



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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**RECEIVED**

OCT 17 2003

OCT 10 2003 DEQ  
Planning Division

Ref: 8EPR-EP

Mr. Art Compton, Director  
Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division  
Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 200901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Re: TMDL Approvals  
Blackfoot Headwaters Metals

Dear Mr. Compton:

We have completed our review of the metals total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) as submitted by your office for the Blackfoot Headwaters TMDL Planning Area. The TMDLs are included in the document entitled Water Quality Restoration Plan for Metals in the Blackfoot Headwaters TMDL Planning Area (Montana Department of Environmental Quality) transmitted to us for review and approval in correspondence dated June 30, 2003 and signed by you. In accordance with the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et. seq.), we approve all aspects of the metals TMDLs as developed for the Blackfoot Headwaters TMDL Planning Area. Enclosure 1 to this letter provides a summary of the elements of the TMDLs and Enclosure 2 provides details of our review of the TMDLs.

Based on our review, and contingent upon one stipulation provided under item 6 in Enclosure 2, we feel the separate TMDL elements listed in Enclosure 2 adequately address the pollutants of concern, taking into consideration seasonal variation and a margin of safety. In approving these TMDLs, EPA affirms that the TMDLs have been established at a level necessary to attain and maintain the applicable water quality standards and has the necessary components of an approvable TMDL.

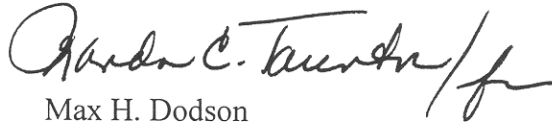
EPA has been in contact with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regarding whether and, if so, how EPA's approval of the Blackfoot Headwaters TMDLs may affect the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or the designated critical habitat of any such species. EPA has not determined that today's approval may have such an effect. Therefore, consistent with the terms of a consent decree in the lawsuit of Friends of the Wild Swan, et al., v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, et al., Civil Action No. CV99-87-M-LBE, United States



District Court for the District of Montana, Missoula Division, EPA has decided to approve these TMDLs contingent upon the outcome of consultation with the FWS.

Thank you for your submittal. If you have any questions concerning this approval, feel free to contact Ron Steg of my staff at (406) 457-5024.

Sincerely,



Max H. Dodson  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

Enclosures

cc:

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