



Fact Sheet

Umpqua Basin Temperature TMDL Replacement: Draft Proposed Wasteload Allocations

August 2024

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are under a federal court order to update and replace multiple temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads – including the Umpqua Basin temperature TMDLs – to make them consistent with current temperature standards. The objective of a temperature TMDL is to determine the amount of excess thermal loading, or heat, waterbodies can receive and still meet water quality standards. The TMDL then allocates the allowable heat load among nonpoint sources and point sources. Nonpoint sources are assigned thermal load allocations and individual point sources are assigned thermal wasteload allocations. DEQ uses thermal wasteload allocations to establish effluent limits in discharge permits. EPA is proposing draft thermal wasteload allocations for point sources in the Umpqua Basin prior to the public comment period.

Umpqua Basin temperature TMDL replacements

In 2006, DEQ issued [temperature TMDLs for the Umpqua Basin](#) to address waterbodies that violated stream temperature standards set to protect fish and aquatic life. The TMDLs targeted heat pollution from two main human-caused sources: 1) nonpoint sources, such as streamside vegetation removal and flow modifications, and 2) point source discharges, such as industrial outfalls and wastewater treatment plants.

EPA is assisting DEQ by leading the effort to update the 2006 Umpqua Basin temperature TMDLs by the court-ordered deadline of Feb. 28, 2025. The revised Umpqua Basin temperature TMDLs will include new load allocations for nonpoint sources and wasteload allocations for point sources. The revised TMDLs will address both year-round and spawning temperature impairments. DEQ is responsible for implementing the revised Umpqua Basin temperature TMDLs through water quality management plans and state programs including National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for surface water discharges, Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) permits for onsite disposal, and the 401 Hydropower Certification program.

Draft proposed wasteload allocations

EPA calculated draft wasteload allocations for individual NPDES permitted point sources using the receiving stream 7Q10 – the lowest seven-day average flow that occurs once every 10 years – and maximum effluent flows reported in discharge monitoring reports available at the time of TMDL development. The TMDL wasteload allocations may be incorporated into permits in one of two ways: 1) as an equation that allows for effluent flow, river flow and the corresponding wasteload allocation to be dynamic and calculated on a daily

basis or 2) as a static number, with flexibility for permit writers to update the 7Q10 and effluent flow values used in the TMDL to calculate the wasteload allocations. It is expected that wasteload allocations will apply from May 1 through Oct. 31.

Table 1. Draft TMDL WLAs for individual NPDES permitted facilities in the Umpqua Basin under 7Q10 flows.

Subbasin	Facility	Allocated Human Use Allowance	Wasteload allocation (kcal/day) at 7Q10
Umpqua	Brandy Bar Landing Inc.	0.1	24,442,365
Umpqua	Drain Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)	0.1	630,199
Umpqua	Oakland STP	0.1	475,217
Umpqua	Reedsport STP *	0.1	248,692,913
Umpqua	Rice Hill East Lagoon	0.1	37,477
Umpqua	Rice Hill West Lagoon	0.1	25,477
Umpqua	Sutherlin STP	0.1	2,138,588
Umpqua	Winchester Bay STP *	0.1	247,194,933
Umpqua	Yoncalla STP	0.1	3,536,368
South Umpqua	Canyonville STP	0.1	13,958,263
South Umpqua	Glendale STP	0.1	6,144,770
South Umpqua	Green Diamond Performance Materials, Inc. (no discharge)	0	0
South Umpqua	Hoover Treated Wood Products (no discharge)	0	0
South Umpqua	Myrtle Creek STP	0.1	30,353,447
South Umpqua	Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority (RUSA) STP	0.1	44,295,580
South Umpqua	Riddle STP	0.1	7,746,405
South Umpqua	U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Tiller Ranger Station STP	0.1	7,613,519
South Umpqua	Winston-Green Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF)	0.1	15,598,941
North Umpqua	Glide-Idleyld Sanitary District	0.1	164,997,468

*Ocean and bays temperature criterion allowable 0.1 C increase

Public participation

DEQ and EPA held webinars about the Umpqua Basin temperature replacement TMDL in April and July 2024, and plan to hold a third webinar this October. The public can also provide input on the draft TMDL during EPA’s public comment period when it opens later this year. DEQ and EPA are available upon request to meet individually with potentially affected permit holders.

Program name and contacts

For questions regarding the draft proposed wasteload allocations, please contact DEQ Water Quality Program Manager Ranei Nomura at 503-378-5081 or ranei.nomura@deq.oregon.gov. For general questions about the TMDL revision and public process, please contact DEQ Basin Coordinator Sarah Sauter at 541-774-5905 or sarah.sauter@deq.oregon.gov.

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