



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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Department of Environmental Quality
State Water Quality Programs

Reply To: OWW-134

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

Re: Approval of the Potlatch River TMDLs

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Potlatch River Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on October 23, 2008. Following our review, EPA is pleased to approve 46 TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the table below.

Table of EPA-Approved TMDLs on Impaired Waters

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Impairment	TMDL Pollutant
Potlatch River, Big Bear Creek to Mouth	ID17060306CL044_06	Temperature	Temperature
Potlatch River, Big Bear Creek to Mouth	ID17060306CL044_06	Sediment	TSS
Potlatch River, Corral Creek to Big Bear Creek	ID17060306CL045_05	Temperature	Temperature
Potlatch River, Moose Creek to Corral Creek	ID17060306CL048_04	Temperature	Temperature
Potlatch River, Moose Creek to Corral Creek	ID17060306CL048_05	Temperature	Temperature
Potlatch River, Headwaters to Moose Creek	ID17060306CL049_02	Temperature	Temperature
Potlatch River, Headwaters to Moose Creek	ID17060306CL049_02	Bacteria	E-coli Bacteria
Potlatch River, Headwaters to Moose Creek	ID17060306CL049_03	Temperature	Temperature
Potlatch River, Headwaters to Moose Creek	ID17060306CL049_03	Bacteria	E-coli Bacteria
Potlatch River, Headwaters to Moose Creek	ID17060306CL049_04	Temperature	Temperature
Potlatch River, Headwaters to Moose Creek	ID17060306CL049_04	Bacteria	E-coli Bacteria
Big Bear Creek	ID17060306CL056_04	Temperature	Temperature
Big Bear Creek	ID17060306CL056_05	Temperature	Temperature

Boulder Creek	ID17060306CL047_03	Unknown	E-coli Bacteria
Boulder Creek	ID17060306CL047_03	Unknown	Temperature
Moose Creek	ID17060306CL053_02	Temperature	Temperature
Moose Creek	ID17060306CL053_02	Bacteria	E-coli Bacteria
Moose Creek	ID17060306CL053_03	Temperature	Temperature
Moose Creek	ID17060306CL053_03	Bacteria	E-coli Bacteria
Pine Creek	ID17060306CL055_02	Temperature	Temperature
Pine Creek	ID17060306CL055_03	Temperature	Temperature
Pine Creek	ID17060306CL055_02	Sediment	TSS
Pine Creek	ID17060306CL055_03	Sediment	TSS
Pine Creek	ID17060306CL055_02	Nutrients	Total Phosphorus
Pine Creek	ID17060306CL055_03	Nutrients	Total Phosphorus
Ruby Creek	ID17060306CL052_03	Temperature	Temperature
Ruby Creek	ID17060306CL052_03	Bacteria	E-coli Bacteria
East Fork Potlatch River	ID17060306CL051_04	Temperature	Temperature
Middle Potlatch Creek	ID17060306CL062_02	Temperature	Temperature
Middle Potlatch Creek	ID17060306CL062_03	Sediment	TSS
Middle Potlatch Creek	ID17060306CL062_02	Bacteria	E-coli Bacteria
Middle Potlatch Creek	ID17060306CL062_03	Temperature	Temperature
Middle Potlatch Creek	ID17060306CL062_02	Sediment	TSS
Middle Potlatch Creek	ID17060306CL062_03	Bacteria	E-coli Bacteria
Big Bear Creek	ID17060306CL056_04	Bacteria	E-coli Bacteria
Big Bear Creek	ID17060306CL056_05	Bacteria	E-coli Bacteria
Cedar Creek	ID17060306CL046_04	Temperature	Temperature
Cedar Creek	ID17060306CL046_04	Sediment	TSS
Corral Creek	ID17060306CL054_02	Temperature	Temperature
Corral Creek	ID17060306CL054_03	Temperature	Temperature

IDEQ also completed TMDLs for waterbodies which were not meeting water quality standards, but had not previously been included on 2008 Idaho's 303(d) List (List). These TMDLs and waterbodies are contained in the tables below. EPA understands that these waters would have been included on the List had the State been aware of the exceedances at the time the List was completed.

Table of EPA-Approved TMDLs on Unlisted Waters

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	TMDL Pollutant
West Fork Little Bear Creek	ID17060306CL061_02	TSS
West Fork Little Bear Creek	ID17060306CL061_02	E-coli Bacteria
West Fork Little Bear Creek	ID17060306CL061_02	Total Inorganic Nitrogen
West Fork Little Bear Creek	ID17060306CL061_03	TSS
West Fork Little Bear Creek	ID17060306CL061_03	E-coli Bacteria
West Fork Little Bear Creek	ID17060306CL061_03	Total Inorganic Nitrogen

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 criteria addressed by these TMDLs. Therefore, the IDEQ does not need to include these waterbodies on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for the pollutants covered by this TMDL.

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 2008 §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.

This submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA); therefore, 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.

By 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) 553-4198, or you may call Bill Stewart of my staff at (208) 378-5753.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Bussell, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Mr. Doug Conde, Attorney General, Idaho
Mr. Mike McIntyre, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ
Ms. Marti Bridges, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ
Mr. John Cardwell, Water Quality Manager, Lewistion Regional Office, IDEQ
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice