

Reducing the Impacts of Drought on Fisheries: Water Transactions



Brett Golden, Deschutes River Conservancy
Task Force on Drought Emergency Response
August 15, 2016

Water Transactions



Four Questions

1. How do you supply the water?
2. How do you protect the water?
3. How do you structure the payment?
4. Who pays?



Five Questions

1. How do you find the ~~water~~ people?
2. How do you supply the water?
3. How do you protect the water?
4. How do you structure the payment?
5. Who pays?



1. How do you find the people?



2. How do you supply the water?

- pipe/line canal
- SW-GW switch
- transfer between water users
- irrigation system improvement
- on-farm infrastructure improvement
- change crop type
- change irrigation timing
- change price structure (for districts, municipalities, etc.)
- don't irrigate



3. How do you protect the water?

- allocation of conserved water
- permanent transfer
- full-season lease
- split-season lease
- forbearance agreement
- minimum flow agreement



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} protected by
OWRD



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- } protected by contract



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drought response



4. How do you structure the payment?

4042

BANK OF THE CASCADES
96-602/1232

12/18/2006

DESCHUTES RIVER CONSERVANCY 06-96
PO BOX 1560
BEND, OR 97709
(541) 382-4077

\$**580,000.00

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Swalley Irrigation District

Five Hundred Eighty Thousand and 00/100***** DOLLARS

Swalley Irrigation District
64672 Cook Ave.
Bend, OR 97701

MEMO Swalley Main Canal Piping

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Wally J. [Signature]

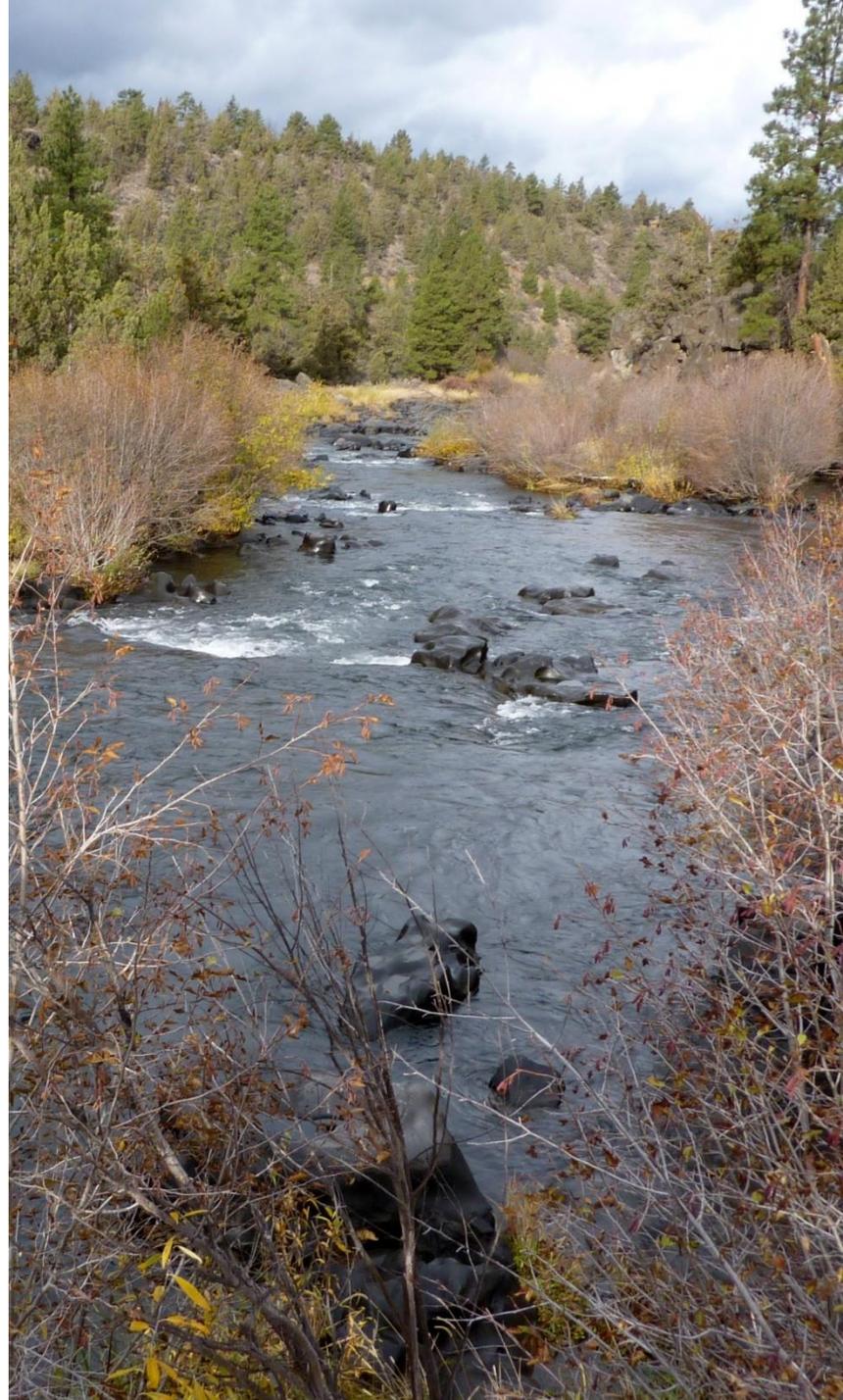
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5. Who pays?



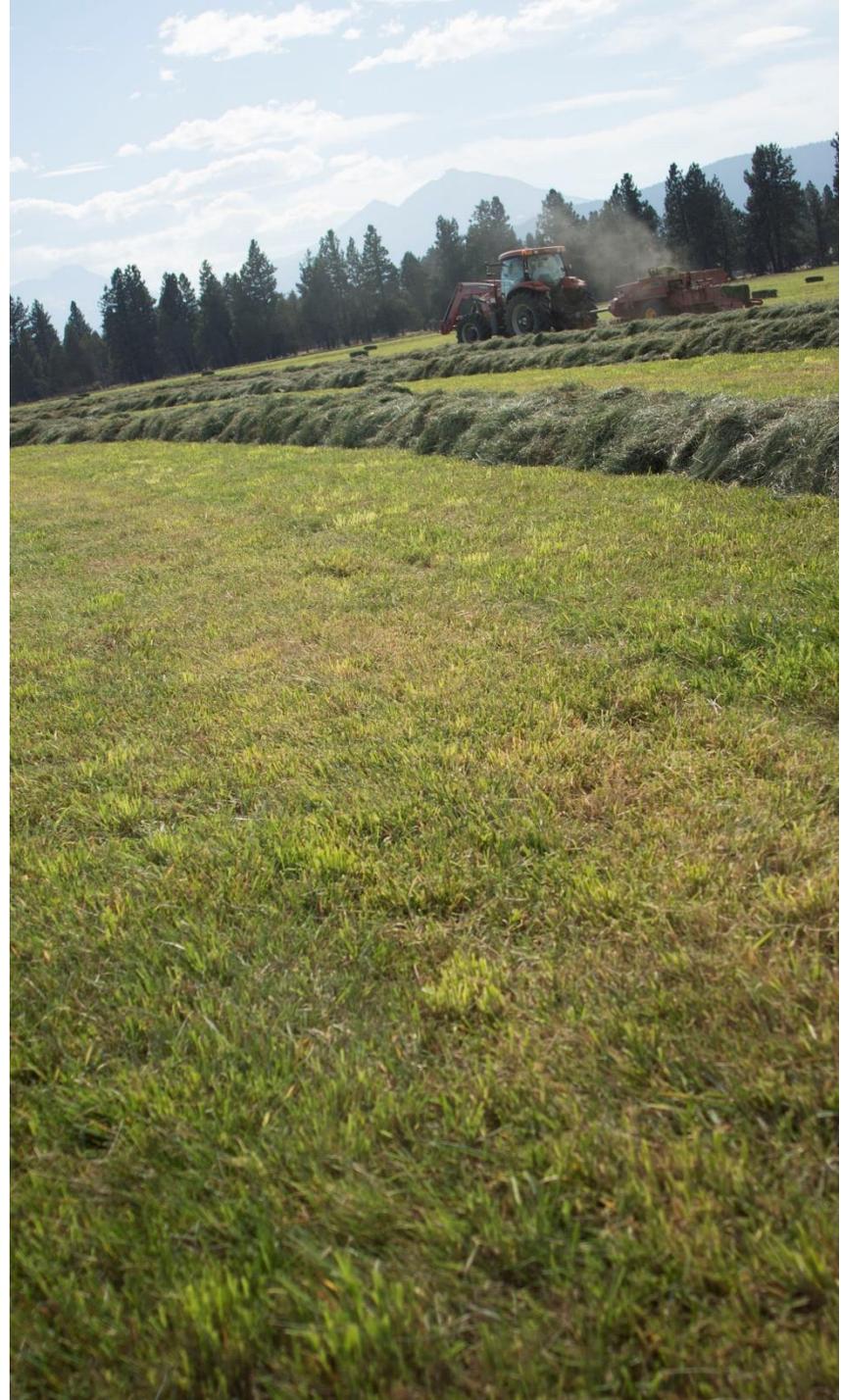
Example: DRC's Annual Water Leasing Program

- Irrigators lease water rights instream
- Full or split-season
- Legally protected
- Small compensation



Example: TFT's Lostine Minimum Flow Agreement

- Irrigators maintain stream flow
- August 22 – September 30
- Not legally protected
- Higher compensation



Limitations

- Require pre-existing agreements and/or relationships
- Social/cultural constraints
- Measurement, monitoring, and regulation



Improving Existing Tools

Reduce barriers to leasing

- Include instream leasing as a “farm use” for tax deferral



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- Allow pre-approval of leases



Reduce barriers to leasing

- Include instream leasing as a “farm use” for tax deferral
- Allow pre-approval of leases
- Waive OWRD lease fees during drought



Increase certainty for drought measures

- Provide stable, short-turnaround funding



Increase certainty for drought measures

- Provide stable, short-turnaround funding
- First-tier, hydrologic drought declaration

