



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

MAR 12 2003

RECEIVED

MAR 14 2003

Department of Environmental Quality
State Water Quality Programs

Reply To
Attn Of: OW-134

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

Re: Upper Owyhee River Subbasin TMDL

Dear Mr. Mabe:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the Upper Owyhee River Subbasin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) received at EPA on February 13, 2003 for the following waterbodies and parameters:

Waterbody

TMDL Parameter

Blue Creek Reservoir
Juniper Basin Reservoir
Deep Creek
Pole Creek
Castle Creek
Red Canyon Creek
Nickel Creek

sediment
sediment
sediment, temperature
temperature
sediment, temperature
temperature
sediment

We appreciated the opportunity to work with your staff throughout the development of this TMDL document. The document was well organized; the information was clearly presented in tables and figures; and the narrative clearly explained the approaches and assumptions relied on to arrive at the conclusions. We were particularly impressed with the high quality of technical approaches and analyses, which formed the basis for the sediment and temperature TMDLs. Mike Ingham of your staff should be commended for his efforts and a job well done.

We look forward to implementation of the TMDL and working collaboratively on water quality issues in the Upper Owyhee River Subbasin. By 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,


for Randall F. Smith, Director
Office of Water

- cc: Michael J. Ingham, Boise Regional Office, IDEQ
- Craig Shepard, Manager, Boise 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 Rovles, Earthjustice