



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3123

OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

SEP - 4 2018

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

RE: Approval of the Upper North Fork Clearwater River Subbasin Assessment and TMDL-2017 Lake Creek Temperature TMDL (HUC 17060307)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is pleased to approve the Upper North Fork Clearwater River Subbasin Assessment and TMDL-2017 Lake Creek Temperature TMDL submitted on June 8, 2018, and as listed in the table below.

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #
Lake Creek	ID17060307CL033 03

Our review indicates that this allocation has been established at a level that, when fully implemented, will lead to attainment of the water quality standards addressed 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 17060307 from the Idaho §303(d) list. Any proposed de-listing of waters will be considered at the time of the submission of the next §303(d) list of impaired waters.

Your submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDL IDEQ developed and submitted 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) and therefore, the EPA is not taking action on these strategies. 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.

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 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)553-1855, or have your staff contact Bill Stewart of my staff at (208)378-5753.

Sincerely,

 Angela Chung for

Daniel D. Opalski
Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

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