

Project Development Resources

Water Quality Program



In an effort to help applicants develop better project ideas and more competitive applications, Ecology SWRO Water Quality Team has compiled a suite of resources for watershed stakeholders and applicants.

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Interested in Getting Started?

Ecology Funding Opportunities

Ecology has many grant and loan opportunities to help local partners protect, preserve, and enhance the environment for current and future generations.

- Ecology Find a Grant or Loan
<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan>
- Ecology Grant and Loan Guidance
<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Grant-loan-guidance>
- EAGL Public Map (2014-present)
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/eaglmap/>

Administrative Requirements

- Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans (Yellow Book)
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1701004.html>
- EAGL User Manual
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1701015.html>

Coastal Protection Fund - Terry Husseman Account (THA)

THA grants support locally sponsored projects that restore or enhance the natural environment. Typical projects address water quality issues and fish and wildlife habitat protection or enhancement in or adjacent to waters of the state, such as streams, lakes, wetlands, or the ocean. To be considered, projects must provide primary benefits to public resources (land or water stewardship) and affiliated infrastructure.

<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Coastal-protection-fund>

Water Quality Combined Funding Program (WQC)

Ecology's Water Quality Program awards grants and loans on a competitive basis for high priority water quality projects throughout Washington State. Ecology administers the four main funding programs that make up the Water Quality Combined Funding Program (Combined Funding Program) through an integrated annual funding cycle. The Combined Funding Program includes the following four funding programs:

- The Centennial Clean Water Program (Centennial).
- The Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program (Section 319).
- The Washington State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Program; a.k.a., Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).
- Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (SFAP).

Since 2015, Ecology's SWRO has offered \$103 million in grants and loans to fund nonpoint activity projects (\$50 million requested). Each biennium, the Water Quality Program publishes a report documenting the outcomes across the state.

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2010013.html>

- General Resources for Water Quality Grants and Loans
<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Water-Quality-grants-and-loans/General-resources>
- Water Quality Grants and Loans Email List
https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_84

- WQC Funding Cycles and Guidelines
<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Water-Quality-Combined-Funding-Program/WQC-funding-cycle>
 - FY2024 Funding Guidelines
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2210016.html>
 - FY2024 Application Preparation Tool
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/SFY24--Applicant%20Prep%20Tool%20and%20Scoring%20Criteria-Guidance.docx
 - FY2024 Terms and Conditions of Funding Agreements
 Reference Appendix F of the FY2024 Funding Guidelines
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2210016.html>

