



## State of Washington REPORT OF EXAMINATION FOR TRUST WATER RIGHT

**Add or Change Purpose of Use      Change Place of Use**

<b>PRIORITY DATE</b> November 2, 1877	<b>WATER RIGHT NUMBER</b> Yakima Adjudication Court Claim No. 00648	<b>TRUST TERM</b> Permanent
<b>APPLICANT</b> J.P. Roan 13991 Reecer Creek Road Ellensburg WA 98926-8866		

### Purpose and Quantity

This Trust water right is for the purpose of instream flows from October 16 to March 31, with quantities allocated to a primary reach in the following table. "Primary reach" means that portion of a water body that benefits from both the former consumptive use and former return flow waters of a water right.

Period	Primary Reach	
	Flow (cfs)	Acre-feet
10/16-10/31	1.63	51.724
11/01-11/30	1.63	96.983
12/01-12/31	1.63	100.216
01/01-01/31	1.63	100.216
02/01-02/28	1.63	90.518
03/01-03/31	1.63	100.216
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>		<b>539.874</b>

### Trust Water Right Place of Use

COUNTY	WATERBODY	TRIBUTARY TO	WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA
Kittitas	First Creek	Swauk Creek and Yakima River	39-Upper Yakima

Datum: NAD83/WGS84

REACH	WATERBODY	RIVER MI	TWN	RNG	SEC	QQ Q	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
Begin Primary Reach	First Creek		20N	18E	30	NW NE	47.20247	-120.62997
End Primary Reach	Yakima River	154	17N	18E	3	NW		

The primary reach begins at the original point of diversion on First Creek and extends downstream to the confluence of First Creek and Swauk Creek, downstream to the confluence of Swauk Creek and the Yakima River, and extends to the point where Reecer Creek enters the Yakima River.

### Findings of Facts and Decisions

Upon reviewing the investigator's report, I find all facts relevant and material to the subject application have been thoroughly investigated. Furthermore, I find the change of water right as recommended will not be detrimental to existing rights.

Therefore, I ORDER the requested change under Trust Water Application No. CS4-00648(AA)sb4-a be approved subject to existing rights.

This Decision may be appealed pursuant to RCW 34.05.514(3), RCW 90.03.210(2), and Pretrial Order No. 12 entered in *State of Washington, Department of Ecology v. James Acquavella, et al.*, Yakima County Superior Court No. 77-2-01484-5 (the general adjudication of surface water rights in the Yakima River Basin). The person to whom this Decision is issued, if he or she wishes to file an appeal, must file the notice of appeal with the Yakima County Superior Court **within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Decision**. Appeals must be filed with the Superior Court Clerk's Office, Yakima County Superior Court, 128 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Yakima WA 98901, RE: Yakima River Adjudication. Appeals must be served in accordance with Pretrial Order No. 12, Section III ("Appeals Procedures"). The content of the notice of appeal must conform to RCW 34.05.546. Specifically, the notice of appeal must include:

- The name and mailing address of the appellant;
- Name and address of the appellant's attorney, if any;
- The name and address of the Department of Ecology;
- The specific application number of the decision being appealed;
- A copy of the decision;
- A brief explanation of Ecology's decision;
- Identification of persons who were parties in any adjudicative proceedings that led to Ecology's decision;
- Facts that demonstrate the appellant is entitled to obtain judicial review;
- The appellant's reasons for believing that relief should be granted; and
- A request for relief, specifying the type and extent of relief requested.

The "parties of record" who must be served with copies of the notice of appeal under RCW 34.05.542(3) are limited to the applicant of the decision subject to appeal, Ecology and the Office of the Attorney General.

All others receiving notice of this Decision, who wish to file an appeal, must file the appeal with the Yakima County Superior Court within **thirty (30) days of the date the Order was mailed**. The appeal must be filed in the same manner as described above.

Signed at Yakima, Washington, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2011.

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Mark Schuppe, Section Manager  
Water Resources Program/CRO

## BACKGROUND

On March 9, 2010, J.P. Roan filed an application to transfer winter stock water under Court Claim No. 00648 to instream flows. The application was accepted and assigned identifier No. CS4-00648(AA)sb4-a. This application is one of several<sup>1</sup> applications intended to facilitate restoration of First Creek.

In 2010, *Agreements for Purchase of Water Rights* were effectuated between each member of the First Creek Water Users Association, Inc. (FCWUA) and Washington Water Trust (WWT), acting on behalf of Ecology. Each member agreed to sell a portion of their 1877 priority date winter stock watering rights, cease diverting into the FCWUA ditch, and transfer the right into the Trust Water Right Program for instream flows. J.P. Roan agreed to sell 1.63 cfs, 539 ac-ft/yr of his non consumptive winter stock water from First Creek from October 16 to March 31. Mr. Roan's request to change a portion of his winter stock water right is being addressed in this report. Similar requests made by the other FCWUA members are being addressed in separate ROE's.

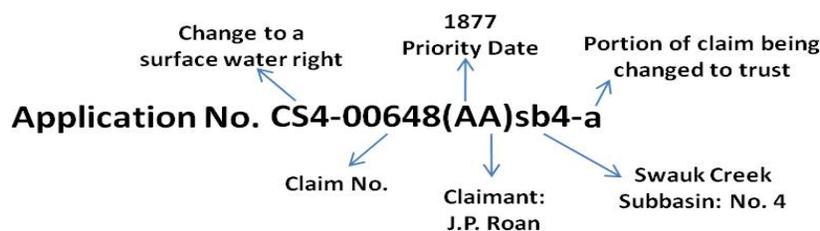
### History of Court Claim No. 00648

Yakima Adjudication Court Claim No. 00648 was filed by the FCWUA and confirmed in the Conditional Final Order for the Swauk Creek Subbasin No. 4 issued on January 9, 2003. Court Claim No. 00648 consists of two different water rights with priority dates of November 2, 1877 and June 1, 1881. Both water rights authorize use of the same diversion point on the North Fork of First Creek, and each water right describes discrete quantities and appurtenant lands.

In 1998, Trendwest, a predecessor to Suncadia LLC, acquired FCWUA water rights for irrigation and stockwatering. In 2003, Ecology changed the purpose of use for a portion of Suncadia's irrigation rights to instream flow purposes. This instream flow right has been managed by Suncadia to improve flows in First Creek and Swauk Creek as part of the Suncadia Resort's water supply and mitigation program. The First Creek General Report from the 2003 ROE's provides substantial background information. Ultimately, the Suncadia instream flow right will be transferred to Ecology to be managed as a trust water right.

In 2008, Yakima Superior Court issued an order of partition for the FCWUA. The order divides the 1877 and 1881 rights among the three shareholders: J.P. Roan, Suncadia, LLC, and Jack White, Jr. (Mr. Roan's portion of the 1877 right is described in Table 1).

In 2008, Suncadia began negotiations with J.P. Roan and Jack White, Jr. to change ditch operations to eliminate diversion at the current headworks in the winter months and create additional flow benefits in the late summer, which would reduce the costs of screening and fish passage structures. These negotiations led to a project made up of several parts in various stages of completion (referred to as the *First Creek Restoration Project*). The part of the project aimed at increasing winter flows in First Creek is represented by three applications filed by the members of the FCWUA (Suncadia: CS4-00648(AB)sb4-a, Roan: CS4-00648(AA)sb4-a [this report], and White: CS4-00648(AC)sb4-a). Each member requested to



<sup>1</sup> The naming scheme for Roan's application is shown above. The other applications related to the First Creek Restoration Project follow this same pattern.

change their 1877 winter stock water right to instream flow purposes and transfer the rights to trust. Analysis of other flow restoration and water banking elements of the project will be provided in subsequent ROE's.

**Table 1: J.P. Roan's Portion of Court Claim No. 00648 with a 1877 Priority Date, Summary of Existing Attributes and Proposed Change**

Attributes	Documented	Proposed
Name	J.P. Roan	J.P. Roan
Priority Date / Application Date	November 2, 1877	March 9, 2010
Quantities and Period of Use	0.977 cfs; 208.5 acre-feet per year for irrigation and stock watering during the irrigation season; 0.527 cfs for conveyance loss; 1.911 cfs, 7.9 acre-feet per year (consumptive) for stock watering from October 16 through March 31.	1.63 cfs, 539 ac-ft/yr for instream flows from October 16 through March 31
Source	First Creek	First Creek
Point of Diversion/Withdrawal	800 ft south and 100 ft east from the north quarter corner of Section 30, within Government Lot 1, Section 30, T. 20 N., R. 18 E.W.M.	N/A
Purpose of Use	Irrigation and Stock Water	Instream Flow
Place of Use	The SE¼ of Section 17, the W½E½ of Section 20; the NE¼SW¼, N½N½SE¼SW¼, and portions of the N ½ of Section 21; ALL in T. 19 N., R. 18 E.W.M.	Instream flows in First Creek, Swauk Creek, and the Yakima River

**Expedited Processing**

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. The initial investigation and drafting of this ROE was done by Robinson & Noble, Inc. through cost reimbursement (RCW 43.21A.690 and RCW 90.03.265). Robinson & Noble worked under Cost-Reimbursement Assignment No. ROB001 (Master Contract No. C1000191). However, the First Creek Restoration Project evolved during Robinson & Noble's contract period and Ecology elected to complete the investigation on its own.

## Legal Requirements for Proposed Change

The following is a list of requirements that must be met prior to authorizing the proposed changes to Court Claim No. 00648.

