Oregon
Tina Kotek, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Ivan Gall, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item A, December 12, 2024
Water Resources Commission

Water Project Grants and Loans and Irrigation Modernization Funding Recommendations

I. Introduction

This report describes the multi-agency Technical Review Team (TRT) evaluation process, funding recommendations, and public comments received for the second 2024 funding cycle of Water Project Grants and Loans and Irrigation Modernization Funding. The Commission will be asked to award funding.

II. Integrated Water Resources Strategy Recommended Action

- 13.E – Invest in Implementation of Water Resources Projects

III. Background

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 839, establishing the Water Project Grants and Loans (WPGL) funding opportunity, which provides funding for water projects that have economic, social, and environmental public benefits. After adoption of rules in June 2015, the Commission has awarded grants each year. In July 2023, the statute was changed to require two funding cycles per year. The Department began offering two funding cycles per year in 2024.

In 2023, House Bill 5030 authorized $50 million in funding for irrigation modernization projects that leverage federal funding associated with Natural Resources Conservation Service authorized watershed plans, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grants, or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grants that are eligible to be on the Department of Environmental Quality's Intended Use Plan. Per the authorizing bill, the projects must also produce the economic, environmental, and community benefits described in the authorizing statute for OWRD's WPGL funding opportunity (ORS 541.673). The Irrigation Modernization Funding is run through this existing program. The Commission awarded the first Irrigation Modernization Funding grants in June 2024.

IV. 2024 Funding Cycle 2

Application materials for the second 2024 funding cycle were posted in April 2024 and the application deadline for both WPGL and Irrigation Modernization Funding was July 10. The Department received seven complete applications requesting a total of $9,279,591 in grant funding for WPGL projects. Currently there is $3,739,784 in unobligated WPGL funds available for the Commission to award. The Department anticipates another $5 million to be available in April 2025 after the Lottery Revenue Bonds are sold in March 2025. These funds are available for provisional award, contingent on the upcoming bond sale. See Table 1 for funding availability.

The Department received one complete application for Irrigation Modernization Funding requesting $907,290 in grant funding. OWRD does not have any funds available for immediate award but has $20,572,051 potentially available for provisional award contingent on a spring 2025 Lottery Revenue Bond sale (see Table 1). Of the $50 million in Lottery Revenue Bonds for Irrigation Modernization projects, $25 million sold was sold in May 2024 and the remaining $25 million is expected to be sold in March 2025. A portion of the second $25 million was provisionally awarded by the Commission in June 2024.

Table 1 shows available funds. The Commission may make provisional awards for both WPGL and Irrigation Modernization with Lottery Bond proceeds from the spring 2025 sale.

Table 1 – Funding Availability

Funding Program	Currently Available	March 2025 Bond Sale*
Water Project Grants and Loans	$3,739,784	$5M
Irrigation Modernization	$0	$20,572,051

**Funds must be spent within three years of the bond sale.*

The Department solicited written comments on complete applications during a 60-day public comment period from July 25 through September 23. The Department received one public comment in support of the Gabe Williams Twickenham Irrigation Efficiency project and one public comment in support of Winston-Dillard Water District's Winston Reservoir Replacement project (Attachment 1).

The Department contacted affected Tribes directly to solicit comments on complete applications where project work would be conducted on lands where the Tribe may have an interest. Affected Tribes were invited to serve as members of the TRT, submit comments for consideration by the TRT, or submit comments for consideration by the Department and Commission. The Department received no comments from Tribes on the applications.

V. Grant Application Review Process

A multi-agency TRT evaluated the WPGL and Irrigation Modernization Funding applications and developed funding recommendations for the Commission. The TRT consisted of staff from the Departments of Environmental Quality, Fish and Wildlife, Business Development,

Agriculture, and Water Resources, as well as the Oregon Health Authority and Regional Solutions.

Irrigation Modernization Funding applications and WPGL applications are evaluated at the same time by the TRT using the same Scoring Criteria document. Irrigation modernization projects are evaluated in the same manner as WPGL projects with one exception. As directed under House Bill 5030, for irrigation modernization projects involving surface water rights where the project conserves water, priority shall be given to projects that legally protect a portion of the conserved water instream commensurate with the amount required under the approach described in ORS 537.470 (the Allocation of Conserved Water Program).

The TRT discussed the public benefits of each project, considered the public comments, and scored each application. Scoring was based on the potential economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefits described in the applications, and the comments received. The TRT scored applications during the meeting and assessed the outcomes, which afforded the TRT members the opportunity to discuss the merits of the project proposals and ensure consistent application of the criteria. See Attachment 2 for the TRT project ranking, evaluation summaries, and funding recommendations. See Attachment 3 for applicable rules on public benefit scoring, and Attachment 4 for the Department's Scoring Criteria document.

The TRT rankings and funding recommendations were published on the Department's website and distributed via the funding opportunity listserv for a 3-week public comment period from October 25 through November 15. The Department also provided a second opportunity for Tribes to comment. The Department received no comments from the public or Tribes on the TRT rankings and funding recommendations.

VI. Funding Award Recommendations

Water Project Grants and Loans
Based on the TRT evaluation, five WPGL applications received scores meeting the funding criteria with a total funding request of $8,963,857. Based on the currently available funding, the Department recommends immediately funding the project application ranked #1 (Table 2). Since additional funds should be available after the bond sale, and since there are other TRT-recommended applications, the Department also recommends provisionally awarding funding to projects ranked #2 through #4 (Table 3).

Irrigation Modernization Funding
Based on the TRT evaluation, the Irrigation Modernization Funding application received scores meeting the funding criteria with a total funding request of $907,290. The Department recommends provisionally awarding funding to the project considering that no funds are currently available but additional funds should be available after the bond sale (Table 4).

This funding recommendation for WPGL and Irrigation Modernization Funding takes into account the public benefits provided by these applications, respects the planning efforts of the applicants, and mitigates impacts of project delays in a proactive manner. If approved by the

Commission, the Department would immediately enter into a grant agreement with the top-ranked WPGL project. Grant agreements for WPGL projects ranked #2 through #4 and the Irrigation Modernization Funding project would be drafted and prepared for execution after the bond sale. Release of grant funds is contingent on applicants obtaining all applicable local, state, and federal permits and regulatory approvals, as well as meeting match fund requirements.

Table 2 – WPGL Grant Recommended for Immediate Funding

Project Name	Funding Request	Total Cost of Project	Funding Recommendation
Catherine Creek Elmer Dam Fish Passage and Flow Improvement	$1,924,463	$7,267,790	$1,924,463
Total	**$1,924,463**	**$7,267,790**	**$1,924,463**

Table 3 – WPGL Grants with Provisional Recommendation for Funding

Project Name	Funding Request	Total Cost of Project	Funding Recommendation
Bend Headworks Fish Screen Replacement	$1,971,924	$9,782,732	$1,971,924
Winston Reservoir Replacement	$3,700,000	$7,038,500	$3,700,000
Sweet Cron Irrigation Modernization Project	$535,868	$669,890	$535,868
Total	**$6,207,792**	**$17,491,122**	**$6,207,792**

Table 4 – Irrigation Modernization Funding Grant with Provisional Recommendation for Funding

Project Name	Funding Request	Total Cost of Project	Funding Recommendation
Klamath Irrigation District A-3 Urban Canal Piping	$907,290	$3,629,159	$907,290
Total	**$907,290**	**$3,629,159**	**$907,290**

VII. Alternatives

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Adopt the funding recommendation contained in Tables 2, 3, and 4 of this report to immediately fund one WPGL application ($1,924,463), provisionally fund three WPGL applications ($6,207,792) for a total WPGL award of $8,132,255, and provisionally fund one Irrigation Modernization Funding application ($907,290) for a total Irrigation Modernization Funding award of $907,290.
2. Adopt a modified funding recommendation.
3. Direct the Department to further evaluate the applications and return with a revised recommendation.

VIII. Action Item: Funding Recommendation

The Director recommends Alternative 1, to adopt the TRT recommendations contained in Table 2, Table 3, and Table 4 of this report to fund four WPGL applications for a total award of $8,132,255 and to fund one Irrigation Modernization Funding application for a total award of $907,290.

Attachments:

1. Public Comments on Applications
2. TRT Ranking and Funding Recommendation
3. Excerpt from Division 93 Rules on Scoring
4. Scoring Criteria Document

Kim Fritz-Ogren
503-509-7980

Adair Muth
971-301-0718

From: Jordan Zettle <jzettle@sustainablenorthwest.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 1:11 PM
To: GRANTS Owrd * WRD
Subject: Written comments for grant Williams Irrigation Efficiency

Hello,

I wanted to send in comment on a recent grant submission to your program titled Williams Irrigation Efficiency, submitted by Gabe Williams at RSI.

I wanted to express support for this project. Sustainable Northwest is working to collaborate with the Wheeler SWCD, local NRCS, and landowners in Wheeler County to implement critical forest stand improvement and juniper removal in the Waterman basin through a RCPP application. Our hopes for this project are unique methods of utilization of the byproducts from the forest treatments, which include hopes for biochar application. We are supportive of the Williams Irrigation Efficiency project in the hopes it can pave the way for creating methods for biochar application and further improve the biochar ad forest residuals market. We also support anything that will bring more water to the John Day Basin, and see this work as critical for moving towards more water in the basin and healthier, more resilient ecosystems.

Thank you.

Best,

Jordan

Jordan Zettle
Green Markets Manager
(541) 948-5140

Forging natural resource solutions for nature, people, and local economies.

July 8, 2024

Dear Review Committee,

We, the Douglas County Commissioners, are writing to express our strong support for the Winston-Dillard Water District's Winston Reservoir Replacement Project. This critical infrastructure project aims to replace the existing two reservoirs with a single, modern 2,000,000-gallon reservoir, thereby significantly enhancing the water storage capacity and resilience of our community.

