



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155  
Seattle, WA 98101-3188

WATER  
DIVISION

October 12, 2021

Dr. Mary Anne Nelson  
Administrator  
Surface and Wastewater Division  
Department of Environmental Quality  
1410 North Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

Re: Approval of the Salmon Falls Creek Subbasin 2021 Temperature TMDLs (HUC 17040213)

Dear Dr. Nelson:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Salmon Falls Creek Subbasin 2021 Temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on September 17, 2021. Following our review, EPA is pleased to approve 24 TMDLs for waters and pollutants that were included in Category 4a of Idaho’s 2020 Clean Water Act, Section 303(d) list (list) of impaired waters, as identified in the table below. The IDEQ revised these Temperature TMDLs, originally approved by EPA in 2008, using an updated methodology.

Table 1: EPA Approved TMDLs on Impaired Waters

| <b>Name of Creek/Water Segment</b>                             | <b>Assessment Unit #</b> | <b>Pollutant</b> |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|
| Salmon Falls Creek - Devil Creek to mouth                      | ID17040213SK001_06       | Temperature      |
| Devil Creek  | ID17040213SK002_03       | Temperature      |
| Salmon Falls Creek - Salmon Falls Creek Dam to Devil Creek     | ID17040213SK003_06       | Temperature      |
| House Creek - source to Cedar Creek Reservoir                  | ID17040213SK005_02       | Temperature      |
| House Creek - source to Cedar Creek Reservoir                  | ID17040213SK005_03       | Temperature      |
| Cedar Creek - source to Cedar Creek Reservoir                  | ID17040213SK006_02       | Temperature      |
| Cedar Creek - source to Cedar Creek Reservoir                  | ID17040213SK006_03       | Temperature      |
| China, Browns, Corral, Player Creeks                           | ID17040213SK008_02       | Temperature      |
| China Creek  | ID17040213SK008_03       | Temperature      |
| Salmon Falls Creek - Idaho/Nevada border to Salmon Falls Creek | ID17040213SK009_06       | Temperature      |
| North Fork Salmon Falls Creek - source to Idaho/Nevada border  | ID17040213SK010_02       | Temperature      |
| North Fork Salmon Falls Creek - source to Idaho/Nevada border  | ID17040213SK010_03       | Temperature      |
| Shoshone Creek – Hot Creek to Idaho/Nevada border              | ID17040213SK011_04       | Temperature      |
| Hot Creek - Idaho/Nevada border to mouth                       | ID17040213SK012_02       | Temperature      |
| Hot Creek - Idaho/Nevada border to mouth                       | ID17040213SK012_03       | Temperature      |
| Hot Creek  | ID17040213SK012_03A      | Temperature      |

| Name of Creek/Water Segment                    | Assessment Unit #  | Pollutant   |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
| Hot Creek - Idaho/Nevada border to mouth       | ID17040213SK012 04 | Temperature |
| Shoshone Creek - Cottonwood Creek to Hot Creek | ID17040213SK013 04 | Temperature |
| Big Creek - source to mouth                    | ID17040213SK014 02 | Temperature |
| Big Creek - source to mouth                    | ID17040213SK014 03 | Temperature |
| Cottonwood Creek - source to mouth             | ID17040213SK015 02 | Temperature |
| Cottonwood Creek - source to mouth             | ID17040213SK015 03 | Temperature |
| Shoshone Creek - source to Cottonwood Creek    | ID17040213SK016 02 | Temperature |
| Shoshone Creek - source to Cottonwood Creek    | ID17040213SK016 03 | 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 for temperature in the waters addressed by these TMDLs. Therefore, IDEQ does not need to include these waters on the next list of impaired waters for temperature covered by these TMDLs.

Your submittal also includes implementation strategies for the TMDLs. IDEQ developed and submitted these strategies pursuant to TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. As you know, EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act; therefore, EPA is not taking actions 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 appreciate the efforts of Cory Sandow to bring these TMDLs to completion.

By the EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under the Clean Water Act, Section 303(e). If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-1855, or you may call Jayshika Ramrakha of my staff at (206) 553-1788.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Opalski  
Director

cc: Graham Freeman, Water Quality Coordinator, IDEQ State Office([graham.freeman@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:graham.freeman@deq.idaho.gov))

Sean Woodhead, Surface Water Quality Manager, IDEQ Twin Falls Regional Office ([sean.woodhead@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:sean.woodhead@deq.idaho.gov))

Cory Sandow, Senior Water Quality Scientist, IDEQ State Office ([cory.sandow@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:cory.sandow@deq.idaho.gov))