



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

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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

Dear Mr. Mabe:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is pleased to approve the Blackfoot River Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), submitted by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) on January 28, 2002, with supplemental information submitted on March 26, 2002, for the following waterbody segments and pollutants, with the exception of those waters which are within Indian Country, as defined at 18 USC, Section 1151.

<u>Waterbody</u>	<u>TMDL Parameter</u>
Blackfoot River from the Main Canal (equalizing dam) to Wolverine Creek	Sediment, Nutrients
Blackfoot River from Wolverine Creek to Blackfoot Dam	Sediment, Nutrients
Blackfoot River from the Blackfoot Reservoir to the Headwaters	Sediment
Wolverine Creek	Sediment, Nutrients
Corral Creek	Sediment
Meadow Creek	Sediment
Trail Creek	Sediment
Slug Creek	Sediment
Dry Valley Creek	Sediment
Angus Creek	Sediment
Lanes Creek	Sediment
Bacon Creek from Lanes Creek to the Forest Service Boundary	Sediment
Sheep Creek	Sediment
Diamond Creek	Sediment
Brush Creek	Sediment
Grizzly Creek	Sediment

<u>Waterbody</u>	<u>TMDL Parameter</u>
Maybe Canyon Creek	Sediment
Jones Creek	Nutrients

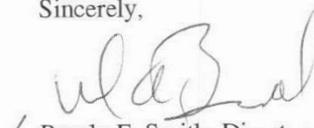
Each of these segments was listed on the 1998 303(d) list for these parameters with the exception of Jones Creek for nutrients and Brush Creek, Grizzly Creek and Maybe Canyon Creek for sediment. This approval covers Jones Creek for nutrients and Brush Creek, Grizzly Creek and Maybe Canyon Creek for sediment. It was determined during the development of the TMDLs that Jones Creek was not meeting water quality standards for nutrients and Brush Creek, Grizzly Creek and Maybe Canyon Creek were not meeting water quality standards for sediment. These water segments have not previously been included on Idaho's 303(d) list for these parameters. The EPA understands that Jones Creek for nutrients, and Brush Creek, Grizzly Creek and Maybe Canyon Creek for sediment would have been included on the list had the state been aware of these exceedances at the time the list was compiled. Accordingly, Jones Creek for nutrients and Brush Creek, Grizzly Creek and Maybe Canyon Creek for sediment do not need to be included in future 303(d) lists for these parameters since allocations aimed at achieving water quality standards are covered under these approved TMDLs.

Although Maybe Canyon Creek for metals (selenium) and Blackfoot River from the Blackfoot Reservoir to the Headwaters for organics were included in the 1998 303(d) list, these segments and pollutants were not included in IDEQ's January 28, 2002 submittal for approval of Blackfoot River TMDLs. It appears that IDEQ intends to address the segments and pollutants later in a separate process. Therefore, these waters and parameters will remain on Idaho's 303(d) list.

We appreciate the commitment and hard work shown by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in developing these TMDLs. In particular, Mike Rowe of your staff, should be commended for his efforts. We look forward to implementation of these TMDLs, and continuing to work collaboratively on water quality issues in the Blackfoot River Subbasin.

By EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under section 303(e) of the Clean Water Act. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-1261, or you may call Jayne Carlin of my staff at (206) 553-6977.

Sincerely,


 Randy F. Smith, Director
 Office of Water

cc: Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice
 Mike Rowe, Pocatello Office, IDEQ
 Mark Dietrich, Pocatello Regional Administrator, IDEQ
 Marti Bridges, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ
 Mike McIntyre, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ
 Steve Allred, Director, IDEQ
 Doug Conde, Idaho Attorney General, IDEQ