



State of Washington  
 TRUST WATER RIGHT  
 REPORT OF EXAMINATION

File NR: CS4-07217J(B)  
 WR DOC ID: 4847426

Add Purpose of Use

Change Place of Use

**PRIORITY DATE**  
 1893

**TRUST TERM**  
 Permanent

**WATER RIGHT NUMBER**  
 Beaver Creek Adjudicated Certificate 217

**APPLICANT:**  
 Robert and Mary Campbell  
 126 Upper Beaver Creek Rd  
 Twisp, WA 98856-9759

**FILE NUMBER**  
 CS4-07217J(B)

Cecilia Campbell  
 109 Upper Beaver Creek Rd  
 Twisp, WA 98856-9759

**REMARKS:** This change reflects Ecology's purchase of late season water rights from Robert and Mary Campbell and Cecilia Campbell. In conjunction with other changes to Certificates 213, 214, 216, and 217, there will be no diversion of these rights from August 1<sup>st</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup> of the following irrigation season.

**Purpose and Quantity**

Instream flows in the following quantities are attributed to the Primary and Secondary Reaches of Beaver Creek.

	PURCHASE (17.48 acres)			
	Primary Reach		Secondary Reach	
	Qa (ac-ft/yr)	Qi (cfs)	Qa (ac-ft/yr)	Qi (cfs)
August	21.46	0.350	9.23	0.150
September	10.38	0.350	4.46	0.150
<b>Total Purchase</b>	<b>31.84</b>		<b>13.69</b>	

**Place of Use (See Map in Attachment 1)**

**Primary Reach** – Approximately 2.4 miles of Beaver Creek beginning at the point of diversion for the Batie Ditch, within the SW¼SE¼ of Section 35, T. 34 N., R. 22 E.W.M. at river mile 6.4, extending downstream to river mile 4.

**Secondary Reach** – Approximately 4 miles of Beaver Creek Beginning at the end of the primary reach at river mile 4, and extending downstream to the confluence of Beaver Creek and the Methow River.

**PORTION OF WATER RIGHT  
NOT BEING TRANSFERRED TO INSTREAM FLOWS  
WRTS File #: S4-07217J(A)(a)**

<b>PRIORITY DATE</b> 1893	<b>WATER RIGHT NUMBER</b> Beaver Creek Adjudicated Certificate 217
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**REMARKS:**

In addition to what is being transferred in this decision (CS4-07217J(B)) another portion of Certificate 217 is being transferred to instream flows based on a lease of late season water under change application no. CS4-07217J(A)(b) which expires in 2031.

<b>Purpose and Quantity</b>
Irrigation of 20.51 acres 0.02 cfs per acre for a total of 0.410 cfs, 74.72 ac-ft/yr from May 1 through July 31.

<b>Source Location</b>			
<b>COUNTY</b> Okanogan	<b>WATERBODY</b> Beaver Creek	<b>TRIBUTARY TO</b> Methow River	<b>WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA</b> 48

<b>POINT OF DIVERSION</b>
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 35, T. 34 N., R. 22 E.W.M. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 2, T. 33 N., R. 22 E.W.M. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18, T. 34 N., R. 23 E.W.M. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 24, T. 34 N., R. 22 E.W.M.

<b>Place of Use</b>
S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 11, T. 33 N., R. 22 E.W.M.

<b>Measurement of Water Use</b>	
How often must water use be measured?	Monthly
How often must water use data be reported to Ecology?	Annually, by January 31st of each calendar year.
What volume should be reported?	Total Annual Volume
What rate should be reported?	Monthly Peak Rate of Diversion in cfs.

**Provisions Related to the Portion of the Water Right Being Retained**

**No water shall be diverted under Certificate 217 after July 31 through the remainder of the irrigation season each year until 2031** when the lease agreement between TU and the Campbells expires in 2031. After 2031, the 0.350 cfs, 31.84 ac-ft/yr purchased and transferred in change authorization No. CS4-07217J(B) will remain instream permanently.

**Water Measurement**

An approved measuring device must be installed and maintained for each of the sources identified by this water right in accordance with the rule "Requirements for Measuring and Reporting Water Use", WAC 173-173, which describes the requirements for data accuracy, device installation and operation,

and information reporting. It also allows a water user to petition the Department of Ecology for modifications to some of the requirements.

Recorded water use data shall be submitted via the Internet. To set up an Internet reporting account, contact the Regional Office. If you do not have Internet access, you can still submit hard copies by contacting the Regional Office for forms to submit your water use data.

#### **Easement Right of Way**

Department of Ecology personnel, upon presentation of proper credentials, shall have access at reasonable times, to the records of water use that are kept to meet the above provisions, and to inspect at reasonable times any measuring device used to meet the above provisions.

