# Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grant Applicant Resources

## Website

Visit the grants page 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

- Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants Guidance: 21-11-019
- Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans (Yellow Book): 17-01-004
- Landowner Acknowledgment Form: ECY 070-614
- Water Resources Program QAPP Template: 18-11-018
- Applying for Ecology Grants: YouTube
- EAGL User Manual: After registration and log in, you'll find this training tool in EAGL.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Scoring and eligibility

**Q: Which plans does the guidance refer to?**
A: The guidance refers to adopted streamflow restoration plans or plan amendments (also called watershed plans) that were required by the Streamflow Restoration law (chapter 90.94 RCW). This competitive grants initiative supports the local implementation of projects in watersheds that have adopted plans: WRIAs 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 22/23, 49, 55, and 59. Projects in these plans receive funding priority points under criteria 1.1. For more information, please visit the Streamflow Restoration planning website. These plans are different from salmon recovery plans and ecosystem restoration plans. If your project is in a different local plan, please explain that in your application as you may receive points under criteria 2.3. Since this is a statewide grant, we have funded projects outside of the 90.94 basins in both of the previous grant rounds.

**Q: When will the remaining streamflow restoration plans be adopted?**
A: Please see the Streamflow Restoration Planning Update for more information on the timeline to complete plans for WRIAs 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15.

**Q: Why does the scoring criteria prioritize projects in the basins in the Streamflow Restoration law (RCW 90.94)?**
A: The funding priority for projects in 90.94 basins (criteria 1.2) comes directly from RCW 90.94.080 and is described in the funding rule (WAC 173-566).

**Q: Are there any land ownership requirements?**

**A:** There are no land ownership requirements. We require signed landowner acknowledgement forms in the application for any projects that involve purchasing property or completing work on private property to show support for the project from the landowner.

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

**A:** Although fish barrier removal projects are eligible for this funding, we cannot fund projects that are required by another law or order. Please clearly describe the streamflow and instream resource benefits of a barrier removal and replacement project. 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.

**Q: How are feasibility projects scored?**

**A:** We score each project against the scoring criteria. We do not sort projects by project type. 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 all phases of the project are complete. 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.

**Funding**

**Q: When is the funding available?**

**A:** We expect to announce offers late August or early September 2022 and the funds will be available as soon as agreements are executed. After the offer letter, it may take several months to negotiate and finalize the agreement. There is no guarantee of any funding until an agreement is finalized. Final agreement budgets may differ from the amount requested in the application. Work done prior to signature on the grant agreement is at the applicant's own risk.

**Q: Can the 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 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 a match.

**Q: Does the funding cover indirect costs?**

A: Ecology grants cover indirect costs on recipient salaries and benefits. See Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans[1] (Yellow Book) for more information on indirect costs.

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[1] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1701004.html

**Q: What's the maximum duration of each project phase & upper funding request limit?**
A: There is no upper funding request limit. Ecology expects that project phases will be completed within three years of the agreement.

**Cultural Resources Review**

**Q: What project types require cultural resource reviews?**
**A:** Most funded projects will require cultural resources review. Cultural resources review must occur prior to the expenditure of any state funds culminating in construction, demolition or land acquisition. A broad range of activities can fall under construction. This includes geotechnical work and, in many cases, monitoring work. Appendix E of our grant guidance provides more information on cultural resources review.

**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 $2000 (a very small area of impact and less complex project) to $50,000 or more if the project is in a very high-risk area (or within a known site). Applicants may reach out to cultural resources consultants[2] to assist in budgeting or conducting a pre-review. Many will provide the service for a very low cost or no cost at all. Consultants can also be retained to provide a background study and provide recommendation for future study along with a budget.

**Q: What if my project requires review under Section 106 because it has a federal nexus (e.g. located on federal land, includes federal funding, will require a federal permit)?**
We will need to ensure that Section 106[3] review meets our standards, the review timeline is aligned with the project needs, and review covers the full scope and location of project activities. In some cases, we may need to complete additional review and consultation.

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[2] https://www.archaeologyinwashington.com/consultant-list.html
[3] https://www.achp.gov/protecting-historic-properties/section-106-process/introduction-section-106

DEPARTMENT OF
**ECOLOGY**
State of Washington

# Requirements by project type

### 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.

### 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

For projects that include environmental monitoring, recipients will need to submit a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) as an initial project component that meets Ecology standards for submitting environmental monitoring data (see Ecology Publication No. 17-11-013).

### Water storage

A managed aquifer recharge project requires a feasibility study.

### 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.

### Feasibility studies

A feasibility study for a managed aquifer recharge project must follow special requirements (see Appendix D).

Other feasibility studies are eligible with no special requirements.

To request a pre-application meeting for any project, email: sfrprjgrants@ecy.wa.gov.
**For more information, see Chapter 3: Applying for funding.**

## Important dates

**Applications accepted:** Nov. 2, 2021-Feb. 1, 2022, **5 p.m.**

Oct.-Nov. 2021: Applicant workshops. *Check webpage.*
Fall 2021-Jan 2022: Pre-application meetings. *Email to request by Dec. 17, 2021*.
Fall 2022: Offer letters.

Funding opportunity:

Water Resources Program
WRSRP 2022

Application number:

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