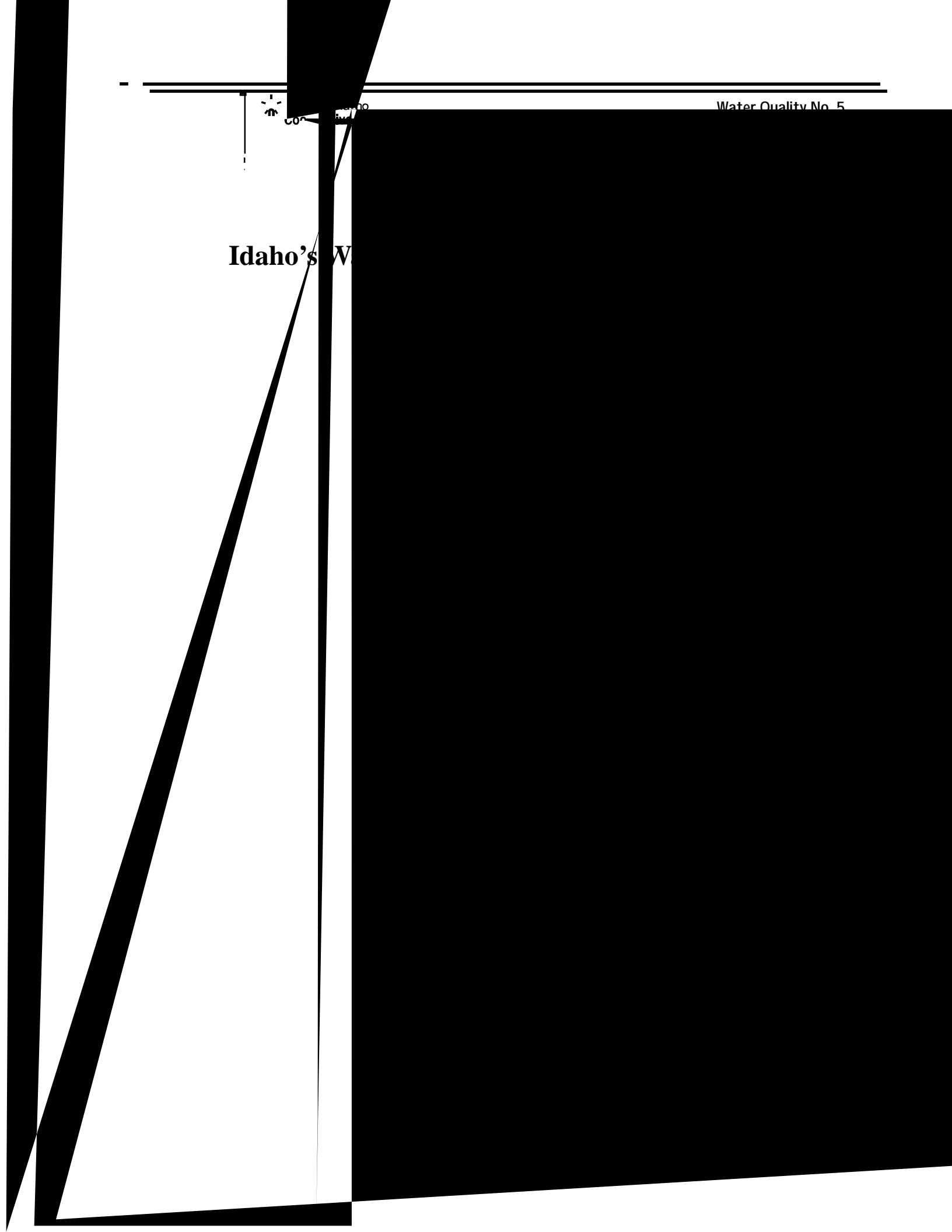


Idaho's W



frame was accepted and agreed upon by the judge.

Confused yet? So what exactly is a TMDL? A TMDL, or total maximum daily load, is a tool used in the development of a watershed management plan that determines the amount of pollution a water body can receive from various sources in the watershed. A TMDL is defined in federal code 40 CFR 130.2(I) as “the sum of individual point source and non-point source pollutant loads expressed as mass/time, toxicity or other appropriate measures, within a margin of safety”. The margin of safety accounts for uncertainty of calculated pollutant loads and receiving water body estimates.

Still confused? What this means is the TMDL process is used to get a quantifiable measurement of how much of any given pollutant a stream can handle without becoming polluted, or reaching a defined level of pollution. The difference between point and non-point source pollution is that point source pollution can easily be detected (coming from a known source). For example, sewage coming out of a pipe would be point source pollution. Non-point source pollution may come from a variety of undetermined sources and then discovered downstream in a water body. For example, testing indicates that there is a pollutant present in the water body, but it is undetermined where that pollutant is actually coming from. Non-point source pollution is much harder to evaluate and treat without looking at the whole drainage or watershed.

Steps to developing a TMDL:

mented. Most NIPF lands are managed for multiple use, with logging as a secondary activity. However, water quality concerns are always present.

What can you do? Get involved and help decide the future. Voice your concerns. The WAG's and BAG's (made up of local folks) are writing these TMDL's and recommending them to the Idaho DEQ. Contact your local Extension Office or Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office to find out when and

where the local TMDL groups are meeting. There is a lot of information available on the subject of TMDL's and Extension has videos and publications on water quality if you want to learn more.

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