UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

APR 30 2014

Barry Burnell, Administrator
State Water Quality Program
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706-1255

RE: Approval of Cow Creek Temperature TMDL (Hydrologic Unit Code 17060108)

Dear Mr. Burnell:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), as listed in the table below, for the Cow Creek Subbasin, as submitted on February 27, 2014. This approval only includes those waters for which a TMDL was completed and does not constitute approval for de-listing of waters within Hydrologic Unit Code 17060108 from the Idaho 1998 §303(d) list. Any proposed de-listing of waters will be considered at the time of submission of the next §303(d) list of impaired waters.

The EPA appreciates the cooperation and work of the Lewiston Regional Office on this TMDL, especially the coordination prior to the public comment period and the sharing of a pre-public comment draft with EPA staff. We support this sort of early involvement and believe it results in a better understanding of the approaches used to develop the TMDL and enables meaningful discussions to occur between Idaho and EPA staff that can later expedite EPA's review of the final document.

The February 27, 2013, submittal also includes the Implementation Strategies for the TMDL. The strategies were developed and submitted pursuant to the TMDL Settlement Agreement of July 2002. The EPA currently has no duty to approve or disapprove Implementation Strategies under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and therefore, EPA is not taking action on them. However, we believe implementation is the critical next step for realizing improvements in water quality called for in the TMDL and encourage IDEQ to continue their work with Responsible Parties on implementation.

Waterbody Segment [WQLS]	Assessment Unit(s) of ID 17040214	Pollutant
Cow Creek (Headwaters to Washington Border)	ID1706108CL001_03	Temperature

By EPA's approval, this TMDL is now incorporated into the State's Water Quality Management Plan under §303(e) of the Clean Water Act. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to call me at (206)553-1261, or you may call Bill Stewart of my staff at (208)378-5753.

Sincerely,

Christine Taylor for

Daniel D. Opalski, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Curt Fransen, IDEQ Director
Doug Conde, IDEQ Attorney General
Mike McIntyre, IDEQ Surface Water Program Manager
Marti Bridges, IDEQ TMDL Program Manager
John Cardwell, IDEQ, Idaho Falls Regional Office Water Quality Manager