

Washington Rivers Conservancy

Developing and promoting effective laws, policies and programs to help restore and enhance Washington's rivers and streams benefiting agriculture, fisheries, water quality, and other values

Goals and Strategies



- Work with policy makers to promote progressive water policy initiatives
- Promote WA state's Trust Water Rights Program
- Implement and establish market based programs and establish local market places
- Partner with state, federal, tribal, local entities and private organizations
- Enhance use of non-regulatory tools for stream restoration

Assessments of water rights



- Crop types
- Production records
- Type of irrigation system
- Pumping records
- Photos
- Washington Irrigation Guide
- Landowner information

Valuation of Water Rights

- Ensuring cost-effective and efficient use of investments
- Fair market value
- Three standard methods
 - Comparable sales of water rights
 - Income capitalization
 - Land Price differential



Washington's Trust Water Right Program Priorities

- Diversity and status of fish populations, ESA species
- Recommendations by watershed planning groups and tribal and state biologists
- Stream size
- Low flows as primary limiting factors, just add water
- Willing water right holders



Types of Projects

- Purchase and lease
- Irrigation Efficiency Projects
- Source Switching
- Point of Diversion Changes
- Water Banks
- Auctions



Cowiche Creek Water Users and Yakima Tieton Irrigation District Project



- Cowiche Creek flow limited for steelhead, coho and other species, water quality issues, removal of diversion structures
- Point of Diversion will be moved to the Yakima Tieton diversion on Tieton River
- Approximately 8 cfs of instream flow for Cowiche Creek

Taneum Canal Company Surface to Well Source Exchange



- Taneum Creek flow limited in winter for migrating steelhead
- Stockwater portion of water right
 - 28.8 cfs, 10 AF
- November-February
- Partnership with Canal Company, BOR, DOE, BPA, Yakama Nation

Methow River Irrigation Efficiency/Side Channel Reconstruction Project

- Multiple partners and landowners
- Listed species including steelhead
- Irrigation Efficiency, Equip, BPA funding
- > 8cfs available for side channel flow enhancement



2006 Yakima Tributary Water Rights Auction

Goal: To increase Stream and Tributary Flows in
the Yakima Basin

Fall, 2006

Partnership with Department of Ecology

Auction will include opportunities for purchases and different
types of leases/options

Biological criteria for water rights

Sealed Bid

TWSA

Trust Water Rights Program

Yakima Auction Eligibility Requirements

- May 9, 1905 or earlier water right
- Tributaries upstream of Parker Dam
- 10 acres or more
- Claim confirmed by CFO
- Water use in the past 5 years
- Minimum duration for participation: 5 years-permanent

For additional information or
questions please contact:

Lisa Pelly

Washington Rivers Conservancy

103 Palouse, Suite 33

Wenatchee WA 98801

509-888-0970wk/509-630-0467 cell