

**BEFORE THE WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
OF THE  
STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of Instream Lease Application ) DETERMINATION and FINAL ORDER ON  
SL-62, Wallowa County ) PROPOSED INSTREAM LEASE

**Authority**

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 537.348 establishes the process in which a water right holder may submit a request to lease an existing water right for instream purposes. Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 690, Division 077 implements the statutes and provides the Department's procedures and criteria for evaluating instream lease applications.

**Lessors**

Ken and Bobbie Baker  
81705 Hwy 82  
Wallowa, OR 97885

**Lessee**

Trout Unlimited (TU)  
Attn: Jessica Humphreys  
401 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Enterprise, OR 97828

**Findings of Fact**

1. On April 1, 2024, Ken and Bobbie Baker, and TU filed an application to renew split season instream lease SL-62, involving a portion of Certificate 95217, and the entirety of Certificate 94781.

2. The portion of the first right to be leased is as follows:

**Certificate:** 95217 in the names of Ken and Bobbie Baker and Perry Johnston (confirmed under the Wallowa River Decree, of record at Salem, in the Order Record of the Water Resources Director, in Volume 5 at Pages 184-185)

**Use:** IRRIGATION of 36.0 ACRES

**Priority Date:** 1882 (Tract 1)

**Rate:** 0.60 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

**Limit/Duty:** The amount of water to which this right is entitled for irrigation shall not exceed 1.0 acre-foot per acre during any period of 30 days prior to July 31 of each year, and thereafter not to exceed 1.0 acre-foot per acre during the entire remainder of the irrigation season; and said right shall be subject to all other conditions and limitations contained in said decree.

**Source:** Lostine River (aka South Fork Wallowa River), tributary to the Wallowa River

This is a final order in other than contested case. This order is subject to judicial review under ORS 183.484. Any petition for judicial review must be filed within the 60-day time period specified by ORS 183.484(2). Pursuant to ORS 536.075 and OAR 137-004-0080 you may either petition for judicial review or petition the Director for reconsideration of this order. A petition for reconsideration may be granted or denied by the Director, and if no action is taken within 60 days following the date the petition was filed, the petition shall be deemed denied.

**Authorized Point of Diversion:**

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
1 S	43 E	WM	4	NE SW	FOSTER DITCH: 320 FEET SOUTH AND 625 FEET WEST FROM THE CENTER OF SECTION 4; LATITUDE: 45.50716, LONGITUDE: -117.45096

**Authorized Place of Use:**

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Tax Lot	Acres
1 N	43 E	WM	32	NW SE	8600	36.0

- Certificate 95217 does not include a rate limitation. The on-farm rate of 0.60 CFS identified by the water right is equivalent to approximately 1/60 CFS per acre.
- The second right to be leased is as follows:

**Certificate:** 94781 in the names of Kenneth M. and Bobbie Lou Baker, and Perry M. Johnston (confirmed under the Wallowa River Decree, of record at Salem, in the Order Record of the Water Resources Director, in Volume 5 at Page 177)

**Use:** Irrigation of 82.5 Acres and Stock

**Priority Date:** 1883

**Quantity:** **Limit:** shall not exceed 1.0 acre-foot per acre during any period of 30 days prior to July 31 of each year, and thereafter not to exceed 1.0 acre-foot per acre during the entire remainder of the irrigation season.

**Source:** LOSTINE RIVER, tributary to the Wallowa River

**Authorized Point of Diversion (POD):**

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distance
1 S	43 E	WM	4	NE SW	FOSTER DITCH: 320 FEET SOUTH AND 625 FEET WEST FROM THE CENTER OF SECTION 4; LATITUDE: 45.50716, LONGITUDE: -117.45096

**Authorized Place of Use:**

IRRIGATION AND STOCK					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
1 N	43 E	WM	32	SW NE	37.4
1 N	43 E	WM	32	SE NE	16.0
1 N	43 E	WM	32	NE SE	29.1
Total					82.5

- Certificate 94781 does not include a rate limitation. The on-farm rate of 1.35 CFS identified by the water right is equivalent to approximately 1/60 CFS per acre.
- Certificates 94781, and 95217 do not specify the irrigation season. However, the Wallowa River Decree establishes the irrigation season for the area as May 1 through September 30.

7. There are supplemental irrigation water rights, Certificates 95646 and 95647, appurtenant to all or a portion of the lands described in Findings of Fact Nos. 2 and 4. The Lessors and Lessee have requested that these water rights not be included as part of this lease application. During the term of the lease, water use for the lands covered under this lease for these rights will also be suspended during the instream use period.
8. The lease application includes the information required under OAR 690-077-0076(3). The Department provided notice of the lease application pursuant to OAR 690-077-0077(1). No comments were received.
9. The instream lease application, as proposed, is a split season lease.

Use of water under the water rights included in this lease may continue for the existing use up to the rates and volumes specified in the below table consistent with the water right limitations identified in Findings of Fact Nos. 2 through 6.

**Foster Ditch:**

Certificate	Priority	Acres	On-Farm Rate (CFS)	On-Farm Volume (AF)	On-Farm Use Period
95217	1882	36.0	0.60	109.49	May 1 through July 31
94781	1883	82.5	1.35	246.35	
Total		118.5	1.95	355.84	

10. Use of water under the water rights included in this lease may be utilized for instream use during the period of August 1 through September 30, up to the rates and volumes specified in the table below consistent with the water right limitations identified in Findings of Fact Nos. 2 through 6.

Certificate	Priority	Instream Rate	Instream Volume
95217	1882	0.30	36.0
94781	1883	0.68	82.5
Total		0.98	118.5

11. A portion of the water diverted at the points of diversion returns to the Lostine River within the proposed reaches and is available to downstream water right holders. To prevent injury to downstream water right holders and enlargement, the quantity of water that may be protected instream requires modification and return flows should be accounted for immediately below each point of diversion. The reduction in the instream water rights from the original quantities identified in Finding of Fact No. 10 is as follows:

Reach	Percent
From immediately below the Foster Ditch points of diversion at Latitude: 45.50716, Longitude: -117.45096 to the Clearwater Ditch at Latitude: 45.51866, Longitude - 117.469878	5%
From the Clearwater Ditch point of Diversion at Latitude: 45.51866, Longitude - 117.469878 to the Mouth of the Lostine River at the confluence with the Wallowa River	10%

12. The instream is as follows:

**Instream Point No. 1:** At the Foster Ditch POD (as described in Findings of Fact Nos. 2 and 4)

Certificate	Priority	Instream Rate (CFS)	Instream Volume (AF)	Period Protected Instream
95217	1882	0.30	36.0	August 1 through September 30
94781	1883	0.68	82.5	
<b>Total Instream</b>		<b>0.98</b>	<b>118.5</b>	

**Instream Reach No. 1:** From immediately below the Foster Ditch POD to the Clearwater Ditch POD (as described in Findings of Fact No. 11)

Certificate	Priority	Instream Rate (CFS)	Instream Volume (AF)	Period Protected Instream
95217	1882	0.28	34.2	August 1 through September 30
94781	1883	0.65	78.4	
<b>Total Instream</b>		<b>0.93</b>	<b>112.6</b>	

**Instream Reach No. 2:** From the Clearwater Ditch POD to the mouth of the Lostine River (RM 0.0) at the confluence with the Willowa River

Certificate	Priority	Instream Rate (CFS)	Instream Volume (AF)	Period Protected Instream
95217	1882	0.27	30.8	August 1 through September 30
94781	1883	0.61	70.5	
<b>Total Instream</b>		<b>0.88</b>	<b>101.3</b>	

13. The amount and timing of the proposed instream flow is allowable within the limits and use of the original water right.
14. The protection of flows within the proposed reach is appropriate, considering:
- a. The instream water use begins at the recorded point of diversion;
  - b. The location of confluences with other streams downstream of the point of diversion.
  - c. There are no known areas of natural loss of streamflow to the river bed downstream from the point of diversion; and
  - d. Return flows resulting from the exercise of the existing water right would re-enter the river within the reach of the instream water right below each POD. The quantity of water to be protected instream has been reduced below each affected POD to account for return flows.
15. The total monthly quantities of water to be protected under the existing and proposed instream rights in the reach will provide for a beneficial purpose.
16. The total monthly quantities of water to be protected instream under existing and proposed instream rights in the reach do not exceed the estimated average natural flow.

17. If approved, this instream lease is not reasonably expected to significantly affect land use as prescribed by ORS 197.180, OAR Chapter 660, Divisions 30 and 31, and OAR Chapter 690, Division 5.
18. Based upon review of the application, information provided by the Department's Watermaster, and other available information, the Department finds that the lease will not result in injury or enlargement. The order approving this instream lease may be modified or revoked under OAR 690-077-0077, if the Department later finds that the lease is causing injury to any existing water right or enlargement of the original right.
19. If a right which has been leased is later proposed to be leased again, transferred and/or reviewed under an allocation of conserved water, a new injury review shall be required. For example, instream transfers will be subject to a full and complete review to determine consistency with the requirements of OAR Chapter 690, Division 380 and Division 077. Approval of this lease does not establish a precedent for approval of any future transactions.
20. The Lessors and Lessee have requested that the lease terminate on October 1, 2024. The lease may commence on the date this final order is signed.
21. The Lessors and Lessee have requested the option of terminating the lease early but only with consent of all parties to the lease.

### **Conclusions of Law**

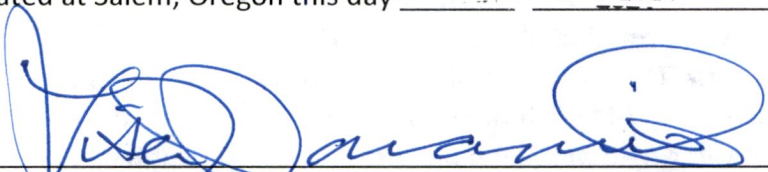
The Department concludes that the lease will not result in injury or enlargement, OAR 690-077-0077. The lease conforms to the applicable provisions of OAR 690-077-0015.

### **Now, therefore it is ORDERED:**

1. The Lease as described and modified herein is APPROVED.
2. During the term of this lease, the places of use will continue to receive water as identified in Finding of Fact No. 9 during the period May 1 through July 31 for irrigation. For the remainder of the irrigation season, during the term of this lease, the former place of use will not receive water as part of these rights, any supplemental rights, or any other layered water rights for irrigation use, including groundwater registrations.

3. The term of the lease will commence upon approval of this instream lease and terminate on October 1, 2024.

Dated at Salem, Oregon this day MAY 24 2024.



Lisa J. Jaramillo, Transfer and Conservation Section Manager, for  
Douglas E. Woodcock, Acting Director  
Oregon Water Resources Department

Mailing date: MAY 27 2024

*This document was prepared by Sarah Henderson. If you have any questions, please call 503-979-9872.*