

2008 Columbia River Basin Water Management Funding Package

The Department of Ecology is authorizing funding for eighteen water resources projects in the Columbia River Basin in 2008. Totalling \$46.4 million, the funding will pay for studies and construction costs for water conservation and storage projects.

Recipients were selected from among a large group of applicants. Each proposal was thoroughly investigated by Ecology staff over a period of months. Ecology also consulted with the Columbia River Basin Water Management Policy Advisory Group, a committee comprised of representatives from federal, state, local and tribal governments and business, agricultural, and environmental interests, before making the final selection.

To ensure awards are used efficiently, funding will be allocated in phases. Recipients will be required to meet set milestones before projects will move forward.

Money to fund the projects comes from the Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development Account. The account was created by the legislature in 2006 to fund water storage and conservation projects within the Columbia River Basin.

Economic and Environmental Benefits

These investments in our water infrastructure have the potential to provide the following benefits:

- Construction projects could result in as much as 7,435 acre-feet (ac-ft) of additional water to enhance instream flows for fish and 1,449 ac-ft for out-of-stream uses like irrigation.
- The feasibility studies being funded could yield millions of acre-feet of water for both instream and out of stream uses if the projects are constructed.
- The \$46.4 million in funding is expected to generate near term economic activity valued at \$87 million.
- The longer term value of permanent water may have a value of as much as \$2.8 billion.

OCR Program Vision

Preserve and enhance the standard of living for the people of Washington by strengthening the state's economy, and restoring and protecting the Columbia Basin's unique natural environment.

OCR Program Mission

Aggressively pursue development of water supplies to benefit both instream and out-of-stream water uses.

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More Information

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/crwmp.html>

Special Accommodations:

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Project List

The following projects have qualified for funding via a competitive grant program administered by Ecology.

Barker Ranch, \$5.6 Million

Water delivery would be made more efficient by converting open ditches to a closed pipe system. The increased efficiency would allow Barker Ranch in Benton County to divert less water from the Yakima River, adding an additional 6,436 ac-ft of water to stream flows when fish need it the most.



Lincoln County Passive Rehydration, \$925,000

The funding will study the feasibility of rehydrating aquifers in Lincoln and Adams counties. The study will look at diverting water into a dry stream to facilitate percolation into the aquifers for storage until needed.

Foster Creek Surface Water Storage, \$93,750

The grant will fund studies of two potential water storage sites in Douglas County, one at Rock Island Creek and the other Foster Coulee. The Rock Island Creek Site would store approximately 60,000 ac-ft of water. Depending on the configuration of the impoundments, the Foster Coulee site would provide storage for 96,250 to 194,700 ac-ft.

Mill Creek Water Storage Project, \$125,000

The grant will be used to examine the feasibility of a water storage site in Stevens County. Various dam heights will be studied with storage capacities ranging from 2,050 to 10,700 ac-ft.

Rock Lake Water Supply and Habitat Enhancement Study, \$124,000

Funds will be provided to study the potential for small storage at Rock Lake in Whitman County. As much as 110,000 ac-ft of storage may be available.

Manastash Creek Restoration Project: Manastash Ditch, \$376,000

The grant will help pay for piping the Manastash Water Ditch Association's earthen unlined ditch from the Kittitas Reclamation District's South Branch to Hanson Road, approximately 4,440 feet. The resulting gain in efficiency would add 454 ac-ft to stream flows.

Boise Wallula Aquifer Storage Project, \$4.5 Million

Funding will be provided to build an aquifer storage system in Walla Walla County. Water used for cooling a paper plant would be pumped into the aquifer and stored for later released as cold water into the river. The system would also provide a water savings of 1,657 ac-ft.

The Lands Council Beaver Population Enhancement and Water Storage, \$30,000

The grant will pay for a study examining natural ways to retime spring runoff in North Eastern

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Washington. Specifically, it will determine if wetlands created by beavers could be used to slow runoff so that more water arrives at the Columbia River during the summer when it is needed. A pilot study will determine how much storage is feasible through a voluntary beaver introduction program.

White Salmon Buck Creek to Grand Ronde Aquifer ASR, \$956,950

Funding is granted for construction of an aquifer storage system to inject surplus water during the winter months into wells along the White Salmon River in Klickitat County. The water would be withdrawn during the summer months to supplement in-stream flows in the White Salmon River.

Campbell Creek Reservoir, \$250,000

Grant monies will be expended to study construction of an off-stream reservoir that would store 500 ac-ft of water and release it to the Peshastin Irrigation District to supplant Peshastin Creek diversions in Chelan County. Releases would occur in July through September.

Franklin CD Irrigation Water Management, \$78,000

The grant funds a study to document and develop a program to capture the conserved water that could be gained by implementing Irrigation Water Management. It is estimated that the methods studied could yield as much as 394,400 ac-ft of water savings.

Storage at Goose Lake and 9 Mile Flat, \$600,000

Funding is provided for an appraisal study of two possible surface water storage sites in Okanogan and Ferry Counties. The sites would be capable of storing more than one million ac-ft, each. Water would be pumped from the Columbia River to the storage sites on Colville Tribal lands.



Horse Heaven Hills Surface Storage & Conveyance, \$170,000

The grant funds an appraisal study of diverting water from the John Day-McNary Pool during the winter and spring months to a new surface storage site in the Glade- Fourmile Sub-basin in Benton and Klickitat counties. A new conveyance system will also be studied.

Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie, \$250,000

Funding is granted for analysis of the viability of aquifer storage and recovery in the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) aquifer. The project will assess whether water diverted from the Spokane River or Lake Pend Oreille during high flow periods can be injected into the SVRP aquifer and gravity drain back to the Columbia River.

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The following projects are being funded in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Kennewick Irrigation District, and the Colville Indian Tribe.

Pinto Dam & Upper Crab Creek, \$10 Million

The allocation pays for modifications to Pinto Dam in Grant County. They are needed to allow larger flows into Upper Crab Creek. Likewise, road culvert replacement, land acquisition and the relocation of existing structures are necessary because of the increased flows in the creek and the increased flooding risk associated with them.



Odessa Subarea Special Study, \$6 Million

The funds will be used to complete an environmental impact statement, a planning report, and other associated studies Ecology is conducting with Reclamation. The study examines a number of options for replacing groundwater with surface water for use in irrigation. Finding a new water source for the Odessa Subarea is important because declining aquifers in the region could cost the state as much as \$630 million annually in regional sales and 3,600 jobs.

KID Pump Exchange, \$15 Million

The funding, along with proposed federal and local funding would pay for new pump stations at Kiona and Edison Street in Benton County. Kennewick Irrigation District would forego a portion of their diversion at Prosser Dam in exchange for equal diversions lower on the Yakima and Columbia Rivers. The project will increase stream flows in a critical stretch of the Yakima River and provide irrigation to Red Mountain.

Mitigation Projects related to the Colville Tribes Agreement, \$1.3 Million

One-time fisheries, cultural resources, and parks mitigation funding is incorporated in the state's agreement with the Colville Tribes for storage releases from Lake Roosevelt.

