

# Total Maximum Daily Load Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorus, and Organic Enrichment / Low Dissolved Oxygen For A Segment of the Coldwater River

## Yazoo River Basin Tunica and Coahoma Counties, Mississippi

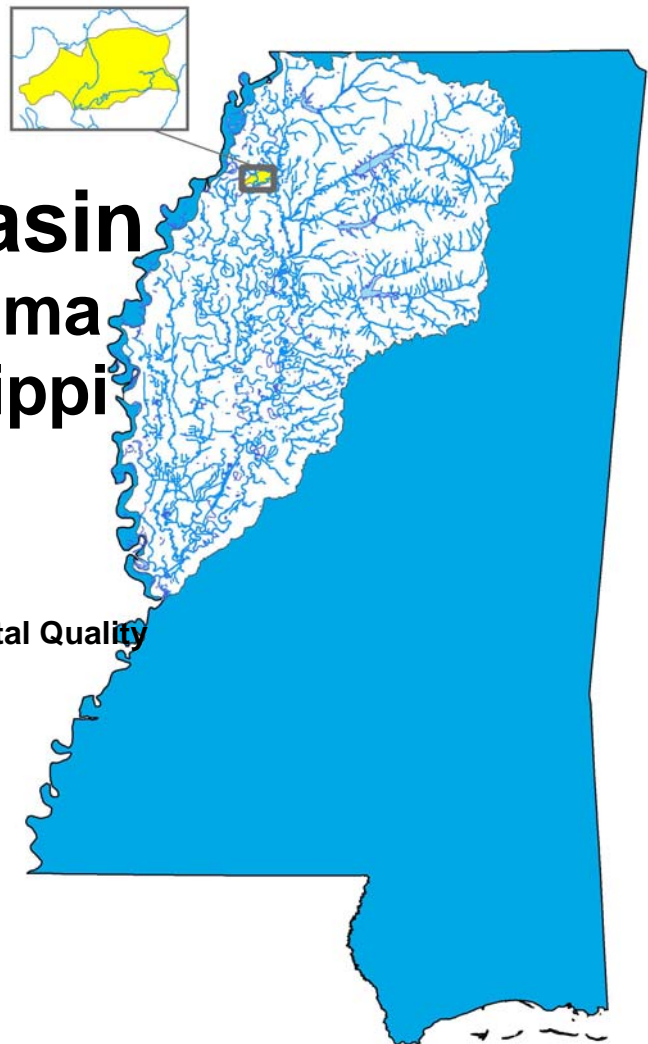
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## FOREWORD

This report has been prepared in accordance with the schedule contained within the federal consent decree dated December 22, 1998. The report contains one or more Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for water body segments found on Mississippi's 1996 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water bodies. Because of the accelerated schedule required by the consent decree, many of these TMDLs have been prepared out of sequence with the State's rotating basin approach. The implementation of the TMDLs contained herein will be prioritized within Mississippi's rotating basin approach.

The amount and quality of the data on which this report is based are limited. As additional information becomes available, the TMDLs may be updated. Such additional information may include water quality and quantity data, changes in pollutant loadings, or changes in landuse within the watershed. In some cases, additional water quality data may indicate that no impairment exists.

**Conversion Factors**

To convert from	To	Multiply by	To convert from	To	Multiply by
mile <sup>2</sup>	acre	640	acre	ft <sup>2</sup>	43560
km <sup>2</sup>	acre	247.1	days	seconds	86400
m <sup>3</sup>	ft <sup>3</sup>	35.3	meters	feet	3.28
ft <sup>3</sup>	gallons	7.48	ft <sup>3</sup>	gallons	7.48
ft <sup>3</sup>	liters	28.3	hectares	acres	2.47
cfs	gal/min	448.8	miles	meters	1609.3
cfs	MGD	0.646	tonnes	tons	1.1
m <sup>3</sup>	gallons	264.2	µg/l * cfs	gm/day	2.45
m <sup>3</sup>	liters	1000	µg/l * MGD	gm/day	3.79

