

State of Oregon

Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

To: Willow Creek Subbasin TMDL File

Date: January 31, 2007

From: Lauri Aunan, WQ Administrator



Subject: Willow Creek Subbasin TMDL Order

On January 31, 2007, the Willow Creek Subbasin Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) were issued as an order by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The area covered by the Willow Creek Subbasin corresponds to one fourth-field hydrologic unit code (HUC): #17070102. The Willow Creek Subbasin is located in north-central Oregon, covering approximately 880 square miles. The Willow Creek drains into the Columbia River and is home to cold-water fish. The TMDLs are submitted for temperature, pH and bacteria. The temperature TMDL is applicable to all perennial waters and others that have potential to be contributing surface flow to the mainstem during the warm season.

These final Willow Creek Subbasin TMDLs, developed under §303(d) of the Clean Water Act, have been submitted for US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) approval. The TMDL document, when approved, will be an update to Oregon's Continuous Planning Process per §303(e) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). A TMDL Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) is also being submitted to US 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 US EPA and DEQ regarding the implementation of §303(d) of the CWA. Should US EPA modify or disapprove the TMDL(s), such actions will be made public.

Watershed analyses and draft TMDLs were presented to and discussed with a variety of agencies, committees and interests including the US EPA, the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District, the Morrow County Commissioners and the Designated Management Agencies during 2000-2006. The intent was to get informal review and comment while DEQ was completing the development of the draft TMDLs.

The public comment period on the draft Willow Creek Subbasin TMDLs was opened on August 25, 2006 and closed on October 10, 2006. An informational meeting to present background on the technical and policy components of the draft TMDLs was provided during a formal public hearing on September 19, 2006. DEQ received comments on the final draft TMDLs from two parties including: the US EPA and the Oregon Department of Forestry. DEQ summarized the issues raised, prepared responses, and made revisions to the draft TMDLs and the 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.

These TMDLs can be found at the following website: www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm or can be viewed at the following locations: DEQ Headquarters, 811 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204 or DEQ Eastern Regional Office, 700 SE Emigrant Avenue, Suite 330, OR, 97801. Once US EPA has approved these TMDLs, this document will be made available via Compact Disc, other digital storage or paper copy and can be accessed through the internet or via request to the Department.

Should you have any questions about these TMDLs or the WQMP, please contact either Mitch Wolgamott at 541-278-4619 or Don Butcher at 541-278-4603.

Issued by:

Lauri Aunan
Water Quality Administrator

Date: 1/31/07

Attachments