



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

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DEC 05 2011

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

Mr. Barry Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 98101

Re: Approval of the St. Joe River Subbasin Temperature TMDL Addendum

Dear Mr. Burnell:

Following our review of the St. Joe River Subbasin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Addendum for temperature developed by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve 41 TMDLs for the water quality limited segments in the St. Joe and St. Maries watersheds, listed in Tables 1 and 2. Table 1 includes eleven assessment units that were included in Idaho's 2010 303(d) list (List) of impaired waters. Table 2 includes thirty revised temperature TMDLs (located in Category 4a of the 2010 Integrated Report) that use a different methodology to address temperature impairments from the original St. Joe Subbasin temperature TMDLs approved in 2003.

Table 1: EPA-Approved TMDLs on Impaired Waters

Name of Waterbody	Assessment Unit #	Impairment
Big Creek	17010304PN063_02	Temperature
	17010304PN063_03	
Marble Creek	17010304PN031_04	Temperature
Slate Creek	17010304PN062_03	Temperature
St. Joe River	17010304PN027_05	Temperature
John Creek	17010304PN009_02	Temperature
Tyson Creek	17010304PN013_03	Temperature
Carpenter Creek	17010304PN014_02	Temperature
Merry Creek	17010304PN020_03	Temperature
Thorn Creek	17010304PN026_02	Temperature
	17010304PN026_03	

Table 2: EPA-Approved Revised Temperature TMDLs Using Different Methodology

Name of Waterbody	Assessment Unit #	Impairment
Bear and Little Bear Creeks (Toles Creek)	17010304PN033_02	Temperature

Bluff Creek	17010304PN045_02 17010304PN045_03	Temperature
Fishhook Creek	17010304PN039_03 17010304PN039_04	Temperature
Gold Creek	17010304PN053_02	Temperature
Sherlock Creek	17010304PN041_02a	Temperature
Loop Creek	17010304PN060_02 17010304PN060_03	Temperature
Simmons Creek	17010304PN052_02 17010304PN052_03	Temperature
St. Joe River (Tank Creek, Harvey Creek, Blackjack Creek)	17010304PN027_02	Temperature
Santa Creek	17010304PN010_02 17010304PN010_03 17010304PN010_04	Temperature
Charlie Creek	17010304PN011_03	Temperature
Emerald Creek	17010304PN016_02 17010304PN016_03	Temperature
West Fork St. Maries River	17010304PN017_02 17010304PN017_03 17010304PN017_04	Temperature
Middle Fork St. Maries River	17010304PN018_02 17010304PN018_03 17010304PN018_04 17010304PN018_05	Temperature
Gold Center Creek	17010304PN019_02 17010304PN019_03	Temperature
St. Maries River	17010304PN007_05 17010304PN012_05 17010304PN015_05	Temperature

The St. Joe River Subbasin TMDL Addendum was submitted to the EPA by IDEQ on October 6, 2011. This approval includes all load and wasteload allocations established in the TMDLs. By statute and regulation, these allocations, taken cumulatively, are required to be established at a level necessary to attain applicable water quality criteria in the impaired segments of those portions of the St. Joe River Subbasin covered by these TMDLs. Our review of the TMDL addendum and the supporting record, including IDEQ's response to public comments on the draft TMDLs, indicates that these TMDLs are approvable under section 303(d) and that these allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the applicable water quality criteria.

The St. Joe River Subbasin TMDL Addendum submittal also included TMDL implementation strategies. The EPA is not required by section 303(d) or its implementing regulations to approve or disapprove implementation strategies submitted with TMDLs. The EPA has reviewed the strategy, and that review has informed the EPA's review and approval of the submitted TMDLs. However, the EPA is taking no action to approve or disapprove the implementation strategy.

We would like to commend Tyson Clyne for his work and coordination in the watershed to develop the St. Joe River Subbasin TMDL Addendum. By the EPA's approval, these TMDLs may now be incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the Clean Water Act. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-4198, or you may call Jennifer Wu of my staff at (206) 553-6328.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Bussell, Director
Office of Water & Watersheds

cc: Toni Hardesty, IDEQ Administrator (via e-mail)
Mike McIntyre, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ (via email)
Marti Bridges, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ (via email)
Doug Conde, Attorney General, Idaho (via email)
Thomas Herron, IDEQ Regional Water Quality Manager, Coeur d'Alene (via e-mail)
Tyson Clyne, IDEQ Regional Watershed Coordinator, Coeur d'Alene (via e-mail)