



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

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

JUL 20 2012

Subject: Approval of the Owyhee River Watershed Temperature TMDLs

Dear Mr. Burnell:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Owyhee River Watershed TMDL for temperature to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on June 8, 2012. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve 36 TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the Tables below. The 10 TMDLs in the assessment units in the Table below were included in Idaho's 2010 §303(d) list of impaired waters (List).

Table of EPA-Approved TMDLs for §303(d) listed waters

Waterbody Name	Assessment Unit Number	Pollutant
Battle Creek upstream of Antelope Flat	ID17050104SW023_02	Temperature
Battle Creek between Antelope Flat and Big Springs Creek	ID17050104SW023_03	Temperature
Battle Creek between Big Springs Creek and Owyhee River	ID17050104SW023_04	Temperature
Camas Creek between Big Springs Butte and Pole Creek	ID17050104SW029_03	Temperature
Camel Creek upstream of Sunshine Valley Creek	ID17050104SW030_02	Temperature
Nickel, Smith, and Thomas Creek headwaters	ID17050104SW031_02	Temperature
Nickel, Smith and Thomas Creeks—3rd order	ID17050104SW031_03	Temperature
Beaver Creek upstream of Carter Creek	ID17050104SW033_02	Temperature
Beaver Creek between Carter and Trap Creeks	ID17050104SW033_03	Temperature
Beaver Creek between Trap and Deep Creeks	ID17050104SW033_04	Temperature

IDEQ revised the temperature TMDLs through using a different methodology to address the temperature impairments for the following 25 assessment units (located in Category 4a of the 2010 Integrated Report). The EPA had previously approved these temperature TMDLs for these waterbodies in February 17, 2000, March 2, 2000 and March 12, 2003.

Table of EPA-Approved Revised Temperature TMDLs Using a Different Methodology

Waterbody Name	Assessment Unit Number	Pollutant
Deep Creek between Hurry Back and Nickel Creeks	ID17050104SW026_04	Temperature
Deep Creek between Nickel Creek and Owyhee River	ID17050104SW026_05	Temperature
Pole Creek upstream of Mud Flat	ID17050104SW028_02	Temperature
Pole Creek between Camas Creek and Mud Flat	ID17050104SW028_03	Temperature
Pole Creek between Camas and Deep Creeks	ID17050104SW028_04	Temperature
Castle Creek upstream of Skunk Creek	ID17050104SW032_02	Temperature
Castle Creek between Skunk and Deep Creeks	ID17050104SW032_03	Temperature
West Fork Red Canyon	ID17050104SW034_02	Temperature
East Fork Red Canyon and Red Canyon upstream of Petes Creek	ID17050104SW034_03	Temperature
Red Canyon between Petes Creek and Owyhee River	ID17050104SW034_04	Temperature
South Fork Owyhee River upstream of Little Owyhee River	ID17050105SW001_06	Temperature
South Fork Owyhee River downstream of Little Owyhee River	ID17050105SW001_07	Temperature
Middle Fork Owyhee River upstream of Summit Springs Creek	ID17050107SW004_02	Temperature
Middle Fork Owyhee River downstream of Summit Springs Creek	ID17050107SW004_03	Temperature
North Fork Owyhee River upstream of Big Springs Creek	ID17050107SW008_02	Temperature
North Fork Owyhee River between Big Spring and Pleasant Valley Creeks	ID17050107SW008_03	Temperature
North Fork Owyhee River between Pleasant Valley and Juniper Creeks, and Juniper Creek between Cabin Creek and North Fork Owyhee River	ID17050107SW008_04	Temperature
North Fork Owyhee River downstream of Juniper Creek	ID17050107SW008_05	Temperature
Pleasant Valley Creek upstream of East Fork Pleasant Valley Creek	ID17050107SW009_02	Temperature
Pleasant Valley Creek between North Fork Owyhee River and East Fork Pleasant Valley Creek	ID17050107SW009_03	Temperature
Noon Creek	ID17050107SW010_02	Temperature
Cabin and Corral Creek headwaters	ID17050107SW011_02	Temperature
Cabin and Corral Creeks—3rd order	ID17050107SW011_03	Temperature
Juniper Creek upstream of Buck Creek	ID17050107SW012_02	Temperature
Juniper Creek between Buck and Cabin Creeks	ID17050107SW012_03	Temperature

IDEQ also completed a TMDL for the assessment unit below. This waterbody was not meeting water quality standards for temperature and had not previously been included on Idaho's List. The EPA understands that this water would have been included on the List had the State been aware of the impairment at the time the List was completed.

Table of EPA-Approved TMDLs for Unlisted Waters

Waterbody Name	Assessment Unit Number	Pollutant
Nickel and Smith Creeks—4th order	ID17050104SW031_04	Temperature

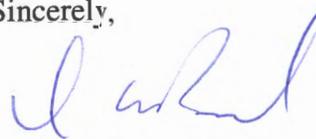
Our review indicates that allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the water quality criteria addressed by these TMDLs.

This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for de-listing of any waters within Hydrologic Unit Codes ID17050104, ID17050105 and ID17050107 from the Idaho §303(d) list. De-listing of waters will be considered at the time of submission of the next §303(d) list of impaired waters.

This submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. 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) 553-4198, or you may call David Ragsdale of my staff at (360) 407-6589.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Bussell, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Mr. Doug Conde, Attorney General, Idaho (via email)
Mr. Mike McIntyre, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ (via email)
Ms. Marti Bridges, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ (via email)
Mr. Pete Wagner, DEQ Boise Regional Administrator (via email)
Mr. Lance Holloway, DEQ Boise Regional Watershed Manager (via email)
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West (via email)
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice (via email)