



2023 Yakima Basin Request for Proposals for Salmon Habitat Projects

Pre-Application Due Date: **March 8, 2023**

Full Proposal Due Date: **April 21, 2023**

Background

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.

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 in the [Yakima Basin Habitat Restoration Projects booklet](#).

These grant 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 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.

YBFWRB Lead Entity SRFB Grant Round Schedule for 2023

Event	Date
Grant Announcement	January 26
Pre-Applications due	March 8
Pre-Application Conferences	March 14 – 16
Full Applications due	April 21

1200 Chesterly Drive, Suite 280, Yakima, WA 98902
Phone (509) 453-4104 Email: info@ybfwrb.org Web: www.ybfwrb.org

Presentations to TAG/CC	May 1 – 2*
State Review Panel Visit	May 10 - 12
Optional Call for Flagged Project with State Review Panel	June 6 or 7
TAG Project Evaluation	July 24 – 25*
CC Ranks Projects	August 2 – 3*
Final Ranked List Submitted by Lead Entity	August 4
YBFWRB reviews & approves annual project list	August 9
SRFB awards funding to successful projects	September 13 - 14

* Both days will only be used if there are a large number of proposals.

All meetings will be held using a hybrid format with in-person attendance at the YBFWRB office, located at 1200 Chesterly Drive, Suite 280, in Yakima. If in-person or hybrid meetings are not possible, meetings will be held virtually.

Eligibility

All applicants should download and review [RCO Manual 18: Salmon Recovery Grants](#) before starting the application process. This is the primary guide to the state’s requirements for SRFB projects. If you have downloaded Manual 18 before, you may need to clear your browser history or cookies to download the 2023 version.

Some important points to consider:

- The SRFB funds projects that protect or restore salmonid 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 typically range from \$1.3 - \$1.5 million for the Yakima Basin annually. The SRFB grant allocation to the Yakima Basin may be higher in 2023 due to potential salmon recovery funding from Washington State and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The final allocation will not be determined until after the grant round is underway.

Please consider submitting proposals for larger high priority projects which can be phased or scaled based on the final SRFB allocation to the Yakima Basin.

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

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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:

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](#) 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 Focus Project 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.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Criteria

The source of federal funds for the annual SRFB grant program is the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), administered by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This year, a portion of the [NOAA funding](#) for SRFB projects was authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for projects that use approaches that enhance ecosystem resilience to climate hazard and demonstrate important and lasting changes that make a difference for the recovery and conservation of Pacific salmon and steelhead. In your 2023 applications, highlight features of your projects that meet these 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 \$350,000 or less and completed within 2 years of funding (see Section 2, Eligible Applicants and Projects of [RCO Manual 18: 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

We expect between \$1,300,000 and \$1,500,000 to be available for the projects in the Yakima Basin in the 2023 grant round.

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. Refer to the Yakima [Lead Entity Manual](#) for forms and requirements for preapplications.

[Pre-applications](#) should be submitted by email to Michael Horner (mhorner@ybfwrb.org) by **March 8, 2023**.

Full proposals must be submitted electronically through the PRISM computer system. You will need both a SecureAccess Washington and PRISM account, so allow enough time. Create your accounts at the [PRISM](#) website. 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 the [PRISM](#) website 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 **April 21, 2023**.

Further Information

For more information about this opportunity, please visit <http://www.ybfwrb.org>. If you have questions about the Yakima Basin annual SRFB process, contact Michael Horner at the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board at mhorner@ybfwrb.org or 509-715-0741.