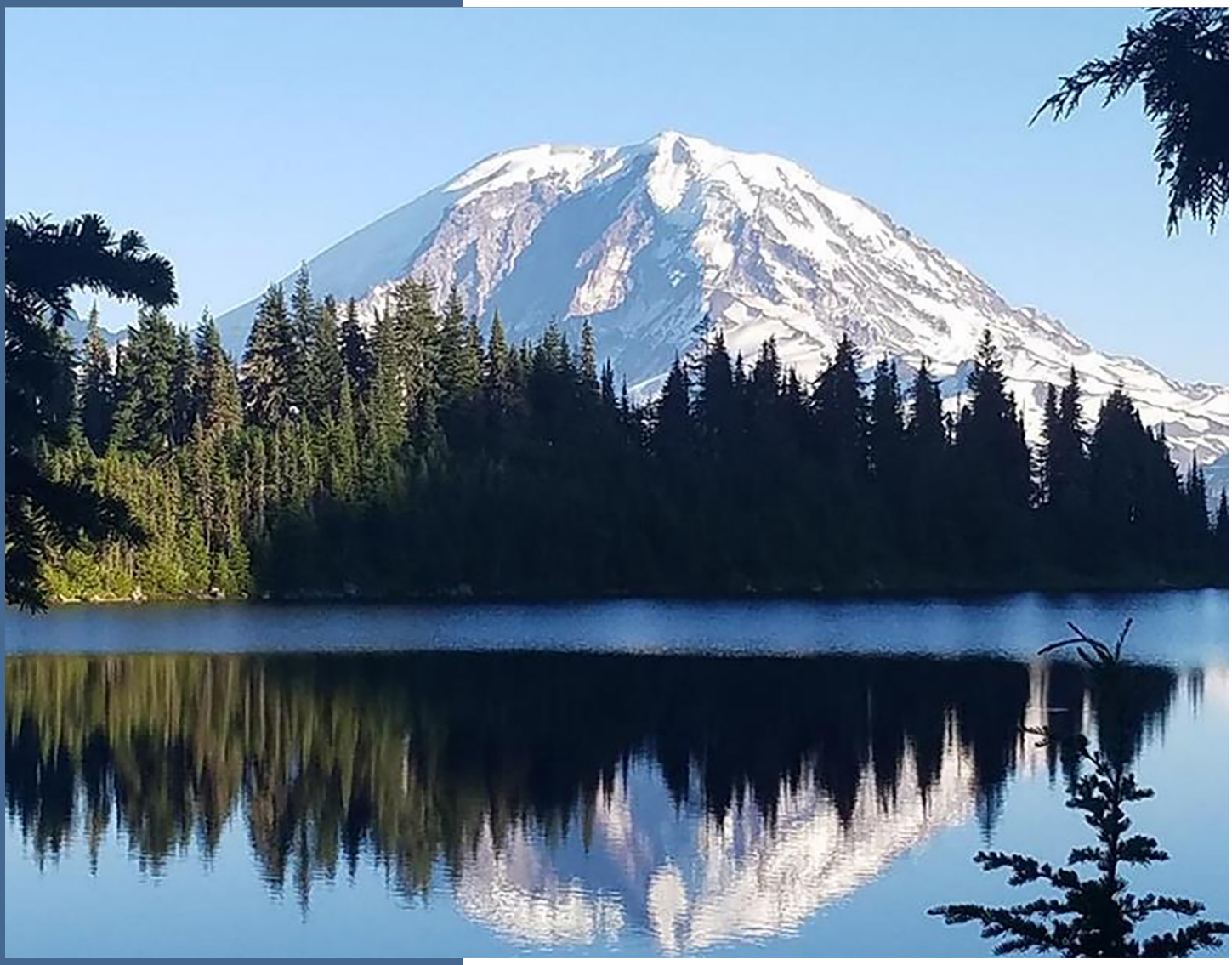

STREAMFLOW RESTORATION COMPETITIVE GRANTS

Guidance for project applicants

Public comment draft

August 8 – September 8, 2019
Publication 19-11-078

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Publication and Contact Information

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A map of Ecology's regions is included in Appendix A.

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Table 1. Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym or Abbreviation	Meaning
DFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
EAGL	Ecology Administration of Grants and Loans
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
EIM	Ecology Information Management System
ESA	Endangered Species Act
MAR	Managed Aquifer Recharge
MBE/WBE	Minority- and Woman-Owned Business Enterprises
OMWBE	Office of Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
RCO	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
SAW	Secure Access Washington
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
SWSL	Surface Water Source Limitation
WAC	Washington State Administrative Code
WRIA	Water Resource Inventory Area

Abstract

When complete this guidance will aid grant applicants in developing complete project proposals for competitive Streamflow Restoration grant funding. This document also provides applicants with information and assistance in completing the application process.

Introduction: Draft for Public Comment

This DRAFT document has been prepared for public review and comment.

The purpose of providing this draft for public comment, is to gather input that will assist Ecology in refining this guidance document for use in the upcoming round of competitive grant funding which will start in the fall of 2019 and end in the summer of 2020.

All comments are due to Ecology by September 8, 2019.

Please submit your comments online at: http://ws.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=NgH8R

Comments may also be mailed to:

> Rebecca Inman
> Department of Ecology
> Water Resources Program
> PO Box 47600
> Olympia WA 98504-7600

All comments will be publicly available. Ecology will review and consider all comments, however Ecology is under no obligation to incorporate or respond to any comments.

Key dates: Streamflow Restoration competitive grants

Table 2. Schedule for the upcoming grant round.— ALL DATES ARE TENTATIVE GIVEN THE DRAFT NATURE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF THIS DOCUMENT.

Key Step in Process	Purpose	Date
Adopt Streamflow Restoration Funding rule: Chapter 173-566 WAC.	Establish regulations and multi-year framework for this competitive grant initiative.	June 25, 2019.
Public comment period for the Draft Guidance for Project Applicants.	Gather input that will assist Ecology in refining and finalizing this guidance document.	August 8 – September 8, 2019.
Publish Final Guidance for Project Applicants.	Aid grant applicants in developing complete project proposals and provide information on completing the application proccess.	Fall 2019.
Technical assistance workshops for potential project applicants.	Ecology led forum(s) to support potential project applicants regarding eligibility and competitiveness and how to apply for these competitive funds.	Fall – Winter 2019.
Applications accepted by Ecology.	Applicants submit their applications for competitive funds.	February – March, 2020.
Ecology posts project summaries of submitted applications on webpage.	Process transparency.	March – April, 2020.
Ecology reviews and scores applications.	Using this guidance and corresponding scoring Criteria, Ecology will determine which applicants will receive offers to negotiate scopes of work for competitive funding.	April – July, 2020.
Ecology posts list of funded projects on webpage.	Public notice of funding awards.	August 2020.
Offer letters sent to successful applicants.	Ecology will initiate communication and begin work with selected applicants to negotiate the scope of work and corresponding budget. There is no guarantee of any funding until an agreement is finalized. Final agreement budgets may differ from the amount requested in the application.	August 2020.

