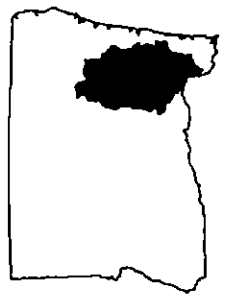


W. G. B.



**Willamette Basin  
TMDL Implementation  
DEQ Contacts**



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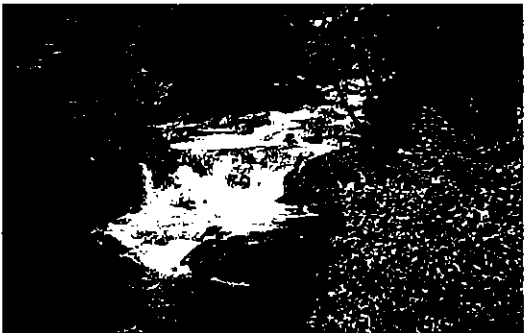
## Commonly Asked Questions about TMDL Implementation

### 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 basin-wide. 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.

### 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).



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

### Why am I a DMA?

You have been designated a DMA because you have authority to manage and regulate certain sources of pollutants that are listed in the Willamette TMDL. DMAs include state and federal agencies, cities, counties, special districts and non-governmental non-point source dischargers.

### What do I need to do as a DMA?

As a DMA you will need to develop a TMDL implementation plan telling the Department of Environmental Quality (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 enumerate 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/data bases that may be sources of additional funding for developing and implementing your plan.

### Who can I contact for more information?

DEQ has created a website with information at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/TMDLs/TMDLs.htm>. The web site includes the name and phone number of DEQ staff assigned to provide you with information. The web site also provides information about financial resources (grants and loans), and requirements for DMAs and their implementation plans. Instructions for developing plans, checklists, and example plans for small, medium, large cities and a county are provided in the web site information.

### 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 address pollutant reductions, 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*



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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.*

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 Storm Water Management Plan, do I still need to develop an Implementation Plan?**

Yes. You will need to describe the full range of efforts you will employ to improve water quality, including referencing your storm water plan. These may include referencing or developing ordinances for riparian areas or setbacks for critical habitats, and other measures.

**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.	12-18 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.

