



# Idaho DEQ Water Quality Standards Triennial Review

July 30, 2014

# Agenda

- ▶ Review triennial review purpose and goals
- ▶ Discuss Idaho's current and future priorities
- ▶ Review comments received
- ▶ Discuss posted issue papers
- ▶ Open floor discussion and comment



# Triennial Review

- ▶ Public participation is key
- ▶ Will use outcomes to help set priorities
- ▶ Reporting to EPA



# Current efforts

- ▶ **Antidegradation Policy**
  - Temporary rule for insignificance in place
  - Proposed rule ready for 2015 Legislature
- ▶ **Mixing Zone Policy update**
  - Rulemaking meetings completed
  - Public comment period in Sept
  - To DEQ Board Nov 2014 and 2015 Legislature
- ▶ **Human Health Criteria updates**
  - Fish consumption rate survey in progress
  - Likely completed during summer of 2015 and to Legislature in 2016



# Current efforts

- ▶ National stuff
  - Selenium
  - Human Health Criteria
  - Waters of the US
- ▶ Narrative nutrient criteria interpretation
- ▶ Downstream waters protection



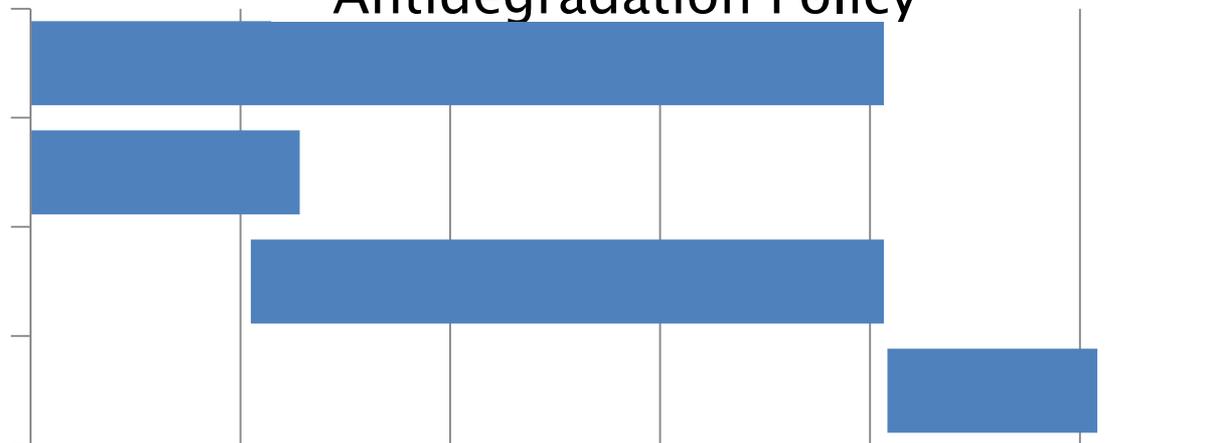
# Upcoming efforts

- ▶ Use Designation and Attainability
  - Office of Performance Evaluation report recommendations
  - Salmonid spawning where and when project
- ▶ Guidance Documents
  - Antidegradation, UAA, mixing zones
  - Natural Background, water body assessment
- ▶ Site specific selenium
- ▶ NOAAs Toxic Biological Opinion response