Fraction	Prefix	Symbol	Multiple	Prefix	Symbol
10 <sup>-1</sup>	deci	d	10	deka	da
10 <sup>-2</sup>	centi	c	10 <sup>2</sup>	hecto	h
10 <sup>-3</sup>	milli	m	10 <sup>3</sup>	kilo	k
10 <sup>-6</sup>	micro	:	10 <sup>6</sup>	mega	M
10 <sup>-9</sup>	nano	n	10 <sup>9</sup>	giga	G
10 <sup>-12</sup>	pico	p	10 <sup>12</sup>	tera	T
10 <sup>-15</sup>	femto	f	10 <sup>15</sup>	peta	P
10 <sup>-18</sup>	atto	a	10 <sup>18</sup>	exa	E

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## TMDL INFORMATION PAGE

**Table 1. Listing Information**

Name	ID	County	HUC	Evaluated Cause
Coldwater River	MS320E	Tunica and Coahoma	08030204	Nutrients and Organic Enrichment / Low Dissolved Oxygen

**Table 2. Water Quality Standards**

Parameter	Beneficial use	Water Quality Criteria
Nutrients	Aquatic Life Support	Waters shall be free from materials attributable to municipal, industrial, agricultural, or other dischargers producing color, odor, taste, total suspended solids, or other conditions in such degree as to create a nuisance, render the waters injurious to public health, recreation, or to aquatic life and wildlife, or adversely affect the palatability of fish, aesthetic quality, or impair the waters for any designated uses.
Dissolved Oxygen	Aquatic Life Support	DO concentrations shall be maintained at a daily average of not less than 5.0 mg/l with an instantaneous minimum of not less than 4.0 mg/l

**Table 3. Total Maximum Daily Load for the Coldwater River**

	WLA lbs/day	LA lbs/day	MOS	TMDL lbs/day
TBODu	0.0	477.2	Implicit	477.2
Total Nitrogen	0.0	250.3	Implicit	250.3
Total Phosphorous	0.0	38.2	Implicit	38.2

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

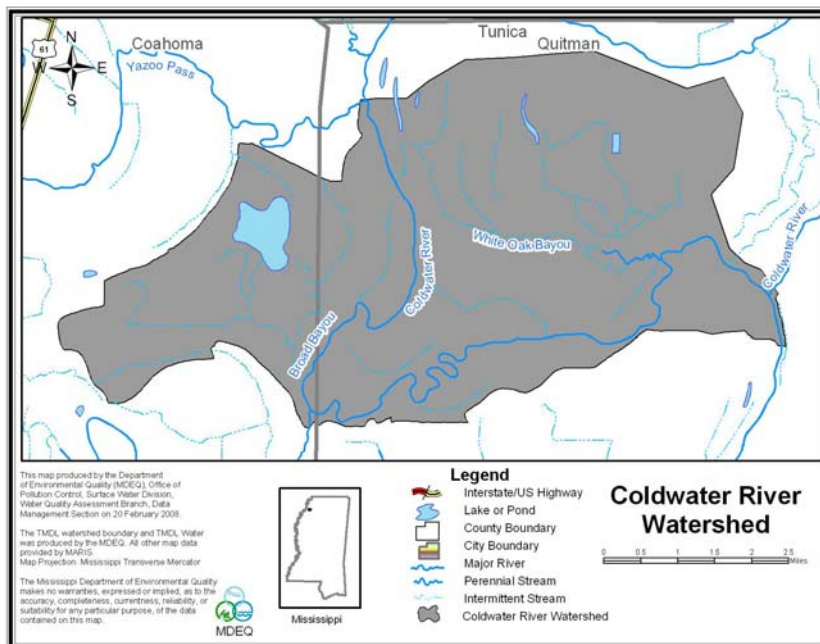
This TMDL has been developed for the Coldwater River which was placed on the Mississippi 2006 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies due to evaluated causes of sediment, organic enrichment / low dissolved oxygen, and nutrients. Sediment will be addressed in a separate TMDL report. This TMDL will provide an estimate of the total biochemical oxygen demand (TBODu), total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP) allowable in the water body.

Mississippi does not have water quality standards for allowable nutrient concentrations. MDEQ currently has a Nutrient Task Force (NTF) working on the development of criteria for nutrients. An annual concentration of 1.05 mg/l is an applicable target for TN and 0.16 mg/l for TP for water bodies located on the west side of the Delta. MDEQ is presenting these preliminary target values for TMDL development which are subject to revision after the development of numeric nutrient criteria.

The Coldwater River Watershed is located in HUC 08030204. The listed portion of the Coldwater River begins at the Yazoo Pass and flows to Pompey Ditch. Although, the water body name may imply large river, this section of the Coldwater River has been determined to be a very small segment that is bordered upstream and downstream by dams located on the Yazoo Pass and Pompey Ditch. This is the historical channel which was bypassed with flood control projects. The location of the watershed for the listed segment is shown in Figure 1.

Because the critical 7Q10 flow of this section of the Coldwater River is zero, a predictive model was not needed to determine that this water body is not an appropriate receiving water body for waste water effluent. The TBODu TMDL was set to zero. The limited nutrient information and estimated existing ecoregion concentrations indicate reductions of nutrients can be accomplished with installation of best management practices.

**Figure 1. The Coldwater River Watershed**

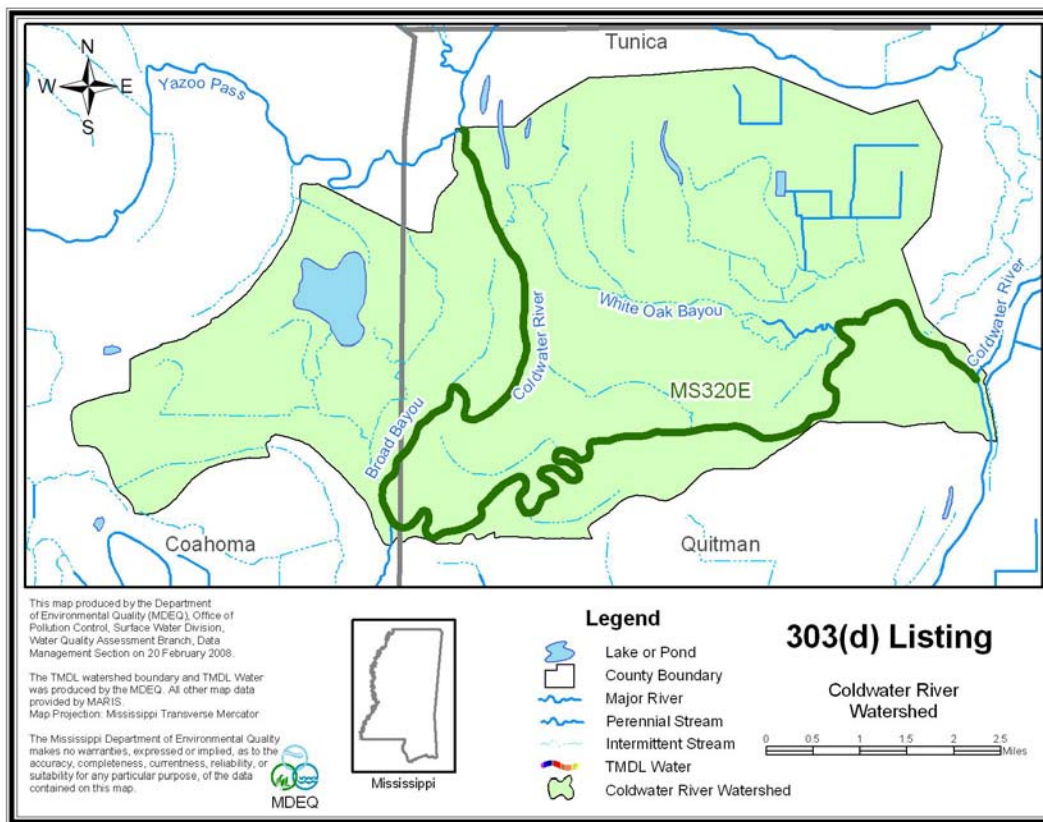


## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

The identification of water bodies not meeting their designated use and the development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for those water bodies are required by Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Water Quality Planning and Management Regulations (40 CFR part 130). The TMDL process is designed to restore and maintain the quality of those impaired water bodies through the establishment of pollutant specific allowable loads. This TMDL has been developed for the 2006 §303(d) listed segment shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2. The Coldwater River §303(d) Listed Segment**



### 1.2 Listing History

The impaired segment was listed due to evaluating the water shed for potential impairment. There are no data available in the watershed.

There are no state criteria in Mississippi for nutrients. These criteria are currently being developed by the Mississippi Nutrient Task Force in coordination with EPA Region 4. MDEQ proposed a work plan for nutrient criteria development that has been approved by EPA and is on schedule according to the approved plan in development of nutrient criteria (MDEQ, 2007).

For this TMDL, MDEQ is presenting preliminary targets for TN and TP. An annual concentration 1.05 mg/l is an applicable target for TN and 0.16 mg/l for TP for water bodies located in Ecoregion 73. However, MDEQ is presenting these preliminary target values for TMDL development which are subject to revision after the development of nutrient criteria, when the work of the NTF is complete.

