

**Agricultural Assessment of the TMDL Tributaries of the St.
Joe River Sub-basin**

By

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The St. Joe River Sub-basin Assessment and TMDL was approved by EPA in the summer of 2003. The St. Joe River itself was never added to any 303-d list, and is not mandated to be on the TMDL schedule. Agriculture (pasture and haylands) is evident along the lower St. Joe River (from Calder down to the mouth). TMDL's were written by DEQ for the following tributaries of the St. Joe River (taken from Table A. of the TMDL, page xv):

<u>Stream</u>	<u>Pollutant</u>
Bear/Little Bear	Sed./Temp.
Beaver	Temp.
Blackjack	Temp.
Bluff	Temp.
Fishhook	Sed./Temp.
Fly	Temp.
Gold	Temp.
Harvey	Temp.
Heller	Temp.
Loop	Temp.
Mica	Sed.
Mosquito	Temp.
Simmons	Temp.
Tank	Temp.

In regards to the above TMDL tributaries, no agricultural impacts were assessed by DEQ. In addition, agriculture was given no allocation or no reduction in the St. Joe River tributaries TMDL. According to DEQ (Region 1 Office), the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission is not required or expected to contribute an agricultural component to the St. Joe River TMDL Implementation Plan. Finally, I decided to visually inspect the mouths of the TMDL tributaries with private land, and seen no signs of agricultural land use, either cropland or grazing.

One point of interest in the TMDL was the statement that "Road erosion issues on private land can be addressed by incentives provided to private landowners by the Benewah Soil and Water Conservation District" (page 57).

Sincerely,
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Water Quality Resource Conservationist