

Total Maximum Daily Loads

-An Overview-

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

**Willow Creek TMDLs: Addendum to the
Lower Boise River TMDLs, Subbasin
Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Loads**



Draft



Department of Environmental Quality

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What is a Total Maximum Daily Load?

- Referred to as a TMDL
- Pollution budget
 - how much “pollutant” a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards
 - support of beneficial uses



What is a Total Maximum Daily Load?

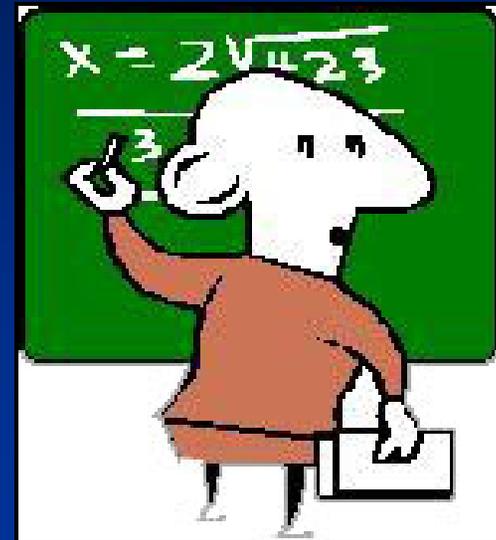
- $LC = MOS + NB + LA$

LC = Pollutant Load Capacity

MOS = Margin of Safety

NB = Natural Background

LA = Load Allocation



Beneficial Uses

- Aquatic Life
- Recreation
- Water Supply
 - Agricultural
 - Domestic
 - Industrial
- Aesthetics
- Wildlife Habitat



Why are TMDLs Necessary?

- Clean Water Act
- Scientifically defensible mechanism for water quality management
- Cornerstone for receiving water quality improvement grants and loans



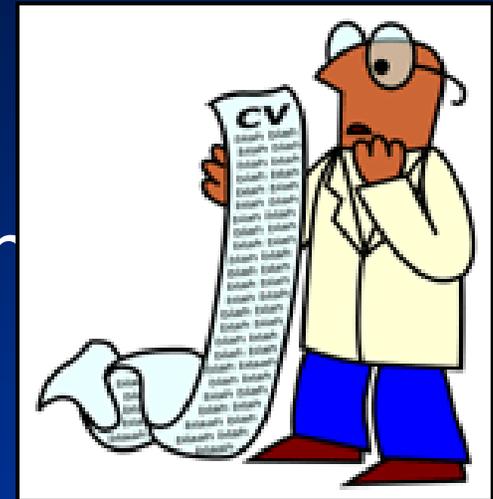
Steps in the TMDL Process

- Step #1: Subbasin assessment (SBA)
- Step #2: Develop the TMDL
- Step #3: Implement management actions



Step #1 – Subbasin Assessment

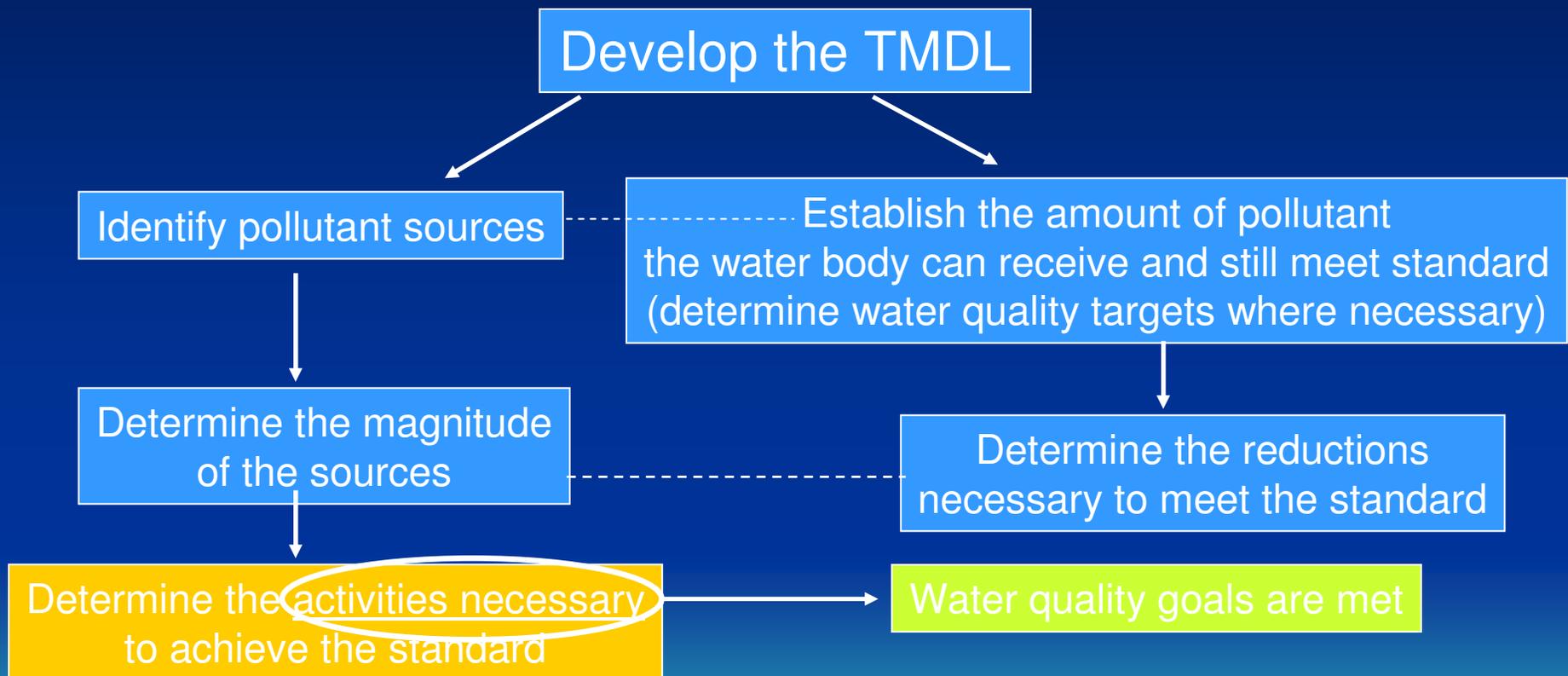
- Geographic boundaries
- Physical, biologic, hydrologic, and other characteristics
- Water quality concerns
- Are water quality standards met?



→ Action recommendation

- A TMDL is necessary if the water quality standards are not met

Step #2 – TMDL



Step #3 - Implementation

activities necessary



Water quality goals met

- Implementation is important
- DEQ relies on existing authorities to help implement TMDLs

Summary of the Steps



Other Factors Must be Considered

- Commitment
 - Continued participation from all stakeholders
- Cost
 - Phased approach
- Culture
 - Education of agency and stakeholder



