

WATER TRANSFER WORKING GROUP PROJECT DESCRIPTION

APPLICATION NO./COURT CLAIM NO.: n/a		
APPLICANT NAME	CONTACT NAME	TELEPHONE NO.
Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	Randy Giles, I-90 Project Director	509-577-1879
	Brian White, Assistant Regional Administrator	509-577-1700
WATER RIGHT HOLDER'S NAME (if different) n/a		EMAIL: WhiteB@wsdot.wa.gov ; GilesR@wsdot.wa.gov

DATE OF APPLICATION:	PRIORITY DATE:
WATER SOURCE:	CROP:
INSTANTANEOUS QUANTITY:	ANNUAL QUANTITY:
PERIOD OF USE:	
PLACE OF USE: I-90 highway right-of-way/easement	PURPOSE OF USE:
IRRIGATION METHOD: n/a	

CONSUMPTIVE USE CALCULATION:

WSDOT's estimated the water projections for construction of the funded portion of the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East Project (Mile post 55.1 to 60.9) is summarized in the table below. Approximately 80% of the water will be used for dust control, 6% for embankment compaction, 1% for landscaping/restoration and the remainder for preparation and processing of road surfacing materials. WSDOT will also re-vegetate roadside and disturbed areas after highway construction, and will establish and monitor wetland, stream and stormwater mitigation sites. Construction water needed for the remaining project area which is unfunded is approximately 950 acre-feet, with a median year requiring between 65 and 80 acre-feet.

Estimated Construction Water Needs – First 5 Miles (Phase 1) (acre-feet)

<i>Year</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>2010</i>	5	13	13	10	12	5	58
<i>2011</i>	12	18	24	16	13	10	93
<i>2012</i>	12	21	31	22	20	10	116
<i>2013</i>	9	14	23	25	16	13	100
<i>2014</i>	5	7	14	17	14	5	62
<i>2015</i>	5	7	10	12	8	5	47
<i>Total</i>							<i>476</i>

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

WSDOT is pursuing water rights for the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East Project (I-90 Project), a major transportation project located east of Snoqualmie Pass between Milepost (MP) 55.1 to MP 70 proposed for construction in 2009 through 2016. The purpose of this Project Description is to provide background information on the I-90 Project with a focus on water needs which were estimated as part of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the project.

To supply the water for construction starting in 2010, WSDOT is pursuing the purchase of water right and/or the lease of a water right. WSDOT would temporarily transfer the purchased water right to the Washington State Trust Water Rights Program, where it will be assigned to instream flow within the Yakima basin when not being used. WSDOT would work with the owner of the leased water for a temporary change to the water right. WSDOT desires to use up to an equivalent amount of the consumptive use associated with the trust water right and leased water right to mitigate for its water needs. WSDOT would not exceed the instantaneous demand of the water right(s).

WSDOT proposes to divert water from several points along Keechelus Lake and adjacent to the proposed road work. WSDOT hopes to avoid costly trucking costs that would result from purchasing the quantity of water needed and bringing it to the construction site. During the temporary conveyance period (2010 to ~2017) WSDOT will submit applications to Ecology for a multi-year temporary permit for an amount of water equal to its needs for the conveyance period. This application shall be made prior to December 1st of the prior to the year of use, and will specify:

- The amount and duration of water to be used
- The estimated amount of consumptive vs. non-consumptive use
- The proposed point(s) of diversion

WSDOT and Ecology will develop a conveyance agreement to allow use of the trust water right as mitigation for use of water stored under the newly formed Contract # 09XX101700 between the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and Ecology. WSDOT will meet construction needs while not affecting TWSA or other water user demands. For the leased water, WSDOT would temporarily lease valid water rights recognized by the Court with a temporary change of the point of diversion to Keechelus Lake.

WSDOT estimates that 2012 will be the heaviest use of water as there will be two construction contracts overlapping that year. WSDOT will develop alternatives to avoid exceedance of the annual water use consumptive use.

See attached project vicinity map for additional information.

WTWG Checklist Narrative (Form to be completed for future application)

Validity.

- *To be provided for future application.*

Water budget neutrality.

- It is WSDOT's intent is to be water budget neutral. If the transfer did not occur, water would still be available at their current point of diversions. Following the transfer, consumptive use as measured at Parker will either be the same as current conditions or lower during the frequent periods when WSDOT is not using the full amount of the right.
- It is WSDOT's intent that the transfer(s) are TWSA neutral. WSDOT's will not use water stored in the Keechelus Lake Reservoir in amounts that exceed the consumptive use amount of the water right(s). During the frequent periods when WSDOT is using less than the full amount of the purchased right, the remaining water will be dedicated to instream flow.
- The transfer will result in overall, less consumptive use. During many portions of the year, WSDOT's water needs will be less than the consumptive use of the purchased water right.
- The transfer(s) will not result in detriment or injury to existing rights (RCW 90.03.380(1)).

Timing and availability.

- As mentioned above, WSDOT proposes a temporary donation to the Trust Water Right Program and a temporary, multi-year permit to divert water for the 5-6 year highway construction project, to be followed by roadside re-vegetation, restoration and mitigation sites, and associated maintenance. WSDOT would seek supplemental water sources through lease or purchase. On an annual basis, WSDOT would report its water usage for the previous year and would also update its water need projections and notify Ecology and USBR accordingly.

Impairment of instream flow.

- The transfer will result in an overall, increase to instream flow. During the many periods when WSDOT is not using the full amount of the right, water will remain in the Trust program as instream flow.
- All water is accounted for at Prosser and Parker. Consumptive use of reservoir water will be metered and will not exceed the consumptive use amount of the Trust water right.

Operational considerations.

- WSDOT will either maintain the historic consumptive use amount for the water right or may seek a slight variation in the monthly consumptive use limits while maintaining the annual consumptive use allowed by the water right without impacts to other users or fish/aquatic species. WSDOT recognizes that approval by Ecology would be subject to the minimum flow requirements established by USBR for reservoir operations.
- The transfer(s) will not impact Yakima Project operations.

Other considerations.

- The transfer(s) are in agreement with public policy. The I-90 Project is an important infrastructure improvement. Permits for project construction are being obtained at this time and major construction is scheduled to begin in 2010 with pre-construction activities such as temporary bridge and water storage mitigation under in 2009.
- The secondary impacts of the transfer(s) will be positive. Based on extensive environmental review and collaboration, the unanimous judgment of the affected agencies is that the economic, social and environmental effects of the I-90 Project will be highly positive.
- The transfer(s) do not rely on return flow.