

Antidegradation Implementation Scenarios

1. New discharge or activity

- a. If to a Tier I water body, then Tier I review (make sure WQ criteria are met).
- b. If to a Tier II (high quality) water body, then is discharge significant?
 - i. if no, then Tier I review only.
 - ii. if yes, then also Tier II analysis (make sure degradation is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development).

2. Existing discharge or activity

- a. If no change in permit levels, then antidegradation review complete with conclusion of no degradation.
- b. If increase in permit levels (either load or concentration), then
 - i. If to a Tier I water body, Tier I review only.
 - ii. If to a Tier II water body, then is discharge significant?
 - 1. if no, Tier I review only.
 - 2. if yes, then also a Tier II analysis.

3. Water body classification

- a. If water is listed in Category 1 or 2 of Integrated Report, then Tier II protection for all uses.
- b. If water is listed in Category 3 of Integrated Report, then case-by-case evaluation.
- c. If water is listed in Category 4 or 5 of Integrated Report
 - i. Then for recreation uses, are criteria met?
 - 1. no, water is Tier I for recreation
 - 2. yes, water is Tier II for recreation
 - ii. Then for aquatic life uses, is water listed for dissolved oxygen, pH, nutrients, sediment or temperature?
 - 1. no, water is Tier I for aquatic life
 - 2. yes, then does biological assessment show use is supported?
 - a. no, water is Tier I for aquatic life
 - b. yes, water is Tier II for aquatic life
 - c. if no bioassessment data available, then case-by-case evaluation.

Integrated Report Categories

Integrated Report Category	Description
1	Waters ¹ with all uses presumed to be supported. Presumption based on lack of pollution sources ² .
2	Waters for which all uses that have been assessed were found to be supported
3	Waters with no assessed uses due to lack of data
4a	Waters that have an EPA approved TMDL
4b	Waters with controls other than a TMDL expected to restore all uses to full support
4c	Waters for which lack of use support is caused by flow or habitat alteration which is not a pollutant
5 ³	Waters for which one or more uses are not supported, due to a pollutant. ⁴

¹ The term 'waters' means an assessment unit (AU); a subdivision of the waterbody IDs in Idaho WQS.

² Presumption is based on these waters being located entirely within wilderness/roadless areas

³ Category 5 is equivalent to the 303(d) list of impaired waters, a TMDL 'to do' list.

⁴ While assessment is done by use, an AU is listed as impaired for a specific cause or pollutant. If any one water quality criterion is not met or use not supported based on biological assessment, the AU is listed in category 5, or 4c if cause is flow or habitat alteration. When a TMDL is completed the AU is listed in category 4a, for the pollutant for which the TMDL was done. Because listing as impaired and TMDL development is by pollutant a given AU can appear in both category 5 and 4.

Translation of Integrated Report Categories to Tiers of Antidegradation Protection

Integrated Report Category	Antidegradation Tier
1	Tier II
2	Tier II
3	Tier I or II, as data shows at time of permitting
4a	Tier I for use that is impaired. Impairment based on bioassessment for aquatic life use. See 3.c.i and 3.c.ii from previous page.
4b	Same as 4a
4c	Tier II
5	Tier I for use that is impaired. Impairment based on bioassessment for aquatic life use. See 3.c.i and 3.c.ii from previous page.

Tier II waters are called 'high quality' waters

Tier I waters are therefore waters that lack high quality