

Project Eligibility Guidelines Irrigation Efficiencies Grants Program

Proposal Name: _____

I. Project Requirements

As per program policies, criteria 1 through 4 are participation requirements with no exceptions.

		Y e s	N o
1	Will the installation of Irrigation efficiency BMPs will result in a "net water savings"?		
2	Does the projected water savings originate from a senior valid water right, which has been beneficially used and can be protected in the primary reach? (see note below ¹)		
3	Is the "net water savings" trustable? (see note below ²)		
4	Does the implemented project benefit anadromous salmonid fish species? (see note below ³)		
If the answers in 1 through 4 are "Yes", please continue with number 5 below to further demonstrate eligibility of the proposal.			

As per program policies, criteria 5 and 6 are participation requirements with possible exceptions.

		Y e s	N o
5	Will the project implement "on-farm" improvements to directly benefit a Family Farm as defined by RCW 90.66.040(1). If no, see below for exception.		
6	Is the project diversion located in or near a "High" or "Medium" priority stream as identified in the Water Acquisition Program Publication #03-11-005, also accessible on the Ecology website http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0311005.html . Or in the Columbia River Fish Atlas at : https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1112015.pdf If no, see below for exception.		

Will an exception be requested for consideration by the Technical Advisory Committee?
(Please briefly summarize specifics at the end of this document.)

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II. Exceptions

The following exceptions apply only to requirements 5 and 6 above. Only one exception per project will be allowed. Exceptions must be approved by a quorum of the technical advisory committee (See Policy Definitions; Commission Program Manager will be present at all project reviews).

- a) Projects in which a private irrigation company or corporation is the cost share recipient must be located in a high or medium priority stream reach. The benefits of the project to salmonid species will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- b) Projects in which an irrigation district is the cost share recipient must be located on a high or medium priority stream. The benefits of the project to salmonid species will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The following conditions must also be met:
 - i. Project applicant must have the written approval of the Irrigation Districts governing board.
 - ii. Concurrent and similar funding opportunities from state and/or federal agencies within the sub-basin of the proposed project are either not available, or are exhausted.
- c) Project proposals within "low" or un-prioritized streams (Pub. #03-11-005) can be considered if:
 - i. The stream rating is changed to high or medium by Ecology and WDFW through consideration of whether:
 1. additional salmonid species have recently been found present in the stream
 2. the status of the fish species present has changed
 3. Passage barriers to salmonids were recently removed or if there are plans, funding, and target dates for barrier removal in the near future
 4. the project provides salmonid passage to habitat previously inaccessible
 5. the proposed project is located on a tributary of a stream designated as being of medium or high priority in Publication #03-11-005 and benefits the priority stream reach
 6. there have been any recent salmonid enhancement projects or other recent changes in habitat conditions within the sub-basin which might affect the priority of the stream
 - ii. Or, if the landowner is willing to permanently place the conserved water into the Trust Water Rights Program, and one or both of the following apply:
 1. there are ongoing flow restoration activities in the sub-basin
 2. there is a high level of expectation for cooperation by other landowners in the sub-basin. (see note below ⁴)

Notes:

- ¹⁾ The trust water right created by most efficiency upgrades is limited to the "primary" reach between the point of diversion and the point where the last of the historic return flows returned to the stream. Efficiency upgrades result in less water being diverted from the stream, thereby allowing more water to remain within the primary stream reach (that reach of the stream between the point of diversion and the point at which the non-consumptive return flows re-enter the stream). Therefore, the seniority of the right is of utmost importance—the right cannot be regulated against in most average rainfall years and must be "first in time/first in line" within the projects primary reach. If the right "out ranks" junior rights within the primary reach, Ecology can regulate for the trust right.

- 2) The amount of water conserved can be characterized by an instantaneous and a total annual quantity of water. However, if the saved water is a conveyance water (return flows) it can be characterized by the instantaneous amount attributed to the primary reach with the total annual quantity undetermined. The right must be valid and the saved water portion of the right must be shown to have been beneficially used within the last 5 years.
- 3) Project improvements must result in one or more of the following:
 - a. Increased flow in streams with a lowest month mean monthly flow of less than 50 cfs in the reach directly below the point of diversion at a time, quantity, and quality, in which benefits to salmonids are realized, or expected through concurrent restoration efforts.
 - b. A minimum of a five (5) percent flow increase (may be cumulative with other projects (see policies for clarification)) in streams with a lowest month mean monthly flow greater than 50cfs in the reach directly below the point of diversion at a time, quantity, and quality in which benefits to salmonids are realized, or expected through concurrent restoration efforts.
 - c. Other significant benefits to salmonids due to project implementation, such as a removal of fish passage barriers, or elimination of "push-up" diversion dams, or other benefits as determined by a fish biologist familiar with limiting factors of salmonids within the stream that the project is to be implemented.
- 4) The expectation for cooperation can be based on past and/or current commitment and participation in resource conservation activities. Some examples might be: a diversion screening program, development of a Resource Management Systems plan, a comprehensive irrigation district management plan, or other activity as defined by the coordinating conservation district.

Please briefly summarize which one exception your proposal is requesting and the justification for funding:

Reference Documentation

The documents that are required to be submitted to the Program Manager in order for a determination of eligibility. These documents include, but may not be limited to the following:

- water savings methodology and documentation (please be specific about how numbers for historic use, future use were measured, calculated, and the result determined (show your work))
- Project Eligibility Guidelines document
- proof of irrigation season length, water right documentation-- affidavit of season length by landowner, district, or Co., pump power records, etc,
- proof of historic/beneficial use-- the baseline for saved water determination cannot exceed the amount proven to have been historically and beneficially used in the last five years (by interpretation of the law), this could include pump records, power records, landowner affidavit, FSA crop records, meter data, etc.
- Documentation referencing the seniority of the right in relevant reach ((ECY regional water resources can assist)eg. priority listing of water rights in the defined reach, adjudication priority listing, etc.)
- listed species documentation--(need species and critical timing portions of published documentation like an LFA, SASSI, or other WDFW approved documentation)(*I need one copy for each separate application*),
- project cost estimation—this could be an itemized bid from a contractor, an engineer's report, a vendors estimation, etc.
- Detailed conservation map--detailing existing and proposed infrastructure of a quality and scale so that the entire project area and the proposed BMPs are easily identifiable