



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF  
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

AUG 21 2017

Mr. Barry Burnell, Administrator  
Water Quality Division  
Department of Environmental Quality  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

Re: Approval of the Middle Salmon River-Chamberlain Creek Subbasin & Crooked Creek TMDL – 2017 Temperature TMDL and Five-Year Review (HUC: 17060207)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the *Middle Salmon River-Chamberlain Creek Subbasin & Crooked Creek TMDL – 2017 Temperature TMDL and Five-Year Review (HUC 17060207)* ('Crooked Creek TMDL') to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by reference in an email dated July 19, 2017. EPA also received the hard copy letter on July 25, 2017.

Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve three TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in Table 1 below. These TMDLs represent a revision to temperature TMDLs previously developed by IDEQ. IDEQ has updated the methodology for calculating temperature TMDLs, and has applied the new methodology in this revision. The EPA previously approved temperature TMDLs for these waterbodies in 2002.

**Table 1: EPA-Approved Revised Temperature TMDLs Using Different Methodology**

Water Body Name	Reach	Assessment Unit Number	Pollutant
Crooked Creek & tributaries	Source to Blowout Creek and 1 <sup>st</sup> - and 2 <sup>nd</sup> -order tributaries	ID17060207SL068_02	Temperature
Crooked Creek	Blowout Creek to Big Creek	ID17060207SL068_03	Temperature
Crooked Creek	Lake Creek to mouth	ID17060207SL067_05	Temperature

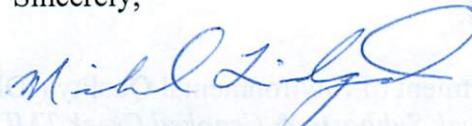
The EPA's review indicates that these allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the water quality standards in the waters addressed by these TMDLs. Therefore, the IDEQ does not need to include these waters on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for the pollutant(s) covered by these TMDLs.

This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for the proposed de-listing of waters within Hydrologic Unit Code 17060207 from the Idaho §303(d) list. Any proposed de-listing of waters will be considered at the time of submission of the next §303(d) list of impaired waters.

IDEQ's submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. The EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Therefore, the EPA is not taking action on these strategies. Implementation is the critical next step to realize improvements in water quality, and we encourage IDEQ to continue their work with responsible parties on implementation of these strategies.

In closing, we would also like to recognize Mark Shumar and his staff for their efforts in bringing these TMDLs to completion. By the EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the CWA. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-1755, or you may call Miranda Hodgkiss of my staff at (206) 553-0692.

Sincerely,



Michael Lidgard, Acting Director  
Office of Water and Watersheds

- cc: Mr. Mark Cecchini-Beaver, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho  
Mr. Rick Grisel, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho  
Mr. Donald Essig, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ  
Mr. Mark Shumar, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ  
Ms. Sujata Connell, Lewiston Regional Office, IDEQ  
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West  
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice