

# **IDAHO (REGION 10)**

## *A Snapshot of Idaho's TMDL Program (August 2008)*

### ***The Basics***

Key Agency/Department & website

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data\_reports/surface\_water/tmdls/overview.cfm

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

Housed in Water Quality Division / Surface Water Program

### ***By the Numbers***

Number of Impaired Waters 1,392

Number of Causes of Impairment 2,243

Top Five Causes of Impairment

1. Temperature
2. Sediment
3. Cause Unknown
4. Nutrients
5. Pathogens

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually 7-10

Total Number of TMDLs Approved (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA) 1,502

Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007 158/150/50

2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date) 5/20/2008

Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues 24

### ***TMDLs***

EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs? Y

Broad-Scale? (e.g., watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.)

### ***Non-TMDL Options***

Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters? N

### ***Funding***

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program \$515,000

Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding  
general state  
funding

### ***TMDL Implementation***

TMDL Implementation Required? Y

### ***Innovations***

Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed

--designed a TMDL template that is consistent, thorough, and easy to follow; used for all TMDLs and really streamlined the process to get our work out on the table for public consumption, review by EPA R10—especially important to meet TMDL legal schedule

--virtually all funds from 319 program are used on the ground in Idaho; this is quite different than many states that use the money to write TMDLs or support staff positions; we spend more than 80-90% on actual, on-the-ground work

--looking at developing a statewide Mercury TMDL for lakes and reservoirs, since we are convinced virtually all the sources are airborne from the regional or global pool

#### TMDLs that Represent a Particular Achievement

--Lower Clark Fork River

[http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data\\_reports/surface\\_water/tmdls/clark\\_fork\\_lower/clark\\_fork\\_lower.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data_reports/surface_water/tmdls/clark_fork_lower/clark_fork_lower.cfm)

--South Fork Clearwater River

[http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data\\_reports/surface\\_water/tmdls/clearwater\\_river\\_sf/clearwater\\_river\\_sf.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data_reports/surface_water/tmdls/clearwater_river_sf/clearwater_river_sf.cfm)

--Snake River-Hells Canyon

[http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data\\_reports/surface\\_water/tmdls/snake\\_river\\_hells\\_canyon/snake\\_river\\_hells\\_canyon.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data_reports/surface_water/tmdls/snake_river_hells_canyon/snake_river_hells_canyon.cfm)

Links to ID TMDLs:

[www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data\\_reports/surface\\_water/tmdls/sba\\_tmdl\\_master\\_list.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/data_reports/surface_water/tmdls/sba_tmdl_master_list.cfm)

#### ***Barriers***

##### Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. lack of NPDES primacy
2. over-involvement of entities whose sole purpose is to get out from under TMDLs and their allocations, especially PSs
3. lack of adequate financial resources for monitoring; battle of experts over modeling (which is extremely expensive and doesn't yield a better end result)

##### Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. inability to force NPSs to implement
2. lack of targeted funding to all reaches in a watershed; syndrome of spreading the wealth so everyone gets a piece of the pork
3. EPA HQ v. EPA Regional priorities, and who gets money and who doesn't; HQ needs a bracing reality check that they waste tons of money on nationally driven project priorities that invariably yield nothing meaningful on the ground