#### **Fish Screening Criteria**

The intake(s) shall be screened in accordance with Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) screening criteria (pursuant to RCW 77.57.010, RCW 77.57.070, and RCW 77.57.040). If you have questions about screening criteria contact WDFW at:

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Attention: Habitat Program  
600 Capitol Way N  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Phone: (360) 902-2534  
Website: <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/reg/regions.htm>

No dam or weir shall be constructed in connection with this diversion.

#### **Findings of Facts**

Upon reviewing the investigator's report, I find all facts relevant and material to the subject application have been thoroughly investigated. Furthermore, I concur with the investigator that there will be no impairment of existing rights and that there will be no detriment to the public interest.

Therefore, I ORDER approval of Change Application No. CS4-07217J(B), subject to existing rights and the provisions specified above.

#### **YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL**

You have a right to appeal this Order to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001 (2).

To appeal you must do the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order:

- File your appeal and a copy of this Order with the PCHB (see addresses below). Filing means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours.
- Serve a copy of your appeal and this Order on Ecology in paper form - by mail or in person. (See addresses below.) E-mail is not accepted.

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in chapter 43.21B RCW and chapter 371-08 WAC.

**ADDRESS AND LOCATION INFORMATION**

Street Addresses	Mailing Addresses
<b>Department of Ecology</b> Attn: Appeals Processing Desk 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey WA 98503  <b>Pollution Control Hearings Board</b> 1111 Israel Road SW, Ste 301 Tumwater WA 98501	<b>Department of Ecology</b> Attn: Appeals Processing Desk PO Box 47608 Olympia WA 98504-7608  <b>Pollution Control Hearings Board</b> PO Box 40903 Olympia WA 98504-0903

For additional information visit the Environmental Hearings Office Website: <http://www.eho.wa.gov>  
To find laws and agency rules visit the Washington State Legislature Website: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser>

Signed at Yakima, Washington, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Kemner, LHG, Section Manager  
Water Resources Program/CRO

Purchase - DRAFT

INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT

This report addresses two applications to change portions of one water right: Beaver Creek Certificate 217. One portion of the right is proposed for permanent transfer to instream flows (Application No. CS4-07217J(B)) and another portion for temporary transfer (Application No. CS4-07217J(A)(b)).

BACKGROUND

On June 17, 2011 Robert and Mary Campbell, and Cecelia Campbell (Campbells) filed several applications with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to transfer portions of their water rights to trust. These applications correspond to the sale and lease of water rights by the Campbells to Trout Unlimited (TU), a nonprofit corporation working on behalf of Ecology to increase flows in Beaver Creek during times of critically low flows. To this end, TU purchased and leased the late season water from four water rights: Beaver Creek Adjudicated Certificates 213, 214, 216, and 217. The project seeks to eliminate the diversion of water for these rights from August 1 to May 1<sup>st</sup> of the following irrigation season.

This report addresses the proposed changes to Beaver Creek Adjudicated Certificate 217. TU permanently acquired (purchased) the late season water associated with 17.48 acres of irrigation, and leased (for 20 years) the late season water associated with 39.75 acres of irrigation. It is the task of this investigator to recommend whether this water may be transferred to instream flows. The following table lists all applications involved in this project:

Applicant	Application No.	Certificate No.	Transaction for Late Season Water
Campbells	CS4-07213J(B)	213	Purchase
Campbells	CS4-07214J(A)(b)	214	20 Year Lease
Campbells	CS4-07214J(B)	214	Purchase
Campbells	CS4-07216J(B)	216	Purchase
Campbells	CS4-07217J(A)(b)	217	20 Year Lease
Campbells	CS4-07217J(B)	217	Purchase

Significant efforts are being made to restore flows in Beaver Creek because it was historically a steelhead stream and could produce up to 10% of the Methow River run if fully functional (Mark Cookson, WDFW), with spawning and rearing as the major biological function. In the 2001 Methow Subbasin Plan, Beaver Creek is listed as a critical tributary and instream flow is identified as a limiting factor. In addition, this project will address several of the strategies identified in the 2004 Methow Subbasin Plan:

- Increase the survival of summer steelhead and bull trout at all juvenile summer and winter rearing life stages.
- Support resident and anadromous fishes similar to an undisturbed watershed of similar size, geology and geography.
- Protect key habitat and channel conditions by restoring and maintaining habitat processes.
- Protect healthy areas and restore degraded riparian zones to a more natural condition.

*shouldn't start over*

Increasing flows will lower stream temperatures in summer months, which is especially needed in the lower reaches of the Methow River. Higher flows also dilute toxic materials or other contaminants entrained in the stream.

**Table 1: Attributes of Certificate No. 217 and the Proposed Changes**

Attributes	Existing	Proposed
Name	B.J. Batie	Trust Portion: Department of Ecology Retained Portion: Robert and Mary Campbell, Cecelia Campbell, and the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
Priority Date/ Change Application Date	Priority Date – 1893 (Class 6)	Application Date – June 17, 2011
Instantaneous Quantity	1.14 cfs	Trust Portion: 1.14 cfs in the late season
Purpose of Use	Irrigation of 57.23	Trust Water Portion: Instream Flow Retained Portion: Crop Irrigation, Stock and Domestic Use
Period of Use	May 1 through September 15	Trust Portion: Instream Flow (Aug 1 through Sep 15) Remaining Portion: Crop Irrigation (May 1-July 31)
Place of Use	S½NE¼ and N½SE¼ Sec. 11, T. 33 N., R. 22 E.W.M.	Trust Water Portion: Instream flow in Beaver Creek Remaining Portion: Same
Point of Diversion	SW¼SE¼ of Section 35, T. 34 N., R. 22 E.W.M.	Trust Water Portion: no diversion Remaining Portion: Same

**Legal Requirements for Proposed Change**

The following is a list of requirements that must be met prior to authorizing any change to a water right.

- Public Notice**  
Notice of the proposed appropriation was published in the Methow Valley News of Twisp, Washington, on November 16<sup>th</sup> and November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. The protest period ended on December 24, 2011. One protest letter was received; see the *Protests and Comments* section below.
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)**  
This project required a SEPA review under WAC-197-11-800(4). Ecology, acting as the SEPA lead agency, determined that this project will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment and issued a Determination of Non-significance (DNS) on January 17, 2012. No comments were received.
- Water Resources Statutes and Case Law**  
Transferring a water right to the Trust Water Right Program is governed by RCW 90.42.

Washington Supreme Court has held that Ecology, when processing an application for change to a water right, is required to make a tentative determination of extent and validity of the claim or right. This is necessary to establish whether the claim or right is eligible for change. R.D. Merrill v. PCHB and Okanogan Wilderness League v. Town of Twisp.

This application qualifies for expedited processing under WAC 173-152-050(3)(a) whereby water right change applications may be processed prior to applications submitted at an earlier date when the proposed water use, if approved, would substantially enhance or protect the quality of the natural environment.

## INVESTIGATION

### History of Water Use

Beaver Creek and its tributaries were adjudicated in Okanogan Superior Court. Final Decree No. 3935 was issued on September 20, 1921. On May 15, 1922, Certificate 217 was issued to B.J. Batie and authorized water to be diverted from 4 points along Beaver Creek. Certificate 217 is a class 6 right that authorized 1.14 cfs for irrigation or 57.23 acres within the S½NE¼ and N½SE¼ Sec. 11, T. 33 N., R. 22 E.W.M.