The key benefits of this project include:

- **Increased Water Storage:** The new reservoir will increase water storage capacity by 500,000 gallons, ensuring sufficient supply for future development and providing a crucial buffer for natural disaster mitigation.
- **Enhanced Fire Protection:** The additional 500,000 gallons will greatly improve fire protection flows and storage, thereby enhancing the safety and security of our residents and properties.
- **Seismic Resilience:** The new reservoir will be constructed to meet current seismic requirements. It will include a device that automatically shuts off the reservoir's outlet in the event of ground movement, preventing water loss through damaged distribution piping and further ensuring the resilience of our water supply system.

This project is essential for the continued growth, safety, and resilience of the Winston-Dillard community. We fully support the Winston-Dillard Water District in its efforts to secure funding for this vital infrastructure improvement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Chris Boice, Chair

Commissioner Tim Freeman

Commissioner Tom Kress

Water Project Grants and Loans and Irrigation Modernization Funding Applications

Evaluation Summaries – 2024 Funding Cycle 2

October 25, 2024
*Revised October 29, 2024**

Background

The Water Supply Development Account provides grants and loans for water projects that have economic, environmental and social/cultural benefits (ORS 541.651-696). In 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 5030, providing $50 million to issue grants for irrigation modernization projects and $10 million for Water Project Grants and Loans. The application deadline for the second 2024 funding cycle was July 10, 2024. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) received seven complete applications requesting a total of $9,279,591 in grant funding for Water Project Grants and Loans projects. OWRD received one complete application for irrigation modernization funding requesting $907,290 in grant funding.

Document Description

The following are evaluation summaries for complete grant applications received for the second 2024 Water Project Grants and Loans (WPGL) and Irrigation Modernization Funding cycle. The multi-agency Technical Review Team (TRT) provided comments on each application, scored applications based on the criteria identified within the Scoring Criteria document, and made a funding recommendation to the Water Resources Commission (Commission) based on that evaluation and available funds. The following evaluation summaries highlight TRT comments gathered by OWRD during the application evaluation process and are prepared for the Commission's consideration and review. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Grants Manager to request a review meeting and receive additional evaluation feedback. The evaluation summaries are listed in order of the TRT ranking.

The evaluation summary includes a combined public benefit score, which the TRT used to rank proposed projects. A table is also provided that shows a breakdown of the application score by category. An application could score up to 72 points in each of the economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefit categories. A proposed project could receive up to 24 additional preference points; up to 12 points for legally protecting water instream and up to 12 points for collaboration. Irrigation Modernization projects may receive an additional 10 points for legally protecting water instream commensurate with the amount required under the approach described in ORS 537.470 for a total of 34 preference points. Preference points are listed in the "Other" category. There is a maximum public benefit score of 240 points for WPGL projects and 250 points for Irrigation Modernization projects.

Based on the TRT ranking, the TRT recommends the top four WPGL projects for funding (Table 1). This funding recommendation considers the public benefits provided by these applications and available funding. Projects ranked two through four are provisionally recommended for funding, subject to available funding. OWRD has $3.7 million available for immediate award, and an additional $5 million potentially available for provisional award contingent on a spring 2025 lottery revenue bond sale. The WPGL projects not recommended for funding are in Table 2. Two projects are not recommended for funding as they did not achieve the minimum score

* Revised text indicated by underline

required in each public benefit category. The third is not recommended due to insufficient funds. The TRT also recommends provisionally awarding funds to the Irrigation Modernization Funding application received, subject to available funding (Table 3). OWRD does not have any funds available for immediate award but has $20.5 million potentially available for provisional award contingent on a spring 2025 lottery revenue bond sale.

Next Steps

OWRD is soliciting public comment on the TRT ranking and funding recommendation through 5 pm on November 15, 2024. Information on how to submit a public comment is available here. Public comments submitted on the TRT ranking and funding recommendation will be presented to the Commission who will make a funding decision. The date for the Commission to make its funding decision is December 12–13, 2024.

More Information

If you have questions please contact the Grants Manager, Adair Muth, at 971-301-0718 or OWRD.Grants@water.oregon.gov.

Water Project Grants and Loans Applications

Table 1. Applications Recommended for Funding by the Technical Review Team

Project Name	Applicant	County	Grant Funds Requested	Total Project Cost	Total Score
Catherine Creek Elmer Dam Fish Passage and Flow Improvement	Union Soil & Water Conservation District	Union	$1,924,463	$7,267,790	100
Bend Headworks Fish Screen Replacement	North Unit Irrigation District	Deschutes	$1,971,924	$9,782,732	96*
Winston Reservoir Replacement	Winston-Dillard Water District	Douglas	$3,700,000	$7,038,500	92*
Sweet Cron Irrigation Modernization Project	Illinois Valley SWCD and Trout Unlimited	Josephine	$535,868	$669,890	71*
		Total	**$8,132,255**	**$24,758,912**	

* Provisionally recommended, subject to available funding. OWRD has $3.7 million available for immediate award and an additional $5 million potentially available for provisional award contingent on a spring 2025 lottery revenue bond sale.

Table 2. Applications Not Recommended for Funding by the Technical Review Team

Project Name	Applicant	County	Grant Funds Requested	Total Project Cost	Total Score
Harbor Water Collector Disaster Mitigation Project	Harbor Water People's Utility District	Curry	$171,584	$1,715,838	59*
Twickenham Irrigation Efficiency	Gabe Williams	Wheeler	$831,602	$1,674,206	50^
Southside Well Water Storage	Harney Soil and Water Conservation District	Harney	$144,150	$188,150	5*
		Total	**$1,147,336**	**$3,578,194**	

*Not recommended because it did not meet the minimum public benefit score in one or more categories.

^Not recommended due to insufficient funds; may be considered if funding is available by the December Commission meeting.

Irrigation Modernization Funding Application

Table 3. Application Recommended for Funding by the Technical Review Team

Project Name	Applicant	County	Grant Funds Requested	Total Project Cost	Total Score
Klamath Irrigation District A-3 Urban Canal Piping	Klamath Irrigation District	Klamath	$907,290	$3,629,159	51*
		Total	**$907,290**	**$3,629,159**	

* Provisionally recommended, subject to available funding. OWRD has $20.5 million potentially available for provisional award contingent on a spring 2025 lottery revenue bond sale.

2024 Water Project Grants and Loans Applications

2024 Irrigation Modernization Funding Application

Overview of Application Scoring

The scoring criteria for applications to the Water Projects Grants and Loans and Irrigation Modernization funding opportunities are based on the public benefits a project is likely to achieve. Projects funded are those which are likely to achieve the greatest public benefits. The change in conditions anticipated to result in public benefits must be described and explained in the project application. When evaluating an application, the TRT examines public benefits in three categories: economic, environmental, and social/cultural. The TRT evaluates and scores each application based on the following questions and determines whether the project would provide exceptional, high, moderate, minor, or no public benefits, or minor or medium negative impacts. See the Scoring Criteria document for more information.

	Question
Economic Public Benefits	a. Does the project create or retain jobs?
	b. Does the project increase economic activity?
	c. Does the project result in increases in efficiency or innovation?
	d. Does the project result in enhancement of infrastructure, farmland, public resource lands, industrial lands, commercial lands or lands having other key uses?
	e. Does the project enhance economic value associated with tourism or recreational or commercial fishing, with fisheries involving native fish of cultural significance to Indian tribes, or with other economic values resulting from restoring or protecting water instream?
	f. Does the project result in increases in irrigated land for agriculture? (which may include increasing irrigated acres, agricultural economic value, or productivity of irrigated land)
Environmental Public Benefits	a. Does the project result in measurable improvement in protected streamflows?
	b. Does the project result in water conservation?
	c. Does the project result in measurable improvement in groundwater levels that enhances environmental conditions in groundwater restricted areas or other areas?
	d. Does the project result in a measurable improvement in the quality of surface water or groundwater?
	e. Does the project increase ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts?
	f. Does the project result in improvements that address one or more limiting ecological factors in the project watershed?
Social/Cultural Public Benefits	a. Does the project promote public health and safety and of local food systems?
	b. Does the project result in measurable improvements in conditions for members of minority or low-income communities, economically distressed rural communities, tribal communities or other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes?
	c. Does the project promote recreation and scenic values?
	d. Does this project contribute to the body of scientific data publicly available in this state?
	e. Does this project promote state or local priorities, including but not limited to the restoration and protection of native fish species of cultural significance to Indian tribes?
	f. Does this project promote collaborative basin planning efforts, including but not limited to efforts under Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy?

2024 Water Project Grants and Loans Applications:

Catherine Creek Elmer Dam Fish Passage and Flow Improvement

Applicant Name: Union Soil & Water Conservation District

County: Union

Funding Requested: $1,924,463

Total Project Cost: $7,267,790

Project Summary (adapted from application): The proposed project is within the Catherine Creek River Basin, near the confluence of the Grande Ronde River. The project goals are to (a) improve irrigation water use efficiency, (b) decrease the negative hydrologic effects associated with Elmer Dam in its current state, (c) improve fish passage for all native fishes at all water levels and provide unimpeded passage to approximately 40 of miles of critical spawning and/or rearing habitat for ESA-listed salmon, (d) increase aquatic habitat quality, and (e) increase climate change resiliency. The proposed project would improve the fishway and dam and make on-farm improvements to off-channel reservoirs and intakes, which would result in unimpeded fish passage and more natural hydrologic scenarios throughout this migration corridor for all native fishes.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

TRT Recommendation: Recommended for Funding

Public Benefit Scores:

Total Score	Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
100	27	22	39	12

Economic Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in:

a) Moderate public benefit due to the 8-10 temporary jobs that would be created as a result of this project. The review team also noted indirect benefits related to job retention within gas, restaurant, and grocery sectors.

b) Moderate public benefit to economic activity by increasing the access to spawning habitat for and population of ESA-listed salmon, which would benefit the commercial salmon fishing industry. The review team also noted a benefit to the increase in productivity for the landowner's farming operations.

c) High public benefit in increases in efficiency. The proposed project would replace diesel pumps with electric pumps and increase water use efficiency.

d) High public benefit due to the infrastructure improvements, including providing better access to channel storage, reducing the forebay elevation, connecting waterways, and increasing irrigation efficiency.

e) High public benefit in the enhancement of economic value associated with commercial fishing, including Steelhead fishing in the Grande Ronde River system.

f) Moderate public benefit to the increase in agricultural value and productivity of irrigated land.

