



Watershed Planning Implementation and Flow Achievement Guidance Document

Introduction and Grant Request Program Overview

Ecology is seeking grant applications for the Watershed Planning Implementation and Flow Achievement 2015-17 Grant Funding Cycle. Applications are made through Ecology's Administration of Grants & Loans (EAGL) system. Applications are being accepted from February 1, 2015 through April 30, 2015. Funding under this program requires flow achievement, through either:

- Increased flows below the project site.
- Improving instream and riparian zone conditions, such as enhancing fish passage or habitat.
- Reorganizing or concentrating existing points of diversion.
- Establishing water banks, water exchanges or pursuing trust water opportunities.
- Improving public water supply or irrigation district infrastructure that leads to water savings.
- Purchasing and installing meters, stream gages or groundwater monitoring equipments when water savings and or efficiencies can be expected short or long term.

Background

The Legislature has provided funding for projects that improve water supplies by implementing watershed plans, or that improve stream flows, or instream habitat conditions.

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects include (limitations on eligibility apply):

- **Infrastructure Projects:** Funding covers construction costs plus final design and engineering costs. Funding is limited to those construction projects that improve instream flow by protecting the net water saving in the State Trust Water Right Program, or that provide other instream benefits, such as habitat improvements that remove instream barriers or otherwise improve instream habitat.
- **Water Storage Feasibility Studies:** Funding is limited to studies that address water supply projects. These studies should address water supply availability, site location, preliminary engineering and design, necessary permits, cost estimates, and funding options.

- **Water Acquisition:** Funding for water right acquisition is limited to the fair market price of the portion of the water right that has been put to beneficial use. This category can also include set-up costs for approved water banking/exchange programs. (Set-up costs include: developing an outreach plan; conducting a market survey of potential interest of water supply availability; preparing a water exchange strategy and funding structure; preparing a water exchange design; testing the practicability of buying and selling water; and developing a mechanism for negotiating agreements to buy water.
- **Water Metering:** Funding for water metering is limited to providing cost share for the purchase and installation of water sources meters for existing water right holders to meet the settlement agreement to measure 80% of the water use in fish critical river basins or to measure exempt well use in river basins that require exempt wells to be measure in the adopted instream flow rule.
- **Monitoring Wells:** Funding for monitoring wells is limited to the cost of purchase and installation of monitoring wells where there is insufficient data to determine the effect of groundwater withdrawals of surface water flows.

Ineligible Projects

- Projects considered Operations and Maintenance, including administration, monitoring, and oversight.
- Projects that do not improve **both** water supplies and instream habitat conditions.

Grant Request Eligibility

Watershed planning groups, local government partners, tribal nations, and other political subdivisions of the state, that are within a State of Washington Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA).

Ecology will prioritize grant requests as follows:

First priority:

- Grant requests from watershed planning groups with watershed plans that were legally adopted by a board of county commissioners having jurisdiction in the watershed.
- Grant requests from watershed planning groups that expect a watershed plan will be adopted by board(s) of county commissioners before July 1, 2015.

Second priority:

- Grant requests from local governments that worked with a watershed planning group where a draft watershed plan was completed but was not acted on by a board of county commissioners having jurisdiction in the WRIA.
- Grant requests from local governments or planning groups in WRIA's that are experiencing water supply shortages.

For More Information Contact:

Jim Skalski
 Voice: (360) 407-6617
 Email: jaska461@ecy.wa.gov

Rose Bennett
 Voice: (360) 407-6027
 Email: rben461@ecy.wa.gov