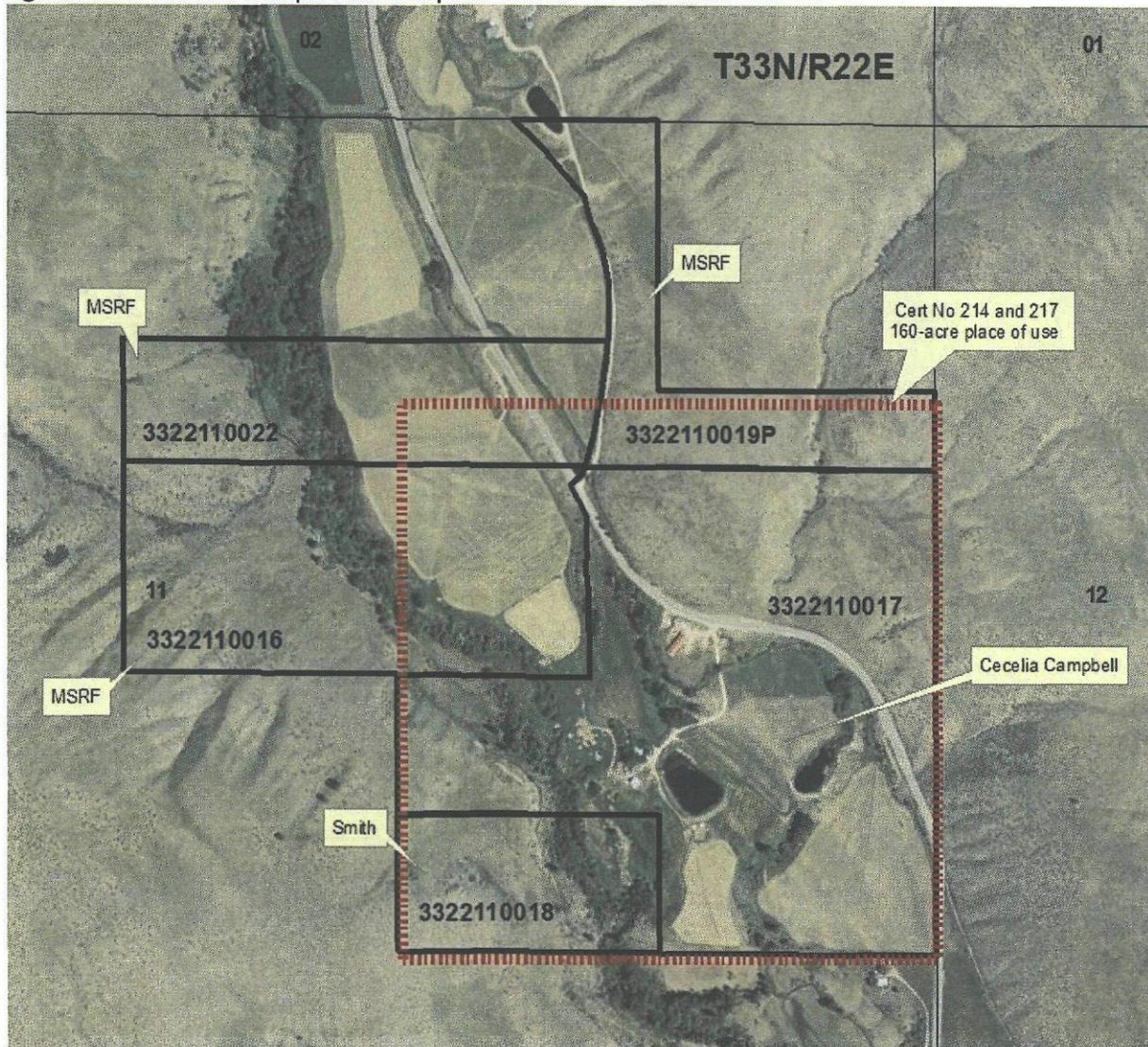
Beaver Creek Adjudicated Certificate No. 214 is also appurtenant to the same 160-acre place of use as authorized for Certificate 217 (the S½NE¼ and N½SE¼ Sec. 11, T. 33 N., R. 22 E.W.M.). Certificate 214 is a Class 2 right that authorizes 0.50 cfs for the irrigation of 25.09 acres. TU also purchased and leased portions of Certificate 214.

The Campbells' application lists the Batie Ditch as their only point of diversion. Ecology's Methow River Basin Watermaster, Susan Burgdorff-Beery also stated that the Campbells have historically used the Batie Ditch for delivery of all their water rights: Certificates 213, 214, 216, and 217. The Batie Ditch point of diversion is located within the SW¼SE¼ of Section 35, T. 34 N., R. 22 E.W.M. The following additional points of diversion are also authorized under Certificates 214, 216 and 217: a point within SE¼SW¼ of Section 2, T. 33 N., R. 22 E.W.M., a point within the SW¼SW¼ of Section 18, T. 34 N., R. 23 E.W.M., and a point within the SW¼NE¼ of Section 24, T. 34 N., R. 22 E.W.M. Certificate 213 was changed to consolidate all diversions to the Batie Ditch.

In 2003 the Campbells entered into the Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program (IEGP) and received funding to install center pivot sprinklers on most of their irrigated acreage. The Campbells submitted applications to temporarily transfer the savings from the new sprinklers to the Trust Water Right Program. These applications were accepted by Ecology, but no formal transfer was completed. The contract expired in 2012.

In February of 2011, the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) purchased several parcels along Beaver Creek including a portion of the authorized place of use for Certificate No. 217 (See Figure 1 below). Within the 160-acre place of use, Cecelia Campbell still owns Parcel No. 3322110017. The purchase and sale agreement between MSRF and the Campbells stated that the property being sold included the water rights that were appurtenant, but that the late season water rights had been sold or leased. However, the water right deed conveying water rights to Ecology was not signed by the Campbells until April 12, 2011.

**Figure 1:** Parcel ownership within the place of use for Certificate 214 and 217.



**Site Visit**

On April 12, 2012, Steven Hughes of Hart Crowser Consulting (hired on behalf of Ecology) met with Aaron Penvose of TU to observe the original point of diversion from Beaver Creek, the Batie Ditch, irrigated lands, and irrigation methods.