### 1.3 Applicable Water Body Segment Use

The water use classifications are established by the State of Mississippi in the document *State of Mississippi Water Quality Criteria for Intrastate, Interstate, and Coastal Waters* (MDEQ, 2007). The designated beneficial use for the listed segments is Fish and Wildlife.

### 1.4 Applicable Water Body Segment Standard

The water quality standard applicable to the use of the water body and the pollutant of concern is defined in the *State of Mississippi Water Quality Criteria for Intrastate, Interstate, and Coastal Waters* (MDEQ, 2007).

Mississippi's current standards contain a narrative criteria that can be applied to nutrients which states "*Waters shall be free from materials attributable to municipal, industrial, agricultural, or other discharges producing color, odor, taste, total suspended or dissolved solids, sediment, turbidity, or other conditions in such degree as to create a nuisance, render the waters injurious to public health, recreation, or to aquatic life and wildlife, or adversely affect the palatability of fish, aesthetic quality, or impair the waters for any designated use* (MDEQ, 2002)." In the 1999 Protocol for Developing Nutrient TMDLs, EPA suggests several methods for the development of numeric criteria for nutrients (USEPA, 1999). In accordance with the 1999 Protocol, "The target value for the chosen indicator can be based on: comparison to similar but unimpaired waters; user surveys; empirical data summarized in classification systems; literature values; or professional judgment." MDEQ believes the most economical and scientifically defensible method for use in Mississippi is a comparison between similar but unimpaired waters within the same region. This method is dependent on adequate data which are being collected in accordance with the EPA approved plan.

### 1.5 Nutrient Target Development

Numeric nutrient criteria are not currently available for Delta streams. Biotic indices such as the MBISQ index used to assess attainment of aquatic life use in streams in other parts of Mississippi are also not available for the Delta. Therefore, a percentile approach has been used to suggest nutrient targets applicable for Delta streams, following the approach suggested by EPA (EPA 2001).

USGS data were partitioned into eastern and western nutrient distributions. USGS nutrient data for the western portion of the Delta were combined with MDEQ's WADES nutrient data. These two data distributions were used to derive the nutrient concentration associated with the lower quartile following procedures similar to those used by EPA (2001) in developing nutrient criteria recommendations for rivers and streams. The lower quartile nutrient concentrations associated with these data sets are shown in the Table 4 below.

