



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Reply To
Attn Of: OWW-134

SEP 14 2005

Toni Hardesty, Director
Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, ID 83706-1255

RE: Approval of the Upper Snake Rock TMDL Modification

Dear Ms. Hardesty:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the total suspended solids and total phosphorus wasteload allocations for the fish production facilities, conservation hatcheries, fish processors, Billingsley Creek fish production facilities, and the revisions to nonpoint source load allocations contained in the Upper Snake Rock TMDL Modification, as submitted on August 3, 2005.

This TMDL modification applies to the Clean Water Act (CWA), for the Section 303(d) listed waterbodies, identified in Table 1 (enclosed) for total phosphorus and total suspended solids. This TMDL also applies to the waterbodies listed in Table 2 (enclosed) which had not been previously listed on the 303(d) list but were determined during the course of TMDL development to be impaired for total phosphorus and total suspended solids. These waterbodies would have been included on the 1998 303(d) list had this information been available when the list was compiled. Because these waters now have approved TMDLs associated with them, the state need not include them on its next CWA 303(d) list of impaired waters for the pollutants covered in these TMDLs. In addition, this TMDL also applies to the waterbodies listed in Table 3 (enclosed). While these waterbodies are not themselves impaired for these pollutants, they need to meet phosphorus and total suspended solids allocations consistent with this TMDL modification to ensure that loadings to the mainstem Snake River are not exceeded. The wasteload allocations for aquaculture apply to all facilities which are sources to the listed segments. This modification revises and supersedes the previous TMDLs that were written to cover these waterbodies and pollutants, including the Billingsley Creek TMDL (EPA approved on August 23, 1993), the Mid-Snake TMDL (EPA approved on April 25, 1997), and the Upper Snake-Rock TMDL (EPA approved on August 25, 2000).

The original Mid-Snake TMDL describes the following:

“The monitoring data collected in years 1 through 3 will be used to give a wasteload allocation to individual facilities at the end of Year 3. A re-evaluation of the Mid-Snake TMDL (and the Upper Snake Rock TMDL) for all industries will occur after Year 10 to

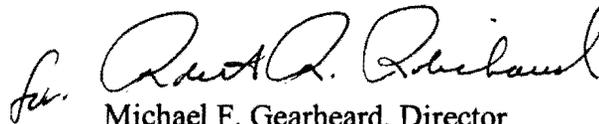
determine if water quality standards and the beneficial uses have been met, and, if necessary, wasteload allocations will be adjusted." (Mid-Snake TMDL, Table 23, p 58)

Since the date to re-evaluate the Mid-Snake is approaching quickly, EPA believes it is very important for DEQ to maintain accurate and effective water quality and flow monitoring information of the compliance points on the Snake River and associated tributaries. We would like to offer assistance to you in the development of monitoring plans from Region 10 headquarters or the Idaho Operations Office staff. It is imperative that we obtain adequate data to assess the attainment of beneficial uses in the Snake River and tributaries after Year 10. We will make ourselves available to discuss monitoring issues at your convenience. Please let us know when you would like to meet.

The development of these wasteload allocations has been a long and challenging process for the affected industry, the DEQ staff and EPA staff. We especially appreciate the hard work of Balthasar Buhidar, Rob Sharpnack, the Middle Snake River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) and the aquaculture industry in the development of these WLAs.

This approval constitutes wasteload allocations for 81 aquaculture facilities on the Snake River and tributaries, 4 fish processors, and 12 aquaculture facilities on Billingsley Creek. These wasteload allocations will be used to develop individual NPDES permit limits for each of the affected facilities. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me at (206)553-7151, or you may call Bill Stewart of my staff at (208)378-5753.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Gearheard, Director
Office of Water & Watersheds

cc: Barry Burnell, IDEQ Surface Water Program Administrator
Doug Conde, IDEQ Attorney General
Mike McIntyre, IDEQ Surface Water Program Manager
Marti Bridges, IDEQ TMDL Program Manager
Balthasar Buhidar, IDEQ, Idaho Falls Regional Office Water Quality Manager

Table 1. 1998 303(d) Listed Waterbodies and Equivalent Assessment Unit

NAME OF STREAM - DESIGNATION	WQLS No. 1998 LIST	ASSESSMENT UNIT - 2002 INTEGRATED REPORT	NPDES FACILITIES
SNAKE RIVER SEGMENTS			
Snake River - Bliss Bridge to King Hill Diversion	2369	ID17040212SK001_	NA
Snake River - King Hill to Big Pilgrim Gulch	5176	ID17040212SK001_	NA
Snake River - Cassia Gulch to Big Pilgrim Gulch	5173	ID17040212SK001_	NA
Bliss Reservoir - [Bliss Dam to Lower Salmon Falls Dam]	2370	ID17040212SK001_ ID17040212SK005_	GAP-020; GAP-090; GAP-118; GAP-119; GAP-120; GAP-076
Lower Salmon Falls Reservoir - [Lower Salmon Falls Dam to Upper Salmon Falls Dam]	2372	ID17040212SK005_	GAP-111; GAP-065; GAP-056; GAP-082; GAP-098; ID-002594-1
Upper Salmon Falls Reservoir - [Upper Salmon Falls Dam to Clear Lakes Bridge]	2373	ID17040212SK005_ ID17040212SK007_	GAP-054; GAP-014; GAP-009; ID-002016-8
Snake River - Clear Lakes Bridge to Cedar Draw	5174	ID17040212SK007_	GAP-010
Snake River - Mud Creek to Clear Lakes Bridge	5177	ID17040212SK007_	GAP-100; GAP-041
Snake River - Deep Creek to Mud Creek	5175	ID17040212SK007_	NA
Snake River - Cedar Draw to Rock Creek	2374	ID17040212SK007_	GAP-016; GAP-104 ID-002127-0
Snake River - Shoshone Falls to Rock Creek	6374	ID17040212SK019	ID-002127-0
Shoshone Falls Reservoir - [Shoshone Falls Dam to Twin Falls Dam]	2375	ID17040212SK019_	NA
Snake River - Murtaugh to Twin Falls Reservoir	2377	ID17040212SK020_07	ID-002244-6
Snake River - Milner Dam to Murtaugh	2378	ID17040212SK020_07	NA
TRIBUTARIES OF THE SNAKE RIVER			
Clover Creek - Pioneer Reservoir to Snake River	2379	ID17040212SK034_02 ID17040212SK034_04	NA
Pioneer Reservoir	2380	ID17040212SK035_04	NA
Billingsley Creek - Headwaters to Snake River	2384	ID17040212SK033_02	GAP-015; GAP-050; GAP-130; GAP-005; GAP-066; GAP-001; GAP-131; GAP-048; GAP-017; GAP-132; GAP-083; GAP-096
Riley Creek - Headwaters to Snake River	2385	ID17040212SK006_02	GAP-004; GAP-003
Sand Springs Creek - Headwaters to Snake River	2386	ID17040212SK005_ [Nearest Assessment Unit]	NA
Blind Canyon - Headwaters to Snake River	2389	ID17040212SK007_ [Nearest Assessment Unit]	GAP-060
Clear Springs (Clear Lakes) - Headwaters to Snake River	2395	ID17040212SK028_02	GAP-007; GAP-125; GAP-011 (FH + FP); GAP-002
Crystal Springs - Headwaters to Snake River	2398	ID17040212SK007_ [Nearest Assessment Unit]	GAP-006
Rock Creek - Rock Creek (town) to Snake River	2400	ID17040212SK013_04 ID17040212SK013_05	GAP-036 (FH + FP); GAP-084; GAP-091; GAP-124; GAP-097

Cottonwood Creek – Headwaters to Rock Creek	2403	ID17040212SK014_02 ID17040212SK014_03 ID17040212SK014_04	NA
McMullen Creek – Headwaters to Cottonwood Creek	2404	ID17040212SK015_02 ID17040212SK015_03	NA
Alpheus Creek – Headwaters to Snake River	2405	ID17040212SK019_ [Nearest Assessment Unit]	NA
Dry Creek – West Fork Dry Creek to Murtaugh Lake	2408	ID17040212SK022_02 ID17040212SK022_03	NA
West Fork Dry Creek – Headwaters to Dry Creek	2411	ID17040212SK023_02	NA
Deep Creek – High Line Canal to Snake River	5286	ID17040212SK008_02 ID17040212SK008_03 ID17040212SK009_02	GAP-069; GAP-047; GAP-080; GAP-077; GAP-112; GAP-053; GAP-057; GAP-133
Toolbox Creek – Headwaters to Fifth Fork Rock Creek	5287	ID17040212SK017_02	NA
Cedar Draw – Headwaters to Snake River	5646	ID17040212SK012_02 ID17040212SK012_03	GAP-028 (FH + FP); GAP-059; GAP-046 (FH + FP); GAP-103; GAP-019; GAP-115; GAP-040; ID-002006-1
Mud Creek – Low Line Canal to Snake River	5647	ID17040212SK010_02 ID17040212SK010_03 ID17040212SK011_02	GAP-102; GAP-063; GAP-064; GAP-116; GAP-079; GAP-029; GAP-070; GAP-109; ID-002066-4
Salmon Falls Creek – Salmon Falls Dam to Snake River	2459	ID17040213SK001_02 ID17040213SK001_06	NA
FH = Fish Hatchery. FP = Fish Processor. NA = Not Applicable. GAP = General Aquaculture Permit – the associated facility name may be found in the TMDL modification document.			

Table 2. Additional Waterbodies Assessed and Their Assessment Unit

NAME OF STREAM - DESIGNATION	WQLS No. 1998 LIST	ASSESSMENT UNIT – 2002 INTEGRATED REPORT	NPDES FACILITIES
Vinyard Creek – Headwaters to Snake River		ID17040212SK027_02	NA
Warm Creek – From Alpheus Creek to Snake River		ID17040212SK019_ [Nearest Assessment Unit]	GAP-008; GAP-018
Niagara Springs – Headwaters to Snake River		ID17040212SK007_ [Nearest Assessment Unit]	GAP-013
Briggs Creek – Headwaters to Snake River		ID17040212SK007_ [Nearest Assessment Unit]	GAP-088
Birch Springs – Headwaters to Snake River		ID17040212SK001_ [Nearest Assessment Unit]	GAP-087; GAP-105; GAP-062
Stoddard Springs – Headwaters to Snake River		ID17040212SK001_ [Nearest Assessment Unit]	GAP-049; GAP-117; GAP-026
Decker Springs – Headwaters to Snake River		ID17040212SK001_ [Nearest Assessment Unit]	GAP-107; GAP-106
Malad River – Headwaters to Snake River		ID17040219SK001_02 ID17040219SK001_06	NA
FH = Fish Hatchery. FP = Fish Processor. NA = Not Applicable. GAP = General Aquaculture Permit – the associated facility name may be found in the TMDL modification document.			

Table 3. Additional Waterbodies Assessed and Their Assessment Unit

NAME OF STREAM - DESIGNATION	WQLS No. 1998 LIST	ASSESSMENT UNIT - 2002 INTEGRATED REPORT	NPDES FACILITIES
Devils Corral Spring – Headwaters to Snake River		ID17040212SK019_ [Nearest Assessment Unit]	NA
Ellison Creek – Headwaters to Snake River		ID17040212SK019_ [Nearest Assessment Unit]	NA
Banbury Springs – Headwaters to Snake River		ID17040212SK029_02	NA
Box Canyon – Headwaters to Snake River		ID17040212SK030_02	NA
Blue Heart Spring – Headwaters to Snake River		ID17040212SK005_ [Nearest Assessment Unit]	NA
Ritter Creek (Thousand Springs) – Headwaters to Snake River		ID17040212SK031_02	GAP-061