- **Public Notice**  
Ecology prepared a public notice that addressed all of the applications associated with the First Creek Restoration Project. WWT, working as facilitator of these changes, published the notice in the Ellensburg Record on August 19 and 26, 2010. One protest letter was received. See the *Consideration of Protests and Comments* section below.
- **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)**  
WWT submitted an Environmental Checklist (WAC 197-11-960) describing the transfer of winter stock water to instream flows and adding points of diversion in the First Creek Basin. Based on this checklist, Ecology acted as lead agency and issued a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) on June 29, 2010 and published the determination on July 2, 2010 in the Ellensburg Record with a 14 day comment period that ended on July 13, 2010. No protest letters were received during this comment period, however, a protest letter received during the public notice protest period makes reference to concerns regarding the DNS. See the *Consideration of Protests and Comments* section below.
- **Water Resources Statutes and Case Law**  
The transfer of a portion of Court Claim No. 00648 to the Yakima Basin Trust Water Program is subject to RCW 90.38.

### Trust Water Right Place of Use

The Yakima County Adjudication confirmed FCWUA two water rights to divert from First Creek and convey it out of the First Creek/Swauk Creek Basin to lands in the Reecer Creek Basin. Alternately, water left instream from the authorized POD would remain in First Creek and contribute to the Swauk Basin. The proposed change of winter stock water to instream flows will result in increased streamflow in First and Swauk Creek, as well as a reduction in flow in Reecer Creek.

The place of use for this proposed trust water right is known as the primary reach. The primary reach is the stretch of river between the original POD and the point where the historic return flows reenter the stream or river. In this case, the primary reach begins at the original point of diversion on First Creek and extends downstream to the confluence of First Creek and Swauk Creek, downstream to the confluence of Swauk Creek and the Yakima River, and extends to the point where Reecer Creek enters the Yakima River (see map: Attachment 1).

### Trust Water Right Calculations

Mr. Roan's portion of the 1877 right under Court Claim No. 00648 authorizes the continuous diversion of 1.911 cfs from First Creek between October 16 and March 31 for stock watering. Per his agreement, Mr. Roan agrees to sell 1.63 cfs and retains 0.281 cfs which includes 7.9 ac-ft/yr consumptive use. 1.63 cfs diverted over the winter season equates to 539.874 ac-ft/yr ( $1.63 \times 167 \text{ days} \times 1.9833^2 \text{ ac-ft/day}$ ). Mr. Roan's retained instantaneous rate of 0.281 cfs distributed over the winter season equates to a volume of 93.070 ac-ft/yr ( $0.281 \text{ cfs} \times 167 \text{ days} \times 1.9833 \text{ ac-ft/day}$ ). The monthly quantities for trust identified on the coversheet of this ROE were calculated using the same formula ( $1.63 \text{ cfs} \times \text{days in the month} \times 1.9833 \text{ ac-ft/day}$ ).

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<sup>2</sup> 1 cubic foot per second of water is equal to 1.9833 ac-ft/day.

**Trust Water Management**

Trust Water Application No. CS4-00648(AA)sb4-a is subject to the requirements of RCW 90.38. As per the *Agreement for Purchase of Water Rights*, Ecology would: 1) receive a deed for the trust water right, 2) exercise the trust water instream flow right when flows are available at the original point of diversion, 3) manage the water right in the Yakima River Basin Trust Water Right Program and issue a Certificate of Water Right in the name of the state of Washington in accordance with RCW 90.38.040(1).

**Impairment Considerations**

This water right has been diverted from the First and Swauk Creek basins into the Reecer Creek drainage for more than 100 years. Changing the purpose of use to instream flow, and cessation of the winter-time diversion into the Reecer Creek drainage will increase flows in First and Swauk Creeks. No existing rights within First or Swauk Creek would be impaired. No Reecer Creek water user is entitled to the continued diversion of Mr. Roan’s portion of the FCWUA right, nor any return flow that may be associated with it. The primary reach for this water right would end at the confluence of the Yakima River and Reecer Creek. There is no secondary reach because the right proposed for change is non-consumptive. The proposed change from stockwater to instream flow will not impair existing rights.

**Consideration of Protests and Comments**

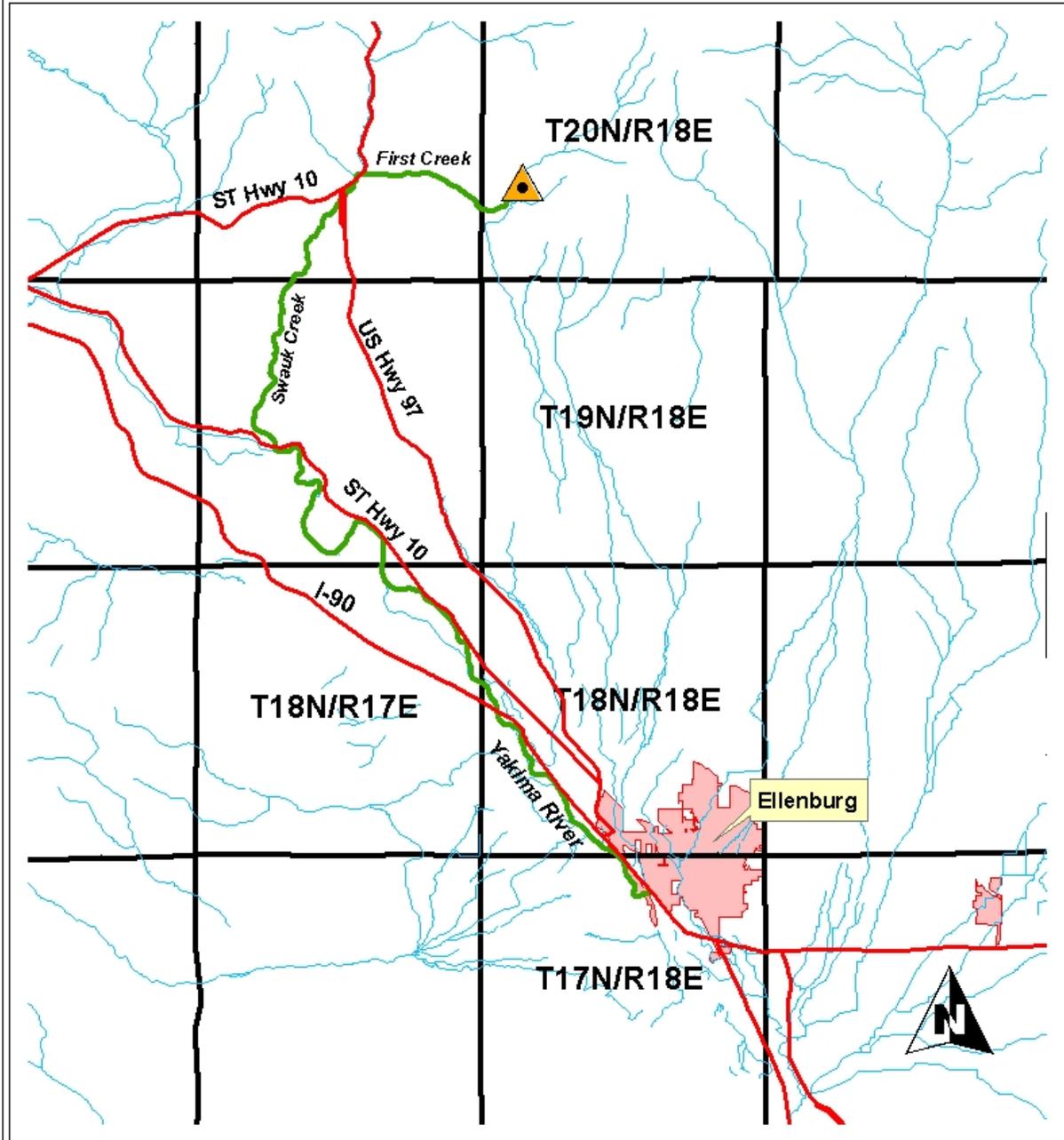
On September 24, 2010 Ecology received a protest letter from Mr. Pat Deneen, who is the manager of the Ranch on Swauk Creek, LLC. Mr. Deneen holds water rights authorizing diversions from Swauk Creek. The public notice describing this water right change also described the other proposed changes associated with the *First Creek Restoration Project*. Mr. Deneen’s concerns relate to part of the First Creek Restoration Project, specifically the proposals to use First Creek water rights as mitigation for future uses within the Swauk Creek basin. Mr. Deneen questions Ecology’s administration of water rights, lack of measurements of First and Swauk Creek flows, and the need for hydrologic studies. However, the protest letter did not specifically take issue with this application. The non consumptive water rights proposed for trust will be owned and managed by Ecology. They will not be used to mitigate for new out-of-stream uses. Furthermore, when future use requests are submitted to Ecology to use mitigation, a water budget neural analysis and determination will be required before water may be used. These future decisions may be protested and appealed by third parties such as Mr. Deneen at that time.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the information presented above, the author recommends that Mr. Roan’s request to change the non consumptive winter stock water portion of Court Claim No. 00648 to instream flow purposes be approved in the amounts and within the limits described on page 1 and 2.

Report by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Collins, Water Resources Program

# Attachment 1



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Original Point of Diversion</li> <li> Primary Reach</li> <li> Roads</li> <li> Perennial Streams</li> <li> Township/Range Lines</li> <li> City</li> </ul>		
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