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## 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](https://ecology.wa.gov/streamflowgrants)

### Publications and other resources

Publications also found online at [ecology.wa.gov/pubs](https://ecology.wa.gov/pubs)

- [Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants Guidance](#): 23-11-015
- [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 User Manual: After registration and log in, you'll find this training tool in EAGL.

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## 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) 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, 9, 10, 11, 12, 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 2.3. 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: When will the remaining streamflow restoration plans be adopted?**

**A:** Please see the [Streamflow Restoration Planning Update<sup>1</sup>](#) 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)?**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2111015.html>

**A:** The funding priority for projects in RCW 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:** 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:** 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 in Fall 2024 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 the agreement is signed. 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 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 indirect costs on recipient salaries and benefits. See [Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans<sup>2</sup>](#) (Yellow Book) for more information on indirect costs.

**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 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 construction, demolition, or land acquisition. A broad range of activities can fall under construction, 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).<sup>3</sup>

**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 consulting firms to assist in budgeting or conducting a pre-review. Many will provide the service for little cost 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: 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)?**

**A:** We will need to ensure that [Section 106<sup>4</sup>](#) 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.

**Important dates**

- **Applications accepted:** Jan. 2, 2024 - Feb. 29, 2024, 5 p.m.
- Nov. 2023 - Jan. 2024: Applicant workshops. [Check grants webpage.](#)
- Fall 2023 - Feb. 2024: Pre-application meetings. *Email to request by Feb. 15, 2024.*
- Fall 2024: Offer letters.

<sup>2</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2301002.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://dahp.wa.gov/project-review/wisaard-washington-information-system-for-architectural-and-archeological-records-data>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.achp.gov/protecting-historic-properties/section-106-process/introduction-section-106>

## Requirements by project type

\*For projects that include collection of environmental data, analysis of existing environmental data, or that use such data to construct models, grant recipients must submit a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that meets Ecology standards (see Ecology Publication No. 04-03-030).



### Water right acquisitions

- Applicant must attend a pre-application meeting.
  - Email to set up: [sfrprjgrants@ecy.wa.gov](mailto: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

Environmental monitoring is typically a component of a larger project. Environmental data generated must be uploaded to Ecology’s Environmental Information Management (EIM) system annually.



### 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 completed ECY 070-741 form to: [sfrprjgrants@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sfrprjgrants@ecy.wa.gov).

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