

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

In the Matter of Instream Lease Application    )    FINAL ORDER APPROVING PROPOSED  
SL-60, Union County                                )    SPLIT-SEASON 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.

**Lessor**

Buffalo Peak Land & Livestock, LLC  
Andrea Malmberg, Manager  
1782 South Main Street  
Union, Oregon 97883  
[andrea@lifeenergy.guide](mailto:andrea@lifeenergy.guide)

**Lessee**

Trout Unlimited (TU)  
Attn: Jessica Humphreys  
401 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Enterprise, Oregon 97828  
[jessica.humphreys@tu.org](mailto:jessica.humphreys@tu.org)

**Findings of Fact**

1. On March 2, 2022, Buffalo Peak Land & Livestock, LLC and TU filed an application to lease a portion of Certificate 6264 for a split-season instream use. The Department assigned the application number SL-60.
2. The portion of the right to be leased is as follows:

**Certificate:** 6264 in the name of JACK FICKLE (confirmed by decree of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Union County, and of record at Salem, in Volume 8, at Page 1)

**Use:** IRRIGATION of 157.8 ACRES FROM TRACT 2

**Priority Date:** 1864

**Limit/Duty:** The amount of water to which such right is entitled, for the purposes aforesaid, is limited to an amount actually beneficially used for said purposes, and shall not exceed 3.0 acre-feet per acre in any irrigation season, diverted at a rate of not to exceed ONE-FORTIETH of a cubic foot per second per acre.

**Source:** CATHERINE CREEK, tributary to GRANDE RONDE RIVER

**Authorized Points of Appropriation:** Not described on certificate

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 Place of Use:**

Tract 2 -- Catherine Creek					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
4 S	40 E	WM	18	NE SE	12.0
4 S	40 E	WM	18	SE SE	27.5
4 S	40 E	WM	19	NE NE	4.2
4 S	40 E	WM	20	NE NW	22.0
4 S	40 E	WM	20	NW NW	35.6
4 S	40 E	WM	20	SW NW	11.5
4 S	40 E	WM	20	SE NW	36.5
4 S	40 E	WM	20	NE SW	8.5
Total					157.8

3. Certificate 6264 does not provide a description of the location of the point of diversion. Based upon additional information from the Lessor and Lessee, for the purpose of this instream lease, the point of diversion appears to be located as follows:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Coordinates
4 S	40 E	WM	29	NE NE	CATHERINE CREEK: LATITUDE 45.193; LONGITUDE -117.834

4. Certificate 6264 does not specify the irrigation season; nor is an irrigation season specified by the Basin Program or decree. For the purposes of instream leasing, an irrigation season of March 1 through October 31, consistent with OAR 690-250, shall be used to establish when water may be protected instream.
5. Certificate 6264 does specify a rate and duty limit per acre. However, the Grande Ronde River Decree specifies the distribution directions and rate limit as 1/80<sup>th</sup> cfs per acre during the irrigation season and therefore will be limited to 1/80<sup>th</sup> cfs per acre per Watermaster.
6. 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.
7. The instream lease application, as proposed, is a split season lease. Under Certificate 6264, water may be used for its existing use up to a maximum rate of 0.75 CFS and no more than 156.19 acre-feet (af), consistent with the water right limits. The existing use period (out-of-stream) will be April 1 through July 14, a period of 105 days.
8. A portion of the water diverted at the POD returns to Catherine Creek within the proposed reach and is available to downstream water right holders. Approximately 20% of return flows from the existing use return to the creek system below the POD near stream gage 13320300 (approximately River Mile (RM) 17). 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.

9. In addition, the full quantity requested to be protected instream from the point of diversion to the mouth of Catherine Creek may not be made without enlargement. There are seepage and evaporative losses downstream from the point of diversion. The Watermaster has identified that below the point of diversion at approximately river mile 12.0 on Catherine Creek, the expected loss is 1% per mile. The quantities that may be protected instream below river mile 12.0 will be adjusted to prevent injury to downstream users and enlargement of the right.
10. The instream use has been modified from the lease application to prevent injury and enlargement and is as follows:

**Catherine Creek, tributary to the Grande Ronde River**

**Instream Reach No. 1:** From the POD (as described in Finding of Fact No. 3) to RM 17.0

Certificate	Priority Date	Instream Rate (CFS)	Instream Volume (AF)	Period Protected Instream
6264	1864	1.96	314.89	July 15 through October 3

**Instream Reach No. 2:** From RM 17.0 to RM 12.0

Certificate	Priority Date	Instream Rate (CFS)	Instream Volume (AF)	Period Protected Instream
6264	1864	1.57	251.91	July 15 through October 3

**From RM 12.0 to the mouth of Catherine Creek a 1% reduction per mile will be applied.**

11. Other conditions to prevent injury and enlargement are:

Within the specified stream reach, the amount of water to which this right is entitled shall not exceed the quantity of water legally available at the original point of diversion. Stream channel losses and gains calculated based on available data and the use of water by senior appropriators will determine the amount of water to which this right is entitled downstream from the original points of diversion within the specified stream reach.

The Lessee and Lessor shall measure and report the use of the existing water right and the instream water right. Trout Unlimited will work with the Watermaster and the Watermaster may also request to read the Lessor's meter to verify meter readings supplied by the Lessor and/or Lessee and/or request more frequent reporting.

12. The amount and timing of the proposed instream flow is allowable within the limits and use of the original water right.
13. The protection of flows within the proposed reach is appropriate, considering:
- The instream water use begins at the recorded point of diversion;
  - The location of confluences with other streams downstream of the point of diversion.

- c. There are known areas of natural loss of streamflow to the river bed downstream from the point of diversion and have been accounted for in the instream reach; and
  - d. Any return flows resulting from the exercise of the existing water right would re-enter the river downstream of the point of the instream water right and have been accounted for in the instream reach.
14. 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.
  15. 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.
  16. 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.
  17. Based upon review of the application, information provided by the Department's Watermaster, and other available information, the Department finds that the lease, as conditioned, 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.
  18. 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.
  19. The Lessor and Lessee have requested that the lease terminate on October 31, 2023. The lease may commence on the date this final order is signed.
  20. The Lessor and Lessee have requested the option of terminating the lease early but only with consent of all parties to the lease.

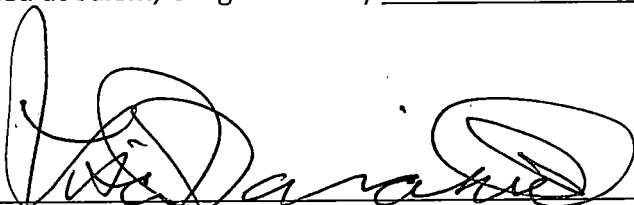
### **Conclusions of Law**

The Department concludes that the lease, as conditioned, 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 herein is APPROVED.
2. During the term of this lease, the place of use will continue to receive water for irrigation (up to 156.19 AF under Certificate 6264 during the period April 1 through July 14). Also, during the term of the lease, the former place of use will no longer receive water as part of this right, any supplemental rights, or any other layered irrigation water rights, including ground water registrations and permits for the remainder of the irrigation season.
3. The term of the lease will commence upon approval of the instream lease and terminate on October 31, 2023. The lease may not be terminated by any party to the lease prior to specified termination date.

Dated at Salem, Oregon this day APR 21 2023



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

Mailing date: APR 25 2023

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