



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

May 6, 2003

RECEIVED  
MAY 12 2003  
Department of Environmental Quality  
State Water Quality Programs

Reply To  
Attn Of: OW-134

David Mabe, Administrator  
State Water Quality Programs  
Idaho Division of Environmental Quality  
1410 N. Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

Re: Medicine Lodge Subbasin TMDLs

*Dave:*  
Dear Mr. Mabe:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the Medicine Lodge Subbasin Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the water body/pollutant pairs listed in the following two tables. EPA received the TMDL document on April 17, 2003, with an e-mail, dated May 1, 2003, clarifying several tables contained in the document.

Four of the TMDLs submitted were for water bodies on the 1998 303(d) list. Those waterbodies and parameters are:

<u>Waterbody</u>	<u>Assessment Units of HUC</u>	<u>TMDL Parameter</u>
Edie Creek	SK010_02	sediment
Irving Creek	SK012_02, SK010_03	sediment
Medicine Lodge Creek	SK006_04	sediment, temperature
Fritz Creek	SK016_02	temperature

During the development of the subbasin assessment and TMDLs, IDEQ determined that the water body/pollutant pairs below were not meeting water quality standards and had not been included previously on Idaho's 303(d) list. The EPA understands that these water body/pollutant pairs would have been included on the list had the state been aware, at the time the list was compiled, that these water bodies were not meeting water quality standards. The information contained in this TMDL document demonstrates that these not-listed water bodies are in fact water quality limited. Because EPA has approved the TMDLs for these water body/pollutant pairs, the state need not include them on the 2002 303(d) list for needing TMDLs.

<u>Waterbody</u>	<u>Assessment Units of HUC</u>	<u>TMDL Parameter</u>
Edie Creek	SK010_02	temperature
Irving Creek	SK012_02, SK010_03	temperature

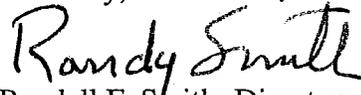
Indian Creek	SK003_02, SK003_03	temperature
Middle Creek	SK008_02, SK007_02, SK007_04	temperature
Warm Creek	SK013_02, SK013_03	temperature
Horse Creek	SK015_02	temperature
Webber Creek	SK017_02	temperature
Deep Creek	SK018_02, SK018_03	temperature
Crooked Creek	SK021_02, SK021_03	temperature

The EPA will make a final agency determination regarding Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's request to remove the waterbodies and parameters listed on David Mabe's letter, dated April 14, 2003, from the 303(d) list as part of the EPA's Section 303(d) administrative review process when IDEQ submits its 2002 303(d) list.

The EPA looks forward to implementation of the TMDLs and working collaboratively on water quality issues in the Medicine Lodge Subbasin. By the EPA's approval, this TMDL document is now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under Section 303(e) of the Clean Water Act.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-1261, or you may call Jayne Carlin of my staff at (206) 553-8512.

Sincerely,

  
 Randall F. Smith, Director  
 Office of Water

cc: Troy Saffle, Manager, Idaho Falls Regional Office, IDEQ  
 Marti Bridges, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ  
 Mike McIntyre, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ  
 Steve Allred, Director, IDEQ  
 Doug Conde, Idaho Attorney General, IDEQ  
 Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice