

March 20, 2015

«AddressBlock»

Dear Water Right Holder:

RE: Bids for Emergency Drought Water Leasing Program

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is soliciting bids to lease water from May 2015 through October 2015. We are targeting tributaries upstream of the City of Yakima in both the Naches and Yakima River systems. The purpose of the leases will be to improve instream flows. Low snowpack in the mountains is expected to result in severe low flows later this summer.

More information about the 2015 drought, the Yakima Basin water right leasing program, and the auction calendar is available on Ecology's website and the following link:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/drought/index.html>

Eligible bids must meet the following conditions:

- The water right priority date must be May 10, 1905 or earlier;
- The water right must be awarded in a Conditional Final Order entered by the Yakima County Superior Court pursuant to the Yakima River Adjudication;
- The purpose of use of the water right must include irrigation;
- The point of diversion is on a tributary to the Yakima River, Naches River, or Tieton River upstream of the City of Yakima;
- The minimum offer must be for 5 acres of irrigated land;
- The land offered must be fallowed from the date Ecology accepts the bid through the end of the 2015 irrigation season;
- The party submitting the bid must be prepared to demonstrate water use in the amount offered within the past 5 years;
- The party submitting a bid must be willing to work promptly with Ecology to complete transfer of the water right (or portion of the water right) to the State Trust Water Program;
- The party leasing a water right must be willing to allow Ecology representatives to access the lands subject to the agreement, upon request at reasonable times, to ensure compliance with the terms of completed agreement.

If you are interested in submitting a bid please complete the attached sheet and return it to:

«AssembledName1»

«BusinessName»

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Sage Park  
Department of Ecology  
Central Regional Office  
15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200  
Yakima, WA 98902-3452

**Bids must be received at Ecology's Central Regional Office in Yakima on or before 4:30 PM April 13, 2015.**

Ecology staff will convene two workshops during the week of April 6 to present this leasing program and answer any questions you may have. Watch our website for the dates and locations. If you intend to submit a bid, we encourage you to come to one of the workshops.

We anticipate evaluating bids between April 14 and 17. We will notify all bidders of the status of their bids soon after the evaluation is completed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sage Park". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sage Park, Section Manager  
Water Resources Program  
Department of Ecology

SP:RFB:JR  
150310