



2022 Yakima Basin Request for Proposals for Large Salmon Habitat Projects Over \$5 million

Full Proposal Due Date: **September 1, 2022**

Introduction

The Washington State Legislature established the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) in 1999. The SRFB administers an annual salmon recovery grant program that provides state and federal funds to projects that help recover salmonids (salmon, trout, and steelhead) in Washington State. This year, the Legislature also approved additional funding for large, “shovel-ready” projects with total budgets over \$5 million each that have permit-ready designs. The [Yakima Basin](#) was allocated \$4,794,000 to fund one or more large projects. The Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board (YBFWRB) anticipates forwarding one project eligible for this funding to the SRFB via its regular grant round, which is currently nearing completion. This new RFP solicits applications for additional large projects competing for remaining funding (amount to be determined; currently anticipated at ~\$3.6 million but subject to change). Projects and applicants must meet the eligibility criteria identified in RCO’s [Manual 18](#), except that standard match requirements are waived (see below for more information). Projects also must show strong contributions to recovering anadromous fish in the Yakima Basin and have permit-ready designs completed by December 1st at the latest (earlier submission encouraged to allow complete review of the proposed work). Proposals are due September 1st, 2022 and must be submitted through the RCO PRISM grants database.

Geographic Scope

This RFP solicits SRFB grant proposals 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.
- Funding may not be used for cost increases, assessments, monitoring, or capacity.

- Preliminary designs (as defined in [Manual 18](#)) are required for restoration projects. Applicants are encouraged to submit these with their full applications to ensure reviewers have a full understanding of proposed actions. Permit designs must be submitted by December 1st.
- Applicants must request at least \$5,000.
- The total project cost must be at least \$5 million; however, they do not need to receive the entire \$5 million from the SRFB.
- Standard match requirements are waived but match must be documented to show that the project budget is at least \$5 million.
- 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, the Yakima Basin was allocated \$4,794,000 for the 2022 SRFB Large Projects Grant Program

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

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.

- 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.

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.

Application Requirements

SRFB 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](#)). 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 comply 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. Examples of previously-funded SRFB projects in the Yakima Basin can be found at <https://ybfwr.org/grant-program/annual-project-summary/>.

Applicants will need to work with the Lead Entity Coordinator to obtain a project number to apply in PRISM. Refer to the Yakima [Lead Entity Manual](#). Full proposals must be submitted electronically through the RCO's PRISM grants database. You'll first have to get a password, which can take two days, so allow enough time. Next, you will 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](#) section 3. The application deadline is **September 1, 2022**.

Review Schedule

Event	Date
Full Applications Due	September 1
Presentations to Local Review Committee	September 12
Local Review Committee Ranking Meeting	September 20
Receive State Review Panel Comments	September 23
YBFWRB Board of Directors Reviews & Approves Project List	Late September (date to be finalized)
Regional Funding List Submitted	October 1
Optional Call for with State Review Panel	Between 3 and 7 October
Final Applications & Responses to Review Panel Due	October 26
Last Date to Submit Project Designs	December 1

Our intent is to hold all meetings at the YBFWRB office, located at 1200 Chesterly Drive, Suite 280, in Yakima, with the option for participants to join in virtually if they so choose. Purely virtual meetings may be used if warranted by increased COVID 19 prevalence.

Review Process

These grant proposals will be reviewed by a combined Local Review Committee composed of members of our Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Citizen Committee to ensure they are biologically and technically sound and are supported by the community. The TAG is a group of local subject-matter experts and the Citizen Committee (CC) is composed of representatives of diverse community interests. TAG and CC members with a primary conflict of interest with one or more projects under review will not participate in the Local Review Committee, and any secondary conflicts of interest will be evaluated using the Conflict of Interest Policy detailed in the [2022 Lead Entity Manual](#). The Local Review Committee will evaluate the projects based on benefits to salmon, steelhead, and/or bull trout, certainty that the benefits will occur, and community support, and it will generate 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.

The SRFB State Technical Review Committee will also evaluate projects as detailed in [Manual 18](#), and project sponsors will have the chance to revise applications in response to comments received. Should the state Review Panel identify a project as a Project of Concern, it will not be considered eligible for funding.

Local Review Committee Criteria

Technical Advisory Group's Focused Projects List

Whether proposed projects are TAG Focused Projects are considered as part of the SRFB review criteria for the SRFB Large Projects Grant Program. However, no bonus points will be awarded to proposals that are Focus Projects.

Large Grant Scoring Criteria

Large SRFB grant proposals to the YBFWRB will be scored using the list of criteria below. Each of the criteria will be scored as high medium or low for each project, with the basis for the committee's determination recorded in writing. These qualitative scorings will be used to inform relative rankings of the proposals for each of the three high level criteria (Biological Benefits, Project Readiness and Community Benefit and Support). Projects must demonstrate significant biological benefit; other criteria may inform relative ranking of projects with similar benefit or identify significant issues that would make an otherwise promising project problematic. The results of this qualitative evaluation will form the basis of the Local Review

Committee's ranking; ranking decisions will be made by consensus, or if consensus cannot be reached, a vote of support by 65% or greater of participating members. The committee shall rank projects in the preferred funding order and may choose to identify a project as Do Not Fund if there are significant concerns that would make funding inappropriate even if funds are available. The ranked list will be used both to allocate available funding in December and to identify alternate projects that would receive future funding if previously awarded funds are not used as planned or the SRFB allocations additional monies to the large project grant program.

Biological Benefits

- 1) The project significantly increases habitat quality through planning and implementation or prevents habitat degradation through protection.
- 2) The project significantly increases habitat quantity through planning and implementation or prevents significant loss of habitat (opens up access to blocked habitat, increases channel/side channel length, etc., prevents future blockages).
- 3) The project reduces significant sources of mortality (installation of fish screens, reductions in predation, etc.).
- 4) The project significantly benefits ESA-listed steelhead.
- 5) The project significantly benefits ESA-listed bull trout.
- 6) The Project significantly benefits other anadromous species.
- 7) The project fits within one of the identified 2022 TAG Focal Actions

Project Readiness

- 8) Project designs are well-developed and realistic.
- 9) The project budget is well-developed and realistic.
- 10) The right partners, including landowners, are engaged and supportive of the project.
- 11) The project has a high certainty of successful implementation (Is it correctly sequenced? Does the organization have the needed capacity?).
- 12) Long-term stewardship needs of the project are identified and provided for.

Community Benefit and Support

- 13) There is likely to be strong support for the project from specific interest groups and the community at-large (Consider Yakama Nation, agricultural interests, recreationalists, those with potential ESA liabilities, etc.).
- 14) There is not likely to be significant opposition to the project by specific groups in the community (Consider Yakama Nation, agricultural interests, recreationalists, those with potential ESA liabilities, etc.).
- 15) The project provides significant non-fisheries benefits for the community (wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, economic opportunities, reduced flood hazard, etc.).

Further Information

For more information about the Yakima Basin Lead Entity SRFB grant process, please visit www.ybfwrb.org/grant-program/. If you have questions about this funding opportunity, whether a project meets the criteria and how to apply, contact Michael Horner at the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board at mhorner@ybfwrb.org or 509-453-4104 x 102 (office) or 206-321-9625 (mobile).