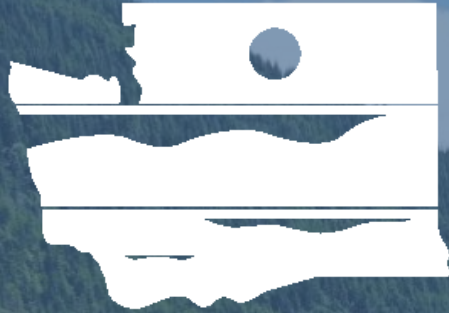




DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

2026 Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants



Photo Credit: LCFEG

Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants Overview

- **15 Year Competitive Grant Program**
\$300 M Legislatively Authorized
 - Pilot Round (2018/2019)
 - 2nd Round (2020)
 - 3rd Round (2021/2022)
 - 4th Round (2023/2024)
 - 5th Round (2025/2026) – Current: \$40 million
- **Statewide Opportunity**
- **Funding Rule**
 - Chapter 173-566 WAC
- **Funding Guidance**
 - Publication 25-11-021

South Fork Toutle River Restoration (LCFEG)



Updated Funding Priorities

- Projects that actively manage water to improve streamflow.
- Projects in adopted watershed plans, or in a designated RCW 90.94.040 metering pilot area.
- Projects that benefit native fish or aquatic species of concern, including threatened or endangered salmonids.
- Projects that benefit overburdened communities or vulnerable populations.



Updates to the 2026 Guidance

Scoring Criteria Updates

Updates reduced redundancy and added new criteria for emerging program priorities.

- Emphasis on **climate and drought resilience, tribal engagement, overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.**
- Applicants must use the **WA Environmental Health Disparities Map** to identify overburdened/vulnerable populations.
- Changes of note:
 - Priority points for projects in planning WRIAs removed. Project in adopted RCW 90.94 plans/rulemaking receive additional priority.
 - Quantitative improvements to streamflows now limited to active water management. Projects that rely on restoration of natural watershed functions and passive response of the hydrologic system to improve streamflows do not gain points under criteria 1.2.
 - Projects no longer gain points for monitoring components.
 - Increased points for tribal and stakeholder engagement

Updates to Project Type Requirements

- Water storage projects require phased approach.
- New Appendix G for water right acquisition appraisal requirements.



Eligible Applicants

- Washington state agencies
- Local governments
- Quasi-governments in the state
- Federal agencies
- Tribal governments with reservation lands or treaty rights in Washington
- Non-profit organizations

Project Types



Water right acquisitions.



Water storage, (e.g. managed aquifer recharge, surface storage, cisterns, etc.)



Altered water management or infrastructure.



Watershed function, riparian and fish habitat improvement.



Feasibility studies.



Environmental monitoring.

Grant Round Timeline



Applicant Resources

- Webpage: ecology.wa.gov/streamflowgrants
 - Applicant workshop dates and how to register.
 - Sign up for email list!
- Workshop materials will be available online
 - Funding guidelines ([Publication 25-11-021](#))
 - Workshop handout (coming soon)
 - Applicant prep tool (coming soon)
 - Recording of 2025 applicant workshop available mid-November.

Pre-Application Meetings

- Discuss project with Ecology prior to applying.
- Required for water right acquisition projects.
- Optional for all other projects but encouraged for:
 - Land acquisition
 - Managed aquifer recharge
 - Aquifer storage recovery
 - Groundwater augmentation
 - Stormwater infiltration



How to Request a Pre-App Meeting?

1. Complete a [pre-application meeting request form](#).
2. Email it to sfrprjgrants@ecy.wa.gov by **Mar. 3, 2026**.





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Thank you!

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Webpages:

ecology.wa.gov/StreamflowRestoration

ecology.wa.gov/StreamflowGrants