Water diverted from Beaver Creek flows into the Batie Ditch, travels along the valley edge on the eastern side of the creek for several miles to a turnout for the irrigation system used at the authorized place of use for Certificate 217. Alfalfa and grass mix is the predominate crop, but in some years there is a rotational crop or “green crop” planted. At the time of the site visit, which was conducted prior to the irrigation season, no water was being diverted.

**Tentative Determination of the Extent and Validity**

To change a water right, Ecology must make a tentative determination as to the extent and validity of the right. Under RCW 90.14.160, any portion of a water right not exercised for a period of five successive years, without sufficient cause, shall be relinquished and revert to the state.

To assess the extent and validity of Certificate No. 217, past irrigation practices and water use were evaluated. Susan Burdorf-Beery, Ecology's Watermaster, indicated that records for Beaver Creek were not kept after 2006. Due to limited water use records, aerial photographs of the site provided a better indicator of extent and validity of the right. Aerial photographs from 1964, 1974, 1989, 2000, 2005, 2006, 2009, and 2011 were reviewed to identify the extent of irrigated lands within the authorized place of use. A total of 45.6 acres appear to have been historically irrigated within the authorized 160-acre place of use under Certificate 217.

Of the total 45.6 acres historically irrigated, only 20.51 acres are associated with Certificate 217. Certificate 214 also authorizes the irrigation of 25.09 acres within the same place of use, and the more senior class 2 right, is satisfied first. Therefore, the 25.09 acres authorized under Certificate 214 is subtracted from the total acres leaving a balance of 20.51 acres of beneficial use that can be attributed to Certificate 217.

The instantaneous diversion rate (Qi) awarded in the Beaver Creek Adjudication is 0.02 cfs per acre. Therefore the maximum diversion rate associated with 20.51 acres is 0.41 cfs.

The total volume or total irrigation requirement (TIR) for water historically used under Certificate 217 is estimated to be 112.08 ac-ft/yr. This calculation is based on 0.02 cfs per acre:

$$\begin{aligned} 0.02 \text{ cfs} \times 1.98 \text{ ac-ft/day per cfs} \times 138 \text{ days of irrigation} &= 5.46 \text{ ac-ft/yr per acre} \\ 5.46 \text{ ac-ft/yr} \times 20.51 \text{ acres} &= 112.08 \text{ ac-ft/yr} \end{aligned}$$

#### Annual Consumptive Quantity Test (ACQ)

RCW 90.03.380(1) requires that Ecology perform an annual consumptive quantity test (ACQ) when investigating a water right change proposing additional uses. New uses may be permitted if the change results in no increase in the annual consumptive quantity of water to be used under the water right. The test states that the future consumptive use cannot exceed the average of the two highest years of the last 5 years of continuous use. Based on recent air photos, approximately 20.51 acres have been consistently irrigated. The water duty associated with those acres is considered the average use for this test.

The historic water use under Certificate 217 is estimated to be 112.08 ac-ft/yr based on the extent and validity analysis above. To identify the consumptive use portion (%CU), Ecology relies on the Washington Irrigation Guide (WIG). The WIG data provides the estimated Crop Irrigation Requirement (CIR), which is the amount of water a crop needs in excess of rainfall. The CIR for alfalfa near the Methow Station is 25 inches (2.08 ft) from May to October. The CIR divided by the TIR equals the application efficiency (Ea%), which is approximately 38% (see calculations below). Another consumptive component is evaporation (Evap%), estimated to be 5% based on Ecology's Guidance 1210. Therefore the Campbell's historic irrigation is estimated to be 43% consumptive. The total consumptive use associated with Certificate 217 is 48.19 ac-ft/yr. The total future consumptive use under Certificate 217 cannot exceed 48.19 ac-ft/yr for both the retained irrigation and the portion proposed to be held instream.

$$\begin{aligned}
Ea &= CIR \div TIR \\
Ea &= 2.08 \text{ ft/acre} \div 5.46 \text{ ac-ft/yr per acre} \\
Ea &= 0.38 \\
\%CU &= 38\% + 5\% \\
\%CU &= 43\% \\
CU &= TIR \times \%CU \\
CU &= 112.08 \text{ ac-ft/yr} \times 0.43 \\
CU &= 48.19 \text{ ac-ft/yr}
\end{aligned}$$

### Trust Water Calculations

This section describes how the portion of water being transferred to instream flows is calculated. The Campbells sold and leased late season water under Certificate 217 and then applied to transfer that water to instream flows in Beaver Creek. The quantity available to be transferred to instream flows is based on the tentative determination above, not on the quantity that was sold or leased. Of the 20.51 acres identified as being irrigated under Certificate 217, the Campbells sold the late season water associated with 17.48 acres and leased the late season water associated with 39.75 acres. Water is available to satisfy the sale of late season for 17.48 acres. However, the leased late season water associated with 39.75 cannot be fully satisfied; only 3.03 acres worth of late season water is available for transfer.

$$\begin{aligned}
&45.6 \text{ acres (tentative determination)} \\
&\underline{- 25.09 \text{ acres attributed to Certificate 214}} \\
&= 20.51 \text{ acres} \\
&20.51 \text{ acres} \\
&\underline{- 17.48 \text{ acres of late season water purchased by TU}} \\
&= 3.03 \text{ acres remaining to satisfy the lease by TU}
\end{aligned}$$

The following sections describe the primary and secondary stream reaches that benefit from water being transferred to instream flows. Each reach is assigned a volume of water based on fallowing of historically irrigated acres.

### Primary Reach

The primary reach is the portion of the stream that benefits from return flows and what would otherwise be consumed by growing crops. The primary reach extends from the historic point of diversion to the point where return flows historically rejoined the stream adjacent to the southern-most field. The length of the primary reach in Beaver Creek is approximately 2.4 miles long beginning from the point of diversion for the Batie Ditch at river-mile 6.4, and extending downstream to river-mile 4 (see Attachment 1).

The volume of water available for transfer to instream flows in the primary reach is 37.36 ac-ft/yr. This volume is based on the court-awarded instantaneous quantity of 0.02 cfs being diverted over the 46 days of late season irrigation:

$$\begin{aligned}
0.02 \text{ cfs} \times 1.98 \text{ ac-ft/day per cfs} \times 46 \text{ days of irrigation} &= 1.82 \text{ ac-ft/yr per acre} \\
1.82 \text{ ac-ft/yr per acre} \times 17.48 \text{ acres} &= \\
1.82 \text{ ac-ft/yr per acre} \times 20.51 \text{ acres} &= 37.36 \text{ ac-ft/yr}
\end{aligned}$$

Of the total, 31.84 ac-ft/yr is available to satisfy the sale of water rights associated with 17.48 acres and 5.52 ac-ft/yr is available to satisfy the lease of water rights associated with 3.03 acres (see Table 2 below for a summary of quantities).

### Secondary Reach

The secondary reach is the portion of the stream that benefits only from what would otherwise have been consumed by growing crops. The secondary reach extends from the end of the primary reach to the confluence of the next major tributary, in this case the confluence of Beaver Creek and the Methow River. The secondary reach is approximately 4 miles long beginning at the end of the primary reach at river-mile 4, and extending downstream to the confluence of Beaver Creek and the Methow River.

Historic water use is estimated to be 43% consumptive. Therefore, 16.06 ac-ft/yr is available in the secondary reach (37.36 ac-ft/yr × 0.43). 13.69 ac-ft/yr is attributed to the sale, and 2.37 ac-ft/yr is attributed to the lease.

**Table 2:** Summary of the quantities available for transfer by month.

	PURCHASE (17.48 acres)				LEASE (3.03 acres)			
	Primary Reach		Secondary Reach		Primary Reach		Secondary Reach	
	Qa (ac-ft/yr)	Qi (cfs)	Qa (ac-ft/yr)	Qi (cfs)	Qa (ac-ft/yr)	Qi (cfs)	Qa (ac-ft/yr)	Qi (cfs)
<b>August</b>	21.46	0.350	9.23	0.150	3.72	0.061	1.60	0.026
<b>September</b>	10.38	0.350	4.46	0.150	1.80	0.061	0.77	0.026
<b>Total</b>	31.84		13.69		5.52		2.37	

In conclusion, a maximum of 0.411 cfs, 37.36 ac-ft/yr, may be transferred to instream flows under Certificate 217.

### Ditch Operations

The Batie Ditch diversion is utilized to deliver water for Certificates 213, 214, 16, and 217. If all the applications requesting to transfer late season water to instream flows are approved, no water will be diverted under these certificates after August 1<sup>st</sup> until the beginning of the next irrigation season under. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the Batie Ditch headworks will be reduced by 1.736 cfs for at least the next 20 years. This quantity is based on the tentative determinations for all the changes associated with this project.

**Table 3:** Summary of rights being transferred to instream flows.

Transaction	Application No.	Cert. No.	Qi (cfs)	Qa (ac-ft/yr)
Purchase	CS4-07213J(B)	213	46.54	0.511
20 Year Lease	CS4-07214J(A)(b)	214	31.72	0.348
Purchase	CS4-07214J(B)	214	13.94	0.153
Purchase	CS4-07216J(B)	216	28.45	0.313
20 Year Lease	CS4-07217J(A)(b)	217	5.52	0.061
Purchase	CS4-07217J(B)	217	31.84	0.350
<b>Total</b>			<b>158.01</b>	<b>1.736</b>

## Impairment Considerations

The Campbells have agreed to cease diverting water on July 31<sup>st</sup> of each year and will not begin diverting until May 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Changing the purpose of these late season water rights to instream flows would not result in any increase in consumptive use of water. The proposed action is intended to decrease future consumptive use. After July 31<sup>st</sup>, water that would otherwise have been used for irrigation under Certificate 217 will remain instream to benefit flows. Increased flows should not impair or injure other water rights on Beaver Creek.

## Public Interest Considerations

The acquisition of water for instream flows in Beaver Creek is anticipated to improve habitat and survival of listed species in the Upper Columbia ESU.

## Consideration of Protests and Comments

A protest letter was received on December 14, 2011 from Bernard and Dianne Thurlow. Their concerns are outlined and discussed below:

- 1) *There is no way to measure the amount of water diverted from the creek because of the large variation in evaporation losses.*

**Response:** Only the portion of the water right that has been historically used can be transferred to instream flows. Ecology uses the Washington Irrigation Guide (WIG) to approximate water use based on irrigation practices, soils, and crop irrigation requirements. Extensive work has been done by the NRCS to develop specific station data (Methow Station for Beaver Creek crop irrigation requirements) with average monthly precipitation and irrigation requirements by crop type. The WIG data is coupled with GUID-1210, which provides information to evaluate application efficiency ranges, consumptive use, and return flows for crops. These documents allow Ecology to reasonably estimate water usage, including evaporation losses.

- 2) *By leaving water in Beaver Creek and not using it for irrigation you reduce the volume of irrigation water that would eventually infiltrate and be stored in the stream banks. Doing this reduces the volume of water available to discharge from the banks back into the stream during periods of low flow. These actions violate the Referee's Report. The lack of recharge could affect the water availability to the Beaver Creek water users when the creek is normally low, including the fish.*

**Response:** The proposed project is intended to leave water in Beaver Creek during the lowest flow periods. Fluvial recharge occurs primarily when stream flows are high and the water infiltrates to relatively lower ground water through the stream bed and banks. During the base flows periods (late in the summer and fall), groundwater tends to discharge to the stream.

Applying irrigation water heavily in the early and mid-portions of the irrigation season can store water that flows back to Beaver Creek later in the irrigation season. Applying irrigation water late in the season, during Beaver Creek's base flow period, is less effective in supporting Beaver Creek's streamflow than leaving water in Beaver Creek.

3) *Our existing water rights shall not be impaired.*

**Response:** A water right cannot be changed if the change would impair any other users. Leaving water instream would not harm another water user's ability to access water (see the Impairment Considerations section above).

**CONCLUSIONS**

It is the conclusion of this examiner that a total of 0.411 cfs, 37.36 ac-ft/yr (based on the purchase and lease) may be transferred to instream flows under Certificate 217 and that doing so would not impair existing rights in accordance with RCW 90.42.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the information presented above, the author recommends that CS4-07217J(B) and CS4-07217(A)(b) be approved in the amounts, and subject to the provisions described in the Order for Report of Examination on pages 1-4 in the following quantities:

