



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

Reply to
Attn Of: OWW-134

SEP 30 2005

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OCT 03 2005

Barry N. Burnell, Administrator
Water Quality Program
Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, ID 83706-1255

Department of Environmental Quality
State Water Quality Division

Re: Approval of the Little Wood River Subbasin TMDLs

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Little Wood River subbasin as submitted on August 31, 2005, and received by EPA on September 2, 2005.

The following table contains EPA approved TMDLs for waterbodies on the 1998 Idaho 303(d) list.

| <i>Waterbody Name and Location</i> | <i>1998 303(d) list #</i> | <i>Assessment Unit</i> | <i>Pollutants for which TMDLs were developed</i> |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| Little Wood River #4, Silver Creek to Big Wood River | 2511 2512 | ID17040221SK002_05 ID17040221SK001_05 ID17040221SK001_05a ID17040221SK001_05b | Sediment, Nutrients, Temperature |
| Dry Creek, Headwaters to Little Wood River | 2521 | ID17040221SK022_02 | Sediment |
| Fish Creek (above reservoir) | 5650 | ID17042201SK008_02 ID17042201SK008_03 ID17042201SK008_04 | Sediment, Nutrients, Bacteria, Temperature |
| Fish Creek (below reservoir) | 2522 | ID17042201SK006_03 ID17042201SK006_04 | Sediment, Nutrients, Temperature |
| Muldoon Creek, SF Muldoon Creek to Little Wood River | 5288 | ID17042201SK014_02 ID17042201SK014_03 ID17042201SK014_04 | Temperature |
| Loving Creek, Headwaters to Silver Creek | 5289 | ID17040221SK023_02 | Temperature |

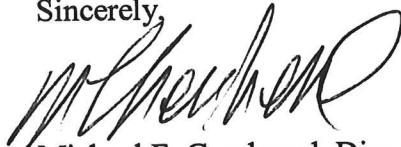
EPA also approves the Little Wood River #1 temperature TMDL. Little Wood River #1 from the headwaters to the reservoir was not included on the 1998 303(d) list. The information contained in this TMDL demonstrates that Little Wood River #1 is in fact water quality limited for temperature and in need of a TMDL. Because the Little Wood River #1 has an approved temperature TMDL associated with it, it does not need to be added to Idaho's next 303(d) list for temperature.

The August 31, 2005, submittal also includes the Implementation Strategy for the TMDLs. While EPA is not taking action on the Implementation Strategy, we believe implementation is the critical next step for realizing improvements in water quality called for in the TMDL and encourage IDEQ to continue their work with appropriate parties and agencies to take actions that will implement reductions called for in the TMDL.

We are impressed by the commitment and hard work shown by IDEQ staff during the development of this TMDL. I want to extend my appreciation to Jennifer Claire for providing a tour of the watershed to Martha Turvey of my staff. This tour helped in her understanding of the document and the goals and objectives of the implementation efforts ongoing in the watershed.

By EPA approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State Water Quality Management Plan under Section 303(e) of the Clean Water Act. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-7151 or Martha Turvey at (206) 553-1354.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Gearheard, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Marti Bridges, IDEQ TMDL Program Manager
Jennifer Claire, Twin Falls Regional Office, IDEQ
Sonny Budihar, Twin Falls Regional Water Quality Manager, IDEQ