Environmental Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in**:**

a) No public benefit as the project is not proposing to legally protect water instream.

b) High public benefit in water conservation. The project anticipates reducing water use by 39.6% because of the irrigation infrastructure improvements.

c) Minor public benefit due to the marginal improvements to groundwater levels by allowing more free-flowing water into the channel and returning the river to natural conditions.

d) Moderate public benefit to improvement in the quality of surface water by reducing the length of the stored water by 1-2 miles, which would create more natural streamflow conditions.

e) High public benefit to the increase in ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts due to better stream flow and lessened tailwater, improved fish passage, and improved water quality.

f) High public benefit due to the improvements in fish passage and habitat. The proposed project would benefit State Sensitive fish species Redband Trout, Pacific Lamprey, and ESA-listed fish species Chinook Salmon, Steelhead Trout, and Bull Trout.

Social/Cultural Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in**:**

a) Moderate public benefit to public safety and of local food systems. The proposed project would improve safety for the Elmer Dam operator due to updates to the fish ladder. The proposed project also would promote local food systems with improvement to the 100-150 acres that produce teff grain that is milled locally. The review team also noted the significance of salmon to the Tribes First Foods.

b) High public benefit for the conditions of affected Tribes. The review team noted the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have been a partner on this project since it began.

c) High public benefit for recreational value due to the potential increased fishing and scenic value from improved flow conditions.

d) High public benefit to the contribution of scientific data through the installation of a PIT-tag array. The data collected from the project site would be used by state and federal agencies and Tribes to track migrating fish species, which would help manage fish recovery.

e) High public benefit because the proposed project promotes both state and local priorities related to fish passage for all native fish species, including the Pacific Lamprey, which is culturally significant to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

f) Exceptional public benefit because the proposed project promotes collaborative basin planning effort, engaging a diverse range of stakeholders and partners. This project has a history of collaboration over the past 20 years and supports efforts under Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

Bend Headworks Fish Screen Replacement

Applicant Name: North Unit Irrigation District

County: Deschutes

Funding Requested: $1,971,924

Total Project Cost: $9,782,732

Project Summary (adapted from application): This project would remove the existing screens and other related components located at the North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) main canal intake on the mainstem of the Deschutes River and replace them with new screens and components that are in compliance with state and federal standards. The new fish screens are intended to supply debris-free water to irrigators without harming aquatic life. The NUID diversion is responsible for maintaining minimum river flow consistent with legal instream requirements at North Canal Dam as well as ensuring the North Canal Dam Fish Ladder maintains sufficient supplies for fish migration. Through design features that would slow the approach velocity, shrink the mesh size for the screen, and provide a safe path to the fish ladder, the proposed fish screen would provide protection, survival, and restoration to native fish and other aquatic species, while securing water management operations for several irrigation districts.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

TRT Recommendation: Provisionally Recommended, Subject to Available Funding

Public Benefit Scores:

Total Score	Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
96	30	12	42	12

Economic Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in**:**

a) High public benefit due to the increased temporary job availability and job retention for current employees. The project anticipates creating 41 temporary jobs during project construction and securing ongoing operations for 28 employees.

b) Moderate to high public benefit from the positive impacts on the economic activity along the Deschutes River. The proposed project would support the agricultural and construction sectors with expenditures of over $9 million.

c) High public benefit from increased efficiency resulting from the replacement of the fish screen and related components to comply with current state and federal standards.

d) High public benefit as the project would result in the enhancement of infrastructure for the North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) and enable continued water management operations to irrigate existing farmland.

e) High public benefit in the enhancement of economic value associated with tourism and native fish of cultural significance to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS). The project would improve the protection and maintenance of fish populations, including Redband Trout, Pacific Lamprey, and other native species.

f) Minor public benefit as the project does not increase irrigated land for agriculture but does stabilize the system and support continued irrigated agriculture by bringing infrastructure into compliance with state and federal standards.

Environmental Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in**:**

a) No public benefit as the project is not proposing to legally protect water instream.

b) No public benefit as the project is not proposing to conserve water.

c) No public benefit as the project would not result in a measurable improvement in groundwater levels.

d) Minor public benefit to the improvement in the quality of surface water by preventing debris from entering the canal through screen replacement.

e) Moderate public benefit to the increase in ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts by reducing hazards for native fish species in the Deschutes River.

f) High public benefit to the improvement in addressing the limiting ecological factor of fish entrapment. The application cites the significant numbers of fish that have been rescued by ODFW each year. Fish entrapment would be addressed by the new fish screen.

Social/Cultural Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in**:**

a) High public benefit to local food systems as the lands served by the district are dedicated to high-value crops. The review team cited a benefit for Tribal use due to impact on fish populations.

b) High public benefit to the improvement in conditions for Oregon's environmental justice communities. NUID serves Jefferson County, which has a higher proportion of low-income populations and environmental justice communities.

c) High public benefit to recreational and scenic values. The Middle Deschutes is a scenic waterway, and retaining more fish instream would help enhance recreation in that area. The proposed addition of an interpretive sign at the project site also adds value.

d) No public benefit as the proposed would not contribute new scientific data.

e) High to exceptional public benefit as the proposed project promotes both state and local priorities. The site has been a high priority for improved screening for decades. The proposal cites the cultural significance of fish species to CTWS in its intention to protect and maintain these populations.

f) Exceptional public benefit in the proposal's collaborative basin planning efforts. The main strength of this project is its engagement with multiple stakeholders, its alignment with regional conservation plans, and its support for community involvement. The review team indicated this project was a significant example of collaborative planning.

Winston Reservoir Replacement

Applicant Name: Winston-Dillard Water District

County: Douglas

Funding Requested: $3,700,000

Total Project Cost: $7,038,500

Project Summary (adapted from application): The proposed project would replace the two existing water storage reservoirs that have a combined capacity of 1.5 million gallons with one welded steel tank reservoir that holds 2 million gallons. The project would benefit the rural communities of Dillard and City of Winston by improving water management, conserve water, improve drought resiliency, increase wildfire protection, and support aquatic habitat.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

TRT Recommendation: Provisionally Recommended, Subject to Available Funding

Public Benefit Scores:

Total Score	Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
92	33	16	31	12

Economic Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in**:**

a) Moderate to high public benefit with the creation of 15 temporary construction jobs. The proposed project would also support job retention for two major employers, a total of approximately 63 employees.

b) High public benefit related to an increase in economic activity due to the driving need for improvements in this drought-prone area. Douglas County's growing population would benefit by having its water needs met.

c) High to exceptional public benefit from the increases to efficiency given the project's goal of modernization, including a new tank, valves, hatches, and electrical panel. Additionally, the improvements would lead to more efficient hydraulic balancing and a decrease in chlorination product needed to treat water. The innovation of the ShakeAlert warning system was noted by the review team as well.

d) High to exceptional benefit due to the infrastructure improvement of the current leak, eliminating a loss of 150,000 gallons of water monthly. The project design also considers the future impacts of earthquakes on the infrastructure.

e) Minor to moderate public benefit to the enhancement of economic value associated with tourism and recreational fishing. The review team noted the increased summer flow mainly benefits non-native fish for fishery and would not likely improve angling.

f) No public benefit as the project would not result in increases in irrigated land for agriculture.

Environmental Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in**:**

a) High public benefit from the agreement to legally protect water instream through the above-ground storage release of up to 375 acre-feet of water to augment flows in the South Umpqua River, which would improve the natural hydrograph and improve riparian ecosystems.

b) Moderate public benefit to water conservation by replacing the leaking water storage tank and eliminating 150,000 gallons lost per month. This would result in a 15% reduction in water use.

c) Minor public benefit in the improvement in groundwater levels by repairing the leaking tank.

d) Minor public benefit to the quality of surface water and groundwater. The review team noted several water quality problems in this area which would see minor improvement as a result of the project.

e) Moderate public benefit to the increase in ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts by increasing instream flow.

f) Moderate public benefit to limiting ecological factors related to the increased flows and potential impact on water quality.

Social/Cultural Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in**:**

a) High to exceptional public benefit given the current reservoir is not to current code and could be impacted by earthquakes. The proposed improvements support public safety in case of seismic activity. Related to public health, the addition of the mixer is also important to control for the loss of the chlorine residual and thermal and chemical stratification, therefore improving water quality for human consumption.

b) High public benefit for the project's proposal to provide water security for vulnerable communities especially based on the economics of the region. Douglas County is also at high risk of flood and extreme heat, which the project addresses in its benefits toward drought management and earthquake resilience.

c) Minor to moderate public benefit related mainly to the promotion of recreational values. The project's proposal would notably support fish habitat in the South Umpqua River. It would also support the Wildlife Safari, which is a major tourist attraction in the area.

d) Minor public benefit to the contribution of new scientific data. There was limited information on how the project would publicly share the data gathered on pre- and post-earthquake activity with respect to early warning systems and the effectiveness of water control systems.

e) High public benefit in the promotion of state and local priorities to help with water quality, notably increasing flow for migrating juvenile fish species important to tribes.

f) High public benefit for fostering effective collaboration with stakeholders and promoting efforts identified in Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy, including planning and preparing for drought resiliency.

Sweet Cron Irrigation Modernization Project

Applicant Name: Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and Trout Unlimited

County: Josephine

Funding Requested: $535,868

Total Project Cost: $669,890

Project Summary (adapted from application): The proposed irrigation modernization project at Sweet Cron Farm in Kerby would convert from flood and drip irrigation to center pivot irrigation on 33.4 acres. The project goals are to restore and maintain instream flow to benefit native fish populations and to provide an efficient water supply for irrigation. This strategic upgrade is expected to enhance water distribution by 30-50%, benefiting agricultural production. The applicant would legally protect 100% of the conserved water instream (approximately 0.14 cubic feet per second) through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water program in a stream with Endangered Species Act listed fish species.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

TRT Recommendation: Provisionally Recommended, Subject to Available Funding

Public Benefit Scores:

Total Score	Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
71	30	13	19	9

Economic Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in**:**

a) Moderate to high public benefit from the creation of one permanent job and job retention for local irrigators within the Illinois Valley area.

b) High public benefit on the project's impact to economic activity. The project requires long-term maintenance that will be an economic opportunity, affecting contractors, equipment retailers, and electricians. The increased efficiency and production capacity would also benefit local farms.

c) High public benefit from the 30% to 85% increase in efficiency from converting from flood to pivot irrigation.

d) High public benefit to the enhancement of farmland from the investment in irrigation infrastructure.

e) Moderate public benefit to the enhancement of economic value associated with recreation given the significance of native fish species in this region. The area also attracts tourism related to fishing and rafting.

f) Moderate to high public benefit in the increase of production value to the irrigated land for agricultural use given the area to increase the production value of farmland by 50%.

Environmental Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in**:**

a) Moderate to high public benefit from the project's proposal to protect 100% of conserved water to instream flows through the Departments' Allocation of Conserved Water program. The review team noted that the amount of water, approximately 0.14 cfs, is relatively small compared to overall river flows.

b) Moderate public benefit to water conservation. The project would irrigate the same acreage with 12% less water.

c) Minor public benefit to the improvement of groundwater levels. The review team noted the applicants claim that the project would improve groundwater connectivity was not well-supported.

d) Minor public benefit to water quality related to temperature and flow modification in the Illinois River. Less return flows and tailwater from farmlands would also marginally reduce pollutant load.

e) Minor to moderate public benefit for increase in the ecosystem's resiliency to climate change from the increase in instream flow.

f) Minor to moderate public benefit in improvements that address limiting ecological factors from the project's goal to reduce water consumption and dedicate the savings instream. This will aid wildlife species and temperature issues within the river.

Social/Cultural Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in**:**

a) High public benefit to local food systems due to the 50% increase in hay production. Food sales also occur directly from the farm, which is especially important given this area's qualification as a food desert.

b) Moderate to high public benefit to environmental justice communities given the low-income, impoverished nature of this area. The ESA-listed salmon populations are important for the Tribes, including the local Takelma and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

c) Minor public benefit from the increased flows to wildlife scenic area that draws tourism. The review team noted it is a small amount of water but would still enhance flow.

d) No public benefit to the contribution of new scientific data.

e) Moderate public benefit from the promotion of state and local priorities especially related to fish populations. The project lists several plans and strategies that the project supports.

f) Moderate public benefit from the project's collaborative planning with local, state, federal, and tribal partners. The project also promotes efforts identified in the Oregon Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), including improving water use efficiency and water conservation.

Harbor Water Collector Disaster Mitigation Project

Applicant Name: Harbor Water People's Utility District

County: Curry

Funding Requested: $171,584

Total Project Cost: $1,715,838

Project Summary (adapted from application): The goal of this project is to protect a drinking water intake supplying water to approximately 4,300 customers on the South Bank of the mouth of the Chetco River. The proposed project would place 6-foot-deep layer of armoring riprap and barriers of submerged Douglas fir logs with attached root wads around the base of the Ranney Collector to provide structural support, encourage sediment deposition, decrease water velocity and the subsequent risk of increased erosion, and trap fines to provide further stability and future aquatic habitat for Endangered Species Act listed salmon. The riprap and large wood would prevent further erosion of the riverbank near the Harbor Water People Utility District's (PUD) sole drinking water intake.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time, as the project did not meet the minimum public benefit score in the environmental category

Public Benefit Scores:

Total Score	Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
59	27	5	25	3

Economic Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in:

a) High public benefit from job retention in the applicant's service area through water delivery to the public. The application noted the Port of Brookings-Harbor as a major water customer supporting 319 total jobs, although the review team noted that it was unlikely all of those would be eliminated if this source was to fail.

b) High public benefit from the retainment of current economic activity. The review team also noted the importance of the project's focus on disaster mitigation.

c) Moderate public benefit from the increased efficiency and cost savings compared to constructing a new water intake infrastructure. The review team noted the proposed project would protect the existing service that is being delivered.

d) High to exceptional public benefit to the improvement to water infrastructure from the stabilization of riverbanks to protect the drinking water intake in case of flood, which is the sole source of potable water for the Harbor community.

e) Moderate public benefit to the enhancement of economic value associated with tourism and fishing. The project would protect the water source that serves a busy recreational port.

f) No public benefit related to increases in irrigated land.

Environmental Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in:

a) No public benefit as the project is not proposing to legally protect water instream.

b) No public benefit as the project is not proposing to conserve water.

c) No measurable improvement in groundwater levels and therefore no public benefit in this criterion.

d) Minor public benefit to the quality of surface water. The application's claims to reduce high salinity are unsubstantiated.

e) Minor public benefit to the ecosystem's resiliency to climate change impacts from the proposed removal of invasive species at the project site.

f) Minor public benefit to addressing a limiting ecological factor from the addition of large wood and riprap. The review team noted it would not a be a permanent enhancement would provide minimal habitat.

Social/Cultural Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in:

a) High to exceptional public benefit for public health as the project protects the drinking water source for approximately 4,300 individuals.

b) High public benefit for Oregon's environmental justice communities as the project area served by the Ranney Collector has a high percentage of low-income and older adults. The area is determined to be a high flood and fire risk and is susceptible to extreme heat, so the access to potable water would be important to these communities.

c) Moderate public benefit in the promotion of recreational values given that the Port of Brookings-Harbor is the busiest recreational port on the Oregon coast. The claimed benefits to improving fish habitat was determined to be minimal.

d) No public benefit related to the contribution of new scientific data.

e) Moderate public benefit related to the promotion of state and local priorities.

f) Moderate public benefit related to collaborative planning efforts through the promotion of the District's Natural Hazard Mitigation plan.

Twickenham Irrigation Efficiency

Applicant Name: Gabe Williams

County: Wheeler

Funding Requested: $831,602

Total Project Cost: $1,674,206

Project Summary (adapted from application): The goal of the proposed project is to improve climate change resilience of agriculture and the ecosystem. Under this are three sub-goals/actions: to improve irrigation efficiency, increase agricultural production, and increase instream flow. The proposed project would consolidate pumps and upgrade two centrifugal pumps to one more efficient turbine pump, replace the mainline system, upgrade existing pivots for improved efficiency, reduce and/or replace handline and solid-set irrigation systems with pivots, consolidate corner irrigation sections under high efficiency pivots, and apply activated biochar to the fields to improve water retention, reduce fertilizer needs, and improve microbial conditions. The applicant would legally protect 50% of the conserved water instream in the John Day River (approximately 0.75 cubic feet per second) through the Oregon Water Resource Department's Allocation of Conserved Water program. The applicant would apply 50% of the conserved water to place additional acreage into production which would improve the future viability of the agricultural operation.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time due to available funding; may be considered if funding becomes available by the December Commission meeting

Public Benefit Scores:

Total Score	Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
50	23	11	12	4

Economic Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in:

a) Moderate public benefit from the three temporary jobs created for this project and an opportunity for more permanent positions related to the biochar production longer term. The review team noted the project would retain farming jobs as well.

b) Minor public benefit from the short-term increases of economic activity locally. The potential long-term benefits were less certain regarding biochar production and trucking/shipping.

c) High public benefit from increased efficiency to water use, labor and electricity. The project would be considered a pilot for the area with its focus on biochar production, which was noted positively for its innovation by the review team.

d) High public benefit to the enhancement of infrastructure as the project will upgrade existing pivot and pump systems as well as replace outdated irrigation infrastructure.

e) Minor public benefit related to the enhancement of recreation and scenic values. This area is a low priority for fish species recovery due to low summer flows and high

irrigation. The review team noted a minor potential benefit to recreational boating related to the small increase in instream flow.

f) High public benefit from increases in irrigated land for agriculture. The project would increase irrigated land from 188 acres to 240 acres.

Environmental Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in:

a) Moderate public benefit from the project's proposal to legally protect 50% of water instream, approximately 0.75 cfs, through the Department's Allocation of Conserved Water program. The review team noted that the increase in instream flow is small compared to overall flows in the John Day River and may have limited ecological impact.

b) Moderate public benefit to water conservation. The project would reduce water use by 18%.

c) No measurable improvement to groundwater levels and therefore no benefit in this area.

d) Minor public benefit related to surface water quality. The review team noted the project may result in less fertilizer and less degraded tailwater return flows but the improvement to water quality would not likely be measurable.

e) Moderate public benefit related to increases in the ecosystem's resilience to climate change impacts, primarily from the increased instream flow and the sequestration of carbon emissions from the biochar application.

f) Minor public benefit to the improvement of limiting ecological factors from the small amount of water that would be legally protected instream.

Social/Cultural Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in:

a) Moderate public benefit to local food systems through the expansion of hay production.

b) Moderate public benefit to environmental justice communities through increased productivity, bettering the conditions for the sensitive population of this area.

c) Minor to moderate public benefit related to the promotion of recreational value through the project's effort to conserve water. This will help recreational boating, although the review team noted lesser benefit to fish species in the river.

d) Minor public benefit to the contribution of scientific data. As a pilot project, it could demonstrate the use of biochar as a soil amendment, however the review team noted a lack of clarity for the plan to measure and share the data publicly.

e) Minor public benefit to the promotion of state and local priorities from the increase of instream flow.

f) Minor to moderate public benefit from the collaboration with local implementors aiming to serve as a pilot project for innovative practice. The review team noted the application did not mention the Lower John Day Working group or Place-based Planning efforts in the basin.

