



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION 10**  
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MAR 25 2009

OFFICE OF  
 WATER AND WATERSHEDS

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

**RECEIVED**

MAR 30 2009

Department of Environmental Quality  
 State Water Quality Division

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the South Fork Boise River Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on January 16, 2009. Following our review, EPA is pleased to approve seven TMDLs for waters and pollutants listed in the tables below. One of these waters was included in Idaho's 2008 303(d) list (List) of impaired waters, as identified in Table 1.

**Table 1. EPA-Approved TMDLs for §303(d) listed waters**

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	TMDL Pollutant
Lime Creek	17050113SW010_05	Temperature

IDEQ also completed TMDLs for waterbodies which were not meeting water quality standards and were impaired for temperature, but had not previously been included on Idaho's 303(d) list. These TMDLs and waterbodies are identified in Table 2 below. EPA understands that these waters would have been included on the List had the State been aware of the impairments at the time the List was completed.

**Table 2. EPA-Approved TMDLs for Unlisted Waters**

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	TMDL Pollutant
North Fork Lime Creek/Middle Fork Lime Creek	17050113SW010_03	Temperature
South Fork Lime Creek	17050113SW011_02	Temperature
South Fork Lime Creek	17050113SW011_03	Temperature
Lime Creek	17050113SW010_02	Temperature
Lime Creek	17050113SW010_04	Temperature
Smith Creek	17050113SW032_02	Temperature

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 standards addressed by these

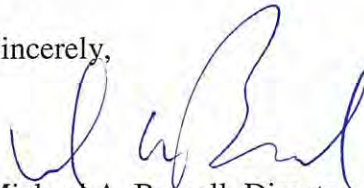
TMDLs. Therefore, the IDEQ does not need to include these waters on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for the pollutant(s) covered by these TMDLs.

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 17050113 from the Idaho §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.

In closing, we would like to recognize the cooperation and thoroughness of Susan Beattie in bringing these TMDLs to completion. 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. Craig Shepard, Water Quality Manager, Boise Regional Office, IDEQ  
Ms. Susan Beattie, Boise Regional Office, IDEQ  
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West  
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice