

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

To: Walla Walla Subbasin TMDL File **Date:** September 13, 2005

From: Lauri Aunan, WQ Administrator

Subject: Walla Walla Subbasin TMDL Order

On September 13, 2005, the Walla Walla Subbasin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was issued as an order by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The area covered by the Walla Walla Subbasin corresponds to one fourth-field hydrologic unit code (HUC): #17070102. The Walla Walla Subbasin is located in northeastern Oregon, covering approximately 1,760 square miles. Twenty-seven percent of this area lies in Oregon. Though the TMDL documentation includes collaborative assessment of interstate waters, the allocations and WQMP only apply in Oregon. The Walla Walla River drains into the Columbia River in Washington and is home to cold-water and anadromous fish. The TMDL is submitted for temperature. The TMDL is applicable to all perennial waters and others that have potential to be contributing to the mainstem during the warm season.

This final Walla Walla Subbasin TMDL, developed under §303(d) of the Clean Water Act, has been submitted for US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) approval. The document, when approved, will be an update to Oregon's Continuous Planning Process per §303(e) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Oregon's WQMP is also being submitted to US EPA, although it does not need to be approved or disapproved as specified under the terms of the February 1, 2000 Memorandum of Agreement between US EPA and DEQ regarding the implementation of §303(d) of the CWA. Should US EPA modify or disapprove this TMDL, such actions will be made public.

The watershed analyses, monitoring results, and draft TMDLs were presented to and discussed with a variety of agencies, committees and interests including the US EPA, the US Forest Service, the US Bureau of Land Management, the Oregon Department of fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, private landowners, and the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council during 2000-2005. The intent was to get informal review and comment while DEQ was completing the development of the draft TMDLs.

The public comment period on the draft Walla Walla Subbasin TMDL was opened on May 2, 2005 and closed on July 14, 2005. Informational meetings to present background on the technical and modeling components of the draft TMDLs were provided preceding a formal public hearing on June 21, 2005. DEQ received comments on the final draft TMDL from 5 parties including: the US EPA, the Northwest Environmental Advocates & Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NWEA & NEDC collaborated to submit one set of comments), the Umatilla National Forest, the Native Creek Society and the Oregon Department of Agriculture. DEQ summarized the issues raised, prepared responses, and made revisions to the draft TMDL and WQMP.

This memo and the related public notification represent the beginning of the 60-day appeal period on this DEQ action. The Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) allow for the following:

- (1) Any person who participated in establishing a TMDL, including those who submitted comments, and any other person entitled to seek judicial review of an order issuing a TMDL may request reconsideration by the Director in accordance with OAR 137-004-0080.
- (2) A person may file a petition for judicial review of a final TMDL order as allowed by ORS 183.484.

This TMDL can be found at the following website: www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm or can be viewed at the following locations: DEQ Headquarters, 811 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204 or DEQ Eastern Regional Office, 700 SE Emigrant Avenue, Suite 330, OR, 97801. Once US EPA has approved this TMDL, this document will be made available via Compact Disc, other digital storage or paper copy and can be accessed through the internet or via request to the Department.

Should you have any questions about this TMDL, please contact either Mitch Wolgamott at 541-278-4619 or Don Butcher at 541-278-4603.

Issued by:

Lauri Aunan
Water Quality Administrator

Date: _____

Attachments

