Notice of Request for Public Comment on Proposed Plans to Improve Water Quality in Palisades Subbasin

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking public comment on proposed water quality improvement plans for water bodies in the Palisades Subbasin.

The subbasin drains to the South Fork Snake River in eastern Idaho. Eleven water bodies in the subbasin had been listed as impaired in *Idaho's 2010 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report*. Follow-up investigations showed the following:

- Excess sediment is impairing water quality in three reaches of the subbasin: Hawley Gulch Creek, Table Rock Canyon Creek, and lower Indian Creek.
- Excess bacteria is impairing Rainey Creek.
- Water quality targets are being met in Squaw Creek, Iowa Creek, Trout Creek, South Fork Indian Creek, main fork Indian Creek, Indian Creek (located off Fall River Road), North Fork Pine Creek, and Black Canyon Creek.

The *Palisades Subbasin 2013 Addendum and Five-Year Review* proposes to establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to control excess sediment in the reaches where sediment has been identified as impairing water quality and to reduce bacteria in Rainey Creek.

The recommended actions seek to bring the water bodies into compliance with state water quality standards and restore them to conditions supporting their beneficial uses, which include cold water aquatic life support, salmonid spawning, primary and secondary contact recreation, and domestic water supply.

The document also proposes to remove the water bodies that are meeting water quality standards from the list of impaired water bodies.

The document is available for review at DEQ's Idaho Falls Regional Office and on DEQ's website (download at right). Submit written comments by 5 p.m. MDT, Thursday, May 30, on DEQ's website or by mail or email to:

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