



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Reply To  
Attn Of:

DEC 09 2003

Toni Hardesty, Assistant Administrator  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

Re: Approval of the Upper North Fork Clearwater River Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Loads (HUC #17060307)

Dear Ms. Hardesty:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby approves the Upper North Fork Clearwater River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) submitted to us on November 3, 2003. This TMDL addresses sediment on 1 stream segment and temperature in 17 segments in HUC 17060307. The TMDLs addressed in this letter include the following:

AU	WQLS <sup>1</sup>	WBID <sup>2</sup>	Water Body	TMDLs by pollutant
ID17060307C L001_02a	5178	001	Sneak Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L005_02a	5193	005	Tamarack Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L005_04	3215	005	Lower Orogrande Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L006_02	3215	006	Upper Orogrande Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L006_03	3215	006	Upper Orogrande Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L007_02a	5192	007	Sylvan Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L012_02	5123	012	Middle Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L012_02a	5123	012	Middle Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L012_03	5123	012	Middle Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L012_03a	5123	012	Middle Creek	Temperature

AU	WQLS <sup>1</sup>	WBID <sup>2</sup>	Water Body	TMDLs by pollutant
ID17060307C L021_02	3229	021	Gravey Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L021_02a	5119	021	Martin Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L021_02b	3229	021	Gravey Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L021_03	3229	021	Gravey Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L021_03a	3229	021	Gravey Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L021_03a	3225, 5040, 5104	030	Osier, China and Laundry Creeks	Temperature
ID17060307C L030_02a	5189, 5190	030	Swamp and Sugar Creeks	Temperature
ID17060307C L030_03	5190	030	Swamp Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L032_02a	5059	032	Deception Gulch	Temperature and Sediment
ID17060307C L040_02	5045, 5047	040	Cold Springs and Cool Creeks	Temperature
ID17060307C L040_02a	5088	044	Grizzly Creek	Temperature
ID17060307C L045_02	5049	045	Cougar Creek	Temperature

1. WQLS = water quality limited segment
2. WBID = water body identification number

Under the Idaho Water Quality Standards, the sediment criterion is expressed as a narrative. Idaho Water Quality Standards do not establish a quantitative sediment level that constitutes full support of the salmon spawning beneficial use. Rather a quantified sediment level that constitutes full support is established during the development of a particular TMDL. We understand that the level can vary depending on the specific physical and hydrologic conditions present in the waterbody. IDEQ relied on the U.S. Forest Service classification of Low Fishable and associated target of 225% over background as the sediment target for the North Fork Clearwater TMDL. Idaho DEQ chose to equate this Forest Service classification with the state's standard of full support of the beneficial use for salmonids. Setting the target at this level will require a 50% reduction of sediment loading to the waterbody which we believe will significantly improve the water quality in this waterbody for sediments. However, it remains unclear whether this is the right target and whether full support will be achieved. We believe it is appropriate in this case to proceed with the TMDL as written, follow-up with implementation to put reductions in place, monitor results, and potentially adjust the TMDL in the future if monitoring results indicate that an adjustment to the target is needed.

We appreciate the commitment shown by your staff and other individuals who helped develop this TMDL. We hope that continued collaboration will bring about effective implementation of the TMDL and restoration of water quality in the Upper North Fork Clearwater River Subbasin. By EPA's approval, the TMDL for these waterbodies is now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the Clean Water Act. This action is for approval of the completed TMDLs contained in the document only and does not constitute approval of the proposed de-listings. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206)553-1261, or Bill Stewart of my staff at (208)378-5753.

Sincerely,



Randall F. Smith  
Director  
Office of Water

cc: Kerby Cole, IDEQ Lewiston Regional Administrator  
John Cardwell, IDEQ Lewiston Regional Water Quality Manager  
Tom Dechert, IDEQ LRO TMDL Project Manager  
Mike McIntyre, IDEQ Surface Water Program Manager  
Marti Bridges, IDEQ TMDL Program Manager

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DEC 15 2005

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
STATE OF WASHINGTON