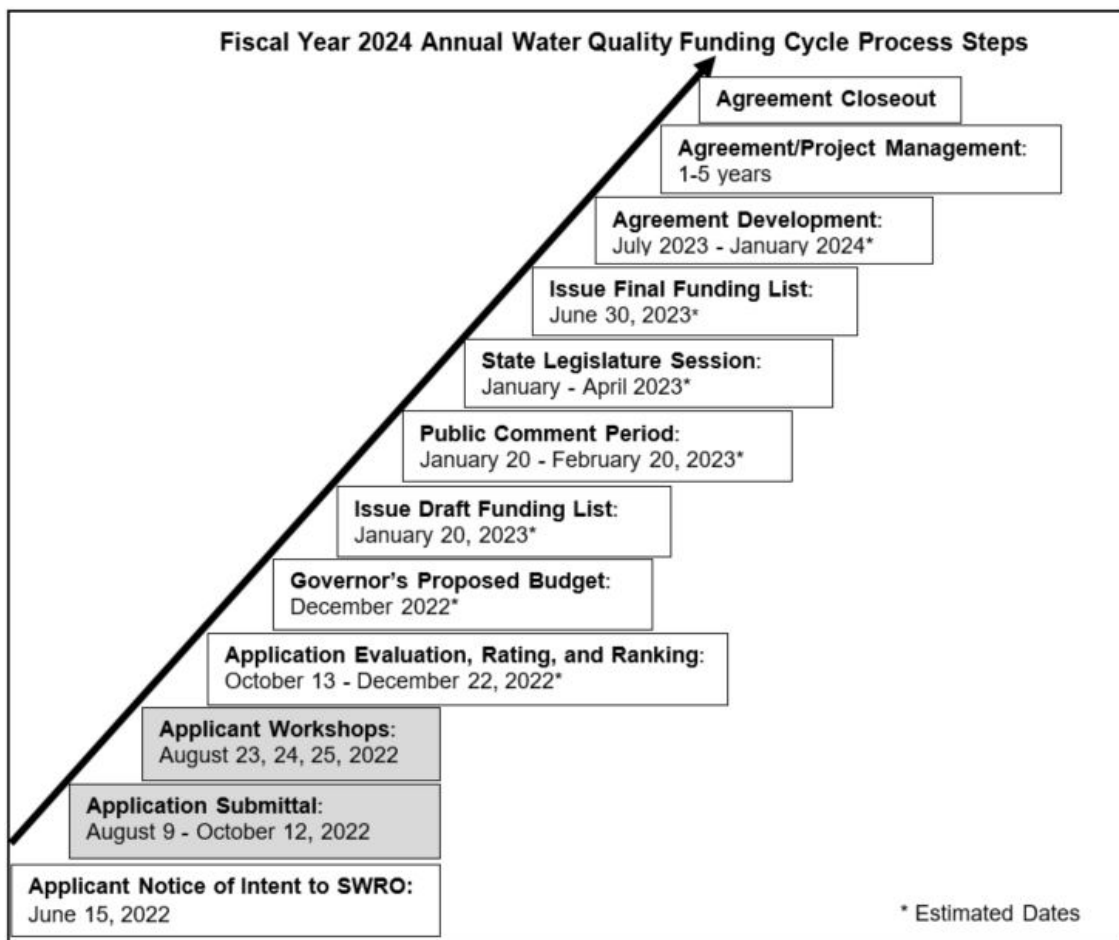


Figure 1: The SFY2024 Funding Cycle

Early Coordination with SWRO

- Call for Projects – May 2, 2022
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/2024_CallForProjects_SWRO.pdf
- Notice of Intent to SWRO – Due June 15, 2022
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/2024_NoticeofIntentSWRO.docx

Applicant Notice of Intent – SFY 2024

Water Quality Program



Ecology requests that each applicant submits a Notice of Intent (NOI) by June 15, 2022 via email to leanne.whitesell@ecy.wa.gov, with the information below. It is recommended that you review the [funding guidelines](#) before submitting the NOI and copy your TMDL Lead or Nonpoint Specialist ([Table 1](#)) on the email. Ecology will review NOIs and provide feedback on completeness and eligibility by mid-July. Applicants may withdraw their NOI at any time and are not obligated to submit an application.

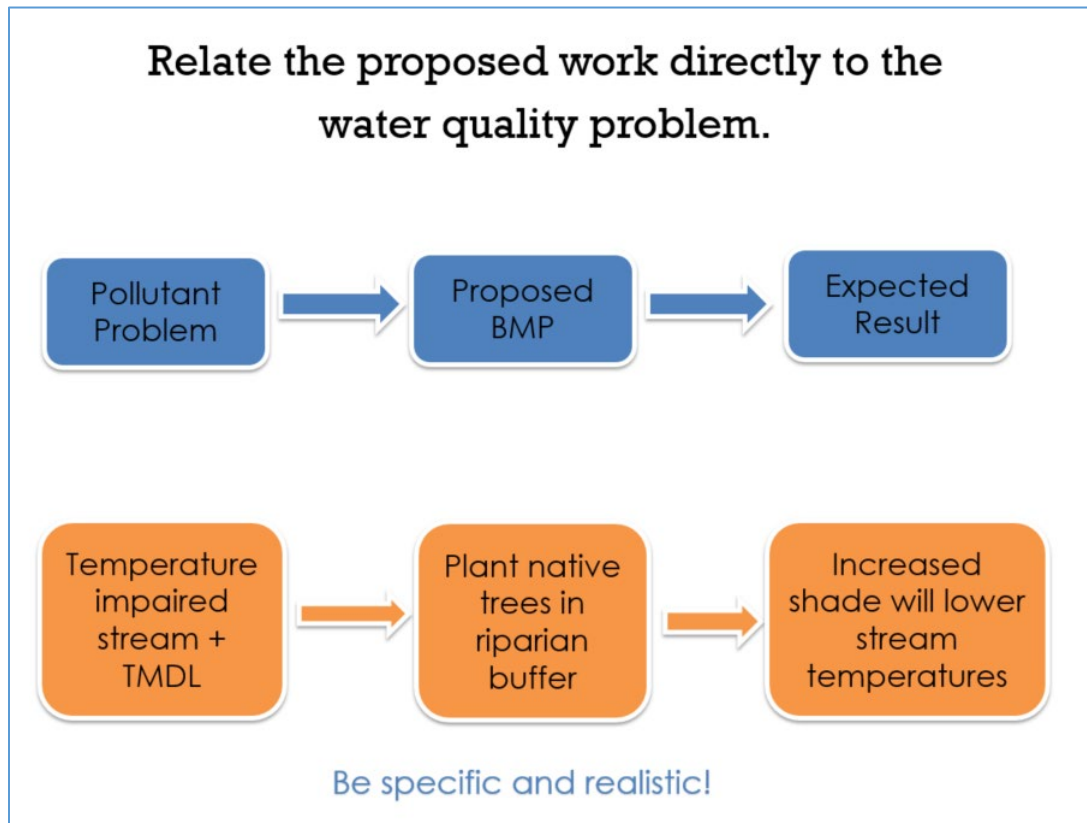
Contact Information for SWRO Nonpoint Team

Role	Name	Email	Phone
Regional Fund Coordinator <i>Nonpoint Activity Projects</i>	Leanne Whitesell	Leaw461@ecy.wa.gov	(360) 995-2812
TMDL Lead <i>WRIAs 10-13</i>	Donovan Gray	Dogr461@ecy.wa.gov	(360) 790-3840
TMDL Lead <i>WRIAs 13; 17-21</i>	Ben Watson	Bwat461@ecy.wa.gov	(360) 480-9358
TMDL Lead/Unit Supervisor <i>WRIAs 14 and 16</i>	Lawrence Sullivan	Lsul461@ecy.wa.gov	(564) 999-3585
TMDL Lead <i>WRIAs 22-29</i>	Nate Woodard	Natw461@ecy.wa.gov	(360) 409-6693
Nonpoint Specialists <i>Puget Sound</i>	Anne Baxter	Abax461@ecy.wa.gov	(360) 742-9704
	Alena Reynolds	Arey461@ecy.wa.gov	(360) 480-6099
	Casey Vaughn	Cvau461@ecy.wa.gov	(564) 200-2817
Nonpoint Specialists <i>Pacific Ocean & Columbia River</i>	Heather Patt	Hpat461@ecy.wa.gov	(360) 819-6558
	Hannah Coe	Hcoe461@ecy.wa.gov	(360) 918-4958
Watershed Resources Unit Supervisor	Sheila Marcoe	Smar461@ecy.wa.gov	(360) 522-2987

Develop a Project

Water Quality and Public Health Improvements

Ecology evaluates applications based on the final result of the proposed project. It's important to clearly identify and connect the water quality problem (pollutant), proposed solution, and expected results. This section is worth more than 50% of the total application score.



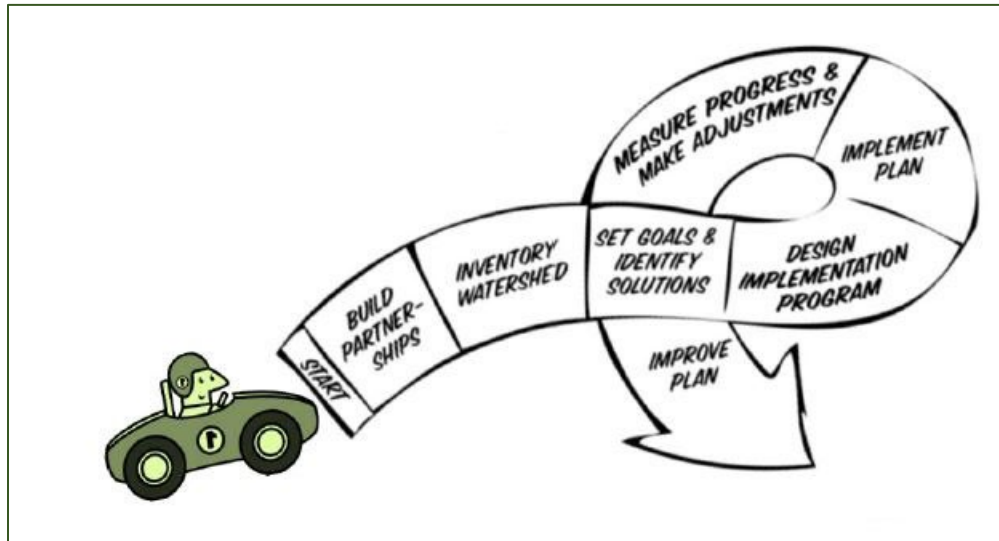
Reference slides 24-45 from the Project Development Workshop Presentation (May 15, 2019)
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/GrantProjectDevelopmentWorkshopPresentation_EFLR_June2019.pdf

Project Planning

All proposed nonpoint source activity projects must implement an element of a state or local plan directed at addressing water quality issues, such as a watershed management plan, nonpoint source pollution control plan, Salmon Recovery Plan, Orca Recovery Plan, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL)/TMDL Alternative/Straight to Implementation (STI) Support Projects, etc.

All Section 319 grants and many Centennial Clean Water grants must implement a plan that meets U.S. EPA's 9 Minimum Elements of Watershed-Based Plans.

https://cfpub.epa.gov/watertrain/moduleFrame.cfm?parent_object_id=2868&object_id=2873#2873



Mapping Tools

- ECY Water Quality Atlas
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/waterqualityatlas/StartPage.aspx>
- ECY Water Quality Assessment Database
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/ApprovedWQA/ApprovedPages/ApprovedSearch.aspx>
- ECY Coastal Atlas
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/coastalatlas/>
- ECY WRIA Finder
<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Water-availability/Watershed-look-up>
- ECY Riparian Buffer Width Map
<http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=d5478a4aaf704d81bac63ffc934e1549>
- DNR Forest Practices Application Map
<https://fpamt.dnr.wa.gov/default.aspx>
- WDFW SalmonScape
<https://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/salmonscape/>
- WDFW Priority Habitat Species
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/phs/maps>
- DAHP WISAARD
<https://dahp.wa.gov/project-review/wisaard-system>
- EPA EJ Screening
<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>
- DOH Washington Tracking Network
<https://doh.wa.gov/data-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/information-location>

Load Reduction Reporting (Section 319 and matching Centennial grants only)

Many nonpoint activity projects are required to report load reductions for all projects implemented at least annually.

<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Water-Quality-grants-and-loans/Nonpoint-source-activity-projects/Nonpoint-source-project-resources>

- PowerPoint Overview of Section 319 Grant Reporting Requirements
- PowerPoint Guide to Using STEPL for Load Reduction Reporting
- Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Loads (STEPL)

Readiness to Proceed

Identify projects and willing landowners.

- Landowner Agreement
<https://ecology.wa.gov/Asset-Collections/Doc-Assets/Water-quality/Grants-and-Loans/Nonpoint-Ressources/Example-Land-Owner-Agreement-for-Cent-and-Section>
- Landowner Acknowledgement form
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/LandownerAcknowledgementForm.pdf

