

DEQ DIVISION 33 APPLICATION REVIEW SHEET

Recommendations for Water Right Applications that may affect the
Habitat of Sensitive, Threatened or Endangered Fish Species, OAR 690-33-310 through 340.

Application #: S-88070 Applicant's Name: Fischer Living Trust

1) Is there a connection to a 303(d) listed water quality limited water body? ☐ NO ☒ YES

Explain: The proposed use of the water is year round. The proposed source of water is a spring on an intermittent tributary to Spring Creek. Spring Creek is water quality limited for dissolved oxygen (spring and summer) and fecal coliform (fall, winter, and spring). Below the confluence of Spring Creek with the Wallowa River, the Wallowa River is water quality limited for fecal coliform (summer), e. coli (summer), sedimentation, habitat modification, flow modification, temperature (year round), and pH (summer). A TMDL exists for all of these listings except dissolved oxygen on Spring Creek and pH on the Wallowa.

2) What is the potential for this use to impact a water quality limited water body: ☒ HIGH ☐ MEDIUM ☐ LOW

Explain: Though the proposed source of water would naturally flow into Spring Creek, the Alder Slope ditch intercepts the intermittent tributary and diverts most of the flow. Alder Slope ditch has a confluence with the Wallowa River several miles downstream. Water from the intermittent tributary that is not diverted, or water that seeps into the ground would end up in Spring Creek. Either way, a withdrawal from the intermittent stream would result in a flow reduction in Spring Creek and/or the Wallowa River. This would directly exacerbate the temperature and dissolved oxygen impairments and indirectly exacerbate many other impairments.

There are also instream rights on the Wallowa River that are not being met. A withdrawal of water will further reduce the likelihood of the instream rights being met.

3) If the answer to question (2) is HIGH or MEDIUM, will the proposed use still result in diminution of water quality for the habitat of sensitive, threatened, or endangered fish species? ☐ NO ☒ YES

If YES, how? Yes, the water quality standards for temperature and dissolved oxygen are based on fish requirements. Several fish species, including ESA listed Snake River steelhead, would be impacted by a worsening of temperature and dissolved oxygen in Spring Creek and Wallowa River.

While the impact of this one withdrawal may be small, the cumulative impact of this with other withdrawals in the watershed has a significant impact on water quality for the habitat of STE fish species.

4) Can conditions be applied to mitigate the impact of the use?

☒ NO ☐ YES; recommend from Menu of Conditions and skip to question 7.

5) If conditions cannot be identified to offset impacts, would the proposed use affect the Habitat of Sensitive, Threatened, or Endangered Fish Species? ☐ NO ☒ YES

If YES, please explain: See #3

6) If a permit is issued, are there any conditions you would like to see included in the permit?

The applicant would need to work with ODFW identify mitigation activities the applicant would undertake to offset the impact of withdrawals on streamflow when instream rights are not being met.

7) Your recommendation under OAR 690-033-0330 (2): ☐ Approval with conditions
☐ Approval without conditions
☒ Denial

DEQ Representative signature:  Date: 7/9/15

WRD Contact: Caseworker: Barbara Park, Water Rights Division, 503-986-0900 / Fax 503-986-0901

MENU OF CONDITIONS FOR WRD, ODFW, DEQ AND AG

The following condition will be included in any permit issued unless ODFW explicitly requests that it be omitted:

The permittee shall not construct, operate or maintain any dam or artificial obstruction to fish passage in the channel of the subject stream without providing a fishway to ensure adequate upstream and downstream passage for fish, unless the permittee has requested and been granted a fish passage waiver or exemption through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The permittee is hereby directed to contact an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Fish Passage Coordinator before beginning construction of any in-channel obstruction.

- fishself** The permittee shall install, maintain, and operate fish screening and by-pass devices consistent with current Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) standards. Fish screening is to prevent fish from entering the proposed diversion while by-pass devices provide adequate upstream and downstream passage for fish. The required screen and by-pass devices are to be in place and functional prior to diversion of any water. Permittee shall obtain written approval from ODFW that the installation of the required screen and by-pass devices meets the state's criteria or the permittee shall submit documentation that ODFW has determined screens and/or by-pass devices are not necessary.
- fishapprove** The permittee shall install, maintain, and operate fish screening and by-pass devices consistent with current Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) standards. Fish screening is to prevent fish from entering the proposed diversion while by-pass devices provide adequate upstream and downstream passage for fish. The required screen and by-pass devices are to be in place and functional, and approved in writing by ODFW prior to diversion of any water. The permittee may submit evidence in writing that ODFW has determined screens and/or by-pass devices are not necessary.
- fishdiv33** If the riparian area is disturbed in the process of developing a point of diversion, the permittee shall be responsible for restoration and enhancement of such riparian area in accordance with ODFW's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy OAR 635-415. For purposes of mitigation, the ODFW Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Goals and Standards, OAR 635-415, shall be followed.
- The use may be restricted if the quality of the source stream or downstream waters decrease to the point that those waters no longer meet existing state or federal water quality standards due to reduced flows.
- The permittee shall install, maintain, and operate fish screening and by-pass devices consistent with current Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) standards. Fish screening is to prevent fish from entering the proposed diversion while by-pass devices provide adequate upstream and downstream passage for fish. The required screen and by-pass devices are to be in place and functional, and approved in writing by ODFW prior to diversion of any water. The permittee may submit evidence in writing that ODFW has determined screens and/or by-pass devices are not necessary.
- fishmay** Notwithstanding that ODFW has made a determination that fish screens and/or by-pass devices are not necessary at the time of permit issuance, the permittee may be required in the future to install, maintain, and operate fish screening and by-pass devices to prevent fish from entering the proposed diversion and to provide adequate upstream and downstream passage for fish.
- b52** Water may be diverted only when Department of Environmental Quality sediment standards are being met.
- b5** The water user shall install and maintain adequate treatment facilities meeting current DEQ requirements to remove sediment before returning the water to the stream.
- b51a** The period of use has been limited to _____ through _____.
- b57** Before water use may begin under this permit, a totalizing flow meter must be installed at each diversion point.
- b58** Before water use may begin under this permit, a staff gage that measures the entire range and stage between full reservoir level dead pool storage must be installed in the reservoir. The staff gage shall be United States Geological Survey style porcelain enamel iron staff gage style A, C, E or I. Additionally, before water use may begin under this permit, if the reservoir is located in channel then weirs or other suitable measuring devices must be installed upstream and downstream of the reservoir, and, a gated valve outlet must be installed. A written waiver may be obtained from the local Watermaster if in his judgment the installation of the weir(s) will provide no public benefit.
- futile call** The use of water allowed herein may be made only at times when waters from the (NAME OF SURFACE WATER) would not otherwise flow into a tributary of the _____ River or sufficient water is available to satisfy all prior rights, including rights for maintaining instream flows.
- riparian** If the riparian area is disturbed in the process of developing a point of diversion, the permittee shall be responsible for restoration and enhancement of such riparian area in accordance with ODFW's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy OAR 635-415. For purposes of mitigation, the ODFW Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Goals and Standards, OAR 635-415, shall be followed.
- wq** The use may be restricted if the quality of the source stream or downstream waters decrease to the point that those waters no longer meet existing state or federal water quality standards due to reduced flows.
- fence** The stream and its adjacent riparian area shall be fenced to exclude livestock.
- blv** Water must be diverted to a trough or tank through an enclosed water delivery system. The delivery system must be equipped with an automatic shutoff or limiting flow control mechanism or include a means for returning water to the stream source through an enclosed delivery system. The use of water shall not exceed 0.10 cubic feet per second per 1000 head of livestock.