For this TMDL, MDEQ is presenting preliminary targets for TN and TP. An annual concentration 1.05 mg/l is an applicable target for TN and 0.16 mg/l for TP for water bodies located in Ecoregion 73. However, MDEQ is presenting these preliminary target values for TMDL development which are subject to revision after the development of nutrient criteria, when the work of the NTF is complete.

Table 4 Nutrient Targets for the Delta Wadeable Streams

Lower Quartile Values		
Nutrient Conc. (mg/l)	East (USGS)	West (WADES/USGS)
TP	0.09	0.16
TN	0.58	1.05



## **WATER BODY ASSESSMENT**

### **2.1 Water Quality Data**

There are no data available for this water body.

### **2.2 Assessment of Point Sources**

There are no point sources in the watershed.

### **2.3 Assessment of Non-Point Sources**

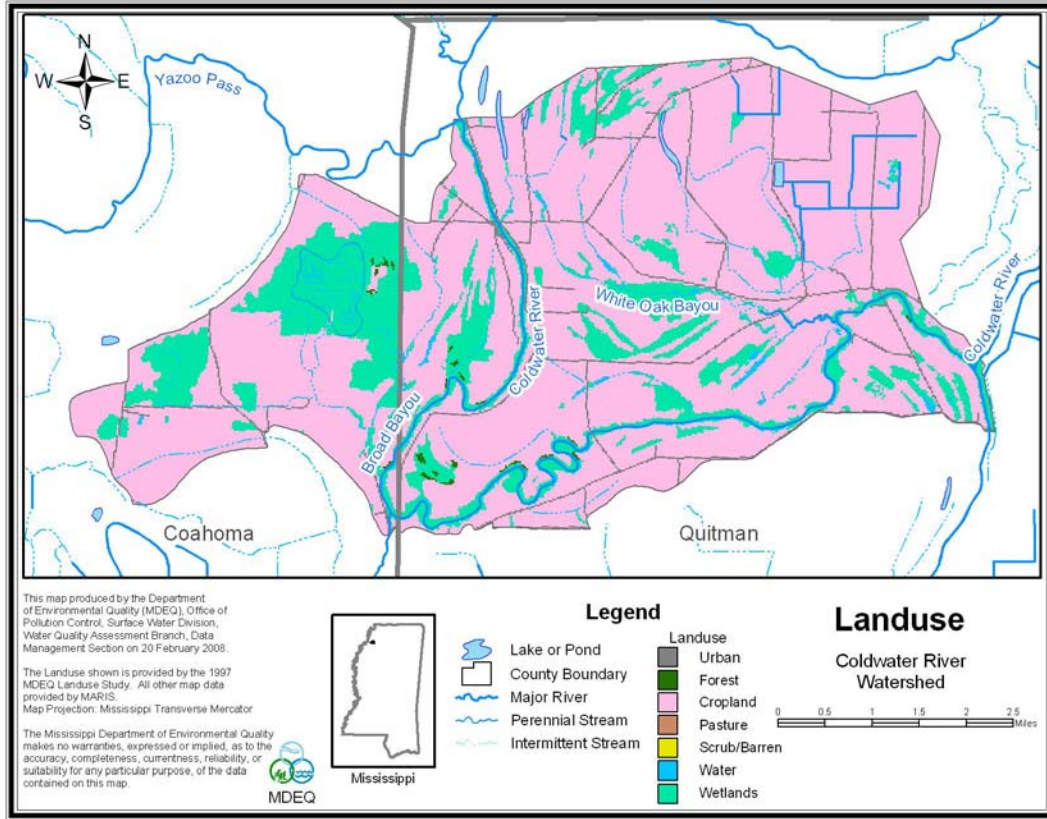
Non-point loading of nutrients and organic material in a water body results from the transport of the pollutants into receiving waters by overland surface runoff, groundwater infiltration, and atmospheric deposition. The two primary nutrients of concern are nitrogen and phosphorus. Total nitrogen is a combination of many forms of nitrogen found in the environment. Inorganic nitrogen can be transported in particulate and dissolved phases in surface runoff. Dissolved inorganic nitrogen can be transported in groundwater and may enter a water body from groundwater infiltration. Finally, atmospheric gaseous nitrogen may enter a water body from atmospheric deposition.

