



DEQ Seeks Comment on Proposed Plans to Reduce Temperatures in Kootenai River and Moyie River Subbasins

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking public comment on proposed plans to address elevated temperatures in a number of streams in the Kootenai River and Moyie River subbasins.

The *Assessment of Water Quality in Kootenai River and Moyie River Subbasins (TMDL): 2014 Addendum* was developed in consultation with the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative (KVRI) Water Quality Subcommittee.

Recent data analyses indicate that water temperatures are above recommended levels due to excess solar loading from a lack of existing shade. Temperature is a key factor in the health of fish and other coldwater organisms.

To restore water temperature to natural background conditions, water quality improvement plans known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) are proposed for the following water bodies:

Ball Creek, Blue Joe Creek, Boulder Creek, Brush Creek, Canuck Creek, Caribou Creek, Curley Creek, Deer Creek, Fall Creek, Fleming Creek, Gillon Creek, Grass Creek, Harvey Creek, Long Canyon Creek, Miller Creek, Meadow Creek, Mission Creek, Myrtle Creek, Rock Creek, Round Prairie Creek, Ruby Creek, Skin Creek, Smith Creek, Snow Creek, Trail Creek, Trout Creek, and two tributaries of the Moyie River.

The recommended actions seek to bring the streams into compliance with state water quality standards and restore them to conditions supporting their beneficial uses, which include aquatic life support, primary and secondary contact recreation, water supply, wildlife habitats, and aesthetics.

The document is available for review at DEQ's Coeur d'Alene Regional Office and on DEQ's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities.

Submit written comments by 5 p.m. PDT, Monday, March 3, 2014, on DEQ's website or by mail or email to:

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