UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
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OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

AUG 27 2018

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

Re: Approval of the Lochsa River Subbasin TMDLs (HUC: 17060303)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Lochsa Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on May 14, 2012. Subsequently IDEQ submitted a revised Lochsa River Subbasin Temperature TMDL on November 1, 2012. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve thirty-seven TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the tables below. Six of these waters were included in Idaho's 2014 303(d) list (List) of impaired waters, as identified in Table 1.

Table 1: EPA-Approved TMDLs on Impaired Waters

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Pollutant
Lower Lochsa River Tributaries	ID17060303CL001_02	Temperature
Deadman Creek	ID17060303CL061_02	Temperature
Canyon Creek	ID17060303CL062_03	Temperature
Pete King Creek	ID17060303CL063_02	Temperature
Pete King Creek	ID17060303CL063_03	Temperature
Walde Creek	ID17060303CL064_02	Temperature

The IDEQ also completed TMDLs for waterbodies which were not meeting water quality standards for temperature but had not previously been included on Idaho's 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 impairment at the time the List was completed.

Table 2: EPA-Approved TMDLs on Unlisted Waters

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	TMDL Pollutant
Walton/Cliff Creeks/Cold Storage Creek	ID17060303CL020_02a	Temperature
Walton/Cliff Creeks	ID17060303CL022_02	Temperature
Walton/Cliff Creeks	ID17060303CL023_02	Temperature
Colt Killed Creek	ID17060303CL024_02	Temperature
Colt Killed Creek	ID17060303CL024_04	Temperature
Colt Killed Creek/Beaver Creek	ID17060303CL033_02	Temperature
Crooked Fork Creek	ID17060303CL034_02	Temperature
Crooked Fork Creek	ID17060303CL034_05	Temperature

Crooked Fork Creek/Haskell Creek	ID17060303CL038_02	Temperature
Crooked Fork Creek	ID17060303CL038_04	Temperature
Brushy Fork Creek/Pack Creek	ID17060303CL035_02	Temperature
Brushy Fork Creek	ID17060303CL035_03	Temperature
Brushy Fork Creek	ID17060303CL035_04	Temperature
Spruce Creek	ID17060303CL036_02	Temperature
Upper Brushy Fork Creek	ID17060303CL037_02	Temperature
Papoose Creek	ID17060303CL041_02	Temperature
Papoose Creek	ID17060303CL041_03	Temperature
Papoose Creek	ID17060303CL042_02	Temperature
Badger/Wendover Creeks	ID17060303CL043_02	Temperature
Badger/Wendover Creeks	ID17060303CL044_02	Temperature
Squaw Creek	ID17060303CL045_02	Temperature
Squaw Creek	ID17060303CL045_03	Temperature
Squaw Creek	ID17060303CL046_02	Temperature
Squaw Creek/Doe Creek	ID17060303CL047_02	Temperature
Post Office Creek	ID17060303CL048_02	Temperature
Post Office Creek	ID17060303CL048_03	Temperature
Deadman Creek	ID17060303CL059_02	Temperature
Deadman Creek	ID17060303CL059_03	Temperature
E. F. Deadman Creek	ID17060303CL060_02	Temperature
E. F. Deadman Creek	ID17060303CL060_03	Temperature
Canyon Creek	ID17060303CL062_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 in the waters 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 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 17060303 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.

Your submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies 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); therefore, the 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.

We would like to recognize the considerable effort of all the IDEQ staff in the Lewiston and Boise offices who worked for many years on Lochsa River temperature issues, and brought these TMDLs to completion.

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By the 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) 553-1855, or have your staff contact Leigh Woodruff of my staff at (208) 378-5774.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Opalski, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Mr. Mark Cecchini-Beaver, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho
Mr. Donald Essig, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ
Mr. Graham Freeman, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ
Ms. Amy Steimke, Integrated Report Coordinator
Ms. Sujata Connel, Water Quality Manager, Lewiston Regional Office, IDEQ
Mr. John Cardwell, Regional Administrator, Lewiston Regional Office, IDEQ
Mr. Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West
Ms. Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice