

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

KLAMATH BASIN GENERAL STREAM ADJUDICATION

In the Matter of the Claim of the)	PARTIAL ORDER OF
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF)	DETERMINATION
AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE)	
)	
)	Water Right Claim 553

The GENERAL FINDINGS OF FACT of the FINAL ORDER OF DETERMINATION is incorporated as if set forth fully herein.

A. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On April 29, 1997, the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE (USFS) timely submitted a Statement and Proof of Claim (Claim 553) to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) pursuant to ORS Chapter 539 in the Klamath Basin Adjudication claiming a federal reserved water right under the Organic Administration Act of 1897, 16 U.S.C. §§ 473-478, 479-482 and 551 (Organic Act).
2. On August 3, 1999, the USFS timely amended Claim 553 as follows: (1) claimed water quantities were amended for the “[i]ntegration of water availability estimates provided by Oregon Water Resources Department pursuant to OAR 690-28-040(5)” and (2) “[f]urther analysis of fire records showed that numerous wildfires occur during the month of May, so the claim was amended to include that month.”
3. The August 3, 1999 amendment to the original claim changed the period of use from June 1 through November 15 to May 1 through November 15, and increased the natural flow limits from 7.0 cfs to 13.0 cfs for June 1 to June 30, 1.0 cfs to 3.1 cfs for July 1 to July 31, 0.7 cfs to 1.9 cfs for Aug. 1 to Aug. 31, 0.9 cfs to 2.1 cfs for Sept. 1 to Sept. 30, 1.7 cfs to 2.6 cfs for Oct. 1 to Oct. 30, and 2.7 cfs to 3.0 cfs for Nov. 1 to Nov. 15. The amendment was a result of the exchange of correspondence between OWRD and the Claimant concerning the Claimant’s need to incorporate information concerning instream flow requirements. OWRD intended to provide this information to the Claimant, but it was not available at the time of the claim filing deadline.

4. On October 4, 1999, following investigation of the evidence submitted, the Adjudicator issued a Summary and Preliminary Evaluation of Claims (Preliminary Evaluation) stating the claim was approved as amended on August 3, 1999.
5. On May 5, 2000, the Claimant, USFS, timely filed Contest 2216 to the Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
6. On May 1, 2000, William J. Rust and Ethel J. Rust timely filed Contest 222 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
7. On May 1, 2000, Leonard Baio timely filed Contest 457 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
8. On May 2, 2000, Gary Strong timely filed Contest 692 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
9. On May 2, 2000, the Flynn Brothers (Con and Nora Flynn), and Con, Nora and John Flynn timely filed Contest 927 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
10. On May 2, 2000, Robert Bartell timely filed Contest 1162 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
11. On May 2, 2000, Margaret Jacobs timely filed Contest 1396 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
12. On May 2, 2000, Carolyn Obenchain timely filed Contest 1631 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
13. On May 4, 2000, Ambrose W. McAuliffe and Roger Nicholson timely filed Contest 1802 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
14. On May 4, 2000, Rodney Z. James timely filed Contest 1980 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
15. On May 5, 2000, Newman Enterprise (Douglas Newman) timely filed Contest 2432 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
16. On May 5, 2000, Francis Loving Trust, Hilda Francis Trustee timely filed Contest 2669 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
17. On May 8, 2000, John Briggs timely filed Contest 4419 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
18. On May 8, 2000, Peter M. Bourdet timely filed Contest 4654 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.

19. On May 8, 2000, Vincent Lee Briggs timely filed Contest 4887 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
20. On May 8, 2000, Thomas William Mallams timely filed Contest 5130 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
21. On May 8, 2000, Thomas H. Bentley timely filed Contest 5363 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
22. On May 8, 2000, Thomas E. Stephens timely filed Contest 5596 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
23. On May 8, 2000, Waterwatch of Oregon, Inc. timely filed Contest 2967 to the Claim and/or Preliminary Evaluation of Claim 553.
24. These matters were referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case hearing. The Office of Administrative Hearings designated these matters and other like claims of the USFS as Case 009.
25. On July 2, 2002, the following contestants withdrew with prejudice their respective contest: Leonard Baio, Gary Strong, Flynn Brothers, Robert Bartell, Margaret Jacobs, Carolyn Obenchain, Rodney Z. James, Newman Enterprise (Douglas Newman), Francis Loving Trust, Hilda Francis Trustee, John Briggs, Peter M. Bourdet, Vincent Lee Briggs, Thomas William Mallams, Thomas H. Bentley, Thomas E. Stephens, David Cowan, successor in interest to William J. Rust and Ethel J. Rust, and Ambrose W. McAuliffe and Roger Nicholson. *See* NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF BAIO *ET AL'S* CONTESTS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE CLAIMS (July 2, 2002).
26. On February 25, 2003, Waterwatch of Oregon, Inc. voluntarily withdrew Contest 2967. *See* WATERWATCH'S VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL OF CONTESTS (Feb. 25, 2003).
27. On March 18, 2003, the OWRD and USFS executed STIPULATION TO RESOLVE CONTESTS 2162, 2163, 2166, 2168, 2169, 2171, 2172, 2174, 2177, 2184, 2186, 2188, 2190, 2192, 2194, 2196, 2198, 2200, 2201, 2203, 2205, 2207, 2209, 2211, 2213, 2214, 2216, 2218, 2220, 2222, 2224, 2225, 2227, 2229, 2231, 2233, 2234, 2236, 2238, 2240, 2242, 2244, 2246, 2248, 2250, 2252, AND 2253 (Settlement Agreement) which resolved the remaining contest (Contest 2216) to Claim 553.
28. On April 2, 2003, the Adjudicator withdrew Case 009 from the Office of Administrative Hearings.
29. The USFS's Claim 553 states that the lower end of the instream reach of Threemile Creek is located in the NWSE, SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, W.M. However, SECTION 2 is an irregular section, and therefore, the boundary of the lower end of the reach of this claim is more accurately described as the EAST BOUNDARY OF GOVERNMENT LOT 23, SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, W.M.

B. DETERMINATION

1. The Settlement Agreement executed between OWRD and USFS is adopted and incorporated as if set forth fully herein.
2. As explained in Finding 29, above, the lower reach of Threemile Creek is described as the EAST BOUNDARY OF GOVERNMENT LOT 23, SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, W.M.
3. The instream flows recognized pursuant to this claim are not additive to any other instream flows based on other water rights, permits or claims within the same stream reach or a portion of the same stream reach.
4. The GENERAL CONCLUSIONS OF LAW CONCERNING AMENDMENT OF CLAIMS is incorporated as if set forth fully herein.
5. OWRD finds that the claim amendment described in Findings 2 and 3, above, does not constitute a new claim under ORS 539.210. This determination is based on the factors described in Findings 2 and 3, above. Because the amendment occurred prior to the beginning of open inspection, it is permissible and is incorporated into the Claimant's claim for consideration in this Findings of Fact and Partial Order of Determination.
6. The Organic Administration Act of 1897 for a federal reserved water right is a valid basis for this claim. The GENERAL CONCLUSIONS OF LAW CONCERNING CLAIMS BASED ON THE ORGANIC ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 1897 is incorporated as if set forth fully herein.
7. Based on the file and record herein, IT IS ORDERED that Claim 553 is approved as set forth in the following Water Right Claim Description.

[Beginning of Water Right Claim Description]

CLAIM NO. 553

CLAIM MAP REFERENCE: MYLAR FILED AS CLAIM # 377, PAGE 217

CLAIMANT: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
1220 SW 3RD ROOM 1734
PORTLAND, OR 97204

SOURCE OF WATER: THREEMILE CREEK, tributary to FOURMILE CREEK

PURPOSE OR USE:

INSTREAM USE TO MAINTAIN A NATURAL FIRE BREAK AND SOURCE OF WATER FOR FOREST FIRE CONTROL

PERIODS OF ALLOWED USE AND RATES:

THE INSTREAM FLOW ALLOCATED PURSUANT TO THIS CLAIM IS NOT ADDITIVE TO ANY OTHER INSTREAM FLOWS WITHIN THE SAME STREAM REACH OR A PORTION OF THE SAME STREAM

Period of Use:	Natural Flow is Limited to Not More than the Following Rates in Cubic Feet per Second (CFS):
May 1 to May 31	29.0
June 1 to June 30	13.0
July 1 to July 31	3.1
Aug 1 to Aug 31	1.9
Sept 1 to Sept 30	2.1
Oct 1 to Oct 31	2.6

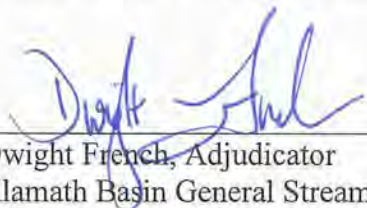
DATE OF PRIORITY: JUNE 4, 1897

THE PLACE OF USE IS LOCATED AS FOLLOWS:

THREEMILE CREEK FROM SWSW, SECTION 5, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, W.M., TO EAST BOUNDARY GOVERNMENT LOT 23, SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, W.M.

[End of Water Right Claim Description]

Dated at Salem, Oregon on March 7, 2013



Dwight French, Adjudicator
Klamath Basin General Stream Adjudication