



REGION 10
SEATTLE, WA 98101

March 8, 2026

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

Dear Dr. Nelson:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed its Clean Water Act review of the Pahsimeroi River Subbasin temperature and sediment Total Maximum Daily Load, submitted by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality on March 23, 2026. The number of impairments and waterbody segments addressed by the TMDL total five unique waterbody-pollutant pairs (i.e., five individual TMDLs), which includes one waterbody identified as impaired in IDEQ's 2024 CWA 303(d) list and four waterbodies with newly identified impairments as summarized in the table below.

The EPA is approving the TMDLs addressing these five impaired waters within the Pahsimeroi River Subbasin; this approval letter applies only to these assessment units. The TMDLs meet the statutory and regulatory requirements found in section 303(d) of the CWA and the EPA's implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R Part 130. The EPA's review indicates that the allocations have been established at levels that, when fully implemented, will lead to attainment of applicable water quality standards. As such, IDEQ does not need to include these waters on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for temperature and sediment.

Name of Creek/Water Segment	Assessment Unit #	Pollutant
North Fork Lawson Creek -source to mouth	ID17060202SL004_02	Temperature ¹
North Fork Lawson Creek-source to mouth	ID17060202SL004_03	Temperature ¹
Burnt Creek-Long Creek to mouth	ID17060202SL023_03	Sediment ¹
Burnt Creek-Source to Long Creek	ID17060202SL024_02	Temperature ²
Patterson Creek-source to and including Inyo Creek	ID17060202SL035_02	Temperature ¹

¹Newly identified impairment

²2024 303(d) listing

IDEQ's submittal also includes an implementation plan for the TMDLs. As you know, the EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation plans under section 303(d) of the CWA, and therefore, the EPA is not taking action on the plan. Implementation is the critical next step to improve water quality, and the EPA encourages IDEQ to continue its work with responsible parties on implementation of this plan.

The EPA appreciates the work of Kaleala Leavell, Alex Bell, and Thea Wickersham in developing and completing the Pahsimeroi River Subbasin temperature and sediment TMDL project. The EPA also appreciates the continued cooperation by IDEQ as we work towards the common goal of addressing impaired waters in the state of Idaho.

If you have any comments or questions on this agency action, please feel free to contact me at shaw.hanh@epa.gov or have your staff contact Kati Carberry at (208) 378-5771 or by email at carberry.kathryn@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

HANH SHAW

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Hanh Shaw, Manager
Standards, Assessment and Watershed
Management Branch

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