



Water Project Grants and Loans Applications

Project Summaries – 2026 Funding Cycle 2

August 14, 2026

Background

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 839, establishing the Water Supply Development Account to provide grants and loans for water projects that have economic, environmental and social/cultural benefits (ORS 541.651-696).

The application deadline for the second 2026 funding cycle was July 15, 2026. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) received twelve complete applications requesting a total of \$18,432,120 in grant funding for Water Project Grants and Loans projects. OWRD has \$2,007,904 available to award. An additional \$4 million is anticipated to be available for provisional award pending a spring 2027 lottery revenue bond sale.

Document Description

The following are project summaries for complete grant applications received by July 15, 2026 for the second 2026 Water Project Grants and Loans cycle. The project summaries are adapted from submitted project applications. The application summaries are listed in alphabetical order by project name and page numbers listed below.

Next Steps

OWRD is accepting public comments on the Water Project Grants and Loans applications until 5 p.m. on September 14, 2026. Instructions for submitting comments are available on the [website](#). All comments received will be considered by the Technical Review Team (TRT). The TRT will evaluate applications and provide a funding recommendation to OWRD. OWRD will then post the TRT's funding recommendation for an additional public comment period. The [Water Resources Commission](#) is expected to make final funding decisions at its meeting on December 10-11, 2026.

More Information

If you have questions please contact the Grants Analyst, Louisa Mariki, at 503-979-9160 or OWRD.Grants@water.oregon.gov.

Water Project Grants and Loans Applications Received

Project Name	Applicant	County	Grant Funds Requested	Total Project Cost
Banks Redundant Supply and ASR Operations	City of Banks	Washington	\$5,954,000	\$6,663,963
Brock Irrigation Efficiency Project	Trout Unlimited	Wallowa	\$213,340	\$266,675
Corvallis Vineyard Mountain Water System Upgrades	Vineyard Mountain Water and Improvement District	Benton	\$231,000	\$308,000
East Fork Irrigation District Fish Screen Upgrade	Hood River Watershed Group and East Fork Irrigation District	Hood River	\$1,798,600	\$3,969,781
Grave Creek Instream Flow Restoration Transfer	Trout Unlimited	Josephine	\$349,579	\$510,328
Grimes Flat Piping Project	Ochoco Irrigation District	Crook	\$4,000,000	\$14,000,000
Ives Creek Irrigation Efficiency Project	Trout Unlimited	Wheeler	\$226,165	\$282,707
Myrtle Lane Dairy Organic Outreach Program	Myrtle Lane Dairy	Coos	\$1,397,588	\$1,863,450
NUID - Lateral 43 Segment 4 Piping	Deschutes River Conservancy and North Unit Irrigation District	Jefferson	\$2,244,112	\$8,511,770
Rudd Farms	Brett Rudd	Union	\$788,861	\$1,051,815
Swalley Irrigation District - Elder Lateral Piping	Deschutes River Conservancy and Swalley Irrigation District	Deschutes	\$1,077,109	\$4,061,835
Willow Creek Rd Rainwater Harvesting & Irrigation	Andrew and Bernadette Haupt	Lane	\$151,766	\$192,436
Totals			\$18,432,120	\$41,682,760

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Banks Redundant Supply and ASR Operations

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: City of Banks

County: Washington

Funding Requested: \$5,954,000

Total Project Cost: \$6,663,963

Project Summary: The proposed project would develop sufficient redundant water supply from a sustainable groundwater source by installing a new production well with conveyance and implementing Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) at two wells. The proposed project would permit, design, construct, and test a new groundwater source (Well-4) and implement ASR operations at Wells 3 and 4. This infrastructure improvement would provide approximately 300 gallons per minute (0.43 MGD) of new redundant capacity and would store up to 37 million gallons per year of water in the subsurface aquifer to mitigate increased use of the groundwater resource. The project would improve long-term groundwater supply reliability, increase system redundancy, and help meet future water demand associated with population growth.

Brock Irrigation Efficiency Project

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Trout Unlimited

County: Wallowa

Funding Requested: \$213,340

Total Project Cost: \$266,675

Project Summary: The proposed project would convert 53.4 acres of primarily flood-irrigated farmland to a high-efficiency center pivot irrigation system and permanently protect 0.66 cfs of senior water rights May through July in the Lostine River within the Wallowa Basin of northeast Oregon. The irrigation improvements are expected to increase water use efficiency by more than 50%. One hundred percent of the conserved water (0.66 cfs) would be legally protected instream through the Oregon Water Resources Department's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. The Lostine River provides priority habitat for ESA-listed spring/summer Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, as well as recently reintroduced coho salmon, and experiences critically low flows due to irrigation withdrawals.

Corvallis Vineyard Mountain Water System Upgrades

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Vineyard Mountain Water and Improvement District

County: Benton

Funding Requested: \$231,000

Total Project Cost: \$308,000

Project Summary: The proposed project would remediate aging water infrastructure for a community in Corvallis. The remediation efforts would entail replacing a water well, upgrading three exposed air-relief valves that have a risk of freezing or air binding, installing or replacing eight leaking pressure reducing valves, and lead exceedance work. The proposed project would improve water distribution efficiency and enhance the community's ability to obtain water. The lead exceedance remediation would entail a chemical feed system.

East Fork Irrigation District Fish Screen Upgrade

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Hood River Watershed Group and East Fork Irrigation District

County: Hood River

Funding Requested: \$1,798,600

Total Project Cost: \$3,969,781

Project Summary: The proposed project would install five in-channel horizontal fish screens at the East Fork Irrigation District's diversion headworks to replace the current Coanda fish screen that is located 0.43 miles down the canal. This infrastructure improvement would increase efficiencies for diverting irrigation water and protect Endangered Species Act listed lower-Columbia spring Chinook, steelhead and coho by eliminating annual fish stranding and mortality that occurs every fall when the 0.43 miles of canal between the District's diversion and Coanda fish screen is dewatered. By installing new screens at the point of diversion, 9.8 cfs of water would no longer be used to flush the screens or return fish, which will allow the District to more reliably provide patrons irrigation water. Within the bypass reach, these water savings would increase summer flows by 9.8 cfs and improve water temperature. It is estimated an additional 150-300 juvenile Chinook, steelhead and coho would survive every year.

Grave Creek Instream Flow Restoration Transfer

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Trout Unlimited

County: Josephine

Funding Requested: \$349,579

Total Project Cost: \$510,328

Project Summary: The proposed project would restore streamflow in a critically dewatered reach of Grave Creek in the Rogue River Basin through a permanent transfer of 0.8 cfs instream to benefit ESA-listed SONCC Coho salmon, fall Chinook, summer and winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, and Pacific Lamprey. The transfer would be protected for 15.4 miles of stream and increase current stream flow by 19.4-74.1% during critical low flow months (April 2 to October 31). The confluence of Grave Creek (lower end of protected reach) is in the popular recreation area of the Wild and Scenic reach of the Rogue River. The project would support Leland Ranch and their mission to upgrade irrigation system infrastructure, conserve water, and restore riparian and instream habitat that was impacted by past mining.

Grimes Flat Piping Project

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Ochoco Irrigation District

County: Crook

Funding Requested: \$4,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$14,000,000

Project Summary: The goal of the proposed project is to pipe the Grimes Flat laterals, eliminating 4.9 cfs water losses from seepage and evaporation, improving water deliveries to 28 patrons, and conserving water instream in the Crooked River. The project would construct the new Crooked River Pump Station #3, pipe 8.2 miles of the Grimes Flat Pipeline, and install turnouts and meters to deliver reliable irrigation water to 28 turnouts across 1,203 acres. The District would legally protect 77% of the conserved water (3.8 cfs) instream in the Crooked River through OWRD's Allocation of Conservation Water Program, supporting steelhead and bull trout habitat. The proposed project supports Crook County's agricultural economy, improves drought resilience, and complements other efforts to restore instream flow and benefit steelhead populations in the Crooked River watershed.

Ives Creek Irrigation Efficiency Project

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Trout Unlimited

County: Wheeler

Funding Requested: \$226,165

Total Project Cost: \$282,707

Project Summary: The proposed project would increase efficiency by converting eight wheel lines to two center pivots on 129.18 acres. The project area is located in Spray, Oregon, in Wheeler County within the John Day Watershed. Water would be applied in a more controlled and uniform manner to reduce water loss. One hundred percent of the conserved water (267.775 acre ft) would be legally protected through OWRD's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. In addition, all water from the Ives Creek water right certificate (107.6 acre ft) would be permanently protected instream through an instream transfer. The proposed project would increase flows for ESA-listed summer steelhead, while improving water quality, spawning and rearing habitat, and long-term farm operations.

