



Feasibility Grant Applications

Study Summaries – November 2023



Background

Feasibility Study Grants provide funding for project planning studies that evaluate the feasibility of developing a water conservation, reuse, or storage project. A feasibility study is an evaluation of a proposed project or plan and can be used to determine *if* and *how* a project should proceed to the implementation phase. This funding opportunity covers up to 50% of the study cost.

Document Description

The following are study summaries for grant applications received by October 18, 2023 for the current funding cycle. The study summaries are adapted from submitted applications. The application summaries are listed below in alphabetical order.

Next Steps

Feasibility Grant applications are currently being evaluated by the multi-agency Application Review Team (ART). The ART funding recommendations will be posted on the Oregon Water Resources Department's (OWRD) website for a public comment period. OWRD staff will present funding recommendations and the comments received to the Water Resources Commission at its spring 2024 meeting, tentatively scheduled for March. The funding recommendations will be based on the ART recommendations and public comments received. The Commission will then make final funding decisions.

More Information

Additional information about this funding opportunity is available on the program [website](#). If you have questions please contact Grant Coordinator, Adair Muth, at 971-301-0718 or OWRD.Grants@water.oregon.gov.

List of Applications Received

Study Name	Project Type	County	Funding Requested	Total Cost of Study ¹
Brophy Ditch Big Butte Creek Water Conservation Project	Conservation	Jackson	\$82,679	\$166,585
Clackamas Water Environment Services MBR Water Reuse Feasibility Study	Reuse	Clackamas	\$75,000	\$150,000
Lower Willow Creek Managed Aquifer Recharge Feasibility Study	Below ground storage	Morrow and Gilliam	\$52,500	\$105,000
Tickle Creek, Tributary of Clackamas River - Reuse Study	Reuse	Clackamas	\$75,000	\$150,000
		Total	\$285,179	\$571,585

¹Studies require at least a dollar-for-dollar cost match.

2023-2024 Applications

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Brophy Ditch Big Butte Creek Water Conservation Project

Study Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Trout Unlimited

County: Jackson

Funding Requested: \$82,679

Total Project Cost: \$166,585

Study Summary:

The proposed study would evaluate current conditions and water use of Brophy Ditch on the North Fork Big Butte Creek in Jackson County. The goal of the study is to identify opportunities to conserve water instream and provide efficient water delivery through conveyance efficiencies to benefit the irrigators as well as ESA-listed threatened Coho salmon, state-listed Spring Chinook, summer and winter steelhead, Pacific Lamprey, and cutthroat trout. Brophy Ditch has high transmission losses. The ditch would be surveyed and the amount of conserved water evaluated through a seepage study, water rights assessment, and crop water requirement evaluation. The proposed study would identify and quantify opportunities to permanently dedicate conserved water from this senior water right instream for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and the public.

Clackamas Water Environment Services MBR Water Reuse Feasibility Study

Study Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Clackamas Water Environment Services

County: Clackamas

Funding Requested: \$75,000

Total Project Cost: \$150,000

Study Summary:

The proposed study would determine the feasibility of reusing water from the TriCity Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF). The study would determine how much Class A recycled water the Tri-City facility could make available at various times of the year (summer and winter) without negatively impacting the effluent quality and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge permit. The Tri-City Plant treats municipal wastewater providing retail sanitary sewer services to the communities of Gladstone, Happy Valley, Milwaukie, Oregon City, West Linn and unincorporated Clackamas County. The effluent is treated and currently discharged to the Willamette River in compliance with Tri-City's NPDES permit. The goal is to reuse some or all of this effluent for beneficial reuse.

Lower Willow Creek Managed Aquifer Recharge Feasibility Study

Study Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District, Gilliam Soil and Water Conservation District

County: Morrow and Gilliam

Funding Requested: \$52,500

Total Project Cost: \$105,000

Study Summary:

The proposed study would assess the feasibility of developing a managed aquifer recharge (MAR) project in the Lower Willow Creek Basin area to improve the reliability of groundwater supplies for irrigation which is anticipated to provide economic and environmental benefits for both instream and out-of-stream water uses. Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District and Gilliam Soil and Water Conservation District have identified twenty landowners interested in MAR who are willing to investigate the feasibility of constructing MAR facilities on their properties along Willow Creek. The study would develop the aquifer recharge concept for the Lower Willow Creek area by evaluating the water needs, available lands, hydrogeology, water availability, permitting pathway and developing the general concept for treatment and infrastructure applicable to interested landowner parcels. The outcome of the study would be a set of prioritized site(s)/property(s) for developing MAR project(s), and a preliminary work plan for conducting the field investigation for the next phase of feasibility study.

Tickle Creek, Tributary of Clackamas River - Reuse Study

Study Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of Sandy

County: Clackamas

Funding Requested: \$75,000

Total Project Cost: \$150,000

Study Summary:

The proposed study would assess the feasibility of utilizing Class A recycled water as year-round flow augmentation to Tickle Creek, a tributary to the Clackamas River. The first goal of the study would be to assess and document the current water quality of Tickle Creek and establish the baseline of both flow and quality. The second goal would be to establish the quality and quantity of reclaimed water from the City of Sandy Wastewater Plant and characterize its positive impacts on both water quality and instream flow of Tickle Creek. The third goal would be to document the positive and negative impacts on fisheries, habitat and reliable instream flow augmentation for downstream water users on the Clackamas River through a series of workshops and summits.