

## Willamette Basin TMDL: Next Steps

### What is a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)?

Many streams and rivers in Oregon, including the Willamette, do not meet water quality standards for various pollutants. In the Willamette, bacteria, temperature, and mercury have been identified as problems for water quality. The Willamette TMDL defines how much of each identified pollutant a river or stream in the Willamette Basin can receive and still meet water quality standards.

### Where can I find the Willamette Basin TMDL?

The Willamette Basin TMDL Order was signed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on September 21, 2006. The TMDL requires pollution sources to implement actions to improve water quality. The Willamette TMDL has been submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for final approval as required by the federal Clean Water Act. Under federal law, the EPA has 30 days to take action on the TMDL. EPA has sometimes taken from weeks to months to approve TMDLs.

Copies of the Willamette TMDL documents are available on the DEQ Website at: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/Willamette.htm>



*Streamside shading and erosion prevention are two ways to improve water quality*

### How is a TMDL Implemented?

There are many steps in implementing a TMDL. While some of the steps will be common for all types of TMDLs, many of the steps will be

defined by the type of pollutant being addressed, the source of the pollutant, and the amount the pollutant has to be reduced. Reducing pollutants going into a river or stream may require changes in management practices for non-point sources. These changes will need to be implemented by the Designated Management Agencies (DMA).

### Who are the Designated Management Agencies (DMAs)?

DEQ has named certain federal, state and local governments and agencies, including cities, counties, and special districts, as DMAs because these agencies and governments have authority to manage and regulate sources of pollutants that are listed in the Willamette TMDL. For a list of DMAs, please see:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/docs/willamettebasin/willamette/chpt14wqmp.pdf>

### If I am a DMA, what do I need to?

As a DMA you will need to develop a TMDL implementation plan telling DEQ what you are going to do to reduce the amount of a pollutant from your practices or facility. You may already have plans or strategies in place that help achieve the water quality improvement goals of the TMDL. While these can be included in your implementation plan, you may need to describe additional steps you will take over time to improve water quality and help meet the pollutant reduction goals of the TMDL. For more details regarding the requirements and timelines of TMDL implementation plans, see the table at the end of this document.

### What help is available from DEQ?

DEQ will be meeting with DMAs to explain the TMDL implementation process and specific plan requirements. Key DEQ staff will be assigned to help you identify implementation steps, clarify timelines and characterize monitoring and reporting requirements. DEQ will also provide you with information and databases that may include sources of funding for developing and implementing your plan.



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For more information:  
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm>

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### Alternative formats

*Alternative formats (Braille, large type) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications & Outreach, Portland, at (503) 229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696.*

## **What does an Implementation Plan look like? What are the basic components?**

In general, implementation plans should document management strategies you currently have in place to protect or improve water quality, identify gaps to be filled to reduce pollutants, and outline how you intend to fill those gaps through additional actions.

In your Implementation Plan, you will need to:

*(A) Identify the management strategies you, as the DMA, will use to achieve load allocations and reduce pollutant loading;*

*(B) Provide a timeline for implementing management strategies and a schedule for completing measurable milestones;*

*(C) Provide for performance monitoring with a plan for periodic review and revision of the implementation plan;*

*(D) Provide evidence of compliance with applicable statewide land use requirements; and*

*(E) Provide any other analyses or information specified in the Water Quality Management Plan.*

## **If I am an “MS4 community” with a completed Stormwater Management Plan, do I still need to develop an Implementation Plan?**

Yes. Where TMDL-identified pollutants such as temperature are not addressed in your MS4 stormwater management plan, you will need to describe the full range of efforts you will employ to address the TMDLs. For temperature these may include referencing or developing ordinances to protect or restore streamside vegetation, actions to restore critical fish habitat, or other measures that will reduce the causes of river warming.

## **Who can I contact for more information?**

In October 2006, DMAs will be receiving a letter providing more information about developing TMDL Implementation Plans. DEQ has assigned basin coordinators as lead contacts for DMAs for development of TMDL Implementation Plans as follows:

### *Tualatin*

Dennis Ades: (503) 229-6351

### *Lower Willamette, Clackamas*

Manette Simpson: (503) 229-5294

### *Middle Willamette, North Santiam*

Nancy Gramlich: (503) 378-5073

### *South Santiam, Coast Fork*

Pamela Wright: (541) 686-7719

### *Upper Willamette, Middle Fork, McKenzie*

Jared Rubin: (541) 687-7437

## What are my responsibilities and timelines?

Within 20 days after the TMDL is issued as an Order, DEQ will send notification letters to all DMAs. That is when your timeline starts.

Requirement	Timeline	Expectations
DMAs develop/submit Implementation Plans to DEQ.	18 months, as indicated in the DEQ notification letter.	Per guidelines in the website information. See <a href="http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm">http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm</a> .
DEQ acknowledgement, review and approval of your Implementation Plan.	Within 30-60 days after receiving your plan. <sup>1</sup>	DEQ will provide feedback on your plan and inform you if your plan has been approved. DEQ will also provide specific recommendations if your plan is not adequate.
DMAs undertake actions to implement their plans.	As described in plan.	This could include continuation of existing actions, developing new ordinances, enforcement, outreach and education efforts, etc.
DMAs submit annual status reports.	Due date will be based on date plan was approved. <sup>2</sup>	This could be a summary of an annual status review with DEQ and/or a brief written statement of status of actions taken.
DMA reviews and revises the plan if data or other information indicates the plan is not adequate to achieve pollution reduction goals.	As necessary.	Adaptive management through review and revision results in pollution reduction.
DMA submits five-year evaluation.	Serves as the Fifth Annual Report.	Written evaluation of effectiveness of plan relative to pollutant reduction goals as can be demonstrated by existing data and/or qualitative reports (i.e., does not require data collection), and description of changes that will be made if necessary.
DMA and DEQ collaborate on plan Review and Revision.	Following DEQ's reevaluation of a TMDL.	Per guidelines in web site information.

1. If DEQ is unable to complete within this time frame, DEQ will acknowledge receipt of plan, and clarify the date when DEQ will complete review.

2. The precise date will be one mutually agreeable to DEQ and the DMA and can coincide with other reporting dates to DEQ, such as in MS4 or other permits.