Southside Well Water Storage

Applicant Name: Harney Soil and Water Conservation District

County: Harney

Funding Requested: $144,150

Total Project Cost: $188,150

Project Summary (adapted from application): The main goal of the proposed project is to get water to the hay fields to irrigate during hot months when water is limited from the Malheur River. The proposed project would install a submersible pump into a well that would pump water to the storage area. The storage reservoir would be built and lined with Bentonite and a pipeline would be installed with valves to supply water to and from the reservoir to the point of use for irrigation.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

TRT Recommendation: Not Recommended for Funding at this time, as the project did not meet the minimum public benefit score in all three categories

Public Benefit Scores:

Total Score	Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
5	4	-1	2	0

Overall, the review team found the application lacked clarity on the legal path for the water rights needed for the proposed project, specifically for the proposed reservoir, which cast doubt on the feasibility of the project.

Economic Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in:

a) Minor public benefit from this project's creation of one full-time job for a duration of one year.

b) Minor public benefit from an increase in economic activity within the construction sector for the reservoir construction.

c) Minor to no public benefit from an increase in efficiency or innovation. Although the review team found this project fits with the region's historical land management, the proposed flood irrigation and storing pumped groundwater in an open reservoir with high evaporation potential is not an efficient use of water. There is some innovation through laser-leveling the farmable land.

d) Minor public benefit from the enhancement of infrastructure, citing an increase to resale value of the land from greater irrigation and farming.

e) Minor negative impact associated with this criterion. The well is 0.2 miles away from Malheur River; therefore, the project could cause injury to river, and the increased acreage of irrigation and quantity of water may impact fish populations or habitats.

f) Minor public benefit from the increase in land for agriculture. The landowner will could irrigate an additional 5 acres as a result of the project.

Environmental Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in:

a) No public benefit as the project is not proposing to legally protect water instream.

b) No public benefit as proposed method of conserving water via laser-leveling are likely outweighed by water losses due to evaporation in the proposed reservoir and from flood irrigating. Additionally, because the water right pathway was unclear, the review team questioned if the proposed project would result in more water use.

c) No measurable improvement in groundwater levels and therefore no public benefit in this criterion.

d) No public benefit from the improved quality of surface water and groundwater. The Malheur River has several water quality issues, and the quantity is low at times but the mechanics of the project and therefore public benefits are uncertain. Although the team noted that laser-leveling of the field will reduce runoff, the increased likelihood of advection (surface transport) of that water on additional flooded acres making it back to river with sediment or pollutants introduces a potential negative impact.

e) No public benefit in terms of the potential for a negative impact on ecosystem resiliency due to evaporative losses associated with the surface water storage and flood irrigation.

f) No public benefit. While flood irrigation may help local bird populations, it is a small plot of land and there is a potential negative impact on species downstream.

Social/Cultural Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in:

a) Minor public benefit in the promotion of local food systems by allowing the ability to farm an additional 5 acres in low flow years.

b) Minor public benefit to Oregon's environmental justice communities from improvement of conditions for crop production for local use and other agricultural support.

c) No public benefit to the promotion of recreation and scenic values; while there is a possible benefit to birds and wildlife in the area, downstream impacts would negate this.

d) No public benefit, although the application states the reservoir structure may capture snow and rainfall, the application does not indicate how the data would be made publicly available.

e) No public benefit to the promotion of state or local priorities. The application claims the project would decrease surface water use, but the likelihood of that is unclear and there is no proposed legal protection of conserved water instream. Additionally, the proximity of the well to the river would impact fish species downstream due to hydraulic connectivity.

f) No public benefit associated with the promotion of collaborative basin planning efforts as the application did not indicate any involvement in those efforts.

2024 Irrigation Modernization Funding Application:

Klamath Irrigation District A-3 Urban Canal Piping

Applicant Name: Klamath Irrigation District

County: Klamath

Funding Requested: $907,290

Total Project Cost: $3,629,159

Project Summary (adapted from application): The proposed project would install piping materials along three miles of the A-3 Urban Canal, install an irrigation flow measurement device and automation to integrate with the District's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, and address invasive weed species. The proposed project anticipates conserving 1000- acre feet of water annually and having multi-benefit effects for numerous stakeholders. The proposed A-3 Urban Canal piping project targets an area where significant seepage is identified and requires additional water deliveries to push water through the canal to meet irrigation demand.

Technical Review Team Score and Comments

TRT Recommendation: Provisionally Recommended, Subject to Available Funding

Public Benefit Scores:

Total Score	Economic	Environmental	Social/Cultural	Other
51	19	10	16	6

Economic Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in:

a) Moderate public benefit from this project through job retention. The project would retain 24 jobs within Klamath Irrigation District, including 10 farming jobs that are directly impacted. The project would also protect 3,100 jobs within the district, though it is unclear the extent to which they would be impacted if the project did not move forward.

b) Moderate public benefit from increases in economic activity. The review team cited the potential benefit to downstream commercial irrigators, as well as local economy impacts related to pipe fabrication and possible temporary hiring.

c) Moderate to high public benefit from increases in efficiency by reducing evaporation and seepage, modernizing the water delivery system, and making better use of water supply.

d) Moderate to high public benefit through the enhanced infrastructure of this project. The review team cited that water will be moved through the canal more efficiently and will be better distributed.

e) Minor to no public benefit from enhanced economic values identified in statute. Klamath Irrigation District will likely use their full allocation of water due to the high demand in this area, so it is unlikely to result in water savings that can be used by Klamath Tribes or the National Wildlife Refuges.

f) Minor to moderate public benefit from irrigated land in securing water to continue irrigating. Due to the demand for water in this area, however, it is unlikely an expansion would be possible.

Environmental Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in:

a) No public benefit as the project is not proposing to legally protect water instream.

b) High public benefit from the project's anticipated savings of 1,000 acre-feet of water from evaporation, seepage, and over-delivery losses, resulting in 50% increase of water conservation.

c) Minor public benefit to groundwater levels. While the application claims the project would mitigate high groundwater levels and reduce property damages from the high water table, this benefit is applicable to the social/cultural category.

d) Minor public benefit from the improved quality of surface water and groundwater. While the quality in the canal would be improved, eliminating debris and urban trash, it is unlikely to affect water quality of the Upper Klamath Lake.

e) No public benefit to ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts. This project is primarily focused on water within the irrigation district for farming.

f) Minor to no public benefit from addressing ecological factors. Water would be utilized primarily for irrigation. There is a possible benefit to mitigating invasive insect species and invasive weed growth.

Social/Cultural Public Benefits:

The review team found the proposed project would likely result in:

a) High to exceptional public benefit associated with the promotion of public health and safety due to the elimination of debris and urban trash through piping of the canal. The review team also cited an exceptional benefit to protecting local food systems against contaminants that enter the food chain through the water supply.

b) Moderate public benefit related to the amount of water potentially remaining in Upper Klamath Lake, although the applicant noted this amount would be minimal if present. There is a possible benefit for the social and environmental health of communities along the canal.

c) No public benefit to the promotion of recreational or scenic values.

d) No public benefit to the contribution of new scientific data.

e) Minor to moderate public benefit to the promotion of state or local priorities. The project may support Tribal priorities to promote higher lake elevation, as there is a small chance conserved water will stay in Klamath Lake for a short period of time before diverted by junior users. The project also supports the local priorities of Klamath District and the larger Klamath system.

f) Moderate to high public benefit related to collaborative basin planning efforts on this project. There is a notable effort between collaborators and stakeholders to organize this project within the Klamath Basin.

Excerpt from Division 93 Rules on Scoring
Water Project Grants and Loans

OAR 690-093-0090

Scoring and Ranking; funding decisions

(1) The primary elements in the process of scoring and ranking of applications include the following:
- (a) Initial review for completeness by the Department;
- (b) Public comment;
- (c) The Technical Review Team conducts the initial scoring and ranking for the projects, considers comments from applicants and the public and makes loan and grant funding recommendations to the Commission; and
- (d) The Commission determines the final scoring and ranking of projects, provides for additional public comment, and makes the final decision regarding which projects are awarded loans or grants from the account.

(2) The Technical Review Team scoring methodology shall rank applications based upon the public benefits of the project and additional considerations set forth in ORS 541.677 subsection (1)(b), (1)(d) and (1)(e). The Technical Review Team shall use a score sheet provided by the Department. Each of the three public benefit categories shall be given equal importance in the evaluation and will have scoring sublevels including but not limited to the following:
- (a) The evaluation of economic benefits for a project based on the changes in economic conditions expected to result from the project related to:
  - (A) Job creation or retention;
  - (B) Increases in economic activity;
  - (C) Increases in efficiency or innovation;
  - (D) Enhancement of infrastructure, farmland, public resource lands, industrial lands, commercial lands or lands having other key uses;
  - (E) Enhanced economic value associated with tourism or recreational or commercial fishing, with fisheries involving native fish of cultural significance to Indian tribes or with other economic values resulting from restoring or protecting water in-stream; and
  - (F) Increases in irrigated land for agriculture.
- (b) The evaluation of environmental benefits for a project based on the changes in environmental conditions expected to result from the project related to:
  - (A) A measurable improvement in protected streamflows that:
    - (i) Supports the natural hydrograph;
    - (ii) Improves floodplain function;
    - (iii) Supports state or federally listed sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species;
    - (iv) Supports native fish species of cultural importance to Indian tribes; or
    - (v) Supports riparian habitat important for wildlife;
  - (B) A measurable improvement in groundwater levels that enhances environmental conditions in groundwater restricted areas or other areas;
  - (C) A measurable improvement in the quality of surface water or groundwater;
  - (D) Water conservation;
  - (E) Increased ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts; and
  - (F) Improvements that address one or more limiting ecological factors in the project watershed.
- (c) The evaluation of the social or cultural benefits for a project based on the changes in social or cultural conditions expected to result from the project related to:
  - (A) The promotion of public health and safety and of local food systems;
  - (B) A measurable improvement in conditions for members of minority or low-income communities, economically distressed rural communities, tribal communities or other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes;
  - (C) The promotion of recreation and scenic values;

(D) Contribution to the body of scientific data publicly available in this state;
(E) The promotion of state or local priorities, including but not limited to the restoration and protection of native fish species of cultural significance to Indian tribes; and
(F) The promotion of collaborative basin planning efforts, including but not limited to efforts under the state Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

(3) Scoring sublevels shall have a numeric point scale that accounts for positive and negative effects of the project. Sublevel scores shall be summed to a public benefit category level. The Department shall set a minimum score for the application to proceed.
(4) The Technical Review Team will use the total score from the score sheet provided by the Department to rank all applications and make loan and grant funding recommendations to the Commission.
(5) The Commission shall determine the final scoring and ranking of projects and make the final decision regarding which projects are awarded loans or grants from the account based on criteria in OAR 690-093-0100.
(6) The Department shall document the ranking of all applications and make the application ranking publicly available after the funding decisions by the Commission have been published.

