



## Salmon Recovery Funding Board: Yakima Basin

### Request for Proposals

Pre-Application Due Date: **March 5, 2021**

Full Proposal Due Date: **April 16, 2021**

### Background

The Washington State Legislature established the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) in 1999. The SRFB administers an annual grant program that provides state and federal funds to projects that help recover salmonids (salmon, trout, and steelhead) in Washington State.

Yakima Basin SRFB grant proposals must be submitted through the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board (YBFWRB) Lead Entity. Grant applicants must demonstrate how their projects implement the actions defined in our regional recovery plans, the [2009 Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan](#), and the [2012 Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan](#) (use the [2017 Action Update](#)). Examples of previously-funded SRFB projects in the Yakima Basin can be found at <https://ybfwrb.org/grant-program/annual-project-summary/>.

Project proposals are reviewed by our Technical Advisory Group (TAG), a group of local subject-matter experts, to ensure they are biologically and technically sound. TAG recommendations are forwarded to our Citizen Committee (CC), which is composed of representatives of diverse community interests. The CC evaluates the projects based on social, economic, and cultural values, and finalizes the ranked project list. The YBFWRB's Board of Directors then approves the final ranked project list, and submits it to the SRFB as a funding recommendation. Please see our [Lead Entity Manual](#) for a detailed description of our local review process.

### Geographic Scope

This RFP is for projects in the Yakima Basin (WRIA 38 and 39, and WRIA 37). This includes most of Benton, Kittitas, and Yakima Counties, and the Yakama Reservation, but excludes the portion of the Yakima Basin in Klickitat County.

## Eligible Project Types

All applicants should download and review [RCO Manual 18: Salmon Recovery Grants](#) before starting the application process. This is the primary reference for applying for SRFB grants.

Some important points to consider:

- The SRFB funds projects that protect or restore salmon habitat.
- Applicants must request at least \$5,000.
- Applicants must provide money or resources to match 15 percent or more of the grant (there are some exceptions).
- Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to 10 years or more of stewardship for the project.
- Projects must be finished within two to three years.
- There is no upper dollar limit for a grant request; however available funds range from \$1 - \$1.5 million for the Yakima Basin annually.

The SRFB funds a range of projects, but ALL of them must address an important habitat condition or watershed process. The project may provide other benefits, such as flood control or education, but those benefits clearly must be secondary. All projects must be in compliance with Revised Code of Washington 77.85.130 if the landowner has a legal obligation under local, state, or federal law to perform the project. The SRFB funds the following projects types:

- Acquisitions
- Restoration
- Non-Capital Projects: Assessments, Designs, Inventories, and Studies
- Design-Only Projects with No Required Match
- Combination Projects
- Phased Projects

## Eligible Applicants

Only the following entities are eligible to apply for SRFB funding:

- Cities
- Counties
- Conservation Districts
- Native American Tribes
- Nonprofit Organizations:

Nonprofit organizations must be registered with Washington's Office of the Secretary of State. A nonprofit's charter, organizational documents, or corporate purposes must include authority for the protection or enhancement of natural resources, such as salmon, salmon habitat, or related recovery activities. The charter must provide for a successor organization under the SRFB grant agreement, in case the nonprofit dissolves.

- Private Landowners

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Private landowners are eligible for restoration project grants when the landowner is a private citizen and the project will be implemented on the landowner's property. Individuals may not acquire land using SRFB grants, and may not be paid for their time. Landowner time on the project may serve as non-reimbursable match for a project.

- Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups
- Special Purpose Districts
- State Agencies:

State Agencies must have a local partner that is independently eligible to be a grant applicant. The local partner must be involved in the planning and implementation of the project, and must provide an in-kind or cash contribution to the project. A Project Partner Contribution Form (Appendix J in Manual 18) must be completed and submitted with the application.

Federal agencies may not apply directly, but may partner with eligible applicants. Projects may occur on federal lands. Consider federal restrictions on using federal money for match when applying for a grant.

## Technical Advisory Group's Focused Projects List

[The Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board's Focus Project List](#) is a tool developed by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to help identify potential SRFB projects that would address the most immediate needs of priority species. Using the list as a guide, a project proposal will receive 10 bonus points if it is clearly a Focus Project. If a proposal is not a Focus Project, zero bonus points are awarded. The list:

- Gives the TAG a way to proactively guide Yakima Basin SRFB funding towards high priority and/or urgent projects
- Provides guidance to sponsors deciding what types of projects to pursue and propose
- Strengthens the link between the SRFB project review criteria and Recovery Plan priorities

It is important to emphasize that the TAG uses this approach as a way to recognize and reward proposals that implement identified Focus Projects, but not as a way to exclude other SRFB proposals. Projects that are Focus Projects, but have other significant weaknesses will have their score brought down by other elements in the TAG review process. Projects that do a strong job of addressing real needs, even if not identified as a Focus Project, will still have an opportunity to compete for funding based on all of the other TAG scoring criteria.

## Match Requirement

Applicants must provide non-SRFB cash or in-kind match contributions to the project that total a minimum of 15 percent of the project value. The exception to this requirement is that no match is required for applications for design only projects requesting \$200,000 or less and completed within 18 months of funding (see Section 2, Eligible Projects of [RCO Manual 18](#):

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[Salmon Recovery Grants](#)). The SRFB will not provide special consideration or preference in its evaluation process for projects with matches greater than 15 percent.

## Funding Availability

Approximately \$1,200,000 is expected to be available for the projects within the Yakima Basin.

## YBFWRB Lead Entity SRFB Schedule for 2021

Event	Date
Grant Announcement	January 26
Pre-Applications due	March 5
Pre-Application Conference	March 16 – 18
Full Applications due	April 16
Presentations to TAG/CC	April 22
State Review Panel Visit	May 11-13
Optional Call for Flagged Project with State Review Panel	June 9 or 10
TAG Project Evaluation	July 26
CC Ranks Projects	August 2
YBFWRB reviews and approves list	August 4
Final Ranked List Submitted by Lead Entity	August 9

All meetings will be held at the YBFWRB office, located at 1200 Chesterly Drive, Suite 280, in Yakima, dependent on travel and gathering restrictions related to COVID-19. Whenever in-person meetings are not possible, meetings will be held virtually.

## Application

Applicants for Salmon Recovery Funding must complete a [pre-application](#) before submitting a full application. The pre-application process is meant to provide early feedback to applicants as they determine which proposals to pursue and how to develop them. Shortly after applicants submit the pre-application, they will be asked to schedule a conference with the pre-application subcommittee. When an applicant decides to carry a proposal beyond the pre-proposal review, they will need to work with the Lead Entity Coordinator to obtain a project number.

[Pre-applications](#) should be submitted by email to Alex Conley ([aconley@ybfwrb.org](mailto:aconley@ybfwrb.org)) by **March 5, 2021**.

Full proposals must be submitted electronically through the PRISM computer system. You'll first have to get a password, which can take two days, so allow enough time. Next, you will

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need a PRISM project number. Work with YBFWRB staff to obtain this number prior to beginning your application. Once you receive your project number(s), please visit <https://rco.wa.gov/recreation-and-conservation-office-grants/apply-for-a-grant/prism/> to complete your application. In addition to the data you enter into PRISM, there are several other documents required for a complete application. Please see [RCO Manual 18: Salmon Recovery Grants](#) sections 3, 6, and 7. The application deadline is **April 16, 2021**.

## **Further Information**

For more information about this opportunity, please visit [www.ybfwrb.org](http://www.ybfwrb.org). If you have questions about the Yakima Basin SRFB application process, contact Alex Conley at the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board at [aconley@ybfwrb.org](mailto:aconley@ybfwrb.org) or 509-453-4104 x 1.