



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
STATE WATER QUALITY

Reply To: OWW-134

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

31 DEC 2008

Subject: Approval of the Pack River Nutrient TMDLs

Dear Mr. Burnell:

Following our review and evaluation of the Pack River Nutrient TMDLs by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the TMDLs for the waters listed in the table below. These TMDLs were submitted to EPA by IDEQ on March 11, 2008.

**Table of EPA-Approved TMDLs on Impaired Waters Contained in Idaho's 2002 303(d) List (Category 5 of the Integrated Report)**

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Impairment/Year Last Listed	TMDL Pollutant
Upper Pack River - tributaries above Hellroaring Cr.	ID1701214PN041_02	Unknown Cause, 2002	Total Phosphorus

IDEQ also completed TMDLs for waterbodies which were not meeting water quality standards for total phosphorus, but had not previously been included on 2002 Idaho's 303(d) List (List). These TMDLs and waterbodies are contained in the Table 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 Impaired Waters Contained in Idaho's Proposed 2008 303(d) List (Category 5 of the Integrated Report) Submitted to EPA for Approval**

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	TMDL Pollutant
Sand Creek (tributary to the Pack River)	ID17010214PN038_02	Total Phosphorus
Colburn Creek	ID17010214PN047_02 ID17010214PN046_03	Total Phosphorus
Trout Creek	ID17010214PN032_02	Total Phosphorus
Pack River (above Rapid Lightning Creek)	ID17010214PN031_04 ID17010214PN039_03 ID17010214PN039_04	Total Phosphorus


	ID17010214PN041_02 ID17010214PN041_03	
Lower Pack River - Sand Creek to mouth	ID17010214PN031_04	Total Phosphorus

This approval includes all load allocations established in the TMDL, since all of these allocations are required to attain applicable water quality criteria throughout the watershed. 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 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) 553-7151, or you may call Martha Turvey of my staff at (206) 553-1354.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Gearheard, Director  
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Doug Conde, Attorney General, Idaho  
Mike McIntyre, Surface Water Program Manager, IDEQ  
Marti Bridges, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ  
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