

The Status of TMDL Development in Idaho

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Progress regarding TMDL development is judged by legal mandates and environmental goals. This presentation will review the schedule that resulted from litigation in 1993 and 2000, and whether Idaho has kept pace with the schedule. Legal mandates that are set forth in state law and Idaho's progress on meeting the state mandates will also be reviewed. In addition, how Idaho has fared in legal challenges to TMDLs will be presented. TMDLs are plans to get impaired water bodies back into compliance with state Water Quality Standards (WQS). So, one obvious environmental benchmark for TMDL success is whether water bodies for which TMDLs are required, i.e., those waters on the state's impaired water list, now meet state WQS. The presentation will review Idaho's progress in removing waters from the state's impaired water list. Finally, the factors that are likely to affect the future development and implementation of TMDLs in Idaho will be addressed.