

State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

**To:** Upper Klamath and Lost River Subbasins TMDL File

**Date:** December 19, 2017

**From:** Richard Whitman, Director

**Subject:** Upper Klamath and Lost River Subbasins TMDL Order

On December 19, 2017 the revised Upper Klamath and Lost River Subbasins Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was issued as an order by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The area covered by the Upper Klamath and Lost River Subbasins corresponds to two 4<sup>th</sup> field hydrologic unit codes (HUCs) 18010206 and 18010204, respectively.

This TMDL document was developed under §303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and is being submitted via this transmittal to the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for review and approval. The original TMDL included allocations for temperature, nutrients and dissolved organic carbon and was issued in December 2010. Seven entities in the Klamath Basin requested reconsideration, which was granted by the Director of DEQ in early 2011. Portions of the TMDL allocating nutrients were approved by USEPA in May of 2012. Litigation over Oregon's temperature standard led USEPA to take no action on the temperature component of the TMDLs. The enclosed document has been updated to include new information and revised nutrient allocations in response to the request for reconsideration. This submittal does not include a temperature TMDL, as USEPA is under court order to complete a temperature TMDL by April 2019.

The document includes allocations that address impairments of pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Chlorophyll-a, and Ammonia Toxicity. The updates to the document include removing the temperature component as a result of litigation, updating the ammonia analysis to ensure compliance with the 2015 ammonia criteria, and modifying the requirements for wastewater treatment facilities operated by the City of Klamath Falls and the South Suburban Sanitary District from an annual to a seasonal wasteload allocation expressed as a daily load.

ODEQ and California's North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) have worked cooperatively to develop TMDLs for the water quality impaired waterbodies in the Klamath Basin, including the Lost River and the Klamath Straits Drain, and the Klamath River from Link River to the Pacific Ocean. This modified TMDL meets the same targets at Oregon's border with California as the earlier-approved version. In addition, ODEQ and the Regional Water Board staff continue to work cooperatively on various implementation activities and strategies for the watershed as a whole.

The area covered by this TMDL document lies within the Oregon portion of the Klamath Basin (3<sup>rd</sup> field Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 180102 and includes the Upper Klamath Subbasin (HUC 18010206), the Lost River Subbasin (HUC 18010204). The flowing table outlines the TMDL's covered by the revised document.

Sub-basin	Water Body	River Miles	Parameter	Season (Beneficial Use)	Record ID
Klamath River	Klamath River	231.5 to 253	Ammonia Toxicity	Year round	15767
	Klamath River	231.5 to 253	Chlorophyll a	Summer	15776
	Klamath River	207 to 231.1	Dissolved Oxygen	1/1 – 5/15 (Spawning)	11587
	Klamath River	207 to 231.1	Dissolved Oxygen	Year round (Non-spawning)	11982
	Klamath River	231.1 to 251	Dissolved Oxygen	Year round (Non-spawning)	21093
	Klamath River	231.5 to 253	pH	Summer	15785
	KR Lake Ewauna	232.7 to 253.7	Ammonia	Year round	15510
	KR Lake Ewauna	232.7 to 253.7	Dissolved Oxygen	Year round	21088
	KR Lake Ewauna	232.7 to 253.7	pH	Year round	15514 / 15515
	Lost River	Klamath Straits	0 to 9.8	Ammonia Toxicity	Year round
Klamath Straits		0 to 9.8	Chlorophyll a	Summer	2027
Klamath Straits		0 to 9.8	Dissolved Oxygen	Year round (Non-spawning)	21949
Lost River		4.8 to 65.4	Ammonia Toxicity	Year round	14826
Lost River		4.8 to 65.4	Chlorophyll a	Summer	2029
Lost River		4.8 to 65.4	Dissolved Oxygen	Year round (Non-spawning)	21087
Lost River DC		0 to 0	Dissolved Oxygen	Year round	24489
Lost River Reservoir		25.4 to 27.6	Chlorophyll a	Summer	2032
Lost River Reservoir		25.4 to 27.6	Dissolved Oxygen	Summer	2015
Lost River Reservoir		25.4 to 27.6	pH	Summer	2097

The public comment period for the draft Upper Klamath and Lost River Subbasins TMDL document was open from April 21, 2017 through June 22, 2017. Copies of the draft TMDL documents were made available online and by hard copy upon request.

An informational meeting followed by a public hearing was held in Klamath Falls, OR on May 18, 2017. All comments were addressed as part of the formal response to comments process.

Comments were received from:

Klamath Water Users Association  
City of Klamath Falls  
Columbia Forest Products

Columbia Forest Products  
US EPA Region 10  
Kuruk Tribe  
Quartz Valley Indian Reservation  
Klamath Drainage District  
Collins Forest Products  
Institute for Fisheries Resources

DEQ has summarized the issues raised, prepared responses and made revisions to the revised TMDL.

Should you have any questions about these TMDLs, please contact Mike Hiatt, 541-273-7002.

Issued by:

Richard Whitman, Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Whitman', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Attachments: TMDL, WQMP, Response to Comments

