

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

To: Tenmile Lakes Watershed TMDL File

Date: February 23, 2007

From: Lauri Aunan, WQ Administrator

Subject: Tenmile Lakes Watershed TMDL Order

On February 23, 2007 the Tenmile Lakes Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was issued as an order by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). The area covered by the Tenmile Lakes Watershed corresponds to a fifth-field hydrologic unit code 1710030111. The watershed is situated in southwestern coastal Oregon. North and South Tenmile Lakes have a surface area of about 1,959 acres and Eel Lake has a surface area of about 355 acres. Tenmile Lakes are the most used bodies of water in Coos County, and rank as the fifth most heavily used lakes in the state of Oregon. The watershed encompasses an area of approximately 98 square miles. The TMDLs address the water quality problems of aquatic weeds, algae, and pH. Pollutant allocations derived by the TMDL study are applicable to all perennial and intermittent waters and all sources and land uses in the 62,777 acre watershed.

This final Tenmile Lakes Watershed TMDL developed under §303(d) of the Clean Water Act, has been submitted for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approval. The document, when approved, will be an update to Oregon's Continuous Planning Process per §303(e) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Oregon's WQMP is also being submitted to USEPA, although it does not need to be approved or disapproved as specified under the terms of the February 1, 2000 Memorandum of Agreement between USEPA and ODEQ regarding the implementation of §303(d) of the CWA. Should USEPA modify or disapprove this TMDL, such actions will be made public.

Draft TMDLs were presented to and discussed with the Tenmile Lakes Watershed Technical Committee comprised of various stakeholders and interest groups. Committee members provided input to drafts that resulted in changes to draft and final documents. 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 Tenmile Lakes Watershed TMDLs opened March 20, 2006 and closed May 18, 2006. Informational meetings to present background on the technical and modeling components of the draft TMDLs were provided preceding two public hearings held in Lakeside, Oregon on May 3, 2006. Copies of the documents were made widely available at various locations including the Coos County libraries, City of Lakeside offices, Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership offices, as well as at the Coos Bay and Portland ODEQ offices and on the internet.

DEQ received comments on the draft TMDLs from 5 parties including state officials, interest groups and private citizens. DEQ summarized the issues raised, prepared responses and made revisions to the draft TMDL and WQMP. The Response to Comments document along with the comments and the modified TMDLs are included with this submittal.

There has been a strong partnership developed with the Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership and its membership. This organization has played, and will continue to play, a key positive role in collecting data, informing the public, and working on restoration and enhancement projects. The efforts of this group, the City of Lakeside, and other private landowners in the watershed are an important component in assuring that these TMDLs and the associated Water Quality Management Plans are locally accepted and implemented.

This memo and the related public notification represent the beginning of the 60-day appeal period on this ODEQ 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.

This TMDL/WQMP and Response to Comments documents can be found at the following website: www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm or can be viewed at the following locations: ODEQ Headquarters, 811 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204; ODEQ Coos Bay Office, 381 N Second St., Coos Bay, OR 97420; ODEQ Eugene Office, 1102 Lincoln St. Suit 210, Eugene, Oregon 97401.

Once USEPA has approved this TMDL, this document will be made available via a CD electronic file or paper copy.

Should you have any questions about these TMDLs, please contact Pamela Blake at 541-269-2721 ext 27.

Issued by:



Lauri Aunan
Water Quality Administrator

Date: 2/23/07

Attachments