Chapter 1: Overview

Chapter 90.94 RCW (2018) directed Ecology to "implement a program to restore and enhance streamflows by fulfilling obligations under this act to develop and implement plans to restore streamflows to levels necessary to support robust, healthy, and sustainable salmon populations." To establish a regulatory framework for a grant initiative that fulfills the obligation above, Ecology adopted chapter 173-566 WAC – Streamflow Restoration Funding. This competitive grants initiative is designed to incentivize local implementation of projects and actions that meet the purposes of chapter 90.94 RCW.

The purpose of this Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants Guidance document is to aid grant applicants in developing complete project proposals. It also provides information on completing the application proccess for this competitive statewide grant initiative.

Critical grant funding considerations

Potential grant applicants should keep the following in mind as they consider preparing and submitting an application for competitive funding.

- This is a statewide competitive grants initiative.
- Ecology makes these competitive funds available to incentivize local implementation of projects and actions that meet the purposes of chapter 90.94 RCW.
- The funds that the Legislature has provided to Ecology for this purpose are limited. Consequently, demand for these competitive grants is likely to exceed available funding.
    - There is no guarantee that any application or project proposal will be funded.
    - Ecology does not intend to fund all projects submitted for consideration, or all projects in watershed plans or rules adopted under RCW 90.94.020 or 90.94.030.
- The types of projects prioritized from one grant round to the next may vary, and are detailed in Chapter 3.
- Priority considerations.
    - Proposed projects that improve streamflows are the highest priority for funding in this grant round.
        - Projects that do not increase streamflow, but do benefit instream resources, are eligible. However, those types of projects will tend to be less competitive for funding.
        - Projects that neither increase streamflow nor benefit instream resources will tend to be the least competitive in this grant round, and are unlikely to receive funding unless they are a critical component or phase of a broader project that does increase streamflow or benefit instream resources.
    - As detailed in Chapter 3, projects located in WRIAs identified as "planning WRIAs" or a metering pilot project area, under chapter 90.94 RCW will be prioritized. (See appendix B for a map of priority watersheds.)
    - As detailed in Chapter 3, projects identified in an adopted watershed plan, or through a rulemaking process to meet the requirements of chapter 90.94 RCW, will be further prioritized.

- Projects should incorporate adaptive management principles into their design and implementation. Adaptive management is a structured, iterative process of robust decision-making in the face of uncertainty, with an aim to reducing uncertainty over time.
- Projects must tailor restoration actions to local potential, i.e. choosing appropriate site conditions to enable the desired outcomes.
- Applicants are encouraged to consult with salmon recovery and watershed planning groups to ensure their project aligns with the priorities and sequencing of projects in the watershed.
- Sustainable projects provide benefits for the lifetime of the project, as designed. Projects benefits should be likely to occur despite the projected impacts of climate change and drought. Projects that are climate change and drought-resilient are more likely to be successful.
- Applications should identify the source(s) of any additional funding needed to fully implement the proposed project, including operating and maintenance costs over the lifetime of the project. If funding is not yet secured, applications should include a detailed plan on how funding will be secured.
- Projects are not required to provide match funding.
- Ecology reserves the right to require a feasibility study on any project. A feasibility study required by Ecology may be included as the first phase of a larger project application. An offer by Ecology to fund a feasibility study does not imply any intent nor create any obligation by Ecology to provide grants or otherwise fund any subsequent project phases.
- Applicants may choose to divide large, expensive, or complex projects into phases, particularly when each phase can be shown to provide streamflow or fish benefits. Ecology also reserves the right to divide a proposal into phases due to funding availability, priorities, or other considerations. Please note, however, funding for one phase does not imply any intent nor create any obligation by Ecology to provide grants or otherwise fund any subsequent project phases.
- In the event that Ecology makes an offer to fund a given application, the scope of work and corresponding budget will need to be negotiated and there is no guarantee of any funding until an agreement is finalized. As a result, final agreement budgets may differ from the amount requested in the application.
- Work done prior to project approval will not receive funding.
- The timeframe for project completion should align with the needs and complexity of the project.

Completing an application

No matter what the project entails, the following is provided to help potential applicants understand what Ecology deems important when an applicant accurately describes their proposed project and corresponding benefits.

- All submitted materials should be easy to read and understand.
    - Give clear, complete, and concise answers to all questions.
    - Write in complete sentences and avoid ambiguous statements.
- Address all relevant items identified in the grant guidance and scoring guide.
- Provide documentation and citations to support answers to application questions.

- Describe why you selected the proposed project instead of other solutions to address the local issues the proposed project identifies.
- Identify the documented streamflow, fish, or other instream resource problem(s) that your project would address, and provide citations or other evidence. Examples of evidence can include streamflow records, citing a specific concern in a salmon recovery plan reference, or documented fish status, such as whether it is endangered, using DFW's SalmonScape.
- Demonstrate that the project is well thought out.
    - Explain how you will determine and demonstrate any project benefits.
    - Include a well-defined scope of work that has goals, objectives, timelines, and measurable outcomes.
    - Demonstrate that these state tax-payer funds will be well-invested in this local project.
- Demonstrate that the project is ready to go if funding is approved.
    - Demonstrate that preliminary measures have been taken to prepare for the proposed project, if appropriate, prior to implementation. Demonstrate knowledge of any potential barriers and the means for addressing those barriers.
    - Robust ongoing engagement from relevant stakeholders is important for project success. Demonstrate that the project enjoys broad support by the community and agency partners, stakeholder groups, including any disadvantaged communities. Include letters of support as documentation. If communities will experience any negative impacts from the project, demonstrate that there has been extensive outreach, and that any negative impacts will be minimized in the project design. (See appendix C.)

Eligible applicants

Applicants eligible for funding include: Washington state agencies, local governments and quasi-governments within Washington State, agencies of the federal government, tribal governments with reservation lands or treaty rights within Washington, and non-profit organizations. Out-of-state agencies and organizations, and for-profit companies are not eligible to apply for these competitive grants.[1]

Ecology will evaluate all complete competitive grant applications that have been submitted by March 31, 2020, in order to determine the eligibility under WAC 173-566-030, of the applicant and the proposed project.

For any eligible application, Ecology will then use the detailed scoring criteria discussed in Chapter 3.