Unlike nitrogen, phosphorus is primarily transported in surface runoff when it has been sorbed by eroding sediment. Phosphorus may also be associated with fine-grained particulate matter in the atmosphere and can enter streams as a result of dry fallout and rainfall (USEPA, 1999). However, phosphorus is typically not readily available from the atmosphere or the natural water supply (Davis and Cornwell, 1988). As a result, phosphorus is typically the limiting nutrient in most non-point source dominated rivers and streams, with the exception of watersheds which are dominated by agriculture and have high concentrations of phosphorus contained in the surface runoff due to fertilizers and animal excrement or watersheds with naturally occurring soils which are rich in phosphorus (Thomann and Mueller, 1987).

Watersheds with a large number of failing septic tanks may also deliver significant loadings of phosphorus to a water body. All domestic wastewater contains phosphorus which comes from humans and the use of phosphate containing detergents. Table 5 presents the estimated loads from various land use types in the Delta based on information from USDA ARS Sedimentation Laboratory. (Shields, et. al., 2008)

The watershed contains mainly cropland but also has different landuse types, including urban, water, and wetlands. The landuse information given below is based on data collected by the State of Mississippi's Automated Resource Information System (MARIS) 1997. This data set is based on Landsat Thematic Mapper digital images taken between 2002 and 2004. Cropland is the dominant landuse within this watershed. The landuse distribution for the Coldwater River Watershed is shown in Table 5 and Figure 3. By multiplying the landuse category size by the estimated nutrient load, the watershed specific estimate can be calculated. Table 5 presents the estimated loads, the target loads, and the reductions needed to meet the TMDLs.

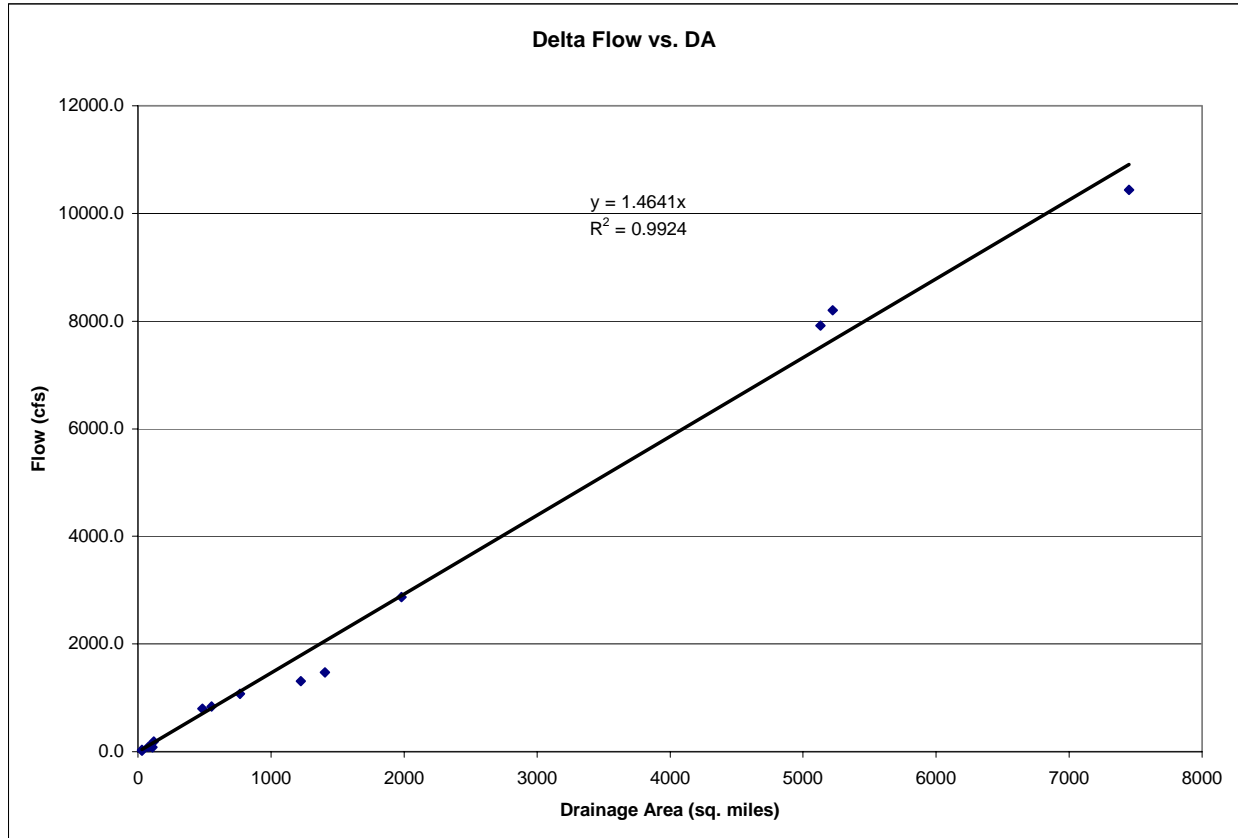
Figure 3. The Coldwater River Watershed Landuse



