



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

DEC 6 2001

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
STATE WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS

Reply to
Attn Of: OW-134

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

Re: Approval of TMDL for the Pahsimeroi Sub-basin
(Hydrologic Unit Code 17060202)

Dear Mr. Mabe:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency(EPA) hereby approves the Pahsimeroi River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment and temperature submitted to us on October 3, 2001.

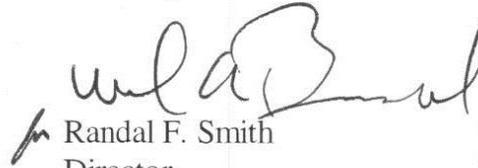
The TMDL addressed in this letter includes the following:

<u>Water Body</u>	<u>TMDLs by Pollutant</u>
Pahsimeroi River (below Big Creek)	Sediment
Pahsimeroi River (below Big Creek)	Temperature

We were particularly pleased that the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) staff chose to pro-actively include a TMDL for temperature. It was determined during the development of the TMDL that waters within the watershed were not meeting water quality standards for temperature and had not previously been included on the Idaho §303(d) list. The EPA understands that such waters would have been included on the list had the state been aware of these exceedances at the time the list was compiled. The information contained in this TMDL demonstrates that these non-listed waters are in fact water quality limited segments in need of a TMDL. The state need not include these waters that have an approved TMDL associated with them on future §303(d) lists for temperature.

By EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now 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)553-1261, or you may call William Stewart of my staff at (208)378-5753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randal F. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Randal F. Smith
Director
Office of Water

Enclosure

cc: Steve Allred, IDEQ Director
Doug Conde, IDEQ Attorney General
Mike McIntyre, IDEQ Surface Water Program Manager
Marti Bridges, IDEQ TMDL Program Manager
Jim Johnston, IDEQ Regional Administrator, Idaho Falls Regional Office
Troy Saffle, IDEQ Regional Manager, Idaho Falls Regional Office

EPA Region 10 TMDL Review Checklist

State/Tribe: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
§303(d) Segment(s): HUC #17060202
 Pahsimeroi River

Date of Submittal: October 1, 2001
Date Received by EPA: October 3, 2001

EPA Reviewer: William C. Stewart

Pollutant(s): Sediment and Temperature

Review Element	Required	Approved <i>(check if yes)</i>	Recommendations/Comments
Submittal Letter	Yes	X	Submittal letter accompanied the TMDL submission and is complete.
Scope of TMDL	Yes	X	The TMDL provides a thorough description of the watershed and pollutants as described in the Idaho 303(d) list. Point and nonpoint sources are adequately discussed and interestingly, temperature is included in the TMDL but no waters in the HUC were listed for temperature.
Applicable Water Quality Standards & Numeric Targets*	Yes	X	Narrative standards for nutrients and sediment were presented and explained in the TMDL. Targets for sediment were based on surrogate measures of bank stability and turbidity. Temperature standards were discussed in the TMDL and targets were based on numeric standards. The TMDL does not include nutrients or bacteria. DEQ identifies the need for more information on nutrients and bacteria before a TMDL can be developed.
Loading Capacity*	Yes	X	Loading capacity is addressed in this TMDL. Adequate documentation of surrogate measures and modeling are included in the analyses.
Wasteload Allocations (WLAs)*	Yes	X	There is a waste load allocation for the one point source in the watershed. The allocation represents no change from existing permit requirements for sediment discharge and specifically states that there can be no net increase. A waste load allocation for temperature is not needed since the point source does not discharge during critical warm water months. See the memo to the file for details.

Load Allocations (LAs)*	Yes	X	Load allocations were developed for 17 reaches of the Pahsimeroi River. Sediment and Temperature exceedances were related to poor riparian condition due to overgrazing and unstable streambanks.
Margin of Safety (MOS)*	Yes	X	MOS as reported in the document are implicit. Conservative assumptions are described adequately in the document.
Seasonal Variation*	Yes	X	Seasonal variation was discussed in the TMDL and methods were described.
Monitoring Plan for TMDLs under adaptive management	Optional		There is no monitoring plan included in the TMDL
Implementation Plans	Optional		Implementation plans are not included in the TMDL.
Reasonable Assurances	If WLAs depend on LAs		There is only one point source in the watershed. No change to permit limits is expected from the TMDL.
Public Participation*	Yes	X	The Challis Experimental Stewardship Group served as the Watershed Advisory Group. A public meeting was held on 4/27/01. 30 day public comment period was done with comments included in final draft of the TMDL/Subbasin assessment report.
Other Comments	As necessary		

* These elements are required by statute and implementing regulations.