

WATER TRANSFER WORKING GROUP PROJECT DESCRIPTION

APPLICATION NO./COURT CLAIM NO.		
01752, (A)03059, (A)05460		
APPLICANT NAME Washington Dept. of Ecology / Trout Unlimited	CONTACT NAME Kelsey Collins / Justin Bezold	TELEPHONE NO. 509-731-0976 / 509-881-5464
WATER RIGHT HOLDER'S NAME (if different) United States on Behalf of Sunnyside Division ("SVID")		EMAIL

DATE OF APPLICATION	PRIORITY DATE
	multiple

WATER SOURCE: Yakima River	CROP: Multiple (annual hay, predominant)
INSTANTANEOUS QUANTITY: n/a	ANNUAL QUANTITY: 2,007 ac-ft
PERIOD OF USE: April 1 – September 30, 2025	
PLACE OF USE: Yakima River	PURPOSE OF USE: Fisheries and streamflow benefits
IRRIGATION METHOD: Multiple – e.g., impact sprinklers, flood/rill, etc.	

CONSUMPTIVE USE CALCULATION: Ecology has received consumptive use spreadsheet from SVID showing acreage, efficiency used (85%), and accounting for senior/proratable water supply and prorationing level (45%).
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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: On or about April 8, 2025, the Washington Department of Ecology ("Ecology") declared a drought emergency in the Yakima River Basin. The declaration determined that projected water supply represents an extreme departure from normal with hardship conditions for fish, instream flow, and agriculture. In June and July, 2025 Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District ("SVID"), Ecology, and Trout Unlimited ("TU") entered into agreements to lease consumptive use water that was made available through grower/water user acreage fallowing. SVID ran its internal process to solicit and secure acreage for fallowing and resulted in approximately 1,291 acres. SVID provided relevant acreage information to allow TU to collaborate with SVID on compliance and to allow Ecology to verify and accept the consumptive use quantities.
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The approach was similar to prior years when SVID growers leased water to Roza Irrigation District. However, water will be made available to the US Bureau of Reclamation for fish/instream flow benefits.

WTWG Project form