

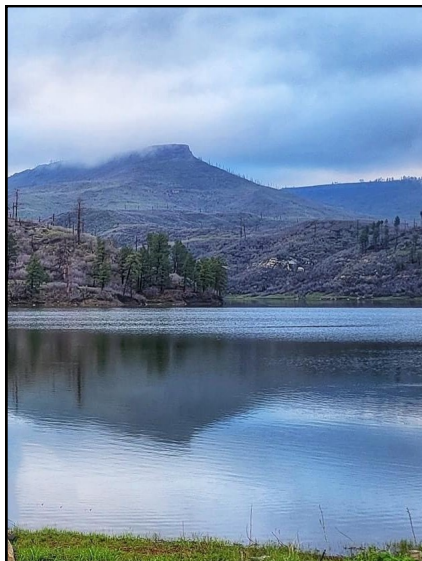
TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS FOR THE CANADIAN AND UPPER RIO GRANDE LAKES



What is a TMDL?

A Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards.

A TMDL is a planning document that establishes specific goals to meet water quality standards. It includes current pollution loadings, reduction estimates for pollutants, information on probable sources of pollution, and suggestions to restore or protect the health of the waterbody.



May 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. MDT. A virtual public meeting will be held via Webex on May 1st, 2024. All public comments submitted in writing to SWQB staff will be responded to and included as an additional appendix in the Final Draft TMDL report that will be submitted to the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) for their approval at their next available meeting and then to EPA Region 6 for final approval.

The New Mexico Environment Department-Surface Water Quality Bureau (NMED-SWQB) conducted water quality monitoring on lakes in both the Canadian watershed during 2015-2016, and the Upper Rio Grande watershed during 2017-2018 (summary reports at <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/water-quality-monitoring/>). Four lakes were determined to be impaired due to excess plant nutrients. One lake was determined to be in impaired due to high water temperature. One lake was determined to be impaired for excess total recoverable aluminum. Therefore, TMDLs were developed.

A 30-day comment period for the draft TMDL opens April 15, 2024 and will close on

TMDL NEXT STEPS

Stakeholder public outreach and involvement in the implementation of these TMDLs will be ongoing. A Watershed-based Plan (WBP) is a written plan intended to provide a long-range vision for various activities and management of resources in a watershed. It includes opportunities for private landowners and public agencies in reducing and preventing nonpoint source impacts to water quality. The WBP is the Implementation Plan, or Phase Two of the TMDL process. The completion of the TMDLs and WBP leads directly to the development of on-the-ground projects to address surface water impairments. SWQB can potentially provide Clean Water Act funding to assist in the development of WBPs and on-the-ground projects. For impacts related to point sources in the watershed, SWQB will continue to coordinate with EPA Region 6 on the implementation of the TMDLs through the NPDES program and permits issued in the watershed.

