



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

SEP 24 2010

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

Mr. Dick Pedersen
Director
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
811 SW Sixth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204-1390

Re: Approval of the Lower Grande Ronde Subbasins, Oregon Temperature and Bacteria TMDLs

Dear Mr. Pedersen:

Following our review and evaluation of the Lower Grande Ronde Subbasins TMDL, Oregon temperature and bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) developed by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is pleased to approve the 37 TMDLs for impaired waters listed in the below table. These TMDLs were submitted to EPA by ODEQ on September 16, 2010. The water quality limited segments addressed by this TMDL approval include the following 44 listings. (Duplicate waters that are not counted as separate TMDLs by EPA are shaded.):

Subbasin	Record ID	Water Body	River Miles	Parameter	Year Listed
Imnaha	12532	Big Sheep Creek	0 to 10	Temperature	2004
Imnaha	12533	Crazyman Creek	0 to 6.8	Temperature	2004
Imnaha	12537	Dry Creek	0 to 4.2	Temperature	2004
Imnaha	12530	Freezeout Creek	0 to 8.5	Temperature	2004
Imnaha	20814	Grouse Creek	0 to 17.3	Temperature	2004
Imnaha	12531	Grouse Creek	0 to 17.3	Temperature	2004
Imnaha	12536	Gumboot Creek	0 to 7.4	Temperature	2004
Imnaha	12527	Imnaha River	0 to 35.8	Temperature	2004
Imnaha	13347	Imnaha River	35.7 to 42.7	Temperature	2004
Imnaha	12528	Imnaha River	35.8 to 42.7	Temperature	2004
Imnaha	12529	Imnaha River	42.7 to 72.2	Temperature	2004
Imnaha	827	Lightning Creek	0 to 24.8	Temperature	1998
Imnaha	12535	Little Sheep Creek	0 to 26	Temperature	2004
L. Grande Ronde	12544	Chesnimnus Creek	0 to 26.4	Temperature	2004
L. Grande Ronde	12555	Courtney Creek	0 to 14.3	Temperature	2004
L. Grande Ronde	12543	Crow Creek	0 to 20.2	Temperature	2004
L. Grande Ronde	908	Elk Creek	0 to 13.7	Temperature	1998
L. Grande Ronde	12538	Grande Ronde River	35.6 to 172.4	Temperature	2004
L. Grande Ronde	12553	Grouse Creek	0 to 1.4	Temperature	2004
L. Grande Ronde	12539	Joseph Creek	8.1 to 48.2	Temperature	2004
L. Grande Ronde	12560	Mud Creek	0 to 23	Temperature	2004
L. Grande Ronde	911	Peavine Creek	0 to 5.3	Temperature	1998
L. Grande Ronde	912	Salmon Creek	0 to 13.6	Temperature	1998

Subbasin	Record ID	Water Body	River Miles	Parameter	Year Listed
L. Grande Ronde	912	Salmon Creek	0 to 13.6	Temperature	1998
L. Grande Ronde	12565	Sickfoot Creek	0 to 7.5	Temperature	2004
L. Grande Ronde	12563	Wallupa Creek	0 to 10.1	Temperature	2004
L. Grande Ronde	13349	Wenaha River	6.7 to 10.3	Temperature	2004
L. Grande Ronde	12558	Wenaha River	0 to 10.3	Temperature	2004
L. Grande Ronde	12562	Wildcat Creek	0 to 16	Temperature	2004
Wallowa	13350	Bear Creek	2.8 to 9	Temperature	2004
Wallowa	12564	Bear Creek	0 to 7.5	Temperature	2004
Wallowa	890	Deer Creek	0 to 10.2	Temperature	1998
Wallowa	13351	Fisher Creek	0 to 0.5	Temperature	2004
Wallowa	12575	Fisher Creek	0 to 5.1	Temperature	2004
Wallowa	13352	Howard Creek	0 to 9	Temperature	2004
Wallowa	12576	Howard Creek	0 to 11.2	Temperature	2004
Wallowa	889	Little Bear Creek	0 to 8	Temperature	1998
Wallowa	12570	Minam River	0 to 12.6	Temperature	2004
Wallowa	13659	Prairie Creek	0 to 2.4	E Coli	2004
Wallowa	9273	Prairie Creek	0 to 12.5	E Coli	2004
Wallowa	924	Prairie Creek	0 to 12.5	Fecal Coliform	1998
Wallowa	925	Spring Creek	0 to 4.5	Fecal Coliform	1998
Wallowa	13786	Wallowa River	0 to 50	E Coli	2004
Wallowa	926	Wallowa River	0 to 50	Fecal Coliform	1998
Wallowa	12577	Wallowa River	0 to 53.7	Temperature	2004

This approval includes all load and wasteload allocations established in the TMDL, since all of these allocations are necessary in order to attain applicable water quality criteria throughout the watershed. Our review indicates that these allocations have been established at levels that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of the water quality criteria addressed by these TMDLs. Therefore, ODEQ does not need to include these waterbodies on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for the pollutants covered by this TMDL.

The TMDL submittal included the Lower Grande Ronde Subbasins Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) which discusses implementation strategies for the TMDL. EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation plans under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA); therefore, EPA is taking no action on the WQMP.

By EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under Section 303(e) of the Clean Water Act. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff throughout the development of these TMDLs. In particular, Bonnie Lamb and Don Butcher should be commended for their excellent work on the technical aspects of the TMDL and with the stakeholders in the watershed to bring this TMDL to completion after over ten years in the making.

We look forward to working with you during the implementation of these TMDLs and observing the water quality improvements which will be realized in the Lower Grande Ronde, Imnaha and Wallowa subbasins. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-4198 or Helen Rueda of my staff at (503) 326-3280.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Bussell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael A. Bussell, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Ms. Bonnie Lamb, ODEQ
Mr. Don Butcher, ODEQ
Mr. Gene Foster, ODEQ