Additional guidance and authorities

- *Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans Managed in EAGL*; see https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/1401002.html

Chapter 173-566 WAC; see https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-566&full=true
Chapter 90.94 RCW; see https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.94&full=true

1 WAC 173-566-030

Chapter 2: Application considerations for project types

This chapter provides specific considerations for the eligible project types identified in chapter 173-566 WAC Streamflow Restoration Funding, as well as information on project elements. Projects other than these types may also be eligible if they meet the intent of chapter 90.94 RCW. This information is provided so all potential applicants have the same information as they decide whether or not to submit an application for competitive grant funding.

Eligible project types include, but are not limited to:

- Water right acquisitions.
- Water storage.
- Altered water management or infrastructure.
- Watershed function, riparian and fish habitat improvements.
- Environmental monitoring.
- Feasibility studies.

Specific requirements by project type.

Water right acquisition.

- A pre-application meeting.
- Water right purpose to be changed to instream flow.
- Water right permanently conveyed to Ecology's Trust Water Rights Program.

Water storage.

- Feasibility Study for any managed aquifer recharge project.

Altered water management or infrastructure.

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

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 Appendix D) with their application.

Environmental monitoring.

- Recipients must follow all grant requirements for submittal of environmental monitoring data, and standards when geographic information system (GIS) data are collected, processed, and submitted to Ecology.

Feasibility studies.

- A feasibility study is a required preliminary phase for all Managed Aquifer Recharge projects. Special requirements for these projects are detailed. (See Appendix E)
- Other feasibility studies are eligible, with no special requirements.

Water right acquisitions

Definition

Under the Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants program, a water right acquisition project is the purchase of a water right, or a portion of a water right, to be changed to instream flow under RCW 90.03.380 and permanently conveyed into Ecology's Trust Water Rights Program.

Purpose and primary environmental benefits

Ecology's interest in acquiring water rights is to increase streamflow to benefit vulnerable fish and wildlife by allowing the water to remain in the stream. Acquired water rights may also serve to offset the impacts of other water use.

Application requirements

All water right acquisition proposals require a pre-application meeting as described on this page.

During the pre-application meeting, the Statewide Trust Water Coordinator and appropriate Ecology Section Manager will provide technical assistance and ensure that grant application requirements can be met.

At the conclusion of the meeting, or in an email to follow, the Coordinator will indicate whether or not the project appears eligible for Streamflow Restoration funding. This response will only indicate eligibility, based on the information provided during the pre-application meeting, and will not determine how competitive the project may be for funding.

The materials required for the pre-application meeting will be components of the later application submittal, if the applicant chooses to proceed with requesting Streamflow Restoration grant funding.

Pre-Application meeting details

How to schedule a meeting.

Send pre-application meeting requests to sfrwra@ecy.wa.gov.

Address the request to Ecology's Statewide Trust Water Coordinator.

Include three (3) or more potential dates and times. Plan for the meeting to take 90 minutes.

At least one (1) week prior to your confirmed meeting time, submit the following documentation:

1. A clear description of the project.
2. The location of benefits that specifies where they begin, where they end, and calls out the historic point of diversion.
3. The timing of benefits.
4. The anticipated streamflow benefits in terms of flow (cubic feet per second) and volume (acre-feet).
5. A proposed price in dollars per acre-foot, and documentation supporting the price.
6. An executed change application or the Water Right Holder/Landowner Acknowledgement Form (See appendix D).

For assistance in describing water right acquisition projects see The Trust Water Rights Guidelines: Publication #92-88, and Guidance 1220:

https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/wrdocs/WaterRights/wrwebpdf/guid1220.pdf

Other information

An application proposing the sale of a water right to Ecology does not require that the water right has already been changed to instream flow.

If a project is approved, funding is contingent upon the change in the water right's purpose of use being completed. Ecology will provide payment for title to the water right, following the change in purpose, so that it can be held and managed in the Trust Water Rights Program.

Acquisition of groundwater rights is eligible for funding, but it may be difficult to estimate streamflow benefits of such projects. Applicants are encouraged to provide well logs, pump records, and any applicable groundwater studies in their application.

Water storage

Definition:

Water storage projects, including "retiming" projects, involve the capture of water when it is available (such as high flow periods) and the later use or release of that water when needed, thus increasing streamflow. Examples of water storage projects that are eligible for grant funding include, but are not limited to:

- *Surface Storage*. Depressions in the land surface can be utilized or created to serve as surface storage reservoirs or ponds. The reservoir can be lined to prevent seepage loss and allow the maximum retention of stored water (minus evaporative loss). Alternatively, a pond could be unlined, to allow the release of water through the bed of the pond into the subsurface and ultimately recharge the shallow aquifer.
- *Managed Aquifer Recharge.* Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) is the purposeful recharge of water into aquifers for eventual groundwater discharge to benefit streamflows. MAR projects can augment streamflow by increasing surficial aquifer discharges to the streams beyond what occurs under current conditions. MAR projects typically involve diverting a small fraction of high-flow seasonal streamflows to spreading basins, or to other infiltration facilities in the adjacent floodplain or uplands. This diverted surface water infiltrates into a shallow aquifer, migrates through the aquifer, and ultimately discharges back to surface water as re-timed groundwater base flow.
    - All MARs require a phased approach, which includes a feasibility study that addresses both Ecology's Water Resource and Water Quality program requirements. Further information and requirements are provided in "MAR Feasibility Study" in this section and Appendix E.
- *Infiltration Galleries or Ponds*. An infiltration pond is a shallow artificial depression that is designed to infiltrate water through permeable soils into the shallow aquifer.
- *Cisterns*. A cistern is a waterproof receptacle for holding water. They have historically been built to catch and store rainwater. Below ground cisterns are distinguished from wells by their waterproof linings.

Purpose and primary ecological benefits:

Water storage can have a multitude of benefits, depending on location and design. Projects that artificially recharge groundwater aquifers (especially where development of impervious surfaces has disrupted this process) can supplement base flows where groundwater discharges to the surface water. Surface water benefits can result by retiming excess flows from flood events or peak runoff periods related to storms or snowmelt, in order to supplement streamflows when they are lowest in late summer and early fall. This can occur through passive release from groundwater or through timed release from above-ground reservoirs. When aquifer storage is used, significant streamflow temperature reductions may also result where high temperatures are a limiting factor for salmonid migration and survival. Water storage may also be used to reduce the impact of out-of-stream uses by providing an alternate water source, either during low flow periods or year-round.

Water storage projects used to offset permit-exempt domestic consumptive uses need to provide reliable benefits. The water storage project needs to offset water on an annual cycle, not occasionally, during low frequency, flood events. Although those types of projects may provide periodic streamflow benefits, those benefits are not reliable enough to count as a meaningful water offset project under the statutory mandate.

Other information:

MAR sites require a significant investment in water quality testing to ensure groundwater quality is not degraded, pursuant to chapter 173-200 WAC - Water Quality Standards for Groundwater of the State of Washington. Certain aspects of MAR projects may fall under the jurisdiction of chapter 173-218 WAC - Underground Injection Control Program rule, which is also designed to protect groundwater quality. Finally, stored water that is released to surface waters should not exceed surface water quality standards.

Application requirements:

MAR project proposals are required to include a phased approach, with the first phase comprising a study examining project feasibility and water quality issues. Feasibility studies may be completed prior to application for the grant and submitted as part of the application. At Ecology's discretion, previously completed feasibility studies may be required to add additional study elements in order to provide additional necessary information.

MAR feasibility study must:

- Assess aquifer capacity to ensure that water infiltration can occur without creating surface water overflows.
- Determine whether soils and underlying geology have suitable hydraulic properties.
- Assess whether sufficient infiltrated water will be discharged to surface water during low streamflow periods.
- Determine that the location is available for permanent use through acquisition or easements.
- Identify a physically and legally available water source.
    - Assess source water and aquifer compatibility, potential water quality changes during infiltration, and other water quality considerations.
    - Identify all permits required for project implementation.
    - Develop preliminary MAR project designs and implementation cost estimates.
    - Further information on completing a MAR feasibility study can be found in Appendix E.

Quality assurance project plan (QAPP)

[*QAPP specifications for Streamflow Restoration Grants projects are under development and will be available by 12/2/2019.*]

Altered water management or infrastructure

Definition:

Water management improvements involve changes in how and when water is used. Water management and infrastructure improvement projects may involve changes in how and when water is diverted, withdrawn, conveyed, or used to benefit streamflows and instream resources. Examples include conservation and efficiency projects such as diversion modifications, lining and piping ditches, sprinkler conversion, and other irrigation efficiencies, as well as source switches, and streamflow retiming projects. Innovative methods will be considered.

Purpose and primary ecological benefits:

Altered water management or infrastructure is the most diverse of the project types provided for in this guidance, and therefore the hardest to define. In general though, these types of projects provide the most benefit when reducing water waste, such as what may be lost to evaporation, or in some cases, leakage, and instead use water more efficiently. For example, irrigation efficiencies can benefit crops by providing water when it is needed while conserving excess water that can tax the plants, leach out nutrients from the soil, and reduce the effectiveness of fertilizers. In addition, the excess water can remain in the stream to benefit flows and support natural processes.

Application requirements:

Applicants proposing altered water management or infrastructure projects must include in their proposal, per WAC 173-566-220, sufficient provisions and protections to ensure that completed projects provide:

- Permanent streamflow improvement; *or*
- Access to new water supplies, when identified in a watershed plan adopted under RCW 90.94.020 or 90.94.030.

In order to meet these requirements, conservation and water use efficiency projects must permanently convey the saved water to Ecology to be held in the Trust Water Rights Program for instream flow purposes.

Watershed function, riparian and fish habitat improvement

Definition:

Watershed function, riparian and fish habitat improvement projects involve upland, riparian, or instream changes that restore and support natural watershed functions, benefitting threatened and endangered salmonids or other native aquatic species of concern. Projects of this type generally do not increase streamflow, but do benefit instream resources, and are therefore eligible, however they will tend to be less competitive within this grant program. Potentially eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- *In-channel habitat improvements*: Streambank restoration, gravel and woody structure augmentation, and channel re-meandering.

- *Riparian restoration:* Riparian planting to replace invasive species with native vegetation, providing future sources of woody debris; livestock exclusion fencing; removing creosoted wood and garbage; reducing impervious surfaces.
- *Strategic land acquisition*: Acquisitions, conversions, or easements that protect stream banks, promote a healthy riparian corridor, and preserve an area against future development. See Appendix D for required landowner acknowledgement form.
- *Levee modification*: Levee setback projects that change the slope, location, planting, or the structure, and improves stream conditions, will be considered.
- *Floodplain modification*: Projects intended to provide benefits for aquatic species, such as rearing, high flow refuge, and increased species diversity. These projects may provide streamflow benefits by elevating the water table.
- *Fish passage*: Removing or modifying barriers to allow fish passage is helpful, when it increases the range of salmonid access.
    - Removing an upstream barrier when downstream barriers still exist is not eligible for funding under this grant program.
- *Beaver introduction*: Deliberate introduction of beaver to increase the water table, channel complexity, species diversity, and salmonid rearing habitat.

Purpose and primary ecological benefits:

Projects of this type improve watershed function, riparian and aquatic habitat, can slow and deepen streamflows, reduce water temperatures, improve food availability, provide fish protection from predators, restore spawning gravel, improve water quality, reduce flooding and flashy flooding, restore natural processes, foster species diversity, expand habitat for fish development, regain wildlife corridors, and promote ecological health.

Application requirements:

Applicants must clearly identify how the project will improve instream resources and include quantitative and/or qualitative estimates of the benefits provided. If the project involves the use or purchase of private property, include the Landowner Acknowledgement Form with your application. (See Appendix D.)

Environmental monitoring

Definition:

Environmental monitoring is eligible for funding, including:

- Stream gauging and groundwater monitoring directly related to restoring, maintaining, or enhancing streamflows or instream resources and values.
- Monitoring as a component of broader Streamflow Restoration Grant projects.

Purpose and primary ecological benefit:

Environmental monitoring provides the most benefit when it is used to develop or trigger actions that restore, maintain, or enhance streamflows and instream resources. One example is monitoring the

benefits of a project to implement any contingency actions necessary to maintain project benefits.

Application requirements:

Environmental monitoring is most likely to be funded when incorporated into a broader project proposal. Projects that do not increase streamflow, but do benefit instream resources, are eligible, however they will tend to be less competitive for this grant funding.

Other information:

Recipients must follow all grant requirements for submittal of environmental monitoring data, and agency standards when geographic information system (GIS) data are collected, processed, and submitted to Ecology. (See https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/eim/help/Training/OpenDocument/55)

Also see the information on Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) on page 9.

Feasibility studies

Feasibility studies on any project type are eligible. In addition, Ecology reserves the right to require a feasibility study for any project. A feasibility study required by Ecology may be included as the first phase of a larger project application. An offer to fund a feasibility study does not imply any intent or obligation to provide grants or otherwise fund any subsequent phases of the project.

Definition:

A feasibility study is an assessment of the practicality or methodology of a proposed project, examining the factors that could either facilitate or hinder implementation, and at a minimum addresses:

- Cost.
- Technical hurdles or barriers.Operations and maintenance needs and costs.
- Parties identified to undertake specified roles.
- Local support.
- Uncertainty in calculating estimated benefits.
- Project lifespan.
- Connections to existing projects and actions.
- The role of adaptive management in plan implementation.

Purpose and primary ecological benefit:

Feasibility studies in and of themselves provide little to no ecological benefit. Their benefit is in their ability to determine the viability of a project proposal, while quantifying risks and benefits.

Application requirements:

Applicants interested in conducting a feasibility study are encouraged to apply for grant funds to complete that study as part of a multi-phased, well-developed, project proposal. Such applications will

be assessed based upon both the feasibility study as well as additional phases of the project, and are likely to score more competitively than stand-alone studies. In general, stand-alone feasibility studies (i.e., those not embedded within a well-developed project proposal and application) will not compete well in the evaluation, scoring, or ranking under this competitive grants program.

All managed aquifer recharge (MAR) projects proposals are required to include a phased approach, with the first phase comprising a study examining project feasibility, including water quality considerations as described in Chapter 2 in the Water Storage section, as well as the description of QAPP requirements on page 9. Feasibility studies may be completed prior to application for the grant, in which case the applicant must include the detailed results of the study in the application for the project.

Select ineligible project elements

An additional consideration for potential applicants is that there are projects and project components that are ineligible to receive competitive grant funding under this program. Below, Ecology has provided a list of common project elements that are ineligible for Streamflow Restoration funding. This is not an exhaustive list.

- Project elements previously funded by Ecology.
- Projects that are otherwise required under statute, rule, ordinance, or court order, except pursuant to chapter 90.94 RCW.
- Costs to meet an individual or general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
- Major and capital equipment purchases made without written pre-approval from Ecology.
- Contaminated soils removal or remediation.
- Projects that conflict with other Ecology rules, projects, or guidance.
- Aquatic plant control for aesthetic purposes, navigational improvements, or any other reason that does not provide increased streamflow, nor benefit ecological functions or critical stream habitat.
- Operation and maintenance costs.
- Property purchases made without prior written approval from Ecology.

More information on broader ineligibility considerations can be found in WAC 173-566-310 and *Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans Managed in EAGL* (the "Yellow Book") See: https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/1401002.html

Chapter 3: Applying for Funding

The application period is currently estimated to open **February 3, 2020**, and close **March 31, 2020**. Applications will be reviewed and scored based upon this guidance and the scoring criteria. Ecology reserves the right to conduct additional assessments, including, but not limited to on-site field evaluations, consultations with other agencies or entities, and feasibility.

Although, as noted in Chapter 2, a pre-application consultation is required for all Water Right Acquisitions projects, applicants for other types of projects may request a pre-application meeting with Ecology staff if additional project specific assistance is desired. Although Ecology cannot guarantee availability, requests will be accommodated to the extent possible. To request a pre-application meeting for another type of project, please email your request to sfrprjgrants@ecy.wa.gov, with a description of your proposal, and Ecology will contact you to discuss scheduling.

The application

Applicants submit their applications through the Ecology Administration of Grants and Loans (EAGL) system using a Secure Access Washington account. (See https://secureaccess.wa.gov/public/saw/pub/displayRegister.do) The funding application is available by going to https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans and following the instructions to access the funding application and the EAGL User's Manual. Applicants without access to the electronic system should contact Ecology for assistance.

Information found in the funding proposal is the basis for developing the funding agreement. Funding agreements for clearly defined project proposals that include a detailed scope of work, measurable objectives, operation and maintenance plans, and accurate budgets will take less time to develop. If the applicant makes significant changes to the scope of work after the award, Ecology reserves the right to withdraw or modify a funding offer.

Scoring criteria: Streamflow restoration competitive grant proposal

Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grant applications will be competitively scored using the following scoring criteria.

1. Funding priorities				
Grant applications for projects that demonstrate the following will receive added priority under each of the following three independent criteria.				
1.1	The proposed project is identified in an RCW 90.94.020 or 90.94.030 WRIA plan that has been adopted by Ecology, or through a rulemaking process to meet the requirements of RCW 90.94.020 or 90.94.030.		Possible	Earned
		True.	15	
		False.	0	

1.2	The proposed project is located in an RCW 90.94.020, RCW 90.94.030 WRIA, or is designated in a RCW 90.94.040 WRIA Metering Pilot Project Area.		Possible	Earned
		True.	15	
		False.	0	
1.3	The project improves streamflows or enhances instream resources to benefit threatened and endangered salmonids (higher preference) or improves streamflows or enhances instream resources to benefit other native fish and aquatic species of concern. Applicant provided one from each of the groupings below:		Possible	Earned
		1.3a		
		strong evidence that the project will improve streamflows.	30	
		some evidence that the project will improve streamflows.	15	
		no convincing evidence.	0	
		1.3b		
		strong evidence that the project will benefit threatened and endangered salmonids.	20	
		some evidence that the project will benefit threatened and endangered salmonids.	10	
		no convincing evidence.	0	
		1.3c		
		strong evidence that the project will benefit other (non-salmonid) native fish and aquatic species of concern.	10	
		some evidence that the project will benefit other (non-salmonid) native fish and aquatic species of concern.	5	
		no convincing evidence.	0	
		Total points for 1.1–1.3	**90 pts**	

2. Project benefits

Grant applications will demonstrate that the proposed project will provide benefits directly addressing factors for recovery of threatened and endangered salmonids and other species of concern, as well as addressing water quality, and other environmental considerations.

2.1	The applicant has identified one or more local problems identified by study or local expertise that the proposal is designed to address fully or in part. Applicant has done one of the following;		Possible	Earned
		made a strong case of need for the project.	20	
		made a fair case of need for the project.	10	
		provided evidence of a problem, but insufficient evidence that the proposal would have a meaningful effect on the problem.	3	
		provided no convincing evidence of a problem.	0	
2.2	Proposed project and project benefits align with the needs of the community and other watershed planning processes. (See Appendix C.) Applicant provided one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		strong evidence that project and project benefits align with watershed and community planning.	15	
		some evidence that project and project benefits align with local watershed and community planning.	5	
		no convincing evidence.	0	
		Total points for 2.1–2.2	**35 pts**	

3. Project budget

Grant applications will demonstrate that the proposed project will deliver benefits for instream resources that justify the project cost.

3.1	Cost estimates for proposed project and individual tasks are based upon defensible and relevant data. Applicant provided one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		strong evidence that costs are based upon defensible and relevant data .	10	
		some evidence that costs are based upon defensible and relevant data.	5	
		minimal evidence that costs are based upon defensible and relevant data.	2	
		no convincing evidence.	0	
3.2	Proposed project is an effective use of funds, in terms of costs and benefits as demonstrated in the application. Applicant has provided one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		strong evidence that project provides benefits for a low relative cost.	10	
		strong evidence that project provides benefits for a reasonable relative cost.	8	
		strong evidence that project provides benefits for a high relative cost.	4	
		no convincing evidence.	0	

3.3	Adequate funding (see Critical Grant Program Considerations in Chapter 1) has been identified for the completion of the project, and for the operation and maintenance costs over the lifetime of the project. Applicant provided one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		strong evidence that they have identified and secured funding required to pay for completion of project, as well as operation and maintenance for the lifetime of the project.	10	
		some evidence that they have identified and secured the funding required to pay for completion of project, as well as operation and maintenance for the lifetime of the project.	5	
		no convincing evidence.	0	
		Total points for 3.1–3.3	**30 pts**	

4. Project durability and resiliency

Grant applications will demonstrate that applicant has used a complete and well-defined set of criteria to determine the durability of the proposed project and its benefits, including considerations of climate change, and any long-term maintenance costs.

4.1	Proposed project and project benefits are tailored for local potential. (See Critical Grant Program Considerations in Chapter 1). Applicant provided one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		strong evidence that project and project benefits are tailored for the location it will be implemented (e.g. affected natural processes restored or a limiting factor addressed.)	15	
		some evidence that project and project benefits are tailored for the location where it will be implemented.	5	
		no convincing evidence.	0	

4.2	Proposed project is feasible and likely to succeed. Applicant provided one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		strong evidence that project is feasible and likely to succeed.	10	
		some evidence that project is feasible and likely to succeed.	5	
		no convincing evidence.	0	
4.3	Proposed project is feasible and likely to succeed. Applicant provided one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		strong evidence that project benefits are sustainable, occur at a regular and predictable interval, and will persist over time.	8	
		some evidence that project benefits are sustainable, occur at a regular and predictable interval, and will persist over time.	4	
		no convincing evidence.	0	
4.4	The uncertainties and risks of the proposed project have been identified and evaluated. Applicant provided one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		strong evidence that uncertainties have been adequately identified and evaluated.	10	
		some evidence that uncertainties have been adequately identified and evaluated.	8	
		minimal evidence that uncertainties have been adequately identified and evaluated.	4	

4.5	Application demonstrates an understanding of how climate change may impact the proposed project, and identifies how it will address climate change and drought resilience (see Critical Grant Program Considerations in Chapter 1 and Appendix C) for the project. Applicant provided one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		strong evidence that project design considered climate change and drought resilience.	8	
		some evidence that project design considered climate change and drought resilience.	4	
		no convincing evidence.	0	
4.6	Application describes how principles of adaptive management will be incorporated in the construction and operation of the proposed project. Applicant provided one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		Applicant provided evidence that adaptive management was addressed.	6	
		no convincing evidence.	0	
	Total points for 4.1–4.6		**57 pts**	

5. Project scope of work

Grant applications for projects that demonstrate the following three independent criteria.

5.1	Application scope covers all elements necessary to develop, implement, and complete the project. Applicant provided one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		strong evidence that project scope covered all project elements necessary to develop, implement, and complete the project.	10	
		some evidence that project scope covered all project elements necessary to develop, implement, and complete the project.	5	
		no convincing evidence.	0	

5.2	Application provides sufficient maps, plans, and other documents for the project. Applicant provided one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		detailed and useful maps, plans, and other documentation.	10	
		incomplete or insufficient maps, plans, and other documentation.	5	
		no maps, plans, and/or other documentation.	0	
5.3	Project deliverables would provide clear evidence that project tasks have been successfully completed. Applicant has shown that the proposed project deliverables will provide one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		strong evidence of project benefits.	10	
		some evidence of project benefits.	5	
		no convincing evidence.	0	
	Total points for 5.1–5.3		**30 pts**	

6. Applicant readiness to proceed, and project monitoring

Grant application demonstrates that applicant has sufficient staff, planning, and commitments in place to complete the project, monitor effectiveness, and sustain the benefits of this project.

6.1	Applicant has identified key stakeholders (see Critical Grant Program Considerations in Chapter 1) and their support for the proposed the project. Applicant provided one of the following:		Possible	Earned
		letters of support from key stakeholders.	4	
		no letters of support.	0	

6.2	Applicant is prepared to start on the proposed scope of work, such as design and/or permitting work already completed or underway. Applicant provided one of the following:			
		strong evidence of readiness to proceed with project work if approved.	4	
		some evidence of readiness to proceed with project work if approved.	3	
		no convincing evidence.	0	
6.3	Applicant has sufficient staff, planning, and commitments in place to ensure that the project will be completed, and adequately maintained. Applicant roles, responsibilities, and qualifications are adequate for the scope of work. Applicant provided one of the following:			
		strong evidence of experience completing similar projects and there are no concerns on file with the applicant.	8	
		some evidence of experience completing similar projects and there are no concerns on file with the applicant.	4	
		no convincing evidence or there are concerns on file with the applicant.	0	
6.4	Proposed project will provide project monitoring data for project benefits. Applicant has shown that the proposed project will do one of the following:			
		provide monitoring data for project benefits.	4	
		provide no monitoring data for project benefits.	0	
	Total points for 6.1–6.4		**20 pts**	

7. Additional project considerations

Grant application has identified all additional concerns or considerations relevant to the proposed project not directly addressed in previous scoring criteria.

7.1	Applicant has identified and adequately addressed probable failure points, permitting concerns, inter-programmatic comments, multiple environmental goals, geographic considerations, concerns identified by technical reviewers and agency staff, and additional concerns.		Possible	Earned
		True.	30	
		False.	0	
	Total points for 7.1		**30 pts**	
	GRAND TOTAL POINTS		**292 pts**	

Appendix A: Department of Ecology Region Offices

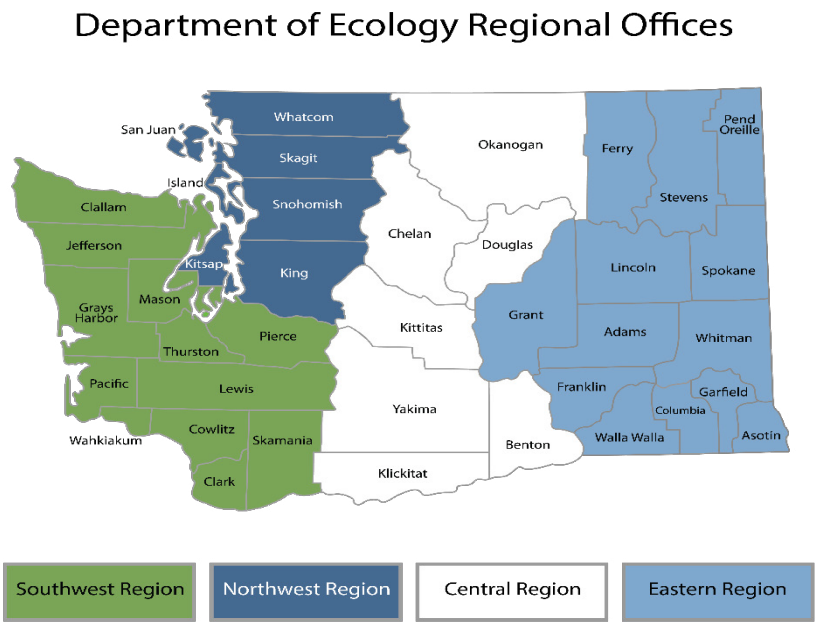

Figure 1. Map of Counties Served

Region	Counties served	Mailing address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum.	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom.	3190 160th Ave SE Bellevue, WA 98008	425-649-7000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima.	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman.	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400

Appendix B:
Water Right Holder/Landowner Acknowledgement Form

Project applicant information

Applicant name:

Project number/name:

Contact

First name: Last name: Title:

Mailing address:

E-mail address:

Property information

Address or Location:

County/Parcel Number:

Water right holder/Landowner information

Water right holder/Landowner name:

Representative

First name: Last name: Title:

Mailing address:

E-mail address:

1. (INSERT WATER RIGHT HOLDER/LANDOWNER NAME) is the legal owner of the water right/property described in the grant application being submitted to the Department of Ecology by the project applicant.
2. I am aware that the project being proposed in the grant application is my water right/on my property.
3. If a grant is successfully awarded, I will be contacted and asked to engage in negotiations.
4. My signature does not represent authorization of project implementation.
5. If I am affiliated with the project applicant, I will recuse myself from decisions made by the project applicant to work on or purchase my property/water right.
6. There are/are not (circle one) tenants on the property/others using water under this water right. Water users/Tenants displaced as a result of this project may be eligible for assistance.

_____ _____

Landowner/Representative Signature Date

Appendix C: Reference Material for Project Applicants

Consistency with watershed and community planning

Riparian and wetland restoration can be a critical part of streamflow restoration habitat projects. The design of habitat restoration components should be consistent with watershed-specific planning and conditions; and should be based on best practices identified in relevant manuals and guidance.

Salmon Recovery Lead Entities are key groups supporting watershed-based habitat restoration across the state. It will be very important to ensure that projects are in harmony with the habitat recovery objectives of the Lead Entity. For background and contact information see http://www.rco.wa.gov/salmon_recovery/lead_entities.shtml

Other sources of habitat information are DFW and tribal biologists familiar with your region. See https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regional-offices or WA State Tribes and Tribal Reservations Map https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gispublic/DataDownload/map_TribalReservation_statewide.pdf.

Documents providing best practices for habitat project design include:

- The Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines (2012), available at https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01374
- Ecology's Restoring Wetlands in Washington: A Guidebook for Wetland Restoration, Planning & Implementation (1993) at: https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/93017.html

Partner and stakeholder engagement

Applicants are required to engage all relevant partners and stakeholders early and often. This engagement and coordination should occur prior to submitting an application for funding, and during project development and implementation after receiving an award. While letters of support from partners and stakeholders are important, robust ongoing engagement from relevant partners and stakeholders are crucial to the success of your project. Successful applications will be founded on robust interaction with partners and stakeholders.

- If your project is in a chapter 90.94 RCW planning area, contact the appropriate planning unit or watershed restoration and enhancement committee. See more information here: https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Streamflow-restoration/Streamflow-restoration-planning.
- If your project impacts local flooding and flood control structures, contact floodplain managers in your region, including diking and drainage districts and flood control districts.
- If your project impacts salmon habitat, contact the Salmon Recovery Lead Entity and local Tribes in your region.
- Because tribal interests often lie outside any formal land boundaries, all projects should contact and consult with Tribes in the region of the project.
- If your project is located in the Puget Sound (except for the Skagit), contact the Local Integrating Organization Coordinator in that area.
- If your project impacts agricultural lands, contact local conservation districts, drainage districts, and/or farming organizations.

- If your project impacts water quality, contact Ecology Water Quality staff and the local conservation district for input.
- If your project impacts recreation, contact local user groups and/or local or state parks departments.

Climate change

Ecology encourages integrated approaches that consider climate impacts. Climate change is projected to result in highly variable patterns, with prolonged drought interspersed with years of heavy rain.[2] Washington State will experience reduced snowpack, increased stream temperatures, and changing ocean conditions.[3] These changing conditions are a significant concern for all aspects of streamflow restoration project management.

The extent and frequency of flooding is projected to increase in the future, resulting in higher flood risks to human communities, and further impacts to salmon populations.[4] Projected low summer flows may cause warmer water temperatures that exceed the thermal threshold for salmon.[5] Projected shifts in temperature and precipitation regimes are likely to compound existing stressors on habitats and salmon populations.[6]

Strong proposals and project designs should consider the effects of climate change and address future changes to hydrology, sediment delivery, and other factors that affect stream systems. Strong applications will:

- Identify critical impacts of climate change specific to the project area, or to partner and stakeholder interests. Many regions have completed vulnerability assessments or climate action plans that identify these key risks. In regions where these plans have not been completed, applicants can use the available regional data to make their best assessment of key impacts in their watershed.
- Incorporate climate projections into project modeling and design plans so that there is confidence that projects will continue to meet flood and ecosystem goals into the future.
- Proposals should discuss the specific effects of climate change resilience in the project or planning area, and describe how this information was used in project selection and design. Relevant information includes:
    - Citations of existing research or reports that are relevant to the project area.
    - Consideration of impacts observed during historical events that serve as an analog to future conditions (e.g., recent large flooding events, warming events/trends, etc.)
    - Description of how climate change predictions were incorporated and used during project site selection or design.
    - Where possible, models/projections of future climate change impacts.
    - Description of confidence in future flood, ecosystem and stream.

2 Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: The Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II (2018) https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/24/

3 Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: The Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II (2018) https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/24/

4 The Washington Climate Change Impacts Assessment: Evaluating Washington's Future in a Changing Climate **(2009) (Climate Impacts Group)**

5 The Washington Climate Change Impacts Assessment: Evaluating Washington's Future in a Changing Climate **(2009) (Climate Impacts Group)**

6 The Washington Climate Change Impacts Assessment: Evaluating Washington's Future in a Changing Climate **(2009) (Climate Impacts Group)**

Appendix D: Priority Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs)

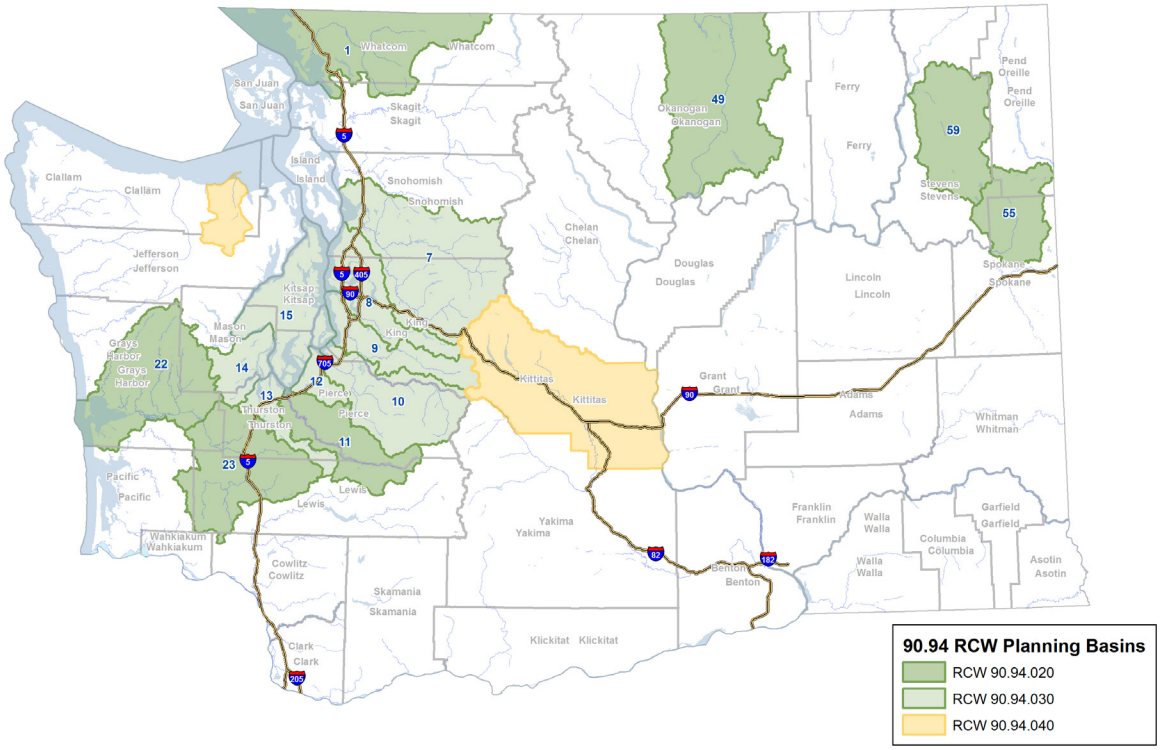

Figure 2. Basins prioritized for funding under chapter 90.94 RCW

The following basins have priority for funding under chapter 173-566 WAC:

WRIA 1 - Nooksack
WRIA 7- Snohomish
WRIA 8 - Cedar-Sammamish
WRIA 9 - Duwamish-Green
WRIA 10 - Puyallup-White
WRIA 11 - Nisqually
WRIA 12 - Chambers-Clover
WRIA 13 - Deschutes
WRIA 14 - Kennedy-Goldsborough
WRIA 15 - Kitsap
WRIA 22 - Lower Chehalis
WRIA 23 - Upper Chehalis
WRIA 49 - Okanogan
WRIA 55 - Little Spokane
WRIA 59 – Colville

And those areas of WRIAs 18 (the area regulated by chapter 173-518 WAC - Dungeness) and 39 (the Kittitas County water bank program area) designated in RCW 90.94.040 for metering pilot projects

Appendix E: MAR feasibility study details

This section provides guidance on the process and elements of a feasibility study, which is required as the first phase of a managed aquifer recharge project.

1. Development of technical memorandum and presentation of results

Task description: Information developed based upon the tasks listed below, is consolidated into a single technical memorandum that will be presented to Ecology for review. This report must clearly describe the aspects of the proposed MAR required to assess project feasibility.

2. Conduct preliminary site assessment

Task description: Evaluate proposed MAR site(s). The applicant will look for nearby well logs to evaluate aquifer head conditions, consult geologic maps to identify local aquifers, and collect any additional relevant data. The applicant will demonstrate that they have secured access to the site from the entities that own the property, to conduct on-site work and are arranging for long-term access to the property if the project ultimately moves forward. (See Appendix B.)

3. Delineate water source

Task description: Describe available water sources that can be developed for use in a MAR project. The water has to be physically and legally available, given constraints within the watershed (including an instream flow rule (WAC) or surface water source limitations (SWSL). If instream flows or stream closures exist, an analysis must confirm the presence of water in excess of the instream minimum flow as well as seasonal closure periods.

4. Conduct field investigation and analysis of MAR sites

Task description: This task involves doing field investigations and analyzing the resulting data in order to determine if hydrogeologic conditions will support a MAR project.

Field investigations may include, but are not limited to:

- Test pit investigations to evaluate subsurface conditions
- Infiltrometer testing to evaluate infiltration rates
- Monitoring well installations for conducting hydraulic tests, assessing water table elevations, and sampling groundwater to test water quality parameters.
- Surface water source flow measurements and availability analyses
- Water quality sampling of potential source waters

Assessment of water quality considerations

Task Description: Assess the source water and aquifer water compatibility, potential water quality changes that might occur during infiltration, and comply with Ecology's Water Quality Program guidance on MAR projects.

5. MAR permitting analysis

Task description: Identify all applications and permits required for project implementation, including, but not limited to, water right permits for source water, hydraulic project approval for instream work, water quality permits associated with source water infiltration, and grading and construction permits. The analysis will estimate the anticipated costs of obtaining the necessary permits as well as the timeline needed to acquire these permits.

Permit requirements for recharge facility designs, facility permitting, and compliance monitoring are anticipated to vary from site to site. The recommended permitting approach will be developed in coordination with Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other regulatory agencies as necessary.

6. Development of preliminary MAR project design

Task description: This task involves developing a preliminary MAR project design. The preliminary design summarizes project and design costs, project operational elements, expected infiltration quantities, expected timing and quantities of instream flow benefits, monitoring needs to support permit requirements and performance assessments, and includes relevant design drawings.

Preliminary design elements will include:

- Surface water collection and conveyance structures
- Infiltration basins and/or subsurface galleries
- Methods to limit diversions to periods of high water availability and available infiltration capacity
- Geotechnical considerations
- Electrical power access if needed
- Monitoring requirements
- Cost estimates for project permitting, construction, and implementation.

7. Determination of operation and maintenance (O&M) costs

Task description: O&M costs must be estimated for the proposed MAR project, and funding sources will need to be secured. O&M costs are ineligible for Streamflow Restoration grant funding.