



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155  
Seattle, WA 98101-3123**

OFFICE OF  
WATER AND  
WATERSHEDS

**AUG 27 2018**

Mr. Barry Burnell, Administrator  
Water Quality Division  
Department of Environmental Quality  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

Re: Approval of the Lochsa River Subbasin TMDLs (HUC: 17060303)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Lochsa Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on May 14, 2012. Subsequently IDEQ submitted a revised Lochsa River Subbasin Temperature TMDL on November 1, 2012. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve thirty-seven TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the tables below. Six of these waters were included in Idaho's 2014 303(d) list (List) of impaired waters, as identified in Table 1.

**Table 1: EPA-Approved TMDLs on Impaired Waters**

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Pollutant
Lower Lochsa River Tributaries	ID17060303CL001 02	Temperature
Deadman Creek	ID17060303CL061 02	Temperature
Canyon Creek	ID17060303CL062 03	Temperature
Pete King Creek	ID17060303CL063 02	Temperature
Pete King Creek	ID17060303CL063 03	Temperature
Walde Creek	ID17060303CL064 02	Temperature

The IDEQ also completed TMDLs for waterbodies which were not meeting water quality standards for temperature but had not previously been included on Idaho's List. These TMDLs and waterbodies are identified in Table 2 below. EPA understands that these waters would have been included on the List had the State been aware of the impairment at the time the List was completed.

**Table 2: EPA-Approved TMDLs on Unlisted Waters**

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	TMDL Pollutant
Walton/Cliff Creeks/Cold Storage Creek	ID17060303CL020 02a	Temperature
Walton/Cliff Creeks	ID17060303CL022 02	Temperature
Walton/Cliff Creeks	ID17060303CL023 02	Temperature
Colt Killed Creek	ID17060303CL024 02	Temperature
Colt Killed Creek	ID17060303CL024 04	Temperature
Colt Killed Creek/Beaver Creek	ID17060303CL033 02	Temperature
Crooked Fork Creek	ID17060303CL034 02	Temperature
Crooked Fork Creek	ID17060303CL034 05	Temperature

Crooked Fork Creek/Haskell Creek	ID17060303CL038 02	Temperature
Crooked Fork Creek	ID17060303CL038 04	Temperature
Brushy Fork Creek/Pack Creek	ID17060303CL035 02	Temperature
Brushy Fork Creek	ID17060303CL035 03	Temperature
Brushy Fork Creek	ID17060303CL035 04	Temperature
Spruce Creek	ID17060303CL036 02	Temperature
Upper Brushy Fork Creek	ID17060303CL037 02	Temperature
Papoose Creek	ID17060303CL041 02	Temperature
Papoose Creek	ID17060303CL041 03	Temperature
Papoose Creek	ID17060303CL042 02	Temperature
Badger/Wendover Creeks	ID17060303CL043 02	Temperature
Badger/Wendover Creeks	ID17060303CL044 02	Temperature
Squaw Creek	ID17060303CL045 02	Temperature
Squaw Creek	ID17060303CL045 03	Temperature
Squaw Creek	ID17060303CL046 02	Temperature
Squaw Creek/Doe Creek	ID17060303CL047 02	Temperature
Post Office Creek	ID17060303CL048 02	Temperature
Post Office Creek	ID17060303CL048 03	Temperature
Deadman Creek	ID17060303CL059 02	Temperature
Deadman Creek	ID17060303CL059 03	Temperature
E. F. Deadman Creek	ID17060303CL060 02	Temperature
E. F. Deadman Creek	ID17060303CL060 03	Temperature
Canyon Creek	ID17060303CL062 02	Temperature

Our review indicates that these allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the water quality standards in the waters addressed by these TMDLs. Therefore, the IDEQ does not need to include these waters on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for the pollutant covered by these TMDLs.

This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for the proposed de-listing of waters within Hydrologic Unit Code 17060303 from the Idaho §303(d) list. Any proposed de-listing of waters will be considered at the time of submission of the next §303(d) list of impaired waters.

Your submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. As you know, the EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA); therefore, the EPA is not taking action on these strategies. Implementation is the critical next step to realize improvements in water quality, and we encourage IDEQ to continue their work with responsible parties on implementation of these strategies.

We would like to recognize the considerable effort of all the IDEQ staff in the Lewiston and Boise offices who worked for many years on Lochsa River temperature issues, and brought these TMDLs to completion.

By the EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the CWA. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-1855, or have your staff contact Leigh Woodruff of my staff at (208) 378-5774.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski, Director  
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Mr. Mark Cecchini-Beaver, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho  
Mr. Donald Essig, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ  
Mr. Graham Freeman, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ  
Ms. Amy Steimke, Integrated Report Coordinator  
Ms. Sujata Connel, Water Quality Manager, Lewiston Regional Office, IDEQ  
Mr. John Cardwell, Regional Administrator, Lewiston Regional Office, IDEQ  
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West  
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice