



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Reply To  
Attn Of: OWW-134

AUG - 4 2005

Toni Hardesty, Administrator  
State Water Quality Program  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, ID 83706-1255

RE: Approval of Beaver-Camas Subbasin TMDLs (Hydrologic Unit Code 17040214)

Dear Ms. Hardesty:

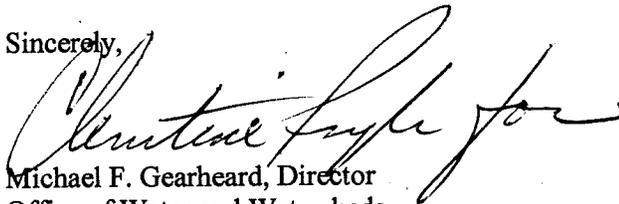
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the sediment and temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), as listed in the attached table, for the Beaver-Camas Subbasin, as submitted on June 8, 2005. This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for de-listing of waters within Hydrologic Unit Code 17040214 from the Idaho 1998 §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.

EPA appreciates the cooperation and work of Melissa Thompson on this TMDL, especially the sharing of a pre-public comment draft with EPA staff. We appreciate IDEQ's encouraging our early involvement, as it results in a better understanding of the approaches used to develop the TMDL and enables meaningful discussions to occur between Idaho and EPA staff that can later expedite EPA's review of the final document. Ms. Thompson's work to develop shade targets for the waters in the subbasin that required temperature TMDLs is to be commended. We have found that expressing the TMDL targets in this manner can help explain to the public the nature of the problem that is resulting in impairment and provide a description of what is needed to restore the stream. It also provides a measurable indicator that landowners can use to assess the current condition of their land, and evaluate progress over time as a result of restoration. We also note that recent IDEQ TMDLs have included very concise and clear executive summaries.

The June 8, 2005, submittal also includes the Implementation Strategies for the TMDLs. The strategies were developed and submitted pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. EPA currently has no duty to approve or disapprove Implementation Strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, therefore, EPA is not taking action on them. However, we believe implementation is the critical next step for realizing improvements in water quality called for in the TMDL and encourage IDEQ to continue their work with Responsible Parties on implementation.

By EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the Clean Water Act. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206)553-1261, or you may call Tracy Chellis of my staff at (206)553-6326.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Gearheard, Director  
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Steve Allred, IDEQ Director  
Doug Conde, IDEQ Attorney General  
Mike McIntyre, IDEQ Surface Water Program Manager  
Marti Bridges, IDEQ TMDL Program Manager  
Troy Saffle, IDEQ, Idaho Falls Regional Office Water Quality Manager  
Melissa Thompson, IDEQ, Pocatello Regional Office

<i>Waterbody Segment [WQLS]</i>	<i>Assessment Unit(s) of ID 17040214</i>	<i>Pollutant</i>
Beaver Creek (Headwaters to Spencer)	SK021_02 SK021_03 SK020_03 SK018_04 SK024_02	Temperature
Camas Creek (Spring Creek to Hwy 91) [2191]	SK002_05	Sediment
		Temperature
Dairy Creek (Headwaters to Mouth)	SK018_02	Temperature
East Camas Creek (Headwaters to Mouth)	SK011_03 SK010_02 SK010_03	Temperature
Modoc Creek (Headwaters to Mouth)	SK021_02	Temperature
Threemile Creek (Headwaters to Mouth)	SK017_02 SK017_03	Temperature
West Camas Creek (Headwaters to Mouth)	SK012_03 SK013_02 SK013_03	Temperature
Beaver Creek (Spencer to Dubois) [2194]	SK015_05	Temperature

