

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

In the Matter of Instream Lease IL-1237 and) FINAL ORDER
Mitigation Credit Project MP-173, Klamath) TERMINATING INSTREAM
County) LEASE & MITIGATION CREDIT
) PROJECT

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.

OAR 690-521-0100 to 690-521-0600 establishes the process in which anyone may submit a ground water mitigation project to the Department for the purpose of establishing mitigation credits in the Deschutes Ground Water Study Area.

Lessor

Jim Lynes
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Helena, MT 59602
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Lessee

Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) Mitigation Bank
P.O. Box 1560
Bend, Oregon 97709
gen@deschutesriver.org

Findings of Fact

1. On April 8, 2012, Jim Lynes and the DRC Mitigation Bank filed an application to lease a portion Certificate 86855 for instream use and to establish mitigation credits. The Department assigned the instream lease application number IL-1237 and the mitigation project MP-173.
2. The lease application requested to protect water instream for five years, terminating on October 31, 2016. A Final Order approving this lease and mitigation credit project was issued by the Department on July 16, 2012, as evidenced by Special Order Volume 88, Page 98. The mitigation credit project was awarded 13.2 mitigation credits for use in the Little Deschutes Zone of Impact. These mitigation credits were assigned to the DRC Mitigation Bank and were to expire on December 31, 2016.
3. The final order contained a condition allowing the Lessor and the Lessee to terminate the lease in any year of the lease, prior to the lease being exercised that season, with written notification to the Department from all parties to the lease.
4. On March 12, 2015, the Department received a request from Jim Lynes and the DRC Mitigation Bank to terminate the lease and mitigation credit project prior to the 2015 instream use period.

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.

3. The lease was exercised during the 2012 through 2014 water use periods ending on October 31, 2014. Mitigation credits established by this project were not used to provide mitigation for ground water permits in 2012 through 2014.

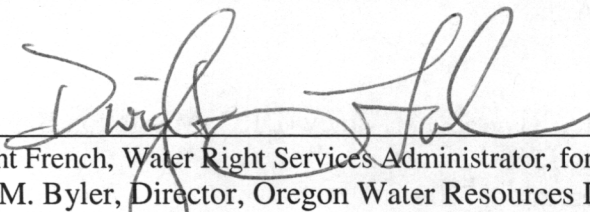
Conclusions of Law

The Department concludes that terminating the lease in advance of the 2015 instream use period is consistent with OAR 690-077.

Now, therefore it is ORDERED:

The Instream Lease described herein is TERMINATED and no longer in effect. The mitigation credits awarded to the Mitigation Project described herein are no longer valid.

Dated at Salem, Oregon this 20 day of March, 2015.



Dwight French, Water Right Services Administrator, for
Tom M. Byler, Director, Oregon Water Resources Department

Mailing date: MAR 23 2015

*This document was prepared by
Derrick Wheeler and if you have any
questions, please call 503-986-0898.*