

# Proposed TMDLs for the Bear Creek Watershed



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is releasing the Draft Bear Creek Watershed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for public review.

Total Maximum Daily Loads are water pollution limits designed to ensure that waters of the Bear Creek Watershed will meet water quality standards. Currently 311 miles creeks in the watershed do not meet those standards.

The Bear Creek Watershed TMDLs will address water quality problems related to bacteria, temperature and sedimentation.

**Notice issued:** January 8, 2006

**Written comments due:** By 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 9, 2007

## Information Meeting/Public Hearing

There will be an evening session on **Tuesday February 20**, at the Community Justice Center Main Floor Conference Room 1101 W Main St., Medford 541-774-4990

An informational discussion will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by a public hearing beginning at 7:00.

## **Where can I send comments and get more information?**

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

**Name:** Bill Meyers

**Phone:** (541) 776-6010 x253 or Toll free in Oregon (877) 823-3216

**E-mail:**  
BearCreekComments@deq.state.or.us

**Mailing address:** DEQ Medford, 221 Stewart Avenue, Suite 201, Medford, OR 97501

**Fax:** (541) 776-6262

**NOTE:** People wishing to send comments via e-mail should send them in Microsoft Word (through version 2002) or plain text format. If there is a delay between servers, e-mails may not be received before the deadline. Due to possible transmission or conversion difficulties, DEQ recommends that comments be sent in hard copy.

## **How can I review documents?**

**Internet:** The draft TMDL and Fact Sheets can be viewed on DEQ's Bear Creek TMDL website at:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/WQ/TMDLs/Rogue.htm>

**Libraries:** The draft TMDL can be viewed at:

Jacksonville Public Library  
340 W C St, Jacksonville  
(541) 899-1665

Ashland Public Library  
410 Siskiyou Blvd, Ashland  
(541) 774-6980

Medford Public Library  
413 W Main St, Medford  
(541) 774-8689

**DEQ Offices\*:** The TMDL is available for examination and copying at the following DEQ offices:

Portland: 811 S.W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Medford: 221 Stewart Ave, Suite 201

\*While not required, scheduling an appointment at the DEQ offices is encouraged to ensure documents are readily accessible during your visit. For a review appointment in Portland call Stephanie Astorino at (503) 229-5013. For Medford appointments contact Bill Meyers at (541) 776-6010 x253.

## **What are DEQ's responsibilities?**

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the regulatory agency that helps protect and preserve Oregon's environment. DEQ is required under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act to establish a Total Maximum Daily Load

## **Western Region**

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[www.deq.state.or.us](http://www.deq.state.or.us)

(TMDL) for any waterbody designated as water quality limited on the State's 303(d) List. The TMDL is the total permissible pollutant load allocated to point, nonpoint, background and future sources of pollution. DEQ also includes a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) in the TMDL. The WQMP identifies the jurisdictions and agencies responsible for developing and implementing TMDL Implementation Plans, and the strategies and timelines they will use to meet the TMDL load allocations.

#### **Who is proposing the action?**

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
811 S.W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204-1390

#### **Area covered by the action:**

This action covers the entire Bear Creek Watershed located in Southwest Oregon.

#### **What is proposed?**

DEQ proposes to submit the Bear Creek Watershed TMDLs to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval as TMDLs for federal, state and private lands within the Bear Creek Watershed. A Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) is also included in this submittal, although currently EPA does not officially approve or disapprove that plan. However, DEQ is asking for comments on the WQMP as part of this public notice.

EPA approval of the TMDL will remove 40 water quality limited streams segments 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 informational meetings and Public Hearings related to this action.

#### **Who is affected?**

The TMDL affects local public and private landowners, managers of industrial and municipal facilities in the watershed as well as people interested in water quality and fisheries. The TMDL specifically identifies Jackson County, the cities of Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, Jacksonville and Central Point, Irrigation Districts: Medford, Talent and Rogue River Valley as well as state and

federal government agencies with land use authority. These jurisdictions will identify appropriate limits, best management practices, measures and approaches to best meet the TMDL

#### **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.

#### **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 Bill Meyers (541) 776-6010 x253 or Toll free in Oregon (877) 823-3216. Please notify DEQ of your special needs as far in advance as possible.

People with hearing impairments may call DEQ's TTY number at (503) 229-6993.