



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

WATER
DIVISION

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

JUL - 2 2019

Re: Approval of the Curlew Valley TMDLs (HUC: 16020309)

Dear Ms. Nelson:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) originally submitted the Curlew Valley Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on November 28, 2018. The EPA provided comments on that TMDL to IDEQ on February 25, 2019. IDEQ resubmitted the TMDL to the EPA, with revisions, on May 8, 2019. Following our review of the revised TMDL, the EPA is pleased to approve seven TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in Table 1 below. These impairments were included in Idaho's 2014 Integrated Report.

Table 1: EPA- Approved TMDLs on Impaired Waters

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Pollutant
Deep Creek - Rock Creek to Idaho/Utah border (North Canyon)	ID16020309BR001_03	Total suspended sediment
Sheep Creek	ID16020309BR002_02a	Total suspended sediment; <i>E. coli</i>
Meadow Brook Creek	ID16020309BR003_02a	Total suspended sediment; <i>E. coli</i>
Rock Creek (Curlew Valley)	ID16020309BR003_03a	Total suspended sediment; <i>E. coli</i>

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 16020309 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. This approval also excludes informational phosphorus TMDLs and nitrogen targets.

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.