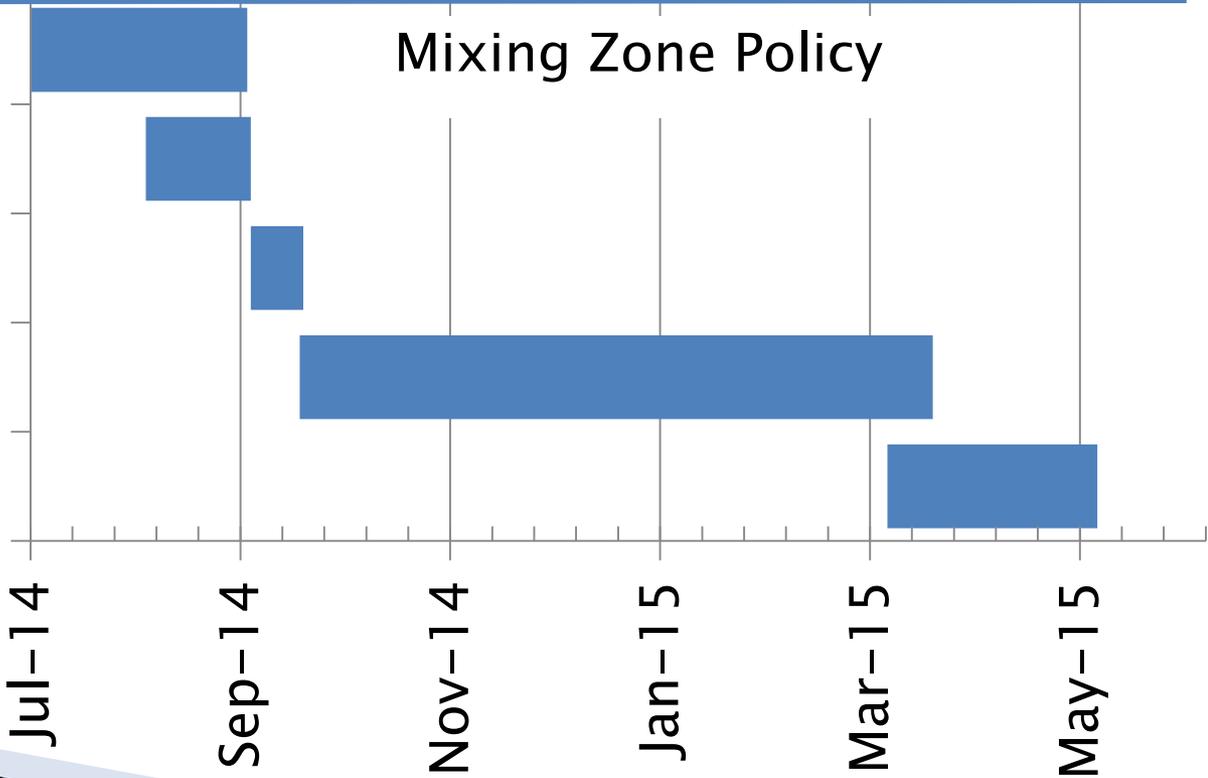
# Antidegradation Policy

- Temporary Rule
- Proposed Rule
- Pending Rule
- Submit to EPA



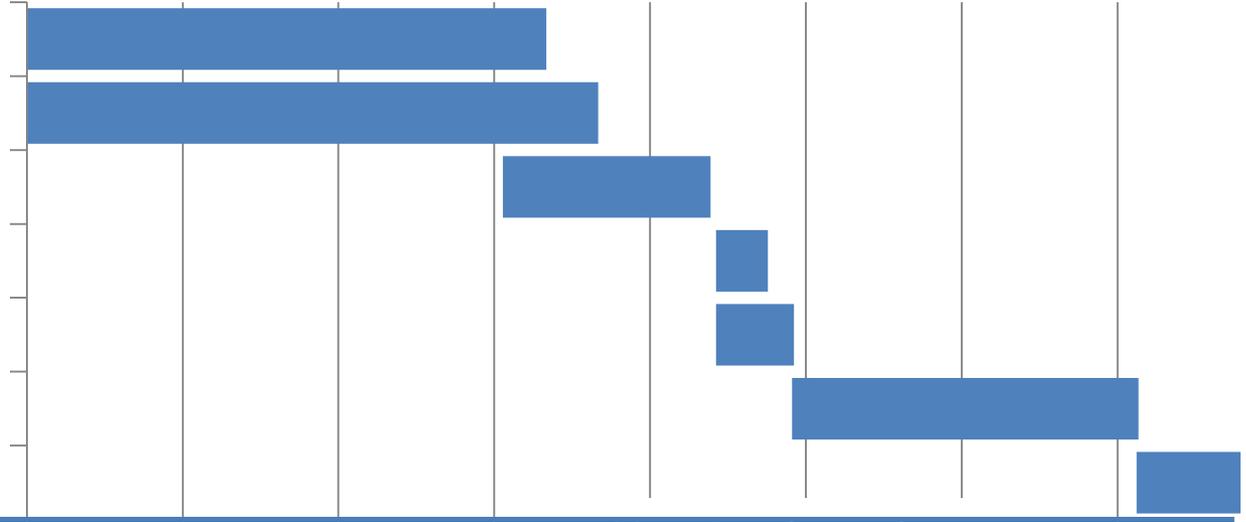
# Mixing Zone Policy

- Draft Rule
- Public comment
- Proposed Rule
- Pending Rule
- Submit to EPA



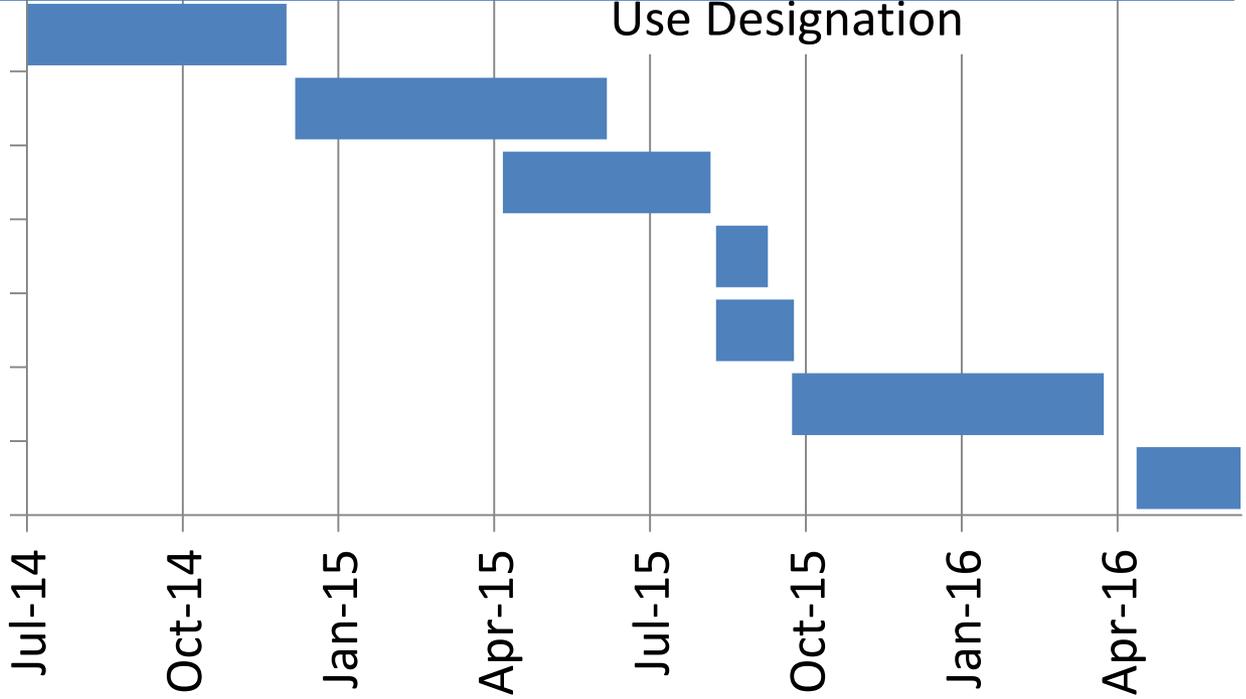
# Human Health Criteria

- Fish Consumption Survey
- Policy meetings/decisions
- Draft Rule
- Public comment
- Proposed Rule
- Pending Rule
- Submit to EPA



# Use Designation

- Salmonid when/where
- WAG/BAG consultation
- Beneficial Use Rulemaking
- Public Comment
- Proposed Rule
- Pending Rule
- Submit to EPA



# Comments received

- ▶ Received 5 sets of comments
- ▶ These are posted on DEQ's Triennial Review web page:  
<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/standards/triennial-review.aspx>
- ▶ Please give us more



# Six Issue papers, so far

- Man-made waters
- Salmonid Spawning
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Total Dissolved Gas
- Downstream Waters Protection
- Waters Discharged from Dams



# Man-made Waters

- ▶ IDAPA 58.01.02.101.02

“Unless designated in Sections 110 through 160, man-made waterways are to be protected for the use for which they were developed.”

