

Public Notice: Public Hearing / Request for Comments

Proposed Temperature TMDL and Water Quality Management Plan for the Middle Columbia-Hood (Miles Creeks) Subbasin



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

**Water Quality
Division**
475 NE Bellevue, Suite
110
Bend, OR 9770a
Phone: (541) 388-6146
(800) 452-4011
Fax: (541) 388-8283
Contact: Bonnie Lamb
www.deq.state.or.us

Notice issued: Monday, October 6, 2008

Written comments due: By 5:00 pm on
Friday, December 5, 2008

Public Participation:

An informational meeting and public hearing will be held on **Thursday, November 20, 2008** in The Dalles. The meeting/hearing will be held at Columbia Gorge Community College, Building 1, Room 1.162 (Board Room).

- 6:30 PM: Informational Presentation – Question and Answer Session
- 7:00 PM: Public Hearing

Where can I send comments and get more information?

DEQ accepts comments by mail, fax and e-mail. Please direct comments and questions as indicated below:

Name: Bonnie Lamb
Phone: (541) 633-2027 or
Toll free in Oregon (800) 452-4011
E-mail: lamb.bonnie@deq.state.or.us
Mailing address: DEQ, 475 NE Bellevue,
Suite 110, Bend, OR 97701
Fax: (541) 388-8382

NOTE: People wishing to send attached comments via e-mail should send them in Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) or plain text format. If there is a delay between servers, e-mails may not be received before the deadline.

How can I review documents?

Internet: The entire document and a fact sheet can be viewed on DEQ's TMDL website at: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm>. DEQ encourages individuals with computer capabilities to view the documents directly at this website.

Hard copies for review: Copies of the draft document are available for examination at the following locations:

- DEQ Office in The Dalles, Columbia Gorge Community College, 400 Scenic Drive, Building 2
- DEQ Office in Bend, 475 NE Bellevue, Suite 110
- Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District in The Dalles, 2325 River Road
- Mt. Hood National Forest in Dufur, 780 NE Court Street
- The Dalles-Wasco County Library in The Dalles, 722 Court Street
- To discuss the TMDL, or to request that a CD or paper copy be mailed directly to you (a limited number of copies will be made for this purpose), call Bonnie Lamb at the number indicated above.

Who is proposing the action?

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Area covered by the action:

This action covers the eastern portion of the Middle Columbia-Hood Subbasin. This area is called the "Miles Creeks Subbasin" for the purposes of this action. The Subbasin includes streams that flow into the Columbia River from Mosier Creek east to Fifteenmile Creek. The TMDL is established for all perennial and intermittent streams in this area.

Need for action:

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires the development of TMDLs for waterbodies included on a state's 303(d) list. EPA must approve TMDLs submitted by a state. There are multiple 303(d) listings for temperature within the Miles Creeks Subbasin.

What is proposed?

DEQ proposes to issue a Miles Creeks Subbasin stream temperature TMDL and to submit it to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval as a TMDL for federal, state and private lands within the Miles Creeks Subbasin. A Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) is also included in this submittal, although currently EPA does not officially approve or disapprove that plan. DEQ is asking for comments on both the TMDL and the WQMP as part of this public review.

EPA approval of the TMDL will remove streams that are water quality limited for temperature from DEQ's 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies under the federal Clean Water Act.

The purpose of this notice is to invite written comments on the proposed TMDL and WQMP and provide notice of the informational meeting and Public Hearing related to this action.

Who is affected?

Land use authorities, local public and private landowners/managers, people interested in water quality and fisheries, and people interested in DEQ's implementation of Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act.

What happens next?

DEQ will review and consider all comments received during the public comment period. Following this review, DEQ will modify the TMDL and WQMP if necessary and approve them as an order. DEQ will then submit the documents to EPA for approval.

After the order is signed, DEQ will notify all commenters and affected parties that the TMDL has been finalized and a summary of responses to comments is available. If you do not comment and are not an affected party but wish to receive notification, please contact DEQ as indicated previously in this notice.

Accessibility information

DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities at our hearings. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or another format. To make these arrangements, contact Bonnie Lamb at (541) 633-2027 or toll free in Oregon at 800-452-4011. Alternatively, contact DEQ Communications & Outreach at (503) 229-5696; via fax at (503) 229-6762; or by e-mail to deqinfo@deq.state.or.us. Please notify DEQ of your special needs as far in advance as possible.

People with hearing impairments may call DEQ's TTY number at 1-800-735-2900.