## 2.4 Estimated Existing Load for Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus

The average annual flow in the watershed was calculated by utilizing the flow vs. watershed area graph shown in figure 4 below. All available gages were compared to the watershed size. A very strong correlation between flow and watershed size was developed for the Delta. The equation for the line that best fits the data was then used to estimate the annual average flow for the Coldwater River watershed. The TMDL target TN and TP loads were then calculated, using Equation 1 and the results are shown in Tables 5.

**Figure 4. Delta Drainage Area vs. Flow Comparison**



$$\text{Nutrient Load (lb/day)} = \text{Flow (cfs)} * 5.394 \text{ (conversion factor)} * \text{Nutrient Concentration (mg/L)}$$

(Equation 1)

Table 5 TMDL Calculations and Watershed Sizes

Water body	Coldwater River		Water	Urban	Scrub/Barren	Forest	Pasture/Grass	Cropland	Wetland	Total
		Acres	260.9	641.8	0.0	45.1	0.0	14618.5	3787.6	19353.9
	<b>TN</b>									
<b>Land Use</b>	<b>kg/mile<sup>2</sup></b>	Percent	1.3%	3.3%	0.00%	0.2%	0.00%	75.5%	19.6%	100.0%
Forest	111.3	Miles <sup>2</sup> in watershed	0.41	1.0	0.0	0.07	0.0	22.8	5.9	30.2
Pasture	777.0	Flow in cfs based on area	44.2	cfs						
Cropland	10956.2									
Urban	287.8	TN Load kg/mi <sup>2</sup> annual avg	259.0	287.8	111.3	111.3	777.0	10956.2	259.0	
Water	259.0	TP Load kg/mi <sup>2</sup> annual avg	259.0	4.3	61.3	61.3	1295.0	5490.9	259.0	
Wetland	259.0									
aquaculture	2590.0	TN Load kg/day	0.29	0.79	0.00	0.02	0.00	684.39	4.19	689.7
		TP Load kg/day	0.29	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	342.99	4.19	347.5
<b>Land Use</b>	<b>TP kg/mile<sup>2</sup></b>									
Forest	61.3	TN target concentration	1.05	mg/l						
Pasture	1295.0	TP target concentration	0.16	mg/l						
Cropland	5490.9									
Urban	4.3	TN target load	250.3	lbs/day						
Water	259.0	TP target load	38.2	lbs/day						
Wetland	259.0									
aquaculture	2590.0	TN estimated load per day	1517.3	lbs/day						
		TP estimated load per day	764.5	lbs/day						
		TN estimated concentration	6.36	mg/l						
		TP estimated concentration	3.21	mg/l						
		TN reduction needed	83.5%							
		TP reduction needed	95.0%							

The land use calculations are based on 2004 data. The nutrient estimates are based on USDA ARS. The TMDL targets are based on EPA guidance for calculation of targets when considering all available data.

