

WATER TRANSFER WORKING GROUP PROJECT DESCRIPTION

APPLICATION NO./COURT CLAIM NO. No. S4-27116		
APPLICANT NAME West Russell Creek Association	CONTACT NAME Kelsey Collins	TELEPHONE NO. 509-575-2640
WATER RIGHT HOLDER'S NAME (if different) West Russell Creek Association		EMAIL KESI461@ECY.WA.GOV

DATE OF APPLICATION August 1, 1980	PRIORITY DATE August 1, 1980; mitigated by trust water right with June 30, 1873 priority date
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WATER SOURCE: Unnamed Spring, tributary to Russell Creek and Rimrock Lake	CROP: N/A - Indoor Use Only
INSTANTANEOUS QUANTITY: 0.06 cfs	ANNUAL QUANTITY: 0.06 (consumptive use)
PERIOD OF USE: Continuous – year round	
PLACE OF USE: Lots 12 through 17 of the West Russell Creek Summer Homes located in Section 5, of Unsurveyed T. 13 N., R. 13 E.W.M., Snoqualmie National Forest	PURPOSE OF USE: Community domestic for 6 recreational cabins
IRRIGATION METHOD: N/A	

<p>CONSUMPTIVE USE CALCULATION: <u>New Mitigated Water Right</u> - Ecology has determined (Ecology 2006) that the average seasonal recreational cabin uses approximately 100 gallons per day (gpd) or 0.03 ac-ft/yr for occupancy up to 105 days per year. Assuming 30 percent of total use is consumptive; the assumed 6 unpermitted cabins would require about 0.06 ac-ft/yr for mitigation.</p> <p>The community is located on National Forest System lands, authorized by a special use permit. The permit specifics lot appearance shall be maintained in the condition of a natural northwest forest environment. Planting of lawns or non-native plants is prohibited.</p>
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<p>NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: As directed by Senate Bill 6861, Ecology is providing water banking opportunities for Yakima Basin Cabin Owners with junior claims (post-1905) to purchase senior mitigation credits to offset the consumptive use of water during years of rationing by the US Bureau of Reclamation.</p> <p>Ecology proposes to offset 0.06 ac-ft/yr of consumptive use with mitigation credits from Trust Water Right Nos. CS4-00195CTCL(A)sb6, CS4-00195CTCL(B)sb6, and CS4-</p>
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00195CTCL(C)sb6 – collectively known as Bruton Ditch. The Burton Ditch project was last presented to the WTWG on September 14, 2009.

Of the 60 ac-ft/yr currently assigned to the USBR-Ecology Exchange Contract (Contract No. 09XX101700) under the Burton Ditch project, 0.06 ac-ft will be allocated to the subject application to address impacts to TWSA.

PROPOSED USBR-ECOLOGY CONTRACT ASSIGNMENT RATIONALE

Diversion of surface water during rationing years will impact flows in the Yakima River when the TWSA irrigation supply period is in effect.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

The point of diversion is located at an improved unnamed spring, approximately 300 feet above Russell Creek and about 1,400 feet above the confluence with Rimrock Lake. Water is diverted from the improved spring, filtered, chlorinated, and stored prior to distribution to the cabins. Return flow to Rimrock Lake occurs through septic. Based on the authorized quantities, the cumulative consumptive impact will not exceed 0.06 ac-ft/yr.

Rimrock Lake is a migratory barrier to anadromous salmonids (Tieton Dam has no fish passage facilities), and Russell Creek is too small and steep to provide habitat for anadromous salmonids (Reclamation 2005). In addition, WDFW fish distribution data indicate no occurrence of Bull Trout or other ESA-listed fish.

CONCLUSION

During rationing years, the availability of water to satisfy TWSA in the Yakima River will not be impacted if 0.06 ac-ft were held and released from Rimrock Lake. Assignment of 0.06 ac-ft would be in compliance with the consultation threshold in paragraph 18(b) of the USBR-Ecology contract.

REFERENCES

Ecology 2011. Columbia River Instream Atlas Project, Publication Number: 11-12-015. Prepared by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. September 2011.

Reclamation, 2005. Phase I Assessment Report, Storage Dam Fish Passage Study, Yakima Project, Washington. Revised April 2005

WDFW. SalmonScape. <http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/salmonscape/index.html>.

WTWG Project form

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PROJECT LOCATION MAP

