



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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

WATER
DIVISION

July 12, 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 Lower Clark Fork PNV TMDLs (HUC: 17010213)

Dear Dr. Nelson:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) submitted the Lower Clark Fork PNV Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on June 23, 2022. Following our review, the EPA is pleased to approve 22 TMDLs for the waters and pollutants listed in the table below.

The IDEQ revised temperature TMDLs using a different methodology for the following 22 waterbodies (located in Category 4a of Idaho’s Integrated Report) to address the temperature impairments. The EPA had previously approved these temperature TMDLs for the same waterbodies in 2007.

Table 1 EPA-Approved Revised Temperature TMDLs Using Different Methodology

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Pollutant
Johnson Creek – source to mouth	ID17010213PN002_02	Temperature
Johnson Creek – source to mouth	ID17010213PN002_03	Temperature
Twin Creek – 1st & 2nd order Twin & Delyle Creek	ID17010213PN004_02	Temperature
Dry Creek	ID17010213PN004_02a	Temperature
Twin Creek – Delyle Creek to Clark Fork River	ID17010213PN004_03	Temperature
Mosquito Creek – source to mouth	D17010213PN009_02	Temperature
Lightning Creek – Spring Creek to mouth	ID17010213PN010_04	Temperature
Lightning Creek – Cascade Creek to Spring Creek	ID17010213PN011_04	Temperature
Cascade Creek – source to mouth	ID17010213PN012_02	Temperature
Lightning Creek – East Fork Creek to Cascade Creek	ID17010213PN013_02	Temperature
Lightning Creek – East Fork Creek to Cascade Creek	ID17010213PN013_04	Temperature

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Pollutant
East Fork Creek – Idaho/Montana border to mouth	ID17010213PN014_02	Temperature
East Fork Creek – Idaho/Montana border to mouth	ID17010213PN014_03	Temperature
Savage Creek – Idaho/Montana border to mouth	ID17010213PN015_02	Temperature
Tribs to Lightning Creek between Wellington Creek and E. Fork Creek	D17010213PN016_02	Temperature
Lightning Creek – Wellington Creek to East Fork Creek	ID17010213PN016_03	Temperature
Lightning Creek – tribs between Wellington Creek & Rattle Creek	ID17010213PN017_02	Temperature
Lightning Creek – Rattle Creek to Wellington Creek	ID17010213PN017_03	Temperature
Rattle Creek – source to mouth	ID17010213PN018_02	Temperature
Lightning Creek – source to Rattle Creek	ID17010213PN019_02	Temperature
Lightning Creek – source to Rattle Creek	ID17010213PN019_03	Temperature
Wellington Creek – source to mouth	ID17010213PN020_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(s) covered by these TMDLs.

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 cooperation and thoroughness of Craig Nelson 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. Thank you for your continued progress in establishing TMDLs.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-2589, or your staff may call Kati Carberry of my staff at (208) 378-5771.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Brent King, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho (by email)
Thea Wickersham, TMDL Program Manager, IDEQ (by email)
Robert Steed, Water Quality Manager, Coeur d'Alene Regional Office, IDEQ (by email)
Craig Nelson, Coeur d'Alene Regional Office, IDEQ (by email)
Laird Lucas, Advocates for the West (by email)
Kristen Boyles, Earthjustice (by email)