

Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grant Applicant Resources

Website

Visit the [grants webpage](https://ecology.wa.gov/streamflowgrants) for up-to-date info and helpful links: ecology.wa.gov/streamflowgrants

Publications and other resources

Publications also found online at ecology.wa.gov/pubs

- [Funding Guidelines: Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants](#): 25-11-021
- [Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans \(Yellow Book\)](#): 23-01-002
- [Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grant Pre-Application Meeting Request](#): ECY 070-741
- [Landowner Acknowledgment Form](#): ECY 070-614
- [Guidelines for Preparing Quality Assurance Project Plans for Environmental Studies](#): 04-03-030
- [Water Resources Program QAPP Template](#): 18-11-018
- [Applying for Ecology Grants](#): YouTube
- [EAGL IGX User Manual](#): 25-01-005

Frequently Asked Questions

Scoring and eligibility

Q: What has changed in the 2026 guidance?

A: The grant guidance and scoring criteria have been updated for this grant round. Changes are in the scoring criteria for water storage and water right acquisition project categories, along with other minor updates.

Q: What projects will be most competitive?

A: The most competitive projects will measurably improve streamflows, directly address the cause of aquatic resource degradation and benefit native fish or aquatic species of concern, including threatened or endangered salmonids. Changes in the 2026 guidance also consider benefits to overburdened communities or vulnerable populations and durability of projects, especially in the face of the impacts of climate change and drought. Projects that neither increase streamflow nor benefit instream resources are unlikely to receive funding unless they are a critical component or phase of a broader project that increases streamflow or benefits instream resources.

Q: Which “plans” does the guidance refer to?

A: The guidance refers to adopted streamflow restoration plans or plan amendments (also called watershed plans) required by the Streamflow Restoration law (chapter 90.94 RCW). This competitive grants initiative supports projects in adopted plans or a rulemaking in WRIAs 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22/23, 49, 55, and 59. These planned projects receive funding priority points under criteria 1.1. For more information, please visit the [Streamflow Restoration planning website](#). If your project is in a different local plan, such as a salmon recovery plan or ecosystem restoration plan, please explain that in

your application as you may receive points under criteria 2.4. Since this is a statewide grant, we have also funded projects outside of the RCW 90.94 basins in each of the previous grant rounds.

Q: Are there any land ownership requirements?

A: We require signed landowner acknowledgement forms in the application for any projects that involve purchasing property or completing work on private property to show the project has the landowner's support.

Q: What kind of fish passage barriers are eligible for funding?

A: Fish barrier removal projects may be eligible for this funding if the work is not required by another law or order. Barrier removal projects that are 1) not state-owned culvert crossings; 2) not under notice to comply with RCW 77.57.030 (or other lawsuits, agreements, etc.); and 3) not upstream of other barriers that are not being removed are generally eligible for funding. Please clearly describe the streamflow and instream resource benefits of a barrier removal and replacement project.

Q: How are feasibility projects scored?

A: We score each project against the scoring criteria in Chapter 3 of the guidance. We consider feasibility studies to be the first phase of a project, and review projects based on the expected outcome of the final phase of a project. In your application, please explain the expected outcomes after each project phase is complete, including future phases.

Funding

Q: When is the funding available?

A: We expect to announce offers in Fall 2026 and the funds will be available as soon as agreements are signed by all parties. After the offer letter, it may take several months to negotiate and finalize the agreement. There is no guarantee of any funding until the agreement is signed. Final agreement budgets may differ from the amount requested in the application. Work done prior to signing the grant agreement is at the applicant's own risk.

Q: Can a streamflow restoration grant fund part of a larger project?

A: Yes. The applicant should clearly explain the larger project and the part of the project that they are requesting Ecology to fund. Ecology retains the right to only fund portions of the project that are eligible or to only fund one phase of a larger project.

Q: Can the funding be used as match for other grants?

A: The streamflow restoration grants do not require a match and do not have any match restrictions. It is up to the other grant program to decide whether these funds can be used as match.

Q: Does the funding cover indirect costs?

A: Ecology grants cover up to 30% of indirect costs on recipient salaries and benefits. See [Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2301002.html)¹ (Yellow Book) for more information on indirect costs.

Q: What's the maximum duration of each project phase & upper funding request limit?

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2301002.html>

A: Ecology expects that project phases will be completed within three years of the agreement. There is no upper funding request limit.

Cultural Resources Review

Q: What project types require cultural resources review?

A: Most funded projects will require cultural resources review. Cultural resources review must occur prior to the expenditure of any state funds for new construction, demolition, ground disturbance, rehabilitation/renovation, or land acquisition. A broad range of activities can fall under ground disturbance, including geotechnical work or, in many cases, monitoring work. Appendix E of our grant guidance provides more information on cultural resources review. The anticipated area of potential effect (APE) for a project can be reviewed in the [Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data](#) database (WISAARD).²

Q: How long does cultural resources review take?

A: Applicants should plan for a minimum of three months prior to field work.

Q: How much does cultural resources compliance typically cost?

A: Cost for a cultural survey is highly dependent upon the size, scope, and location of the project. Surveys can range from \$5,000 (a very small area of impact and less complex project) to \$20,000 or more if the project is in a very high-risk area (or within a known site) and requires archeological monitoring during project activities. Applicants may reach out to cultural resources consulting firms to assist in budgeting or conducting a pre-review. Many will provide the service for little or no cost. You may also retain a consultant to provide a background study and a recommendation for future study along with a budget.

Q: My project completed/will complete cultural resources review under another agency's authority. Do I still need to complete Ecology's Cultural Resources Review form?

A: Yes, A Cultural Resources Review form is needed. Ecology will review the completed cultural resources work and ensure the review(s) cover the full scope and location of project activities. In some cases, Ecology may need to complete additional reviews and consultation with DAHP and Tribes. The Cultural Resource Contact will determine if adoption is an option.

Important dates

- **Applications accepted:** Jan. 15, 2026, 8 a.m. – March 17, 2026, 5 p.m.
- Nov. 2025 - Jan. 2026: Applicant workshops. [Check grants webpage](#).
- Fall 2025 - March. 2026: Pre-application meetings. *Email us your request by March 3, 2026.*
- Fall 2026: Offer letters.

To request an ADA accommodation, email WRpubs@ecy.wa.gov, call (360) 407-6872, or dial 711 to call through the Washington Telecommunications Relay for services like text telephone (TTY). Visit ecology.wa.gov/ADA for more accessibility information.

² <https://dahp.wa.gov/project-review/wisaard-washington-information-system-for-architectural-and-archeological-records-data>

Requirements by project type

See grant guidance for more information.



Water right acquisitions

- Applicant must attend a pre-application meeting.
 - Email to set up: sfrprjgrants@ecy.wa.gov
- Water right purpose of use changed to instream flow.
- Permanently convey the right to Ecology's Trust Water Rights Program.
- Obtain an appraisal to determine fair market value.



Altered water management or infrastructure

- Conservation and water use efficiency projects must permanently convey saved water to Ecology's Trust Water Rights Program, and create:
- Permanent instream flow improvement; or
 - Access to new water supplies when identified in a watershed plan adopted under Chapter 90.94 RCW.



Environmental monitoring

Projects that include the collection of environmental data, analysis of existing environmental data, or use of environmental data for modeling must develop a Quality Assurance Protection Plan (QAPP) that meets Ecology standards (see Ecology Publication No. 04-03-030). Data must be uploaded to Ecology's Environmental Information Management (EIM) system annually.



Water storage

Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR), Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), and other retiming projects require a phased approach which includes a feasibility study. MAR feasibility studies must meet the requirements in Appendix D of the grant guide.



Watershed function, riparian, and fish habitat improvements

Projects involving the use or acquisition of private property must show landowner awareness by including a Landowner Acknowledgement Form (see Chapter 1) with their application.



Planning and feasibility studies

A feasibility study for a managed aquifer recharge project must follow special requirements (see Appendix D of the grant guide). Other project planning and feasibility studies are eligible with no special requirements.

To request a pre-application meeting for any project, email a completed ECY 070-741 form to:
sfrprjgrants@ecy.wa.gov.

For more information, see Chapter 3: Applying for funding.