WATER PROJECT GRANTS AND LOANS

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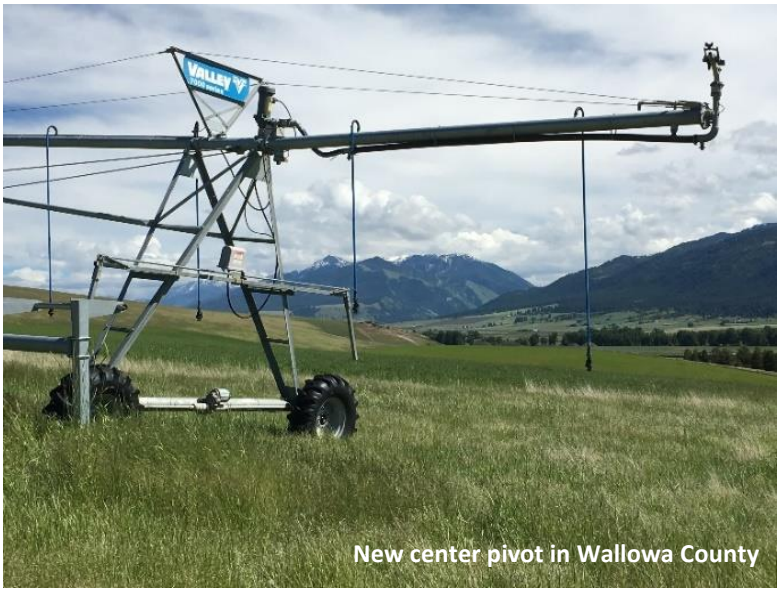
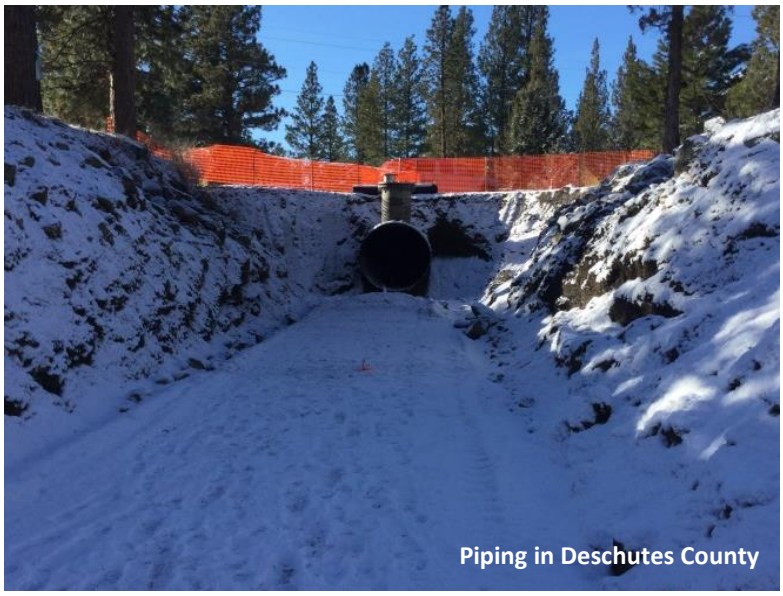
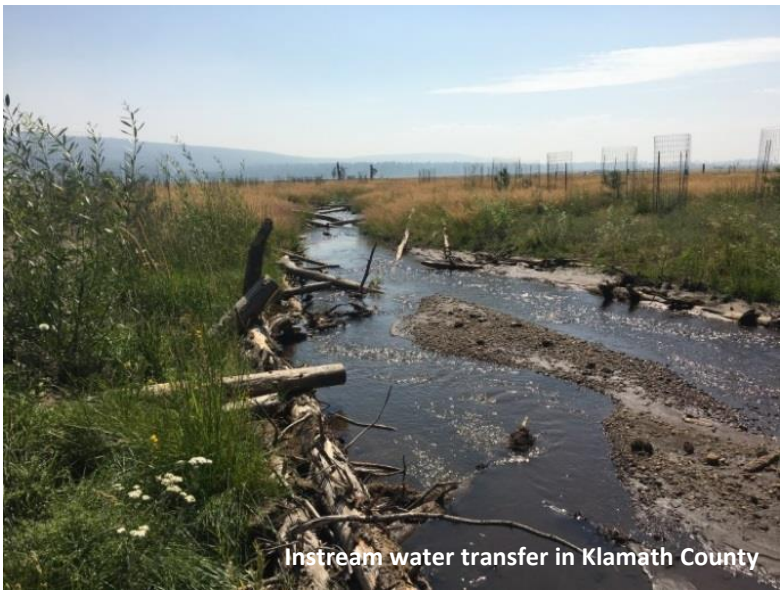
IRRIGATION MODERNIZATION FUNDING


New center pivot in Wallowa County

SCORING CRITERIA


Piping in Deschutes County


Instream water transfer in Klamath County

OREGON
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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Scoring Criteria
Water Project Grants and Loans and Irrigation Modernization Funding

Document Purpose

The scoring criteria for applications to the Water Projects Grants and Loans and Irrigation Modernization funding opportunities are based solely on the public benefits a project is likely to achieve. This document provides an overview of each of the public benefits, describes how the Technical Review Team (TRT) will score the public benefits, and provides recommendations for what information an application should include.

Overview of Application Scoring

Projects funded are those which are likely to achieve the greatest public benefits. The change in conditions anticipated to result in public benefits must be described and explained in the project application. When evaluating an application, the TRT examines public benefits in three categories: economic, environmental, and social/cultural. To be funded, projects must achieve a minimum score of seven in each category. As discussed below, this is a competitive funding opportunity where projects are ranked according to public benefits, therefore achieving a minimum score does not guarantee funding.

When applicants describe the project's public benefits in their application, they should include a description of the conditions prior to and following project implementation, and clearly demonstrate the extent to which the project is expected to result in a change in conditions that will provide a public benefit. When possible, applicants should quantify the project's public benefits. The TRT will only consider public benefits derived from the tasks and project scope contained within the application and the likelihood of achieving those benefits. Public benefits related to future phases (beyond the scope of the proposed project) or unrelated activities will not be scored and should not be included in the application. Likewise public benefits related to past activities will not be considered.

Each category contains six specific public benefits for a total of 18 possible public benefits. The project must provide some benefit in each of the three categories in order to be eligible for funding. Each of the three public benefit categories is given equal importance in the evaluation. Projects do not need to score in all six benefits within a category but must provide benefit in each of the three categories.

Overview of Application Review Process

After receiving an application, the Oregon Water Resources Department reviews the application to ensure it is complete. Complete applications are posted online for a 60-day public comment period. Next, the TRT, a panel of inter-agency representatives, evaluates the applications based on the economic, environmental and social/cultural public benefits the project would achieve, and reviews the public comments. The TRT develops a project ranking and funding recommendation. An opportunity for public comment on the funding recommendation will be provided either through a public comment period and/or be accepted at the Water Resources Commission meeting before funding decisions. The Department presents the ranking, public comments, and funding recommendation to the Water Resources Commission for a funding decision.

When making a funding decision, the Water Resources Commission (Commission) considers: 1) the public benefits as evaluated by the TRT; 2) public comments received on the TRT ranking; and 3) funding projects of diverse sizes, types and geographic locations.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact us at OWRD.Grants@water.oregon.gov or at 971-301-0718.

Scale Used in Evaluation of Public Benefits

Each of the public benefits will be scored according to the scale described below.

Exceptional public benefit: 12 points (pts)

- The project is likely to achieve benefits of an exceptionally high standard or quality.
- The outcomes are very significant, measurable, and represent a key or critical advancement.
- The application includes supporting information and evidence describing the anticipated change in conditions as a result of the project.
- The application includes all necessary information to document a high likelihood of success to achieve the public benefit.

High public benefit: 6 points

- The project is likely to achieve public benefits meeting a high standard of quality.
- The outcomes are significant or represent an important advancement.
- The application includes supporting information and evidence describing the anticipated change in conditions as a result of the project.
- The application includes sufficient information to achieve the anticipated public benefit.

Medium public benefit: 3 points

- The project is likely to achieve moderate public benefit.
- The outcomes are likely to achieve an improvement in conditions.
- The application includes supporting information and evidence describing the anticipated change in conditions as a result of the project.

Minor public benefit: 1 point

- The project may achieve minor public benefits.
- The claims of public benefits are unsupported or unquantified.

No benefit: 0 points

- The project is not likely to achieve a public benefit.
- No positive or negative impact related to the public benefit. No change.

Minor negative impact or detriment: -1 point

- The project may have a minor negative effect or impact to this category.

Medium negative impact or detriment: -3 points

- The project is likely to cause moderate harm and have a negative impact to this category.

Category 1. Economic benefits

The evaluation of economic benefits of a project is based on the change in economic conditions expected to result from the project as demonstrated in the application.

1a. Does the project create or retain jobs?

Job creation means the project would result in new jobs. Retention means the project would prevent the loss of jobs. Job creation and retention benefits may include direct effects within the organization that owns or operates the project, or it may include indirect effects on retail customers or consumers of the project. Temporary jobs resulting from the project will not receive as high of a score as permanent jobs.

