



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

JUL 12 2018

OFFICE OF  
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

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

Re: Approval of the Potlatch River Watershed TMDLs (HUC: 17060306)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Potlatch River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on April 6, 2018. IDEQ revised the temperature TMDLs using a different methodology for the following waterbodies to address the temperature impairments. The EPA had previously approved these temperature TMDLs for these waterbodies in 2009. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve 21 revised TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the table below.

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #
Potlatch River - Headwaters	ID17060306CL049_02
Potlatch River - 3rd Order	ID17060306CL049_03
Potlatch River - 4th Order	ID17060306CL049_04
Potlatch River - 4th Order	ID17060306CL048_04
Potlatch River - 5th Order	ID17060306CL048_05
Potlatch River - 5th Order	ID17060306CL045_05
Potlatch River - 6th Order	ID17060306CL044_06
Cedar Creek - 4th Order	ID17060306CL046_04
Boulder Creek - 3rd Order	ID17060306CL047_03
East Fork Potlatch River - 4th Order	ID17060306CL051_04
Ruby Creek - 3rd Order	ID17060306CL052_03
Moose Creek - Headwaters	ID17060306CL053_02
Moose Creek - 3rd Order	ID17060306CL053_03
Corral Creek - Headwaters	ID17060306CL054_02
Corral Creek - 3rd Order	ID17060306CL054_03
Pine Creek - Headwaters	ID17060306CL055_02
Pine Creek - 3rd Order	ID17060306CL055_03
Big Bear Creek - 4th Order	ID17060306CL056_04
Big Bear Creek - 5th Order	ID17060306CL056_05
Middle Potlatch Creek - Headwaters	ID17060306CL062_02
Middle Potlatch Creek - 3rd Order	ID17060306CL062_03

Our 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 addressed 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 17060306 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.

Your submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. As you know, 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.

The EPA appreciates the cooperation and work of the IDEQ Lewiston Regional Office on this TMDL, especially the coordination prior to the public comment period and the sharing of a pre-public comment draft with EPA staff. In particular, the EPA would like to recognize the effort put forth to complete this document by Sujata Connell of your staff.

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) 553-1855, or have your staff contact Bill Stewart in our Idaho Operations office at (208) 378-5753.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski, Director  
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Ms. Sujata Connell, Lewiston Regional Office, IDEQ (by email)  
Mr. John Cardwell, Water Quality Manager, Lewiston Regional Office, IDEQ (by email)  
Mr. Graham Freeman, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ (by email)  
Mr. Donald Essig, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ (by email)  
Mr. Mark Cecchini-Beaver, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho (by email)  
Mr. Rick Grisel, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho (by email)  
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West (by email)  
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice (by email)