



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3132

MAY 15 2019

WATER DIVISION

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

Re: Approval of the Priest River Subbasin Assessment and TMDL – 2016 Temperature Addendum (HUC: 17010215)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Priest River Subbasin Assessment and TMDL – 2015 Temperature Addendum to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on August 28, 2015. Subsequently, the document was revised and re-submitted to EPA on January 29, 2016. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve twenty-eight TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the tables below.

Twenty-three 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 Priest River	ID17010215PN001_05	Temperature
Soldier Creek	ID17010215PN008_03	Temperature
Hunt Creek	ID17010215PN009_03	Temperature
Indian Creek	ID17010215PN010_02	Temperature
Indian Creek	ID17010215PN010_03	Temperature
Two Mouth Creek	ID17010215PN012_02	Temperature
Lion Creek	ID17010215PN013_02	Temperature
Trapper Creek	ID17010215PN017_02	Temperature
Trapper Creek	ID17010215PN017_03	Temperature
Upper Priest River	ID17010215PN018_02	Temperature
Hughes Fork	ID17010215PN019_02	Temperature
Beaver Creek	ID17010215PN020_03	Temperature
Granite Creek	ID17010215PN022_04	Temperature
Reeder Creek	ID17010215PN023_02	Temperature
Reeder Creek	ID17010215PN023_03	Temperature

Kalispell Creek	ID17010215PN024_03	Temperature
Lamb Creek	ID17010215PN025_02	Temperature
Binarch Creek	ID17010215PN026_02	Temperature
Upper West Branch Priest River	ID17010215PN027_04	Temperature
Goose Creek	ID17010215PN028_03	Temperature
Lower West Branch Priest River	ID17010215PN030_03	Temperature
Lower West Branch Priest River	ID17010215PN030_04	Temperature
Moores Creek	ID17010215PN031_03	Temperature

The IDEQ revised temperature TMDLs using a different methodology for the following five waterbodies (located in Category 4a of Idaho's 2014 Integrated Report) to address the temperature impairments. The EPA had previously approved temperature TMDLs for these waterbodies on June 23, 2003.

Table 2 EPA-Approved Revised Temperature TMDLs Using Different Methodology

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Pollutant
Middle Fork East River	ID17010215PN003_02	Temperature
Middle Fork East River	ID17010215PN003_03	Temperature
East River	ID17010215PN003_04	Temperature
North Fork East River	ID17010215PN004_02	Temperature
North Fork East River	ID17010215PN004_03	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(s) 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 17010215 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.

We do note, however, that in the Priest River subbasin, achieving natural condition shade targets on forested lands is critical to achieving TMDL allocations. We support efforts by IDEQ and the Idaho Department of Lands Idaho to implement the revised shade rule under the Idaho Forest Practices Act to meet those targets. We also look forward to the University of Idaho completing its evaluation of the effectiveness of these new rules.

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 call me at (206) 553-1855 or opalski.dan@epa.gov .
You may also contact Leigh Woodruff of my staff at (208) 378-5774 or woodruff.leigh@epa.gov .

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski
Director

cc: (email)
Mr. Mark Cecchini-Beaver, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho
Mr. Jason Pappani, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ
Mr. Graham Freeman, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ
Thomas Herron, Water Quality Manager, Coeur d'Alene Regional Office, IDEQ
Robert Steed, Coeur d'Alene Regional Office, IDEQ
Kristen Larson, Coeur d'Alene Region Office, IDEQ
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice