



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3188

WATER
DIVISION

August 6, 2021

Mr. Vince McGowan
Water Quality Program Manager
Washington Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600
vincent.mcgowan@ecy.wa.gov

Re: Transmittal of the Final TMDLs for the Deschutes River and its Tributaries

Dear Mr. McGowan:

This letter serves as the Environmental Protection Agency's transmittal to you of the "Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Deschutes River and its Tributaries," July 31, 2020, as revised on August 6, 2021. The TMDLs address waterbody impairments for sediment, bacteria, dissolved oxygen, pH, and temperature. Pursuant to §303(d)(2) of the Clean Water Act and 40 C.F.R. §130.7(d)(2), EPA has established these TMDLs and is hereby providing them to the State for implementation.

EPA's TMDLs were made available for public comment from August 7 to October 7, 2020. Based on public comments received, we made numerous clarifications as well as the following substantive revisions to the TMDL document:

- Landslides not associated with roads were reclassified as anthropogenic sources of sediment in the watershed for the revised final TMDLs. In EPA's 2020 TMDLs, that type of landslide was previously classified as natural. The background turbidity level analysis, sediment TMDL target, and load allocations were revised. Because the TMDL is based on an allowable increase over natural background conditions, the reclassification of landslides decreased the TMDL and slightly shifted allocations, with the largest change being a smaller allocation to landslides.
- The sediment TMDL margin of safety referencing the upland source assessment was revised. Instead of stating that the erosion values are indicative of a highly erosive year as a conservative assumption, the revised final TMDL states that erosion mitigating conservation practices are in place.
- An updated surface area was calculated for Capitol Lake. The detention time for Capitol Lake was revised using gage data from 2000 – 2019 and the updated surface area (see Appendix B). This resulted in a detention time of 14.25 days instead of 13.98 days. It did not result in any changes to conclusions made within the TMDL document.
- The intent of the wasteload allocations for the Sand and Gravel General Permit and stormwater general permits was clarified within the footnotes to the TMDL tables and associated narrative. The revised final TMDLs now clarify that wasteload allocations of zero during non-stormwater periods are not intended to be prohibitive of allowable discharges. Loading during non-stormwater periods is expected to be negligible if permit conditions are followed.

We are enclosing the final response to comments, TMDL report, and appendices. These documents and additional information can also be found on our website at <https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/deschutes-river-tmdls>.

EPA recognizes the Washington Department of Ecology's diligent efforts to address water quality impairments in the Deschutes River watershed, as well as continued TMDL implementation efforts. If you have any questions or would like to discuss options for collaboration, please feel free to call me at (206) 553-8696 or Miranda Magdangal of my staff at (206) 553-0692.

Sincerely,

/s/ August 6, 2021

Cami Grandinetti, Manager
Standards, Assessment, & Watersheds
Management Branch

Enclosures

cc: Ben Rau, Ecology, ben.rau@ecy.wa.gov (via email)
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