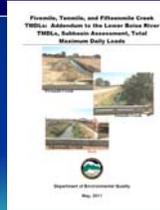


Total Maximum Daily Loads

-An Overview-

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality



What is a Total Maximum Daily Load?



- Referred to as a TMDL
- Pollution budget
 - how much “pollutant” a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards
 - support of beneficial uses

What is a Total Maximum Daily Load?

- $LC = MOS + NB + LA$

LC = Pollutant Load Capacity
MOS = Margin of Safety
NB = Natural Background
LA = Load Allocation



Beneficial Uses

- Aquatic Life Support
- Recreation
- Water Supply
 - Agricultural
 - Domestic
 - Industrial
- Aesthetics
- Wildlife Habitat



Why are TMDLs Necessary?

- Clean Water Act
- Scientifically defensible mechanism for water quality management
- Cornerstone for receiving water quality improvement grants and loans

Steps in the TMDL Process

- Step #1: Subbasin assessment (SBA)
- Step #2: Develop the TMDL
- Step #3: Implement management actions



Step #1 – Subbasin Assessment

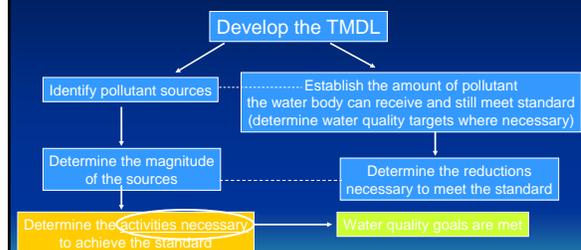
- Geographic boundaries
- Physical, biological and cultural characteristics
- Water quality concerns
- Are water quality standards met?



➡ Action recommendation

- A TMDL is necessary if the water quality standards are not met

Step #2 – TMDL



Step #3 - Implementation

activities necessary → Water quality goals met

- Implementation can be challenging
- DEQ relies on existing authorities to help implement TMDLs

Summary of the Steps



Other Factors Must be Considered

- Commitment
 - Continued participation from all stakeholders
 - Cost
 - Phased approach
- Culture
 - Education of agency and stakeholder