Myrtle Lane Dairy Organic Outreach Program

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Myrtle Lane Dairy

County: Coos

Funding Requested: \$1,397,588

Total Project Cost: \$1,863,450

Project Summary: The proposed project would install nine center-pivot irrigation systems across 205 acres, pipe 1,660 feet of six-inch PVC mainline, install a new 24-inch culvert, and create riparian zones at the corners of the fields where the center pivot irrigation does not reach. The proposed project would improve agricultural production and reduce water use by 31%. The proposed project would improve irrigation efficiency, reduce erosion, stabilize soils, allow for more crop varieties, allow for pollinating habitats, and increase instream flows for ESA-listed Oregon Coast coho salmon in the South Fork Coquille River.

NUID - Lateral 43 Segment 4 Piping

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Deschutes River Conservancy and North Unit Irrigation District

County: Jefferson

Funding Requested: \$2,244,112

Total Project Cost: \$8,511,770

Project Summary: The proposed project would pipe 43,575 linear feet of Lateral 43 in North Unit Irrigation District (NUID). The project would convert open canal to HDPE pipe. Segment 4 serves 35 taxlots and 1510.8 acres between Culver and Metolius in Jefferson County. Water conserved from the project (approximately 2.3 cfs) would be protected through OWRD's Water Conservation and Protection Pathway for Irrigation Modernization Projects in the Upper Deschutes Basin. The project would improve water reliability for NUID patrons, who have a junior water right, as well as enhance instream flows in the Upper Deschutes River in the winter months. NUID would release an equivalent amount of the conserved water saved during the winter season in Upper Deschutes River, benefiting the ESA-threatened Oregon spotted frog and state-sensitive Redband trout.

Rudd Farms

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Brett Rudd

County: Union

Funding Requested: \$788,861

Total Project Cost: \$1,051,815

Project Summary: Rudd Farms, located approximately five miles northeast of La Grande, Oregon, is a family farm that grows peppermint, grass seed, wheat, and alfalfa on approximately 3,000 acres. In 2013, Rudd Farms constructed a 4,000 foot deep well in the Columbia River Basalt Group (CRBG) aquifer, named the "Basalt Well." The proposed project would artificially recharge the CRBG aquifer during the winter with the objective of proactively mitigating future groundwater level declines, maintaining yield in the Basalt Well, and increasing the long-term reliability of groundwater supply from the regional aquifer. The project would recharge the Basalt Well using alluvial groundwater from an existing well during the winter (December to April). The CRBG aquifer is hydraulically isolated from surface water and using the CRBG aquifer for summer irrigation supply would leave more water instream benefitting fish habitat in the Grande Ronde River.

Swalley Irrigation District - Elder Lateral Piping

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Deschutes River Conservancy and Swalley Irrigation District

County: Deschutes

Funding Requested: \$1,077,109

Total Project Cost: \$4,061,835

Project Summary: The proposed project would pipe approximately 10,057 linear feet of Swalley Irrigation District's open irrigation canals with HDPE pipe to conserve water lost to seepage. The project would conserve approximately 1.64 cfs of water. Seventy-five percent (395 AF) of the conserved water would be legally protected instream through OWRD's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. The water conservation achieved by this project would bolster instream flows in the Middle Deschutes during the irrigation season, improve water quality, eliminate water delivery and operational inefficiencies in the District, improve and stabilize agricultural production through water supply reliability, and improve conditions for state-sensitive Redband trout.

Willow Creek Rd Rainwater Harvesting and Irrigation

Project Information (adapted from application)

Applicant Name: Andrew and Bernadette Haupt

County: Lane

Funding Requested: \$151,766

Total Project Cost: \$192,436

Project Summary: The proposed project would replace summer groundwater pumping with winter rainwater harvesting to irrigate perennial crops on a 13.67-acre farm in the Long Tom River watershed in the Willamette Basin. Runoff from a 3,000-square-foot barn roof would be stored in a 29,093-gallon tank and gravity-fed to drip irrigation serving 4.75 acres of perennial crops (cider apples, wine grapes, chestnuts, hazelnuts, and serviceberries interplanted with native upland prairie and camas), a produce garden, and livestock watering. The project would improve agricultural production on non-prime Exclusive Farm Use farmland while sparing limited groundwater, restore a fragment of imperiled native upland-prairie habitat through the interplanted camas understory, and produce an open, replicable rainwater irrigation model for other western-Oregon small farms.