



STATE OF WASHINGTON FINAL REPORT OF EXAMINATION FOR WATER RIGHT APPLICATION

WR Doc ID 6803102

PRIORITY DATE	WATER RIGHT APPLICATION NUMBER
June 30, 2020	G4-33259

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS	SITE ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT)
Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County PO Box 878 Ephrata, Washington 98823-0878	Carlton Acclimation Facility 320A Twisp-Carlton Road Twisp, Washington 98856

Total Rate and Quantity Authorized for Withdrawal

WITHDRAWAL RATE (gpm)	ANNUAL QUANTITY (ac-ft/yr)
1,200 (additive)	1,180 (non-additive)

gpm = Gallons per Minute; ac-ft/yr = Acre-feet per Year

Attention: Annual quantities are non-additive to Surface Water Permit Nos. S4-33061P and S4-30055P, during the period beginning October 1 and extending through to May 31, providing an alternate source of water supply.

Associated Water Right(s)

DOCUMENT NUMBER	INSTANTANEOUS RATE	ANNUAL QUANTITY (ac-ft/yr)	PURPOSE	PERIOD OF USE
S4-33061	7.5 cfs	2,038	Acclimation	Oct 1 – Feb 14
		461		May 1 – May 31
S4-30055	14.9 cfs	2,187	Acclimation	Feb 15 – Apr 30
G4-33047	2,000 gpm	435	Acclimation	Oct 1 – May 31
G4-33188	2,000 gpm	1.3	Pond Filling	Sep 1 – Sep 15
		250	Acclimation	Sep 1 – Sep 30
	2,000 gpm (non-additive)	2,000 (non-additive)	Acclimation	Oct 1 – May 31

Purpose(s)

PURPOSE	WITHDRAWAL RATE (gpm)		ANNUAL QUANTITY (ac-ft/yr)		PERIOD OF USE
	ADDITIVE	NON-ADDITIVE	ADDITIVE	NON-ADDITIVE	
Fish Acclimation	1,200			1,180	10/1 to 5/31

IRRIGATED ACRES		PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION	
ADDITIVE	NON-ADDITIVE	WATER SYSTEM NAME and ID	CONNECTIONS
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source Location			
COUNTY	WATERBODY	TRIBUTARY TO	WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA
Okanogan	Groundwater	-	48 - Methow

SOURCE NAME	PARCEL	WELL TAG	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	QQ Q	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
Well No. 1 (Existing)	5101140002	AEG309	33N	22E	21	NWSE	48°20'34.63"N	120° 5'18.25"W
Well No. 2 (Proposed)	5101140002	TBD	33N	22E	21	NWSE	-	-

QQ Q = Quarter Quarter

Datum: NAD83/WGS84

Place of Use
PARCEL(S)
5101140002

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AUTHORIZED PLACE OF USE
That part of Lot 114 of Furey, East, Pfau, and Musson's Plat No. 1, located in Section 21 of T33N, R22E, W.M., Okanogan County, Washington, further described as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of said Lot 114, thence NW 89°40'00", along the southerly boundary line of said Lot 114 (common with the northerly boundary line of a road as platted now known as Duncan Road), for 523.1 feet, thence leaving said boundary line NW 00°19'00" for 257.98 feet to the true point of beginning, thence from said point of beginning, continuing NW 00°19'00" for 627.71 feet to the northerly boundary line of said Plat No. 1, thence along said boundary line NE 85°26'03" (Plat bearing NE 85°28'00") for 219.80 feet, thence NE 82°24'12" (Plat bearing NE 82°29'10") for 20.98 feet, thence leaving said boundary line SE 00°19'00" for 646.66 feet, thence SW 89°41'00" for 240.00 feet to the true point of beginning containing 3.51 acres.

Proposed Works
The Carlton Acclimation Facility is supported by one existing and one proposed well. Existing Well No. 1 was advanced to 164 feet below ground surface (bgs) and completed with a 12-inch diameter casing and 40-slot screen from 110 to 160 feet bgs. Static water level is approximately 12 feet bgs. Proposed Well No. 2 will be completed with a 20-inch diameter casing to a similar depth in the same source of public groundwater. Well Nos. 1 and 2 will be equipped with submersible pumps capable of a flowrate of up to 2,000 gallons per minute (gpm) and 3,200 gpm, respectively. Groundwater will be used during periods of surface water low flow and to circulate through the acclimation ponds as an alternative water source for disease control, emergency flow in the event of surface water intake failure, excessive ice, or poor water quality (turbidity) in the Methow River during the spring freshet.

Development Schedule		
BEGIN PROJECT BY THIS DATE	COMPLETE PROJECT BY THIS DATE	PUT WATER TO FULL USE BY THIS DATE
Begun	June 1, 2029	June 1, 2030

Attention: These dates represent deadlines that must be met or risk cancellation of this authorization. Submittal of formal documentation for each stage is required. Extensions may be requested.

Measurement of Water Use	
HOW OFTEN MUST WATER USE BE MEASURED AND RECORDED?	Weekly

HOW OFTEN MUST WATER USE DATA BE REPORTED TO ECOLOGY?	Annually by January 31
WHAT QUANTITY SHOULD BE REPORTED?	Total annual quantity in acre-feet
WHAT RATE SHOULD BE REPORTED?	Annual peak rate of withdrawal in gpm

Provisions

Wells, Well Logs, and Well Construction Standards

All wells constructed in the state must meet the construction requirements of chapter 173-160 WAC titled “Minimum Standards for the Construction and Maintenance of Wells” and chapter 18.104 RCW titled “Water Well Construction.” Installation and maintenance of an access port is required as described in WAC 173-160-291(3).

All wells (existing and proposed) must be tagged with a Department of Ecology unique well identification number. If you have an existing well and it does not have a tag, please contact the well-drilling coordinator at the regional Department of Ecology office issuing this decision. This tag must remain attached to the well. If you are required to submit water measuring reports, reference this tag number.

In addition to the required access port, the applicant must install and maintain, in operating condition, an airline and pressure gage. The pressure gage must be equipped with a standard tire valve and placed in a location accessible to Department of Ecology personnel. The airline must extend from land surface to the top of the pump bowls and the total airline length must be reported to the Department of Ecology upon completion of the pump system.

Well No. 2 shall be completed into the sedimentary aquifer adjacent to the Methow River.

Measurements, Monitoring, Metering, and Reporting

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”, chapter 173-173 WAC, 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 (Ecology) for modifications to some of the requirements.

Recorded water use data shall be submitted electronically by January 31, each year. 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.

Proof of Appropriation

Consistent with the development schedule given in this report (unless extended by Ecology), the water right holder must file a Notice of Proof of Appropriation (PA) of Water with Ecology. The PA documents the project is complete and all the water needed has been put to full beneficial use (perfected). In order to verify the extent of water use under this permit, an inspection of water use is typically required, known as a “proof exam”. After filing the PA, the water right holder’s next step is to hire a Certified Water Rights Examiner (CWRE) to conduct this proof exam. A list of CWREs is provided to the water right holder upon filing the PA with Ecology. The final water right document, a water right certificate, then may issue based upon the findings of the CWRE. Statutory county and state filing fees may apply prior to certificate issuance.

Schedule and Inspections

Department of Ecology personnel, upon presentation of proper credentials, shall have access at reasonable times, to the project location, and to inspect at reasonable times, records of water use, wells, diversions, measuring devices and associated distribution systems for compliance with water law.

Easement and Right-of-Way

The water source and/or water transmission facilities are not wholly located upon land owned by the applicant. Issuance of a water right authorization by this department does not convey a right of access to, or other right to use, land which the applicant does not legally possess. Obtaining such a right is a private matter between applicant and owner of that land.

Findings of Fact and Order

Upon reviewing the investigator's report, I find all facts, relevant and material to the subject application, have been thoroughly investigated.

Therefore, I ORDER **APPROVAL** of Application No. G4-33259, 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 the 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 to 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.

Street Addresses	Mailing Addresses
Department of Ecology Attn: Appeals Processing Desk 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503	Department of Ecology Attn: Appeals Processing Desk PO Box 47608 Olympia, WA 98504-7608
Pollution Control Hearings Board 1111 Israel RD SW, Ste. 301 Tumwater, WA 98501	Pollution Control Hearings Board 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://www1.leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser>.

Authorizing Signature

Signed at Union Gap, Washington, this 26th day of April, 2022.



Trevor Hutton, Section Manager
Water Resources Program/Central Regional Office
Department of Ecology

TH:MS:aa (220426)

INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT

Water Right Application No.: G4-33259 (PUD No. 2 of Grant Co. and PUD No. 1 of Chelan Co.)

Investigator: Tyson Carlson, Aspect Consulting

Reviewed by: Mark Schuppe, Department of Ecology

BACKGROUND

This report serves as the written findings of fact concerning Water Right Application Number G4-33259.

On June 30, 2020, Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County (Grant PUD) filed application No. G4-33259 requesting appropriation of public groundwater to support a fish acclimation facility; specifically to provide an alternate water supply allowing the PUD the flexibility to use either their surface water diversion or their groundwater wells to provide water supply to the Carlton Acclimation Facility (CAF). The applicant proposes to withdraw 1,200 gallons per minute (gpm) and 1,180 acre-feet per year (ac-ft/yr) from one existing and one proposed production well. The instantaneous rate requested is additive, while the annual quantity requested would be non-additive to Surface Water Permit Nos. S4-30055 and S4-33061. These quantities will allow use of the wells as alternate source of water supply to existing surface water authority. The purpose of use is fish acclimation from October 1 to May 31, each year.

The Carlton Acclimation Facility is located on the south bank of the Methow River in Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 48, approximately two miles downriver of Twisp. The large-scale facility will over-winter acclimate up to 220,000 summer chinook salmon.

The facility is currently supported by Surface Water Permit Nos. S4-30055P (authorizing 14.9 cfs and 2,187 ac-ft/yr, February 15 through April 30) and No. S4-33061P (7.5 cfs; 2,499 ac-ft/yr, October 1 through February 14 and May 1 through May 31). The facility is also supported by Groundwater Water Permit Nos. G4-33047P (2,000 gpm; 435 ac-ft/yr, October 1 through May 31) to control frazil ice on surface water intake screens and emergency backup water supply and G4-33188 (2,000 gpm and 2,251.3 ac-ft/yr) for mitigated pond filling from September 1 to September 15 and over-winter fish acclimation from September 1 through May 31 each year.

Table 1. Carlton Acclimation Facility Water Right Relationships

Water Right	Qi (cfs or gpm)		Qa (afy)		Purpose of Use	Period of Use
	Additive	Non-Additive	Additive	Non-Additive		
S4-33061	7.5	-	2,038	-	Acclimation	October 1 - February 14
S4-30055	14.9	-	2,187	-	Acclimation	February 15 - April 30
S4-33061	7.5	-	461	-	Acclimation	May 1 - May 31
Subtotal	7.5	-	3,615	-		
G4-33047	2,000	-	435	-	Acclimation	October 1 - May 31
G4-33188	2,000	-	1.3	-	Pond Filling	September 1 - September 15
G4-33188	2,000	-	250	-	Acclimation	September 1 - September 30
G4-33188	-	2,000	-	2,000	Acclimation	October 1 - May 31
G4-33259*	1,200	-	-	1,180	Acclimation	October 1 - May 31
Subtotal	3,200	2,000	686.3	3,180		

* Requested Water Right

Table 2. Summary of Requested Water Right

Applicant Name	Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County Public District No. 1 of Chelan County
Priority Date	June 30, 2020
County	Okanogan
WRIA	48
Water Source	Groundwater
Place of Use	Carlton Acclimation Facility within the NW¼, SE¼, Section 21, T. 33 N., R. 22 E.W.M.

Purpose	Instantaneous Rate (gpm)	Annual Quantity (ac-ft/yr)	Begin Season	End Season
Fish Acclimation	1,200 (Additive)	1,180 (Non-Additive)	10/1	5/31

Source Name	Parcel	Well Tag	Township	Range	Section	QQ Q	Latitude	Longitude
Well No. 1 (Existing)	5101140002	AEG309	33N	22E	21	NWSE	48°20'34.63"N	120° 5'18.25"W
Well No. 2 (Proposed)	5101140002	TBD	33N	22E	21	NWSE	-	-

WRIA = Water Resource Inventory Area; gpm = Gallons per Minute; ac-ft/yr = Acre-feet per Year; QQ Q = Quarter Quarter

Datum: NAD83/WGS84

Priority Processing

The Grant PUD requested that Application No. G4-33259 be processed under WAC 173-152-050(2)(c), commonly known as the Hillis Rule. This rule allows Ecology to prioritize the processing of new water right applications that are non-consumptive, and include qualifying measures that substantially enhance or protect the quality of the natural environment.

Guidance regarding classification of water uses as non-consumptive for concurrent use of groundwater and surface water is given by Ecology's Water Resources Program, Policy POL 1020 (Ecology 1991). The policy defines water use as non-consumptive when "water captured is returned in close proximity to the source immediately after use" and direct hydraulic continuity between the source and point of discharge is unequivocal. Likewise, WAC 173-152-020 defines non-consumptive use when "...there is no diminishment in the overall amount or quality of water in the water source".

The second criterion for priority processing is that the new use will provide for significant environmental benefit. Grant PUD is committed to mitigate for unavoidable loss from operation of the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project. Application No. G4-33259 will directly support enhancement and supplementation of summer chinook salmon in the Methow River basin.

Based on the information included in the report, Ecology has concluded that the subject application meets the non-consumptive and environmental enhancement criterion for priority processing under WAC 173-152-050(2)(c).

Aspect Consulting, LLC (Aspect) prepared an initial draft of this Report of Examination (ROE) as part of Ecology's front-loaded application process. Ecology reviewed and modified this ROE prior to reaching a final decision.

INVESTIGATION

In consideration of this application, Aspect reviewed available documents pertaining to the application's site conditions, projected water usage and demand, and the potential effect on existing water right

holders and instream flows. This included the information submitted by the applicant and pertinent Ecology records. Most notably, it included review of the Grant PUD's Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan (HGMP) summarizing the recommendations of the Priest Rapids Coordination Committee (PRCC) Hatchery Subcommittee. Grant PUD must meet the terms and conditions of the Priest Rapids Project Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement for the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project. These requirements are incorporated into the new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) License, issued April 17, 2008, for continued operation of the Priest Rapids and Wanapum hydroelectric dams located on the Columbia River.

Carlton Acclimation Facility Operations

The PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee oversees the development, implementation, and monitoring of species-specific hatchery programs designed to supplement naturally producing populations, including spring, summer, and fall chinook, steelhead, sockeye, and coho salmon. The HGMP (Grant PUD 2009) presents the supplementation program specifically designed for summer chinook salmon in the Methow River. The purpose of the program is to mitigate for unavoidable mortality of summer chinook salmon at the Priest Rapids and Wanapum Dams as well as to conserve, enhance, and supplement the naturally spawning Methow River summer chinook salmon. The ultimate goal of the supplementation program is the annual release of up to 220,000 summer chinook smolts to the Methow River.

Adult holding, spawning, incubation, and early rearing activities will occur outside of the Methow River Basin at the Eastbank Hatchery, but final acclimation will be required at the Carlton Acclimation Facility located within the basin. Fish will be transported from the Eastbank Hatchery to the facility in October, acclimated over the winter, and then released in May to the Methow River.

A site visit was previously performed on July 28, 2011. Tyson Carlson of Aspect Consulting and Kelsey Collins representing Ecology met with Ross Hendrick of the Grant PUD. The site visit included inspection of the existing point of withdrawal and place of use, and an interview with the applicant.

Proposed Use and Basis of Water Demand

The Carlton Acclimation Facility is an existing facility owned by the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County and operated under contract by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) to acclimate summer juvenile chinook salmon. The facility is located approximately two miles downriver of Twisp, on the south side of the Methow River in the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 21, in Township 33 North, Range 22 East Willamette Meridian.

The facility originally consisted of a single membrane-lined earthen acclimation pond and supporting infrastructure, including the river diversion, point of return, and several small buildings for equipment operation, shelter, and storage.

In 2013, the Grant PUD developed additional acclimation facilities at the site consisting of eight 30-foot diameter circular acclimation tanks and supporting infrastructure, including additional water distribution and return piping, fish release and tank drain piping, and support buildings. In addition, a groundwater well (Well No. 1) was constructed and a distribution manifold was added to the existing point of diversion to control frazil ice accumulation on the intake screens.

The existing well is located immediately south of the existing pond, approximately 230 feet from the Methow River. Well No. 1 was completed with a 12-inch diameter casing and a 40-slot well screen assembly from 110 to 160 feet below ground surface (bgs). Following completion, testing of Well No. 1 indicated an average transmissivity of approximately 57,950 ft²/d. Based on calculated aquifer

parameters and availability drawdown, Well No. 1 was rated for a maximum sustainable flowrate of 2,000 gpm. Additional information regarding well testing and geologic setting is available in the Carlton Pond Well Drilling and Testing Results (Anchor 2012).

Well No. 1 is equipped with a submersible pump capable of a flowrate of up to 2,000 gpm. Water is conveyed and circulated through the acclimation ponds, and/or discharged into the surface water diversion structure.

Over the last few years, the facility continues to deal with fish disease issues related to surface water quality, and the Grant PUD is currently in the design process to provide additional groundwater supply. This includes drilling of a new production water supply well (Well No. 2) with a target capacity of 3,200 gpm. The new production well will be located in the original public noticed area and completed in the same source of groundwater and will be eligible to be added to the existing groundwater rights under a Showing of Compliance. However, the facility requires additional authorization for new additive instantaneous (Qi) groundwater quantities to provide a truly alternate source of groundwater supply. Note, the current surface water Qi is 7.5 cfs, but existing groundwater permit(s) are limited to 2,000 gpm (or about 4.5 cfs) and are not sufficient for long-term operation of the facility. Together, the two wells will provide for disease control, emergency flow in the event of surface water intake failure, excessive ice, or poor water quality (turbidity) in the Methow River during the spring freshet.

Other Rights Associated with Project or Place of Use

There are a mix of claims, permits, and certificates whose place of use includes the CAF property, however none of the other rights are related to the CAF operations, nor have they historically been used at the site.

Table 3. Other Appurtenant Water Rights

Record No.	Person or Organization	Priority Date	Record Type	Qi	Qa	Acres	Purpose
G4-078882CL	Dunkin, Robert C.	...	Claim	-	-	-	DG
G4-133963CL	Girdlestone, Glen	4/1/1957	Claim	10 GPM	2	-	DG
S4-118276CL	Methow Valley Irrigation District	1/1/1902	Claim	10 CFS	3,000	190	IR
S4-302074CL	Methow Valley Irrigation District	10/1/1905	Claim	500 CFS	90,000	2,276	IR, DG, CI, MU, ST
G4-33098(A)	Methow Valley Irrigation District	10/28/2013	Permit	1,768.3 GPM	829.45	681.49	IR
G3-21081C(D)	Okanogan County Public Works Dept	5/3/1973	Superseding Certificate	0.17 CFS	22.5	-	MU

DG = Domestic General, IR = Irrigation, CI = Commercial and Industrial, MU = Municipal, ST = Stockwater, OT = Other, DC = Dust Control

ANALYSIS

Under Washington State law (RCW 90.03.290), each of the following four criteria must be met for an application for a new water right permit to be approved:

- Water must be available for appropriation.
- Water withdrawal and use must not cause impairment of existing water rights.
- The proposed water use must be beneficial.
- Water use must not be detrimental to the public interest (public welfare).

Water Availability

For any new appropriation, water must be both physically and legally available.

Physical Availability

For water to be physically available for appropriation, water must be present in quantities and quality and on a sufficiently frequent basis to provide a reasonably reliable source for the requested beneficial use or uses. An analysis of physical availability is required for both surface water and groundwater applications.

Groundwater would be withdrawn from the valley aquifer in direct continuity with the Methow River. Water would be returned to the Methow River in the same amount as is withdrawn immediately after use, at a point in close proximity to the well. The proposed appropriation would therefore be defined as non-consumptive use of ground water.

The reported testing results (Anchor 2012) are reflective of the highly transmissive (nearly 58,000 ft²/day) nature of the Methow valley aquifer – a coarse-grained unconsolidated deposit, comprised mostly of sand and gravel, with lenses of silt or silt-bound gravel. When in close proximity to the river, groundwater continuity with surface water is direct, as supported by the presence of a positive boundary condition observed during testing. In addition, inspection of the Well No. 1 boring log indicates that sand and gravel was encountered from ground surface to a depth of 164 feet bgs. No confining or lower permeability layers were observed. Well No. 2 will be completed in the same aquifer and over a similar screened interval as Well No. 1. Based on the reported aquifer parameters, Well No. 2 is expected to yield at least 3,200 gpm.

Based on these data, the quantity of water requested for use in this application would be physically available for non-consumptive appropriation.

Legal Availability

To meet the legal availability test, the proposed appropriation may not withdraw and use water that is already “spoken for”, such as water from sources that are protected by administrative rule or court order.

There is an instream flow rule for the Methow River Basin established as part of an Instream Resources Protection Program (IRPP), chapter 173-548 WAC to protect water quality, wildlife, fish, and other environmental values, as well as aesthetics, recreation and navigation, and to meet certain future out-of-stream water needs. The IRPP defines minimum instantaneous flows in reaches defined by seven control stations throughout the Basin. The program effectively limits, and in some cases prohibits, the further issuance of consumptive water rights that could interfere with the instream flows established for these specified stream management units.

As defined by chapter 173-548 WAC, the control point (stream gage station) that defines the stream management unit most applicable to the proposal under consideration is 12.449.50 (Methow River near Pateros), extending from the confluence with the Twisp River, downriver to the confluence with Wells Pool of the Columbia River. Minimum instream flows in WAC 173-548-020(2) for this stream management unit are specified year-round and fluctuate seasonally from a low of 300 cfs to a high of 2,220 cfs.

The non-consumptive diversion of surface water is already authorized under Surface Water Permit Nos. S4-33061P and S4-30055P during the period beginning October 1 and extending through to May 31, and the requested annual quantities will be non-additive, providing for an alternate source of groundwater supply.

Based on this rationale, the quantity of water requested for use in this application would be legally available for appropriation.

Impairment

In analyzing impairment, Ecology must make a determination as to whether existing water rights, including adopted instream flows, may be impaired by the withdrawal and proposed use.

RCW 90.03.290 and RCW 90.44.060 require a determination that a new appropriation will not impair existing rights. There are numerous water right certificates, permits, and claims for the Methow River and wells in continuity with the river.

Using the reported range of aquifer parameters for Well No. 1 (Anchor 2012), including an assumed storage coefficient of 1×10^{-4} (unitless), the governing Theis equation (Theis 1935) was used to estimate the interference drawdown from pumping at a distance approximately equal to the nearest exempt irrigation well (Unique Ecology Well ID BIX774)– the neighboring residence located approximately 500 feet to the southwest completed to 57 feet bgs and a static water level of 15 feet bgs. Based on this analysis, the interference drawdown from continuously pumping Well No. 2 at the combined maximum flowrate of 3,200 gpm for seven weeks is estimated to be approximately 13.5 feet, a small percentage of the more than 160 feet of available drawdown in the aquifer. This calculation does not account for the direct continuity with the Methow River which would attenuate much of the calculated drawdown. In addition, no other documented water right or permit-exempt water supply well is located within a 500-foot radius. Therefore, no impairment of groundwater rights as defined by chapter 173-150 WAC will occur.

Water would be returned to the Methow River in the same quantity as it is withdrawn, at a point in close proximity to the groundwater source. No diminishment in the overall amount or quality of water would occur. Therefore, because the proposed appropriation would be water budget neutral and/or non-consumptive, no impairment of surface water rights is expected to occur.

Beneficial Use

The proposed appropriation must be for a beneficial use of water.

Fish acclimation is considered a beneficial use of water under RCW 90.54.020(1).

As detailed on the Application for Permit, the wells would be supported by the necessary infrastructure to deliver the full appropriation of water to the acclimation facility. The rate at which the water would

be withdrawn is needed to control frazil ice on the surface water intake screen or to supply emergency backup to sustain up to 220,000 summer chinook salmon during the over-winter acclimation period.

Public Interest

The withdrawal and associated use must not be detrimental to the public interest. At a minimum, the following are considered when making this assessment.

Notification to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Per RCW 90.03.280 and 77.57.020, Ecology must give notice to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) of applications to divert, withdraw, use, or store water.

WDFW (Steve Boessow) was provided notice of this water right application on October 16, 2020. Mr. Boessow responded on March 30, 2021, indicating that WDFW does not oppose the application.

Other Notification and Consultations

Ecology has sought consultation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) who controls all unappropriated waters of the Columbia River above Priest Rapids Dam – including all tributaries and groundwater that are in continuity. Reclamation granted a release of water for G4-33047 via email received on July 11, 2013. In an August 27, 2014, letter from William Ferry, Reclamation’s Water Rights and Adjudications Manager, he stated that “... Reclamation finds that it is unnecessary for such applicants to seek a release to continue the application process where the application is effectively non-consumptive due to full mitigation.” In a subsequent email, dated February 12, 2017, from Dawn Wiedmeier, Columbia-Cascades Area Manager for Reclamation, she stated that if Ecology deemed any proposed use to non-consumptive or water budget neutral, then there was no need for Reclamation to review the proposal nor grant a release since the proposed use would not diminish the source. Since the proposed use under this application is non-consumptive, a release from Reclamation is not required.

During the early stages of project development, the Grant PUD solicited support from numerous entities, including those participating on the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee – the group responsible for overseeing the development, implementation, and monitoring of specific hatchery programs designed to supplement naturally producing populations of spring, summer, and fall chinook, steelhead, sockeye, and coho. The group includes technical representatives from NOAA Fisheries, WDFW, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and local Native American tribes, including the Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Colville Tribes.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Under chapter 197-11 WAC, a water right application is subject to a SEPA threshold determination (i.e., an evaluation of whether there will be significant adverse environmental impacts) if any of the following conditions are met:

- It is a surface water right application for more than 1 cfs, unless that project is for agricultural irrigation, in which case the threshold is increased to 50 cfs, so long as that irrigation project will not receive public subsidies;
- It is a groundwater right application for more than 2,250 gpm;
- It is an application that, in combination with other water right applications for the same project, collectively exceed the amounts above;
- It is a part of a larger proposal that is subject to SEPA for other reasons (e.g., the need to obtain other permits that are not exempt from SEPA);
- It is part of a series of exempt actions that, together, trigger the need to do a threshold determination, as defined under WAC 197-11-305.

