

# Challenges and Approaches to Meeting Water Quality Standards

Follow-up report highlights

March 2016

**Our review of implementation efforts found that the Department of Environmental Quality has made significant progress toward implementing our recommendation. Completion of the recommendation is in process.**



The Boise River visibly carries sediment as it merges with the Snake River.

## Use attainability analysis

In 2014 we recommended the Department of Environmental Quality complete its UAA guidance document. Status: In process.

In 2016, legislative committees approved rule that enabled the department to complete its UAA guidance

The department will complete and issue its UAA guidance for public comment later this year and finalize the guidance following consideration of comments received.

## Water quality trading

We did not make recommendations about water quality trading, but we identified preconditions that Idaho needed to complete to help trading move forward.

Over the past two years, the department has participated with regional partners to develop a set of regional recommendations for water quality trading.

The department is in the process of updating its statewide guidance to reflect these regional recommendations and anticipates completion of the final guidance in June 2016.

In December 2015, the EPA approved the Lower Boise TMDLs, which opens the door to begin formal trading in the watershed.



Work on the Dixie Drain phosphorus removal facility on the Lower Boise River. Photo from the Department of Environmental Quality.



View the report: [www.legislature.idaho.gov/ope/](http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/ope/)