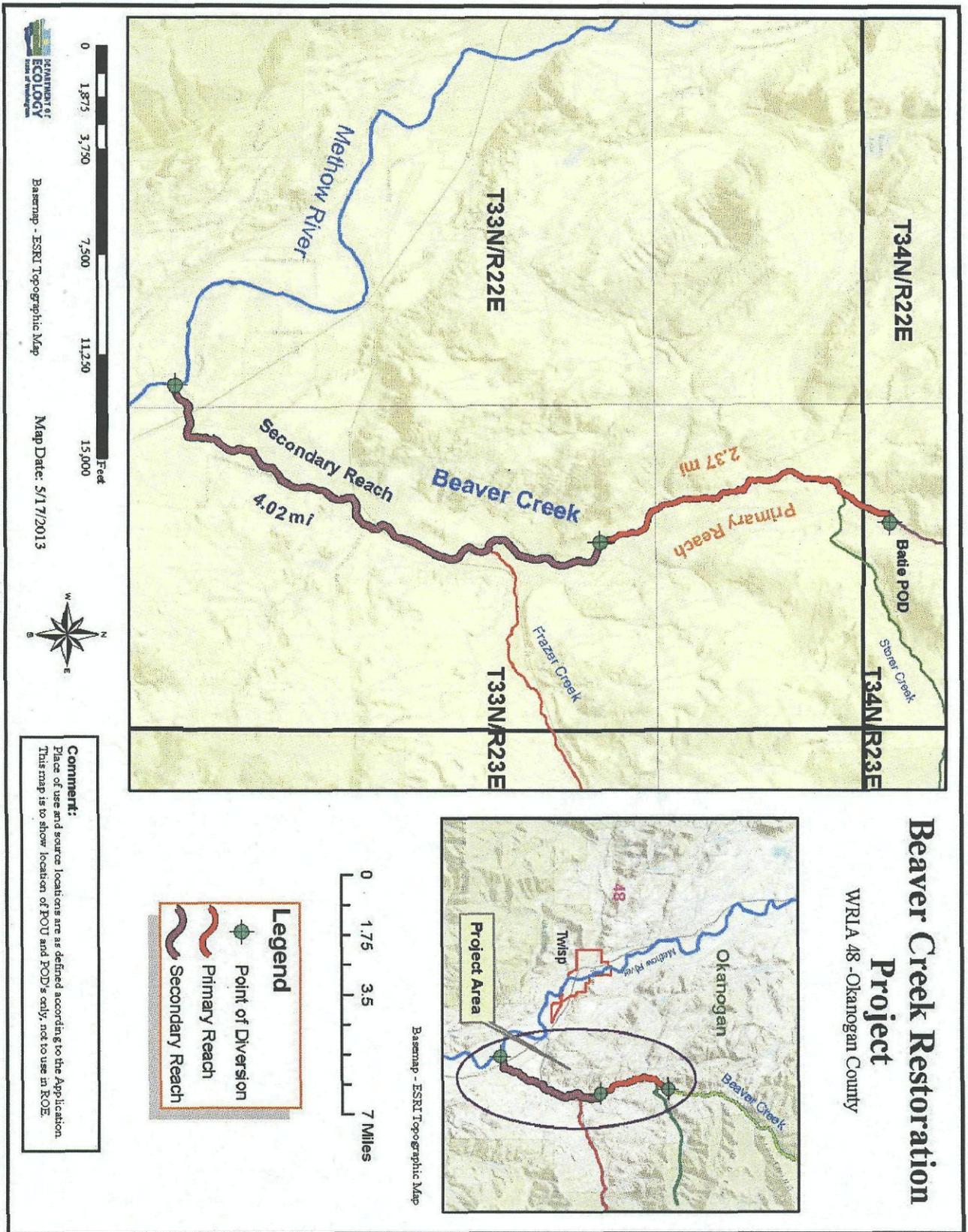
	<b>PURCHASE</b> (17.48 acres)			
	Primary Reach		Secondary Reach	
	Qa (ac-ft/yr)	Qi (cfs)	Qa (ac-ft/yr)	Qi (cfs)
<b>August</b>	21.46	0.350	9.23	0.150
<b>September</b>	10.38	0.350	4.46	0.150
<b>Total Purchase</b>	31.84		13.69	

	<b>LEASE</b> (3.03 acres)			
	Primary Reach		Secondary Reach	
	Qa (ac-ft/yr)	Qi (cfs)	Qa (ac-ft/yr)	Qi (cfs)
<b>August</b>	3.72	0.061	1.60	0.026
<b>September</b>	1.80	0.061	0.77	0.026
<b>Total Lease</b>	5.52		2.37	

<b>Total Transfer</b>	37.36	0.411
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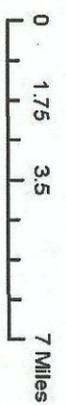
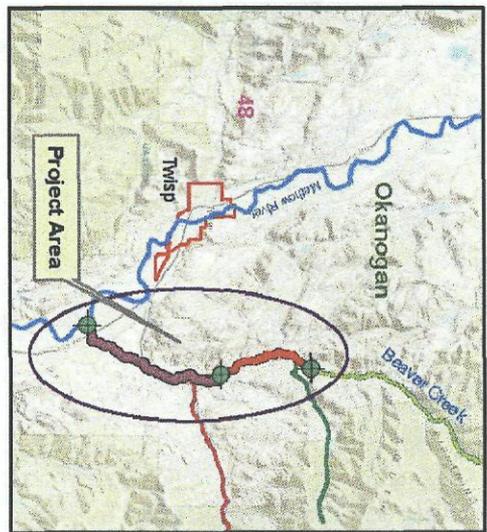
Report by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Collins

\_\_\_\_\_ Date



# Beaver Creek Restoration Project

W/RLA 48 - Okanogan County



**Legend**

- Point of Diversion
- Primary Reach
- Secondary Reach

**Comment:**  
 Place of use and source locations are as defined according to the Application.  
 This map is to show location of POU and POD's only, not to use in ROE.

0 1,875 3,750 7,500 11,250 15,000 Feet

Basemap - ESRI Topographic Map

Map Date: 5/17/2013

REPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY  
 STATE OF WASHINGTON