Application tip*: Quantify the number and identify the type of jobs to be created or retained as a result of the project. Describe the value of the increase or retention of jobs to the local economy.*

Exceptional: 12 pts	*Exceptional* increases in the creation or retention of permanent jobs which provide key or critical benefit in the geographic area or employment sector
High: 6 pts	Increases in the creation or retention of permanent jobs which provide an important benefit in the geographic area or employment sector
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* increase in the creation or retention of permanent jobs, or seasonal jobs important to the geographic area or employment sector
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* increase in jobs, temporary jobs, or job retention, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	The project is not likely to achieve new jobs or impact job retention
Minor detriment: -1 pt	Potential for *minor job losses*
Medium detriment: -3 pts	*Moderate* job losses or a decrease in jobs is likely

1b. Does the project increase economic activity?

Economic activity is associated with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Such economic activity could occur within one or more entities/businesses and includes an increase in production, gross sales, or net revenue compared to the year preceding project completion. It also includes but is not limited to the arrival of new firms, renewed contracts, and increased orders.

Application tip: *Include information citing economic development plans or other economic activity which would be made possible or supported by the proposed project. If the proposed project protects or maintains current economic activity, demonstrate the degree to which economic activity would decline if the proposed project were not completed and why.*

Exceptional: 12 pts	*Exceptional (five or more years)* increase in long-term economic activity of vital, or key importance are likely to occur
High: 6 pts	Increases in long-term economic activity with the potential to support future activity important to the area/sector
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* (*one to four years)* increase in economic activity
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor, short-term (less than one year)* increase in economic activity, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Increased economic activity *not likely* to occur
Minor detriment: -1 pt	Potential for *minor losses or decreases* in economic activity
Medium detriment: -3 pts	*Moderate losses or decreases* in economic activity are likely

1c. Does the project increase efficiency or innovation?

Increase in efficiency means the project would make improvements in performance or functionality resulting in less effort or waste. Increase in innovation means that new, creative solutions and ideas would be implemented. Examples of increases in efficiency and innovation include water system efficiencies such as system redundancy (back-up, inter-ties), eliminating leakage, innovative production techniques, energy savings (e.g., the energy required to move, treat, or heat water), and time savings.

Exceptional: 12 pts	*Exceptional* increase in efficiency and innovation
High: 6 pts	*High* Increases in efficiency or innovation
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* increases in performance
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* increases *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Increased efficiency or innovation not likely
Minor detriment: -1 pt	Potential for *minor decreases* in efficiency or innovation
Medium detriment: -3 pts	*Moderate decreases* in efficiency or innovation are likely

1d. Does the project enhance infrastructure, farmland, public resource lands, industrial lands, commercial lands or lands having other key uses?

Enhancement of infrastructure, including municipal infrastructure, farmland, public resource lands, industrial lands, commercial lands and other lands means that the value, effectiveness, or reliability of such infrastructure or lands would increase as a result of project implementation. This includes an increase in the re-sale or rental value of the land or improvements, including: maintained, repaired, or upgraded infrastructure; maintained or buffered riparian areas; and maintained or improved soils.

Exceptional: 12 pts	*Exceptional* enhancements of infrastructure or land
High: 6 pts	*High* quality of enhancements to infrastructure or land
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* enhancements
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* enhancements, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Enhancements *not likely*
Minor detriment: -1 pt	Potential that infrastructure or lands will be *degraded or removed* from productive uses (minor negative change)
Medium detriment:-3 pts	Infrastructure or lands that are *degraded or removed* from productive uses (moderate negative change)

1e. Does the project enhance the economic value associated with: tourism, recreation, fishing (recreational or commercial), fisheries involving native fish of cultural significance to Indian tribes, or other economic values resulting from restoring or protecting water instream?

Examples of enhancement of these economic values include increases in: daily park fees, tour guide revenues, boat or gear rentals, fishing licenses, or hospitality and lodging.

Exceptional: 12 pts	*Exceptional* increased value of tourism, recreation, fishing, fisheries involving native fish of cultural significance to Indian tribes, or other economic values resulting from restoring or protecting water instream are likely
High: 6 pts	A *high* quality of increased value is likely
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* increased value
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* increased value, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Enhanced values *not likely*
Minor detriment: -1 pt	Potential for *minor decrease*s in the economic value of tourism, recreation, fishing, fisheries involving native fish of cultural significance to Indian tribes, or other economic values resulting from restoring or protecting water instream
Medium detriment: -3 pts	*Moderate decreases* in the economic value of tourism, recreation, fishing, fisheries involving native fish of cultural significance to Indian tribes, or other economic values resulting from restoring or protecting water instream

1f. Does the project result in increases in irrigated land for agriculture? (which may include increasing irrigated acres, agricultural economic value, or productivity of irrigated land)

Increases in irrigated land for agriculture mean that the numbers of acres (acreage) to be irrigated after project completion would be greater than what could previously be irrigated, or that the agricultural economic value or productivity of current irrigated land would increase. Acreage can include lands that were never historically in production or lands that were historically in production but were taken out of production as a result of insufficient water supply.

Application tip: *Highlight the amount of land currently in production in the area, identify the quantity of additional acreage to be irrigated, and calculate the percentage increase in irrigated acreage that would result from the project. Cite scientific articles, reports, or studies and estimate the percentage increase in irrigated crop's economic value or productivity.*

Exceptional: 12 pts	*Exceptional increase* in irrigated acreage, or agricultural economic value or productivity
High: 6 pts	*High* increase in irrigated acreage, or agricultural economic value or productivity
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* increase in irrigated acreage or agricultural economic value or productivity
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* increase, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Increased irrigated land or increased value or productivity *not likely*
Minor detriment: -1 pt	Potential for *minor decreases* in agricultural economic value or productivity or irrigated land for agriculture
Medium detriment: -3 pts	*Moderate decreases* irrigated land for agriculture or agricultural economic value or productivity are likely

Category 2. Environmental benefits

The evaluation of the environmental benefits of a project is based on the change in environmental conditions expected to result from the project as demonstrated in the application.

2a. Does the project result in measurable improvements in protected streamflows?

Protected streamflow means water that remains in or is released into the natural channel ***and*** is legally protected by the State in order to achieve one or more of the following:

(A) Supports the natural hydrograph;
(B) Improves floodplain function;
(C) Supports state- or federally-listed sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species;
(D) Supports native fish species of cultural importance to Indian tribes; **or**
(E) Supports riparian habitat important for wildlife.

Application tip: *To score in this category an application **must** describe the legal means by which water would be protected by the State, as well as the quality, timing, duration, or other value this streamflow would contribute. The application must also describe how the legally protected water will achieve (A) through (E) listed above (e.g., how water transferred instream through the Allocation of Conserved Water will support, enhance, or improve riparian habitat for wildlife and the extent to which that water will achieve that benefit).*

Identifying which water rights will be protected instream will provide clarifying information for the evaluation.

Exceptional: 12 pts	Project water (or equivalent volume) is legally protected instream by the State and streamflow supports *exceptional* achievement **in each criteria** (A) through (E)
High: 6 pts	Project water (or equivalent volume) is legally protected instream by the State and streamflow supports achievements of a *high quality* in a combination of criteria (A) through (E)
Medium: 3 pts	Project water (or equivalent volume) is legally protected instream by the State and streamflow supports *moderate* achievement in a combination of (A) through (E)
Minor: 1 pt	Project water (or equivalent volume) is legally protected instream by the State and streamflow supports *minor* achievement in a combination of (A) through (E), *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Improvements in protected streamflow *unlikely, OR streamflow would not be legally protected by the State*
Minor detriment: -1 pt	Potential *minor decreases* to protected streamflow
Medium detriment: -3 pts	*Moderate decreases* protected streamflow (e.g., proposes to reverse an instream lease)

2b. Does the project result in water conservation?

Water conservation is reducing water use to achieve the same outcomes by modifying the technology or method of diverting, transporting, applying, or recovering water.

Application tip: *Identify the quantity of water reduction, by comparing what water would be needed to accomplish the task after project completion with what was previously used to achieve the same task.*

Exceptional: 12 pts	*40 percent or more* reduction in water use to achieve the same outcomes
High: 6 pts	*21-40 percent* reduction in water use to achieve the same outcomes
Medium: 3 pts	*11-20 percent* reduction
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor (<10 percent)* reduction, *OR* claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Water conservation *not likely*
Minor detriment: -1 pt	*Potential for additional water used* to achieve the same outcomes (e.g., sacrificing water efficiency for energy/pumping efficiency)
Medium detriment: -3 pts	*Additional water used* to achieve the same outcomes (e.g., sacrificing water efficiency for energy/pumping efficiency)

2c. Does the project result in measurable improvements in groundwater levels that enhance environmental conditions in groundwater restricted areas or other areas?

Measurable improvements in groundwater levels mean that groundwater declines would be reduced or eliminated and/or groundwater levels would increase. Stabilization or improvements in groundwater levels could come from aquifer storage and recovery, artificial recharge projects, natural recharge, or discontinued / reduced groundwater use.

Application tip: *Cite and use quantitative measurements to indicate current levels, and method and frequency that improvements would be measured. If applicable, indicate if these improvements would occur in a groundwater restricted area.*

Exceptional: 12 pts	*Exceptional* improvements in groundwater levels
High: 6 pts	*High* quality of improvements
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* improvements
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* improvement to groundwater levels, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Improved groundwater levels *not likely*
Minor detriment: -1 pt	*Potential for minor groundwater declines*
Medium detriment: -3 pts	Moderate groundwater declines are likely

2d. Does the project result in measurable improvements in the quality of surface water or groundwater?

Water quality parameters include but are not limited to: temperature, dissolved oxygen, contaminated sediments, toxic substances, bacteria, or nutrients. Improvements could result from a higher quality of water discharged to surface water or injected into groundwater, from increased flow, from treatment or filtration of water already in the environment, or removal of a known contaminant.

