



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155  
Seattle, WA 98101-3188**

**JUN 10 2019**

WATER  
DIVISION

Ms. Mary Anne Nelson, Administrator  
Water Quality Division  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

Re: Approval of the Big Lost River Subbasin Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load – 2019 Addendum and Five-Year Review

Dear Ms. Nelson:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Big Lost River Subbasin Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Addendum – 2017 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on June 13, 2016. The TMDL was re-submitted, with revisions, on July 17, 2017. The TMDL was revised again and re-submitted for EPA approval on May 13, 2019. On May 24, 2019, the IDEQ clarified that the 2019 TMDL is intended to completely replace the 2017 TMDL submittal. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve a total of eleven TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the table below. These TMDLs were previously approved by EPA on August 3, 2004, but were updated using a revised temperature TMDL methodology.

**Table 1: EPA-Approved Revised TMDLs Using Different Methodology**

<b>Name of Water Segment</b>	<b>Assessment Unit #</b>	<b>Pollutant</b>
North Fork Big Lost River	ID17040218SK027_03	Temperature
Summit Creek	ID17040218SK028_02	Temperature
Wildhorse Creek	ID17040218SK030_04	Temperature
Star Hope Creek	ID17040218SK035_02	Temperature
Star Hope Creek	ID17040218SK035_04	Temperature
Star Hope Creek	ID17040218SK036_04	Temperature
Corral Creek	ID17040218SK041_02	Temperature
Warm Springs Creek	ID17040218SK043_02	Temperature
Warm Springs Creek	ID17040218SK043_03	Temperature
Antelope Creek/Darlington Canal tributaries	ID17040218SK046_02	Temperature
Bear Creek	ID17040218SK053_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 addressed 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 17040218 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.

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 you may call Leigh Woodruff of my staff at (208) 378-5774.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski  
Director

- cc: Mr. Mark Cecchini-Beaver, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho  
Mr. Jason Pappani, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ  
Mr. Graham Freeman, TMDL Program Coordinator, IDEQ  
Mr. Troy Saffle, Water Quality Manager, Idaho Falls Regional Office, IDEQ  
Mr. Erick Neher, Regional Administrator, Idaho Falls Regional Office, IDEQ  
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West  
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice