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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
 1200 Sixth Avenue
 Seattle, WA 98101

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Dept. of Environmental Quality
 Director's Office

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
 STATE WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS

Reply To
 Attn OF OW-134

David Mabe, Administrator
 State Water Quality Programs
 Department of Environmental Quality
 1410 N. Hilton
 Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

Re: Approval of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) within the Middle Salmon River-Panther Creek Subbasin

Dear Mr. Mabe:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the following TMDLs within the Middle Salmon River-Panther Creek Subbasin submitted on April 6, 2001. The segment information on the TMDL being approved is given below:

<u>Hydrologic Unit</u>	<u>Segment</u>	<u>TMDL Parameters</u>
17060203	Williams Lake	nutrients

We also understand that the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) plans to defer TMDL development for some waterbodies within the Middle Salmon River-Panther Creek Subbasin until the year 2003. These waters include: Panther Creek, Big Deer Creek and Bucktail Creek. We recommend that you submit to EPA an official TMDL schedule change, and provide a copy of the change to the plaintiffs in the original lawsuit.

We appreciate the effort of IDEQ in developing this TMDL, especially the work of Tom Herron. We look forward to implementation of the TMDL, and continuing to work collaboratively on water quality issues in the Middle Salmon River-Panther Creek Subbasin.

By EPA's approval, this TMDL is now incorporated into the state's Water Quality Management Plan under Section 303(e) of the Clean Water Act. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-1261, or you may call Leigh Woodruff of my staff at (208) 378-5774.

Sincerely,

Randall F. Smith, Director
 Office of Water

cc: Stephen Allred, IDEQ
 Doug Conde, IDEQ
 Mike McIntyre, IDEQ
 Don Essig, IDEQ
 Jim Johnston, IDEQ - Idaho Falls
 Troy Saffle, IDEQ - Idaho Falls