<u>Pollutant</u>
Snake River	Bliss Reservoir	Total phosphorus
" "	King Hill to Big Pilgrim Gulch	" "
" "	Cassia Gulch to Big Pilgrim Gulch	" "
" "	Bliss Bridge to King Hill Dam	" "
" "	Mud Creek to Clear Lakes Bridge	" "
" "	Clear Lakes Bridge to Cedar Draw	" "
" "	Deep Creek to Mud Creek	" "
" "	Cedar Draw to Rock Creek	" "
" "	Rock Creek to Shoshone Falls	" "
" "	Murtaugh to Twin Falls Reservoir	" "
" "	Milner Dam to Murtaugh	" "
" "	Shoshone Falls Reservoir	" "
" "	Upper Salmon Falls Reservoir	" "
" "	Lower Salmon Falls Reservoir	" "

In accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR § 130.7, the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality developed and submitted a TMDL for the Mid-Snake to control sources of nutrients which have caused impairment of aquatic life, recreational and aesthetic uses.

TMDL provisions include wasteload allocations for thirteen aquaculture facilities, eight municipal wastewater treatment plants, two food processors, and load allocations for the irrigated agriculture industry. An additional load of approximately 270 lb/day total phosphorus has been reserved for allocation to the aquaculture industry within three years through a revision of the TMDL.

Our review indicates that implementation of these nutrient controls will be adequate to bring the Mid-Snake into compliance with the Idaho narrative criteria for floating, suspended or submerged matter (IDAPA 16.01.02.200.05). This will be ensured by monitoring and refining the initial control strategies, additions and refinements to the allocations in year three, and use of the feedback loop to identify if other adjustments to the plan are necessary.

We recognize the tremendous effort the local community and the Division of Environmental Quality have devoted to development of this plan. We congratulate you on your successful efforts, and look forward to working in partnership to resolve the remaining water quality concerns in the Mid-Snake.

Sincerely,



Philip G. Millam
Director
Office of Water

cc: Lary Koenig, IDEQ
Doug Howard, IDEQ
Mike Trabert, Mid-Snake WAG