- ▶ IDAPA 58.01.02.010.58 Man-made waterways defined:

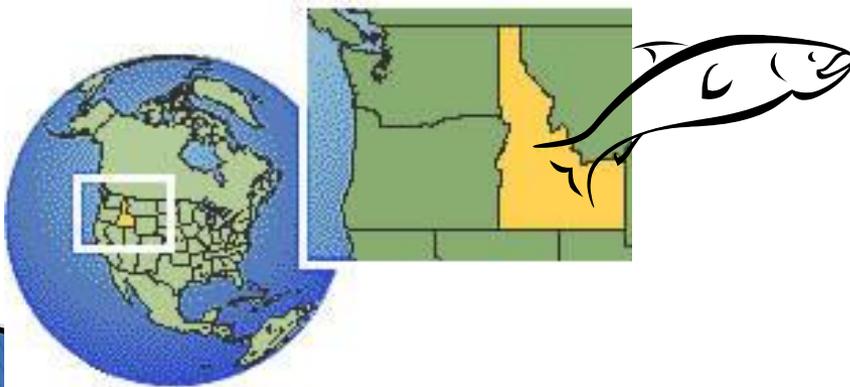
“Canals, flumes, ditches, wasteways, drains, laterals, and/or associated features, constructed for the purpose of water conveyance. This may include channels modified for such purposes prior to November 28, 1975. These waterways may have uniform and rectangular cross-sections, straight channels, follow rather than cross topographic contours, be lined to reduce water loss, and be operated or maintained to promote water conveyance.”



# Salmonid Spawning

- ▶ Use Designations – when & where
- ▶ IDAPA 58.01.02.250.02.f.ii

“Water temperatures of thirteen (13) degrees C or less with a maximum daily average no greater than nine (9) degrees C.”



# Dissolved Oxygen

- ▶ IDAPA 58.01.02.250.02

*“Waters designated for cold water aquatic life are not to vary from the following characteristics due to human activities:*

- a. Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations exceeding six (6) mg/l at all times...”*



# Total Dissolved Gas

- ▶ IDAPA 58.01.02.054.03
  - Beneficial Use Support Status – Use of Data Regarding pH, Turbidity, Dissolved Oxygen, and Temperature
    - Add total dissolved gas to this section
- ▶ IDAPA 58.01.02.300
  - Gas Supersaturation – Alternatibely, we could incorporate the intent of this section into the aforementioned section



# Downstream Waters Protection

- ▶ IDAPA 58.01.02.080.01

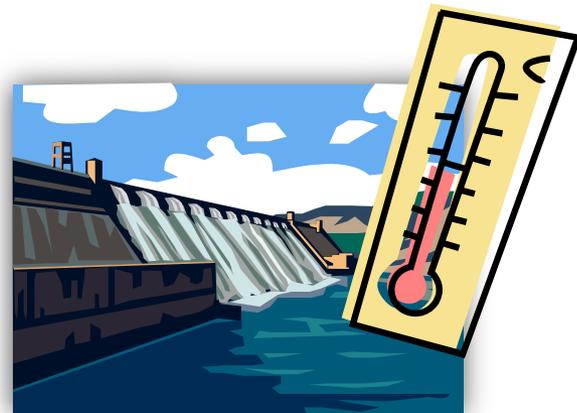
“No pollutant shall be discharged from a single source or in combination with pollutants discharged from other sources in concentrations or in a manner that:

- a. Will or can be expected to result in violation of the water quality standards applicable to the receiving water body or downstream waters” [emphasis added]



# Waters Discharged from Dams, Reservoirs, and Hydroelectric Facilities

- ▶ IDAPA 58.01.02.276
- ▶ Dams and other water impoundments have a measurable effect upon the quality of water in their outflows. Similar to dissolved oxygen (DO), the temperature of streams below major dams/impoundments is dictated by outflows from those impoundments.
- ▶ Add temperature



# Next meeting

- Written comments are encouraged and should be submitted by Aug 13<sup>th</sup>
- Next meeting August 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Focus will be on identifying priorities from the list of potential items
  - Other items

