



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101

WATER DIVISION

September 8, 2022

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

Re: Approval of the Beaver-Camas Subbasin Temperature, Sediment and Bacteria TMDLs (HUC 17040214)

Dear Dr. Nelson:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Beaver-Camas Subbasin Temperature, Sediment and Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on August 12, 2022, through email. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve 28 TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the tables below.

Twelve TMDLs for the waters and pollutants that were included in Idaho’s 303(d) list (List) of impaired waters are identified in Table 1 below.

Table 1: EPA-Approved TMDLs on Impaired Waters

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Pollutant
Ching Creek—source to mouth	ID17040214SK006_03	<i>E. coli</i>
Crooked/Crab Creek—source to mouth	ID17040214SK008_03	Temperature
Warm Creek—Cottonwood Creek to mouth and East Camas Creek	ID17040214SK009_02	Temperature
East Camas Creek	ID17040214SK010_03	<i>E. coli</i>
West Camas Creek—source to Targhee National Forest Boundary	ID17040214SK013_03	<i>E. coli</i>
Rattlesnake Creek—source to mouth	ID17040214SK016_02	Temperature
Threemile Creek—source to mouth	ID17040214SK017_03	<i>E. coli</i>
Beaver Creek—Miner’s Creek to Rattlesnake Creek	ID17040214SK018_02	Sedimentation/siltation
Beaver Creek—Miner’s Creek to Rattlesnake Creek	ID17040214SK018_04	<i>E. coli</i>
Beaver Creek—source to Idaho Creek	ID17040214SK021_02	<i>E. coli</i>
Pleasant Valley Creek—source to mouth	ID17040214SK023_02	<i>E. coli</i>
		Temperature

The IDEQ revised temperature TMDLs using a different methodology for the following 16 waterbodies (located in Category 4a of Idaho’s Integrated Report) shown in Table 2 below to address the temperature

impairments. The EPA had previously approved these temperature TMDLs for these waterbodies in 2005.

Table 2: EPA-Approved Revised Temperature TMDLs Using Different Methodology

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #
Camas Creek—Spring Creek to Beaver Creek	ID17040214SK002_05
East Camas Creek	ID17040214SK010_02
East Camas Creek	ID17040214SK010_03
East Camas Creek—source to Larkspur Creek	ID17040214SK011_02
East Camas Creek—source to Larkspur Creek	ID17040214SK011_03
West Camas Creek	ID17040214SK012_03
West Camas Creek—source to Targhee National Forest Boundary	ID17040214SK013_02
West Camas Creek—source to Targhee National Forest Boundary	ID17040214SK013_03
Threemile Creek—source to mouth	ID17040214SK017_02
Threemile Creek—source to mouth	ID17040214SK017_03
Beaver Creek—Miner’s Creek to Rattlesnake Creek	ID17040214SK018_02
Beaver Creek—Miner’s Creek to Rattlesnake Creek	ID17040214SK018_04
Beaver Creek —Idaho Creek to Miner’s Creek	ID17040214SK020_03
Beaver Creek—source to Idaho Creek	ID17040214SK021_02
Beaver Creek—source to Idaho Creek	ID17040214SK021_03
Huntley Canyon Creek—source to mouth	ID17040214SK024_02

Our review indicates that these allocations have been established at a level that, when fully implemented, are expected to 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 pollutants 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 17040214 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.

There have been several leads (both at EPA and at IDEQ) since the beginning of this TMDL project. We would like to recognize Destiny Locke, Alex Bell and Genene Lehotsky for their collaboration and in bringing these TMDLs to completion.

By the EPA’s approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State’s Water Quality Management Plan in accordance with §303(e) of the CWA and Idaho Code § 39-3612. If you have any comments or

questions, please feel free to contact me at cerise.kathryn@epa.gov or at (206) 900-6367 (cell), or you may contact Jayne Carlin at carlin.jayne@epa.gov or my staff at (206) 553-8512.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Cerise, Acting Branch Manager
Standards, Assessment, and Watershed
Management Branch

Enclosure: EPA Decision Rationale for Beaver-Camas Subbasin Temperature, *E. coli*, and Sediment TMDLs

cc: Brent King, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho
Julia Achabal, Surface Water Bureau Chief, IDEQ
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