

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

To: Alvord Lake Subbasin TMDL File

Date: January 12, 2004

From: Michael T. Llewelyn, WQ Administrator

Subject: Alvord Lake Subbasin TMDL Order

On January 12, 2004, the Alvord Lake Subbasin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was issued as an order by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). The area covered by the Alvord Lake Subbasin corresponds to one fourth-field hydrologic unit code (HUC):17120009. The Alvord Lake Subbasin is a closed basin located in the southeast corner of the state, covering approximately 2,150 square miles. As a closed basin, its streams are not connected to the Pacific Ocean and anadromous fish are blocked from accessing the basin. In addition, many of the streams are disconnected from each other. TMDLs submitted are for temperature and dissolved oxygen (see attachment). The temperature TMDL is established only for subbasin streams that are listed on Oregon's 303(d) list or that contain salmonid fish or are tributaries to streams that contain salmonid fish. The dissolved oxygen TMDL is established for Willow Creek in the Trout Creek Mountains.

This final Alvord Lake Subbasin TMDL, developed under §303(d) of the Clean Water Act, has been submitted for 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 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 EPA and ODEQ regarding the implementation of §303(d) of the CWA. Should 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 EPA, BLM, ODFW, private landowners, and the Local Advisory Committee for the Greater Harney Basin Agricultural Water Quality Management Area between 1998 and 2003. The intent was to get informal review and comment while ODEQ was completing the development of the draft TMDLs.

The public comment period on the draft Alvord Lake Subbasin TMDL was opened on September 29, 2003 and closed on December 5, 2003. Informational meetings to present background on the technical and modeling components of the draft TMDLs were provided at several venues preceding the public comment period, and one formal public hearing was held on November 17, 2003 at the Fields School in Fields, OR. ODEQ received comments on the draft TMDLs from 2 individuals representing an environmental group and EPA. ODEQ 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 ODEQ 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: ODEQ Headquarters, 811 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204 or ODEQ Eastern Regional Office, 2146 NE Fourth Street, Bend, OR, 97701. Once EPA has approved this TMDL, this document will be made available via a CD electronic file or paper.

Should you have any questions about this TMDL, please contact either Dick Nichols at 541-388-6146, ext. 251 or Greg Aldrich at 503-229-6345.

Issued by:

Michael T. Llewelyn
Water Quality Administrator

Date: _____

Attachments

