



Project Description

What is it: The Shoshone River Pathogen TMDL project is occurring to complete 8 Total Maximum Daily Loads in the Shoshone River watershed. TMDLs determine the maximum amount (load) that receiving waterbodies can have and still meet water quality standards. In addition to the load, it determines the current pollutant excess in the waterbody(s), identifies the primary sources, and the reductions needed to bring the waterbody(s) back into compliance.

Where is it: There are 8 stream segments that have been identified as having *E. coli* that exceeds the State's water quality criteria. These segments have been on the 303(d) from 2000 to 2008. The segments are:

1) Shoshone River starting below Lovell, WY down to Big Horn Reservoir.

- 2) Dry Gulch, from the confluence with the Shoshone River upstream 7 miles.
- 3) Bitter Creek, from the confluence with the Shoshone River upstream 13.3 miles.
- 4) Whistle Creek, from the confluence with the Shoshone River upstream 8.7 miles.
- 5) Foster Gulch, From the confluence with the Shoshone River upstream 2 miles
- 6) Polecat Creek, From the confluence with the Shoshone River upstream 2.5 miles.
- 7) Sage Creek, from the confluence with the Shoshone River upstream 14 miles.
- 8) Big Wash, from the confluence with Sage Creek upstream to the Sidon Canal.

Why is DEQ developing TMDLs: The Clean Water Act section 303(d) requires each state to identify and place on a list, waters that are not meeting water quality standards. TMDLs must be developed for waterbodies on this list. TMDLs help to better understand the waterbody/pollutant relationship and should help direct corrective actions.

Schedule:

- The project started in July, 2012. DEQ hired RESPEC Inc. to complete the entire TMDL project.
- The project is scheduled to wrap up in July 2013.
- Currently the project is about two-thirds of the way completed. Allowable loads have been determined and current loads are being calculated. In the next couple of months, the project should start to identify management measures to help reduce the *E. coli* load in the watershed.
- There will be 4 more public meetings before the project is finalized:
 - 1) April 25th, in Lovell, WY.
 - 2) There will be three public meeting sometime in June to discuss the findings of the project. Meetings will be held in Lovell, Powell, and Cody. Actual dates and time TBD.
- Each month the project conducts a TAC meeting to discuss the work being completed and to solicit feedback on this work. Members of the TAC include a diverse range of stakeholders which includes: Conservation Districts, Land Management Agencies, Irrigation Districts, Municipalities, Other Federal Agencies, and WDEQ.

If there are any questions please direct them to myself. They can call me at 307-777-8582 or by email at kevin.hyatt@wyo.gov