## ALLOCATION

### 3.1 Wasteload Allocation

There are no point sources in the impaired segment. Therefore, the waste load allocation has been set to zero for these TMDLs. Future permits will be considered in accordance with Mississippi's *Wastewater Regulations for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits, Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permits, State Permits, Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations and Water Quality Certification*.

### 3.2 Load Allocation

Best management practices (BMPs) should be encouraged in the watersheds to reduce potential TBODu, TN, and TP loads from non-point sources. For land disturbing activities related to silviculture, construction, and agriculture, it is recommended that practices, as outlined in "Mississippi's BMPs: Best Management Practices for Forestry in Mississippi" (MFC, 2000), "Planning and Design Manual for the Control of Erosion, Sediment, and Stormwater" (MDEQ, et. al, 1994), and "Field Office Technical Guide" (NRCS, 2000), be followed, respectively.

### 3.3 Incorporation of a Margin of Safety

The margin of safety is a required component of a TMDL and accounts for the uncertainty about the relationship between pollutant loads and the quality of the receiving water body. The two types of MOS development are to implicitly incorporate the MOS using conservative model assumptions or to explicitly specify a portion of the total TMDL as the MOS. The MOS selected for this model is implicit.

### 3.4 Calculation of the TMDL

A predictive model was not used to calculate the dissolved oxygen TMDL due to the 7Q10 flow being zero. The TBODu WLA has been set to zero. The LA portion of the TMDL was calculated by setting the background TBODu concentration to 2.0 mg/l and using Equation 1 to find the load. Equation 1 was also used to calculate the TMDL for TP and TN. The target concentration was used with the average flow for the watershed to determine the TMDL.

The nutrient TMDL loads were then compared to the estimated existing loads previously calculated. Best management practices are encouraged in this watershed to reduce the nonpoint nutrient loads.

### 3.5 Seasonality and Critical Condition

This TMDL accounts for seasonal variability by requiring allocations that ensure year-round protection of water quality standards, including during critical conditions.

## CONCLUSION

TBODu was addressed in the TMDL by setting the load allocation equal to the assumed background condition and setting the wasteload allocation to zero. Nutrients were addressed through an estimate of a preliminary TP concentration target and a preliminary TN concentration target. Based on the estimated existing and target total phosphorous concentrations, this TMDL recommends a 95.0% reduction of the phosphorous loads entering these water bodies to meet the preliminary target of 0.16 mg/l. Based on the estimated existing and target total nitrogen concentrations, this TMDL recommends a 83.5% reduction of the nitrogen loads entering these water bodies to meet the preliminary target of 1.05 mg/l. The implementation of these BMP activities should reduce the nutrient load entering the creeks. This will provide improved water quality for organic enrichment and the support of aquatic life in the water bodies, and will result in the attainment of the applicable water quality standards.

### 4.1 Public Participation

This TMDL will be published for a 30-day public notice. During this time, the public will be notified by publication in the statewide newspaper. The public will be given an opportunity to review the TMDLs and submit comments. MDEQ also distributes all TMDLs at the beginning of the public notice to those members of the public who have requested to be included on a TMDL mailing list. Anyone wishing to become a member of the TMDL mailing list should contact Kay Whittington at [Kay\\_Whittington@deq.state.ms.us](mailto:Kay_Whittington@deq.state.ms.us).

All comments should be directed to [Kay\\_Whittington@deq.state.ms.us](mailto:Kay_Whittington@deq.state.ms.us) or Kay Whittington, MDEQ, PO Box 10385, Jackson, MS 39289. All comments received during the public notice period and at any public hearings become a part of the record of this TMDL and will be considered in the submission of this TMDL to EPA Region 4 for final approval.

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