

Previously, DEQ was planning to write a sediment TMDL for Indian Creek and follow-up by completing separate TMDLs for the remaining sediment and bacteria-impaired tributaries in the lower Boise River watershed, including Fivemile, Tenmile, Fifteenmile, Sand Hollow, Mason, and Willow Creeks. However, based on the rationale described below, DEQ is proposing to combine the sediment and bacteria TMDLs into a single, comprehensive lower Boise River tributary TMDL process, which would be completed in cooperation with the lower Boise Watershed Council. As such, you are invited to participate in the Lower Boise Watershed Council TAC meeting on July 26 to discuss DEQ's proposal. Meeting details and additional information are available at: <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/regional-offices-issues/boise/basin-watershed-advisory-groups/lower-boise-river-wag.aspx>.

Rationale

Because of long delays in fulfilling its 2002 Settlement Agreement and recently-developed DEQ process improvements designed to streamline the completion of TMDLs, it is now statewide DEQ guidance that, for a given pollutant, TMDL documents/processes must include all the listed stream segments in a watershed.

Therefore, with the Lower Boise Watershed Council's cooperation, DEQ intends to develop a sediment target for all the listed tributaries in the Lower Boise River watershed. The resultant load allocations would be stream-specific, dependent upon the discharge. It is DEQ's intention to begin the process of target selection afresh, and to consider all reasonable suggestions. The target must be supportive of the beneficial use of Cold Water Aquatic Life, and the discussion will be guided by academic research and prior TMDL precedent. This process will begin in September 2012.

For the Lower Boise River watershed, this combined TMDL process will result in: 1) more efficient use of DEQ, WAG, and public time and resources, 2) improved consistency with DEQ's other TMDL development processes throughout the state, 3) streamlined TMDL development, public review, and comment opportunities, 4) improved consistency and fairness in identifying appropriate load allocations throughout the watershed simultaneously, and 5) although the sediment and bacteria TMDLs for the tributaries would be combined into a single process, each assessment unit-pollutant combination will be evaluated individually and corresponding load allocations determined based on the best available information. Finally, this watershed approach is also advocated by the EPA as described in their *Handbook for Developing Watershed TMDLs 2008*.

Assessment Units for tributaries proposed to be incorporated into a single TMDL process.

Water Body	Assessment Unit	2010 IR 303 (d) listed Pollutant(s)
Indian Creek	SW003_02 – 1 st & 2 nd order upstream of Indian Creek Reservoir	Sediment
		Fecal Coliform (soon to be <i>E. coli</i>)
	SW002_04 downstream of Sugar Avenue	Sediment <i>E. coli</i>
Mason Creek	SW006_02 Entire watershed	Sediment
		<i>E. coli</i>
Fivemile, Tenmile and Fifteenmile Creeks	SW010_02 Fivemile – 1st and 2nd order	<i>E. coli</i>
	SW010_03 Fivemile Creek – 3rd order	Sediment
		<i>E. coli</i>
	SW008_03 Tenmile Creek – 3rd order	Sediment
<i>E. coli</i>		
SW007_04 Fifteenmile Creek	Sediment	
	<i>E. coli</i>	
Willow Creek	SW015_03 3rd order	Sediment
Sand Hollow Creek	SW016_03 C-Line Canal to I-84	Sediment
	SW017_03 I-84 to Sharp Road	Sediment
		<i>E. coli</i>
SW017_06 Sharp Road to Snake River	Sediment <i>E. coli</i>	

Map of the lower Boise River watershed and tributaries proposed for single TMDL process.