Application tip: *Any improvement must be measurable or quantifiable. One must be able to measure or determine the change in quality before and after project implementation. Cite and use currently available baseline water quality data. Include a water quality monitoring proposal for the post project completion period.*

Exceptional: 12 pts	*Exceptional, measurable* improvements in water quality
High: 6 pts	*High quality* of measurable improvements
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate, measurable* improvements
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* improvements, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Improved water quality *not likely*
Minor detriment: -1 pt	*Potential minor negative impacts to water quality*
Medium detriment: -3 pts	*Moderate negative impacts to* water quality are likely

2e. Does the project increase ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts?

Ecosystem resiliency to climate change means increasing the ecosystems ability to adapt to changes in climate or positively respond to the impacts of climate change. This includes: increasing streamflow during critical months, increasing natural storage (e.g., wetlands, upland meadows), decreasing water temperature during critical months, protecting or enhancing cold-water habitat, restoring floodplain connectivity and backwater habitats, restoring stream buffers, decreasing coastal erosion and inundation, or decreasing risk of drought, fire occurrence (not fire response), plant disease, or invasive species outbreak. This public benefit is centered on ecosystem resilience, not community resilience. Improvements to a community's resilience to climate change should be addressed in the social/cultural benefit category.

Exceptional: 12 pts	*Exceptional* improvements in multiple areas in ecosystem resiliency to climate change
High: 6 pts	*High* quality improvements in ecosystem resiliency to climate change
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* improvements
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* improvements, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Improvements in ecosystem resiliency to climate change *not likely*
Minor detriment: -1 pt	*Minor decreases* in ecosystem resiliency to climate change may occur
Medium detriment: -3 pts	*Moderate decreases* in ecosystem resiliency to climate change are expected

2f. Does the project result in improvements that address one or more limiting ecological factors in the project watershed?

A limiting ecological factor is an environmental condition that limits the growth, abundance, or distribution of an organism or a population of organisms in the project watershed. Cite the limiting ecological factor(s) in your application and how the project may result in improvements.

Examples of limiting factors may include, but are not limited to, barriers to fish passage, lack of high quality habitat for sensitive, threatened and endangered species, low water quality, or low streamflow.

Application tip: *To score in this category an application must include citation of public reports, peer reviewed scientific studies, or other substantiating documentation from a state or federal agency to verify the limiting ecological factor's presence in the watershed.*

Exceptional: 12 pts	*Exceptional* progress towards removing limiting ecological factors or making improvements which address multiple limiting ecological factors
High: 6 pts	Important progress making improvements of a *high* quality which address limiting ecological factors
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* progress which address some limiting ecological factors
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* progress, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	*Not likely* to address limiting ecological factors in the project watershed *OR documentation verifying limiting ecological factor not included*
Minor detriment: -1 pt	*Potential minor worsening of some* limiting ecological factors in the project watershed
Medium detriment: -3 pts	*Exacerbates* limiting ecological factors in the project watershed

Category 3. Social or Cultural benefits

The evaluation of the social/cultural benefits of a project is based on the change in social or cultural conditions expected to result from the project as demonstrated in the application.

3a. Does the project promote public health, public safety, and local food systems?

This public benefit includes: protection of drinking water sources, repair of septic systems/field, maintenance and repair of other water infrastructure, treatment and protection of drinking water itself, improved emergency response and advisory systems (e.g., WARN network, fish consumption advisories, water contact advisories, etc.), improved or protected water quality for human consumption and human contact (e.g., removal or prevention of toxics, contaminants of concern, bacteria), and the promotion of self-reliant and resilient food networks that connect food producers and food consumers in the same geographic region.

Exceptional: 12 pts	*Exceptional* promotion of public health, public safety or local food systems vital to the community
High: 6 pts	*High* quality of promotion of public health, public safety or local food systems
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* promotion
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* promotion of public health, public safety or local food systems, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Promotion of public health, public safety or local food systems *not likely*
Minor detriment: -1 pt	Potential for *minor negative impact* to public health, public safety, or local food systems
Medium detriment: -3 pts	*Degrades* public health, public safety or local food systems

3b. Does the project result in measurable improvements in conditions for Oregon's environmental justice communities (e.g., minority or low-income communities, economically distressed rural communities, tribal communities, or other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes)?

Environmental justice communities in Oregon are minority or low-income communities, economically distressed rural communities, tribal communities, or other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes. Engagement could include outreach efforts to listen and involve environmental justice communities, solicit feedback on conditions in need of improvement, or communicate project description and anticipated outcomes.

Application tip: *Identify which of those communities would benefit from the project and quantify these benefits. Demonstrate that project-siting decisions have been examined and approved by affected landowners and affected environmental justice communities.*

Exceptional: 12 pts	*Exceptional* measurable improvements in conditions for environmental justice communities, and environmental justice communities were engaged in the process of developing projects
High: 6 pts	Improvements are of a *high* quality and environmental justice communities were consulted or provided meaningful opportunity to engage
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* improvements and environmental justice communities were provided meaningful opportunity to engage
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* improvements, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Improved conditions *not likely*

Minor detriment: -1 pt	Likely to result in *minor detriment* in conditions for environmental justice communities
Medium detriment: -3 pts	*Worse conditions* for environmental justice communities are likely

3c. Does the project promote recreation and scenic values?

Recreation and scenic values include recreational fishing, motorized boating, non-motorized boating, and other forms of water-based recreation, swimming, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, sightseeing, hiking, photography, and aesthetic values. To promote those values means the project would improve the quality of or access to the examples identified.

Application tip: *Evidence to support this benefit can be provided in the form of qualitative information, which may include interviews, professional opinion, or surveys.*

Exceptional: 12 pts	Exceptional promotion of recreation or scenic values, improving access and quality
High: 6 pts	*High quality of* promotion, improving access and quality
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* promotion, improving access or quality
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* promotion, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Benefit to recreation and scenic values *not likely*
Minor detriment: -1 pt	Potential to detract from recreation and scenic values (minor detraction)
Medium detriment: -3 pts	Moderate detractions from recreation and scenic values

3d. Does this project contribute to the body of scientific data publicly available in this state?

Contributing to the body of scientific data means collecting new scientific information *and* making it available to the public. For example, data could be collected from water quality or habitat monitoring; groundwater studies or other investigations; new stream gages; or new monitoring wells. Contributions could also come from conducting a Seasonally Varying Flow analysis. Collection of scientific data is not sufficient to achieve this public benefit---the data must be made publicly available.

Application tip: *Describe the equipment and/or methods that would be used and whether the data would be made available to the public. Note how this data supplies new information of particular significance to the project area.*

Exceptional: 12 pts	Exceptional contributions of new data to the body of scientific data publicly available in the state
High: 6 pts	High quality of data contributions
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* contributions
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* contributions, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	Contributions are unlikely or would occur regardless of the project
Minor detriment: -1 pt	Not applicable
Medium detriment: -3 pts	Not applicable

3e. Does this project promote state or local priorities, including but not limited to the restoration and protection of native fish species of cultural significance to Indian tribes?

A state or local priority is one that is identified in a plan, strategy, or study such as Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy, a place-based integrated water resources plan, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, state and local water quality plans, species and habitat conservation or recovery plans/strategies, forestry plans, regional solutions priorities, local economic development plans, state or local hazard mitigation plans, etc. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife maintains a list of native fish species: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/crp/freshwater.asp.

Exceptional: 12 pts	Exceptional role supporting a state and local priority
High: 6 pts	*High* quality role in supporting a state or local priority
Medium: 3 pts	*Moderate* role
Minor: 1 pt	*Minor* role, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	No promotion of state or local priorities
Minor detriment: -1 pt	May be counter to state or local priorities
Medium detriment: -3 pts	Runs counter to state or local priorities

3f. Does this project promote collaborative basin planning efforts, including but not limited to efforts under the state Integrated Water Resources Strategy?

Collaborative basin planning efforts incorporate public processes that are transparent and inclusive of diverse interests.

Application tip: *Demonstration of a collaborative planning effort may include publicly noticed meetings, posting agendas and decisions so they were publicly available, the inclusion of multiple types of water users represented in the process (e.g., instream interests, agricultural, municipal, domestic and industrial users), evidence that the project is supported by the community, and evidence that the project was identified in a Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Plan or another collaboratively developed strategic plan.*

Exceptional: 12 pts	Project was identified in a collaboratively developed plan that is supported by all basin interests and where the public had meaningful opportunities to engage
High: 6 pts	Project was identified by a collaborative group that includes representation of multiple interests, where the public had meaningful opportunities to provide input
Medium: 3 pts	The project promotes the goals of a collaborative basin planning effort
Minor: 1 pt	An effort was made to engage and elicit input from the public, *OR* benefit claims are *unsupported or unquantified*
No benefit: 0 pts	*No change/impact*
Minor detriment: -1 pt	Stakeholders with differing perspectives and/or the public (as appropriate) were *not consulted* about the project and did not have opportunities to provide input
Medium detriment: -3 pts	Stakeholders with differing perspectives and/or the public (as appropriate) were *excluded* during project development

Preference Points

For Water Project Grants and Loans and Irrigation Modernization Funding applications, a proposed project can receive up to 24 additional preference points. These points are not added to the public benefit category (economic, environmental, social/cultural) but are listed as "Other" in the evaluation summaries.

- For projects that propose to legally protect water instream, the score from question 2a will be doubled, for up to 12 additional points.

- For projects that include partnerships and collaboration, the score from question 3f will be doubled, for up to 12 additional points.

An application could score up to 72 points in each of the economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefit categories. With the addition of the 24 preference points, there is a maximum public benefit score of 240 points.

For Irrigation Modernization Funding projects only, a project can receive an additional 10 preference points. These points are not added to the public benefit category (economic, environmental, social/cultural) but are listed as "Other" in the evaluation summaries.

- For projects involving surface water rights where the project conserves water, projects that legally protect a portion of the conserved water instream commensurate with the amount required under the approach described in ORS 537.470 will receive an additional 10 points.

With the addition of the 10 preference points, there is a maximum benefit score of 250 points for Irrigation Modernization projects.