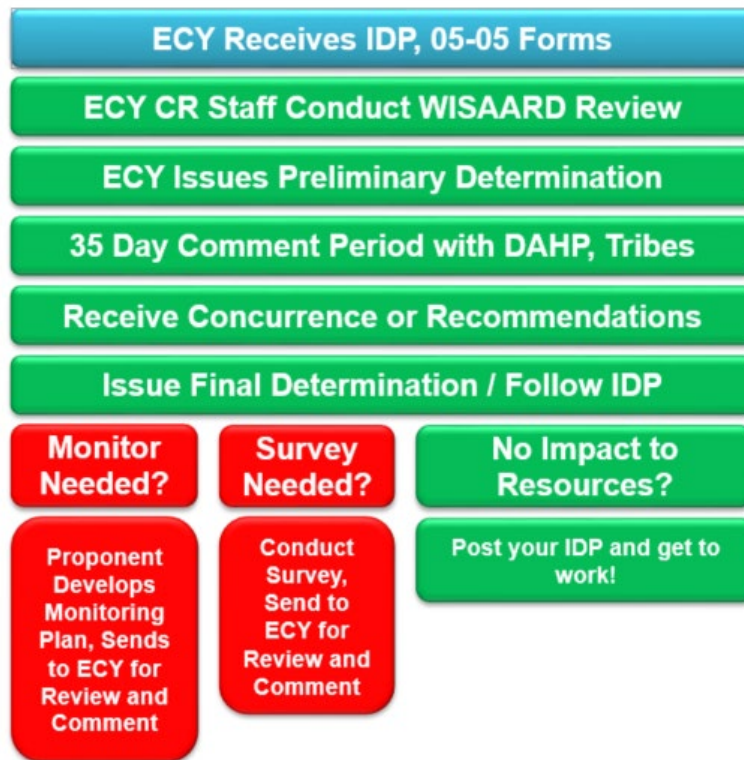
Cultural Resource Review

Planning for cultural resources is an incredibly important component of developing a project proposal. It can be the difference of whether your project is implemented or not.

<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Water-Quality-grants-and-loans/Environmental-review>

- Ecology's Cultural Review Form (July 2021)
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070537.html>
- Public Inadvertent Discovery Plan (June 2021)
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070560.html>
- Cultural Resources Field Guide
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/IDP%20tri-fold.pdf

How Does Review Work?



Reference slides 56-76 from the Project Development Workshop Presentation (May 15, 2019)
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/GrantProjectDevelopmentWorkshopPresentation_EFLR_June2019.pdf

- DAHP WISAARD
<https://dahp.wa.gov/project-review/wisaard-system>

Scope of Work

Eligible Nonpoint Activity Projects

Reference Section 2.5 of the FY2024 Funding Guidelines

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2210016.html>

Reference slides 78-86 from the Project Development Workshop Presentation (May 15, 2019)

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/GrantProjectDevelopmentWorkshopPresentation_EFLR_June2019.pdf

Restoration and Best Management Practices

- BMP Approval Form
 - <https://ecology.wa.gov/Asset-Collections/Doc-Assets/Water-quality/Grants-and-Loans/Gen-Resources/BMP-Approval-Form>
 - Example from Pierce Conservation District
 - https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/Example_PierceCD_SignedBMPApprovalForm.pdf
 - Example from Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
 - https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/Example_LCEP_SignedBMPApprovalForm.pdf

- Landowner Agreement
 - <https://ecology.wa.gov/Asset-Collections/Doc-Assets/Water-quality/Grants-and-Loans/Nonpoint-Ressources/Example-Land-Owner-Agreement-for-Cent-and-Section>

- Riparian Planting Plan
 - https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/RiparianPlantingPlan.docx
 - Example from Pierce Conservation District
 - https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/Example_PierceCD_SouthPrairie_RiparianPlantingPlan.pdf
 - Example from Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
 - https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/Example_LCEP_Meadowbrook_RiparianPlantingPlan.pdf

- Vegetation Maintenance Plan
 - Example from Pierce Conservation District
 - https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/Example_PierceCD_SouthPrairie_VegetationManagementPlan.pdf
 - Example from Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
 - https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/Example_LCEP_Meadowbrook_VegetationMaintenance.pdf

Deliverables for Engineering and Construction Projects

Scroll down to “Forms and Materials” <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Water-Quality-grants-and-loans/General-resources>

- Design Deliverable for Stormwater Projects
- Design Deliverables Checklist
- Stormwater Construction Completion Form
- Stormwater Grant Program Bid Specification Clause
- Stormwater Grant Program Bid Insert

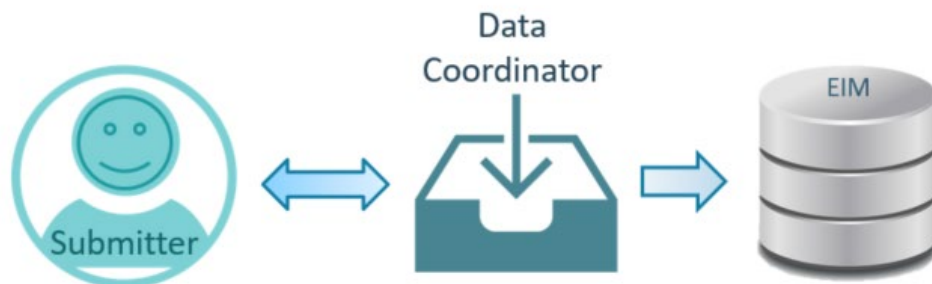
Water Quality Monitoring

WQC Recipients should follow the same guidance that applies to National Estuary Program (NEP) Recipients

<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Scientific-services/Quality-assurance/Quality-assurance-for-NEP-grantees>

- Quality Assurance Project Plan template
- QAPP Review Checklist
- Examples of Quality Assurance Project Plans links to well-written QAPPs for completed projects.
- Guidelines for Preparing Quality Assurance Project Plans for Environmental Studies is a downloadable Ecology publication that provides detailed guidance on preparing a QAPP.
- Laboratory accreditation
- Environmental Information Management (EIM) database
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/eim/help/>

Submittal Process



Budget

- Funding Limitations and Match Requirements for grants - Reference Sections 3.3 and 3.4 of the FY2024 Funding Guidelines
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2210016.html>
- Project Funds Calculator (for grants with a match requirement)
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/ProjectFundsCalculator.xlsx

Project Funds Calculator	
A 25% (non-Federal) in-kind or cash match of the total project cost is required for all grant projects. Use these equations when calculating match, grant funds, and total project cost:	
If you want to know how much match is required for the amount of grant money a RECIPIENT is requesting, enter the grant funds request into the light blue box and the yellow box will show matching funds needed for the expenditures.	
Grant Funds Requested	\$250,000.00
Matching Funds Required	\$83,333.33
Total Project Cost	\$333,333.33
If you know how much match a RECIPIENT can provide and need to know the maximum grant funds that the RECIPIENT can request, enter the match value into the yellow box and the light blue box will show grant funds that RECIPIENT can request.	
Matching Funds Available	\$50,000.00
Grant Funds to Request	\$150,000.00
Total Project Cost	\$200,000.00
If you know how much the total project will cost and want to know the maximum Ecology share and corresponding RECIPIENT match, enter the total project cost in the green box. The light blue box will show the maximum grant funds that can be awarded.	
Total Project Cost	\$300,000.00
Ecology Share	\$225,000.00
Recipient Match	\$75,000.00

- Example Budget from Thurston Conservation District
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/BudgetTemplate.xlsx
- Washington State EQIP BMP Costs - FY2022
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=NRCSEPRD1855291&ext=pdf

Schedule

Ecology grant terms are a maximum of 36 months. Schedules should include deliverables and milestones broken down monthly or quarterly. Activities in the schedule must align with the water quality problem, scope of work, and budget.

- Example Schedule from Pierce County – Public Works
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/ExampleSchedule_PierceCounty_DiruCreek_00006.xlsx

			July	Aug	Sep	Oct	
			2019				
Task	Description	Due Date					
1.1	Progress Reports that include descriptions of work accomplished, project challenges or changes in the project schedule. Submitted at least quarterly.	10/31/2019					x
1.2	Recipient Closeout Report (EAGL Form)	1/29/2021					
1.3	Two-page Outcome Summary Report	1/29/2021					
2	Design Plans and Specs, Environmental Review						
2.1	Complete SEPA determination. Upload copy of SEPA determination documentation to EAGL and notify ECOLOGY upon completion.	1/3/2020					
2.2	Complete DAHP EZ-1 Form or ECOLOGY's ECY 05-05/106 form. Upload form along with applicable supplemental cultural resources documentation, if available. Notify ECOLOGY.	10/31/2019					x
2.3	Develop Inadvertent Discovery Plan, upload to EAGL, and notify ECOLOGY.	10/31/2020					x
2.4	Complete a Stormwater Project Design Report. Submit one hard copy to ECOLOGY engineer, along with a digital copy uploaded to EAGL. Notify ECOLOGY.	7/19/2019	x				
2.5	Prepare responses to ECOLOGY Stormwater Project Design Report comments. Upload response to EAGL and notify ECOLOGY.	8/30/2019		x			
2.6	Upload Ecology Design Report Acceptance Letter to EAGL and notify ECOLOGY.	9/27/2019			x		
2.7	Prepare 90% Design Package to detail the completed final design. Upload to EAGL and notify ECOLOGY.	10/1/2019					x

Examples of Funded Applications

The Ecology SWRO Water Quality Team believes that the following documents are good examples of nonpoint activity applications that demonstrated both the benefits to water quality and the feasibility of the project being completed. These applications scored over 800 points and we hope they help applicants see real proposals in comparison to the WQC scoring criteria. However, keep in mind that simply copying these examples does not guarantee success. The content must still make sense in the context of the overall proposal and you must be able to deliver on the commitments made in the application. Examples of budgets, schedules, letters of support, other uploads, and evaluation scorecards are not provided here but can be obtained by directly contacting the applicant organization or by completing a public records request: <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accountability-transparency/Public-records-requests>.

- Clark Conservation District: Poop Smart Clark Pollution Identification and Correction Program
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/fundedapplication_ClarCD_00025.pdf
- Clark County - Public Works Department: Heritage Farm Wetland Restoration
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/fundedapplication_ClarkCounty_00032.pdf
- Clark County - Public Works Department: East Fork Lewis River Schriber Riparian Reforestation Project
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/fundedapplication_ClarkCounty_00033.pdf
- Clark Public Utility District: McCormick Creek Restoration Project
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/fundedapplication_ClarkPUD_00160.pdf
- Grays Harbor Conservation District: Water Quality Enhancement Strategy for Satsop/Wynoochee
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/fundedapplication_GraysHarborCD_00074.pdf
- Ilwaco, city of: Bear Ridge Community Forest Watershed Protection Project
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/fundedapplication_Ilwaco-00152.pdf
- Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group: South Fork Toutle – Brownell Riparian Restoration
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/fundedapplication_LCFEG-00134.pdf

- Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership: Burnt Bridge Creek Water Quality, Education, and Restoration Project
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/fundedapplication_LCEP-00164.pdf
- Pierce County - Public Works and Utility Department: Diru Creek Bank Stabilization Project at 72nd
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/fundedapplication_PierceCounty_00006.pdf
- Pierce County – Public Works and Utility Department: Rody Creek Channel Stabilization (Between 80th and 72nd ST E)
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/fundedapplication_PiCoPW-00035.pdf
- Tumwater, city of: Pioneer Park Restoration
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/fundedapplication_Tumwat-00092.pdf
- Watershed Alliance: Improving Shade and Temperature Deficits – Middle East Fork Lewis River
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/fundedapplication_Waters_00002.pdf
- Vancouver, city of: Burnt Bridge Creek Critical Lands Acquisition
https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1962/Documents/EastForkLewisRiver/fundedapplication_Vancouver-00186.pdf

Reference Chapter 5 of the FY2024 Funding Guidelines for the application scoring criteria.

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2210016.html>

Additional Funding Opportunities

There are many other federal, state, and local sources of funding to help address natural resource concerns in your watershed.

- **Washington Water and Salmon Fund Finder**
This is a grant and loan search tool that stores 63 unique natural resource funding opportunities in Washington.
<https://data.wa.gov/stories/s/Washington-Water-Salmon-Fundfinder/xcku-b9qq/>
- **USDA Farm Service Agency**
FSA oversees 7 voluntary conservation-related programs that offer financial and technical assistance.
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/index>
- **USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services**
NRCS offers 4 voluntary programs to eligible landowners and agricultural producers to provide financial and technical assistance to help manage natural resources in a sustainable manner.
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/>
- **USDA Rural Development**
Rural Development offers 7 programs and services for individual home repairs.
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/programs-services-individuals>