



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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NOV 30 2012

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

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

Re: Approval of the Coeur d'Alene Lake Tributaries Temperature TMDLs (HUC 17010303)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Coeur d'Alene Lake Tributaries Temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on January 31, 2012. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve 20 TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the table below. The TMDL addresses temperature impaired waters found within HUC 17010303. EPA's review indicates that allocations within these TMDLs have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the water quality standards 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.

Within the Coeur d'Alene Lake subbasin (hydrologic unit code [HUC] 17010303), 23 assessment units (AUs) involving 13 watersheds were identified as having temperature-related impairments. Temperature TMDLs were developed for 18 assessments units included in Category 5 of the Integrated report, and two TMDLs were developed for streams not listed, but found to be impaired (denoted by * in the table below). Temperature TMDLs were not developed for three assessment units previously determined to be impaired, which will remain in Category 5 of the Integrated Report.

EPA-Approved TMDLs on Impaired Waters

Water Body Segment/ Assessment Unit	Pollutant	TMDL(s) Completed	Recommended Changes to §303(d) List	Justification
Cougar Creek ID17010303PN002_02	Temperature	Yes	Move to 4a	Excess load from lack of shade
North and South Forks Mica Creek ID17010303PN004_02	Temperature	Yes	Move to 4a	Excess load from lack of shade
Latour Creek and tributaries ID17010303PN015_02	Temperature	Yes	Move to 4a	Excess load from lack of shade
Fourth of July Creek ID17010303PN020_02 ID17010303PN020_03	Temperature	Yes	Move to 4a	Excess load from lack of shade

Rose Lake ID17010303PN021_02	Temperature	Yes	Move to 4a	Excess load from lack of shade
Killarney Lake tributaries ID17010303PN022_02	Temperature	Yes	Move to 4a	Excess load from lack of shade
Blue Lake Creek ID17010303PN024_02	Temperature	Yes	Move to 4a	Excess load from lack of shade
Carlin Creek ID17010303PN026_02	Temperature	Yes	Move to 4a	Excess load from lack of shade
Beauty Creek ID17010303PN028_03 ID17010303PN028_02	Temperature	Yes	Move to 4a	Excess load from lack of shade
Wolf Lodge Creek ID17010303PN029_03 ID17010303PN029_02	Temperature	Yes	Move to 4a	Excess load from lack of shade
Cedar Creek ID17010303PN030_02 ID17010303PN030_03	Temperature	Yes	Move to 4a	Excess load from lack of shade
Marie Creek ID17010303PN031_02	Temperature	Yes	Move to 4a	Excess load from lack of shade
Fernan Creek ID17010303PN032_03* ID17010303PN034_03 ID17010303PN034_02a* ID17010303PN034_02	Temperature	Yes	Move to 4a	Excess load from lack of shade

* Impaired but not currently included in Category 5, Idaho Integrated Report.

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 17010303 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 January 2012 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. However, implementation is the critical next step to realizing improvements in water quality, and we encourage IDEQ to continue their work with all appropriate parties on implementation of these strategies.

We would like to recognize the cooperation and thoroughness of Kristin Larson, as IDEQ's TMDL project manager, in bringing these TMDLs to completion.

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 Don Martin (208) 665-0458 or Leigh Woodruff (208) 378-5774 of my staff.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

- cc: Mr. Doug Conde, Attorney General, Idaho (electronic)
Mr. Mike McIntyre, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ (electronic)
Ms. Marti Bridges, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ (electronic)
Mr. Tom Herron, Water Quality Manager, Coeur d'Alene Regional Office, IDEQ (electronic)
Ms. Kristin Larson, Coeur d'Alene Regional Office, IDEQ (electronic)
Mr. Robert Steed, Coeur d'Alene Regional Office, IDEQ (electronic)
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West (electronic)
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice (electronic)