The subject application's request does not exceed the 2,250 gpm threshold. However, a SEPA review for the project (including the corresponding surface water diversion) was previously completed by Grant PUD and concluded with a Determination of Nonsignificance issued on June 14, 2012. No comments were received.

Public Notice

RCW 90.03.280 requires that notice of a water right application be published once a week, for two consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties where the water is to be stored, diverted, and used. Notice of this application was published in the *Omak County Chronicle* on October 21, 2020, and October 28, 2020. No protests to this water right application were received.

Other Public Interest Concerns

No protests to the application were received. The proposed appropriation will support Grant PUD's obligation to mitigate for the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project. Support for the project has been previously documented by the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee, which includes NOAA Fisheries, WDFW, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and local Native American tribes, including the Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Colville Tribes.

Conclusions

I find that:

- Water is physically and legally available.
- The appropriation will not impair existing rights.
- The proposed fish acclimation is a beneficial use.
- Approval of this application will not be detrimental to the public interest.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above investigation and conclusions, I recommend this request for a water right be **APPROVED** in the amounts and within the limitations listed below and subject to the provisions listed above.

Recommended Quantities, Purpose of Use, and Project Location

The rate and quantity of water recommended are maximum limits. The permit holder may only withdraw water at a rate and quantity within the specified limits that are reasonable and beneficial:

Table 4. Recommended Limits and Location

Maximum Instantaneous Rate (gpm)	1,700 (additive), Oct 1 through May 31
Maximum Annual Quantity (ac-ft/yr)	1,180 (non-additive), Oct 1 through May 31
Purpose(s) of Use	Fish Acclimation
Points of Withdrawal	2 points within the NW¼SE¼, Section 21, Township 33 North, Range 22 E.W.M.
Place of Use	That part of Lot 114 of Furey, East, Pfau, and Musson's Plat No. 1, located in Section 21 of T33N, R22E, W.M., Okanogan County, Washington, further described as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of said Lot 114, thence NW 89°40'00", along the southerly boundary line of said Lot 114 (common with the

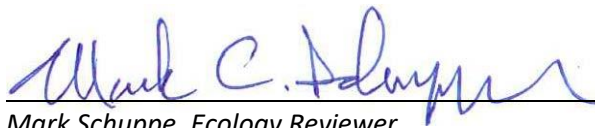
	<p>northerly boundary line of a road as platted now known as Duncan Road), for 523.1 feet, thence leaving said boundary line NW 00°19'00" for 257.98 feet to the true point of beginning, thence from said point of beginning, continuing NW 00°19'00" for 627.71 feet to the northerly boundary line of said Plat No. 1, thence along said boundary line NE 85°26'03" (Plat bearing NE 85°28'00") for 219.80 feet, thence NE 82°24'12" (Plat bearing NE 82°29'10") for 20.98 feet, thence leaving said boundary line SE 00°19'00" for 646.66 feet, thence SW 89°41'00" for 240.00 feet to the true point of beginning containing 3.51 acres (Within Okanogan County Parcel No. 5101140002).</p>
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Jolee Ramos, Report Writer

4/26/22

Date



Mark Schuppe, Ecology Reviewer

4/26/22

Date

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology Water Resources Program at 360-407-6872. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

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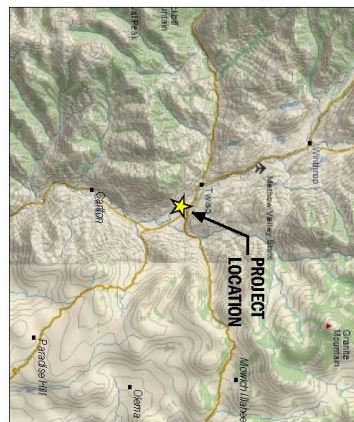
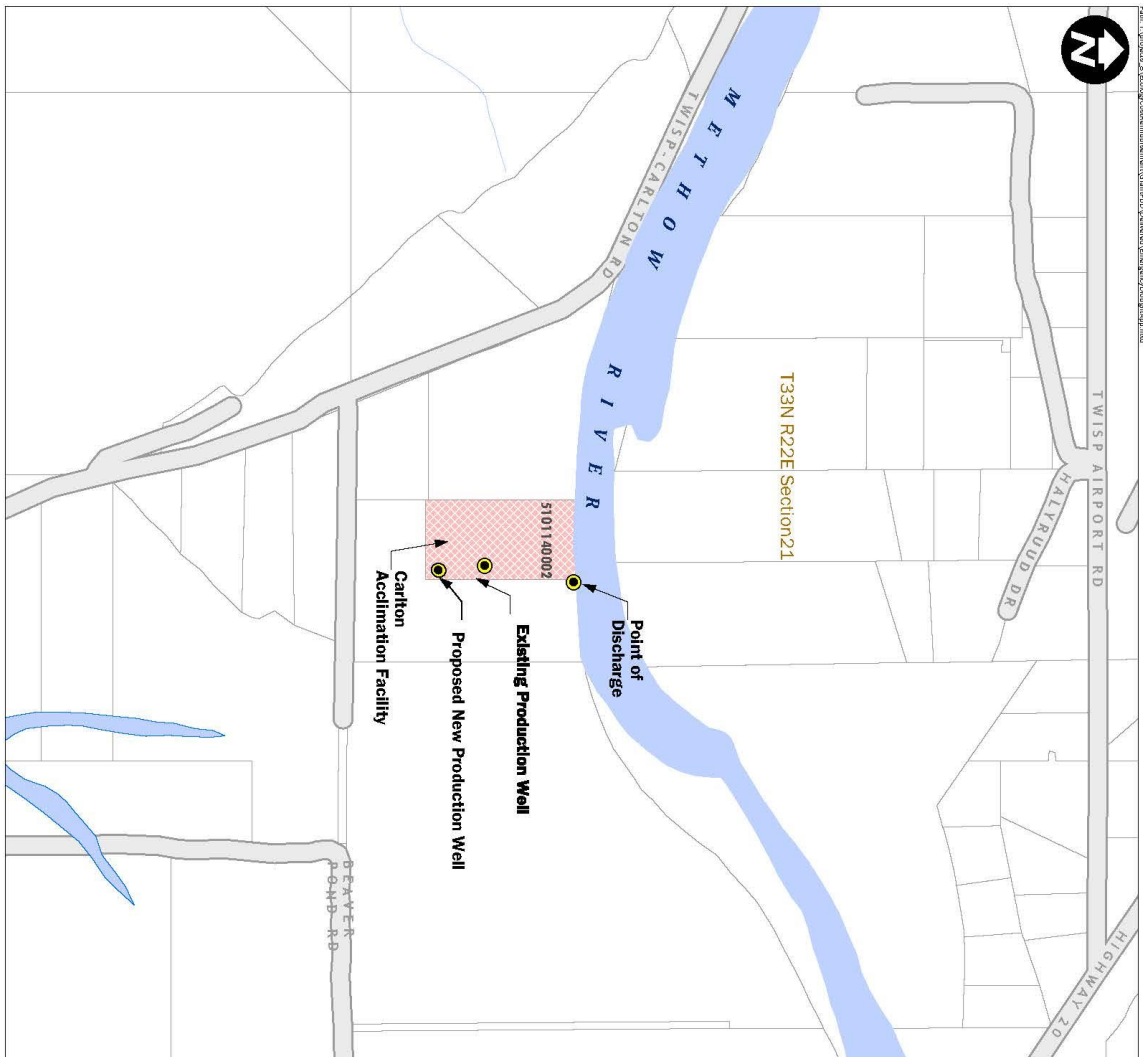
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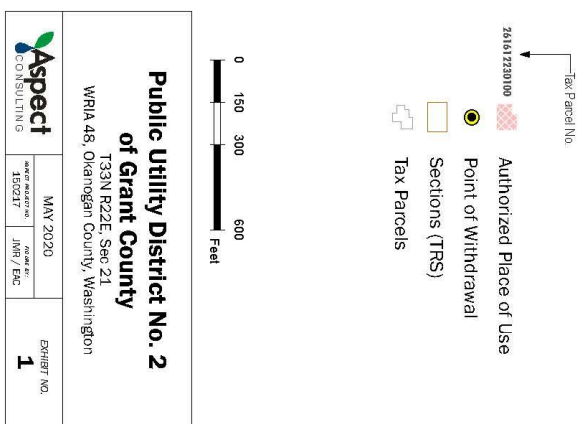
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Washington Administrative Code, Chapter 170-548 1976. Instream Resources Protection Program for the Methow River Basin, Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 48. December 28, 1976.

Attachment 1



Comments: Place of use and point of withdrawal are defined on the cover sheet under the heading "LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY ON WHICH WATER IS TO BE USED."



Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County		
T33N R22E, Sec 21		
WRIA 48, Okanogan County, Washington		
Aspect CONSULTING	MAY 2020	EXHIBIT NO.
WATER RIGHT NO. 180217	JWR / EJC	1