



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3123**

OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

JUN 20 2018

Mr. Justin Green, Administrator
Water Quality Division
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600
Portland, Oregon 97232-4100

Re: Approval of the Western Hood Subbasin TMDLs

Dear Mr. Green:

Following our review and evaluation of the 2018 revision of the Western Hood Subbasin Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for temperature developed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the TMDLs for impaired waters listed in the tables below. These TMDLs were submitted on February 16, 2018, and received by the EPA on February 23, 2018. The water quality limited segments addressed by this TMDL approval include the 13 listings from Oregon's 2012 303(d) list in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Western Hood Subbasin segments on Oregon's 2012 303(d) list addressed in this TMDL.

Water Body	Latitude Longitude Identification Number (LLID)	River Miles	Record ID	Integrated Report Assessment Year	Applicable Numeric Criterion for Temperature 2003 Standard
Clear Branch	1216613454604	0 to 3.8	1201	1998	12.0°C
East Fork Hood River	1216272455754	0 to 9.8	1202	2002	18.0°C
East Fork Hood River	1216272455754	9.8 to 27.4	1203	2002	18.0°C
Hood River	1215067457204	1.5 to 4.6	1316	1998	16.0°C
Hood River	1215067457204	4.6 to 14.6	1317	2002	16.0°C
Indian Creek	1215104457009	0 to 7.8	1324	1998	18.0°C
Lake Branch	1217031455483	0 to 10	1204	2002	16.0°C
Lake Branch	1217031455483	10 to 11.1	1210	1998	16.0°C
Middle Fork Hood River	1216272455753	0 to 9.5	1205	1998	12.0°C
Neal Creek	1215257456640	0 to 5.6	1318	1998	18.0°C
Un-named creek (Robinhood Cr)	1215723453666	0 to 1.7	1218	2002	18.0°C
West Fork Hood River	1216335456049	0 to 14.4	1206	2002	16.0°C
Whiskey Creek	1215108456840	0 to 2.5	1319	1998	18.0°C

DEQ also completed TMDLs for waterbodies which were not meeting water quality standards for the pollutant(s) shown in Table 2 below, but had not previously been included on Oregon's 303(d) List (List). These TMDLs and waters are contained in the table below. The EPA approves these TMDLs, as the EPA understands that these waters would have been included on the List had the State been aware of the exceedances at the time the List was completed.

Table 2 - Western Hood Subbasin segments to be listed as impaired in Oregon's next 303(d) list addressed in this TMDL.

Water Body	LLID	River Miles	Applicable Numeric Criterion for Temperature
East Fork Hood River	1216272455754	0 to 16.06	13.0°C (applies Oct. 15 – May 15)
Hood River	1215067457204	0 to 12.8	13.0°C (applies Oct. 15 – May 15)
Hood River	1215067457204	12.8 to 15.15	13.0°C (applies Oct. 15 – May 15)
Lenz Creek	1215146456436	0 to 1.7	18.0°C
Neal Creek	1215257456640	0 to 5.6	13.0°C (applies Oct. 15 – May 15)
Odell Creek	1215398456564	0 to 6.6	16.0°C
Odell Creek	1215398456564	0 to 6.6	13.0°C (applies Oct. 15 – May 15)
Un-named Pine Grove creek	1215278455850	0 to 3.2	18.0°C
Un-named creek, tributary to West Fork Neal Creek	1215137456488	0 to 2.3	18.0°C
West Fork Neal Creek	1214995455943	0 to 9.0	18.0°C

This approval includes all load and wasteload allocations (WLAs) established in the TMDLs, since all of these allocations are necessary in order to attain applicable water quality criteria throughout the watershed. In addition, the EPA is approving the alternative WLAs contained in the TMDLs. These alternative WLAs that are associated with the specific scenarios of design flows or changes in points of discharge inform what changes in the WLA for a specific point source can be made without exceeding the Loading Capacity for the watershed and that does not exceed its share of the human use allowance. When the facility's compliance strategy corresponds with a specific scenario described in the TMDL documents section 7.1 and represented in Table 14, then DEQ will approve the change in the WLA from the one listed in Table 13 to the one listed in Table 14. DEQ should notify the EPA of the change in the facility's WLA within 30 days of the approval by DEQ. Our review indicated that these allocations have been established at levels that, when fully implemented, will lead to the attainment of water quality criteria in these segments. Consequently, DEQ should not include these waterbodies on the next 303(d) list of impaired waters for the pollutants covered by these TMDLs.

The TMDL submittal included the 2001 Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP), which DEQ indicates continues to serve as the implementation mechanism for the Western Hood Subbasin TMDL and has not been revised. The EPA has no duty to approve or disapprove implementation plans under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA); therefore, the EPA is taking no action on the WQMP.

By EPA's approval, these TMDLs are now incorporated into Oregon'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 should be commended for the thoroughness of her analysis in the development of these revised TMDLs.

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 Western Hood Subbasin. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-1855, or have your staff contact Claire Schary of my staff at (206) 553-8514.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Opalski", written in a cursive style.

Daniel D. Opalski, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Ms. Bonnie Lamb, DEQ
Mr. Eric Negg, DEQ
Mr. Gene Foster, DEQ