

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

To: Lower Grande Ronde Subbasins TMDL File

Date: September 16, 2010

From: Neil Mullane, WQ Administrator

Subject: Lower Grande Ronde Subbasins TMDL Order

On September 16, 2010 the Lower Grande Ronde Subbasins Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was issued as an order by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The area covered by the Lower Grande Ronde Subbasins corresponds to three 4th field hydrologic unit codes (HUCs): Imnaha River Subbasin (HUC 17060102), Wallowa River Subbasin (HUC 17060105) and Lower Grande Ronde Subbasin (HUC 17060106). The Lower Grande Ronde Subbasins encompass an area of approximately 2,982 square miles in northeastern Oregon.

This document sets TMDLs to address 303(d) listings for temperature and bacteria. The temperature TMDLs are applicable to all perennial and intermittent streams in the three subbasins comprising the Lower Grande Ronde Subbasins. The bacteria TMDLs are applicable to all perennial and intermittent waters in the Wallowa River Subbasin. The total number of completed TMDLs included in the Lower Grande Ronde Subbasins document, as counted by DEQ, is 44 (38 for temperature, 6 for bacteria).

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

Watershed analyses and draft TMDLs were presented to and discussed with a TMDL committee that consisted of a variety of stakeholders and interests including: Oregon Departments of Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, Agriculture and Transportation; the U.S. Forest Service; the Cities of Joseph, Wallowa, Enterprise and Lostine; the Grand Ronde Model Watershed; the Nez Perce Tribe; the Wallowa County Soil and Water Conservation District; Wallowa County; The Nature Conservancy; agricultural interests (Local Advisory Committee for the Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan); large landowner representation; corporate forestry; irrigation; the weed board/industrial chemical fertilizer industry; and industrial manufacturing. The intent of working with this local committee was to get informal review and comment while DEQ was completing the development of the draft TMDLs.

The public comment period for the draft Lower Grande Ronde Subbasins TMDL document was open from May 28th through July 29th, 2010. Copies of the draft TMDL documents were made available at various locations including the Wallowa County Soil and Water Conservation District office, the Wallowa Public Library, the Enterprise Public Library and at DEQ's offices in Pendleton and Bend, as well as on-line at the DEQ website and through direct mailings.

An informational meeting followed by a public hearing was held in Enterprise, OR on July 7, 2010. Formal written comments were received from three organizations and addressed as part of the

formal response to comments process. Comments were received from: Umatilla National Forest, Bureau of Land Management (Vale District Office), and USEPA. DEQ has 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/WQMP and Response to Comments documents can be found at the following website: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/WQ/TMDLs/granderonde.htm> or can be viewed at the following locations: DEQ Headquarters, 811 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204 or DEQ Pendleton Office, 700 SE Emigrant, Suite 330, Pendleton, OR 97801. Once USEPA has approved this TMDL, this document will be made available via a CD, electronic file or paper copy.

Should you have any questions about these TMDLs, please contact Don Butcher, 541-278-4603 or Bonnie Lamb, 541-633-2027.

Issued by:



Neil Mullane
Water Quality Administrator

Date: September 16, 2010

Attachments

