

OREGON



WATER RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT

# Feasibility Study Grants Funding Recommendations

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Development Program**

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**June 14, 2019**

# Presentation Overview



**Purpose and History of Funding Opportunity**



**2018-2019 Funding Cycle Overview**



**Funding Recommendations**

# Purpose and History

# Funding Purpose

**Purpose:** Provide funding to evaluate feasibility of a water conservation, reuse, or storage project

**Deadline:** Fall each year (e.g., October 17, 2018)

**Funding Decision:** Spring each year (June 2019)



**Conservation**



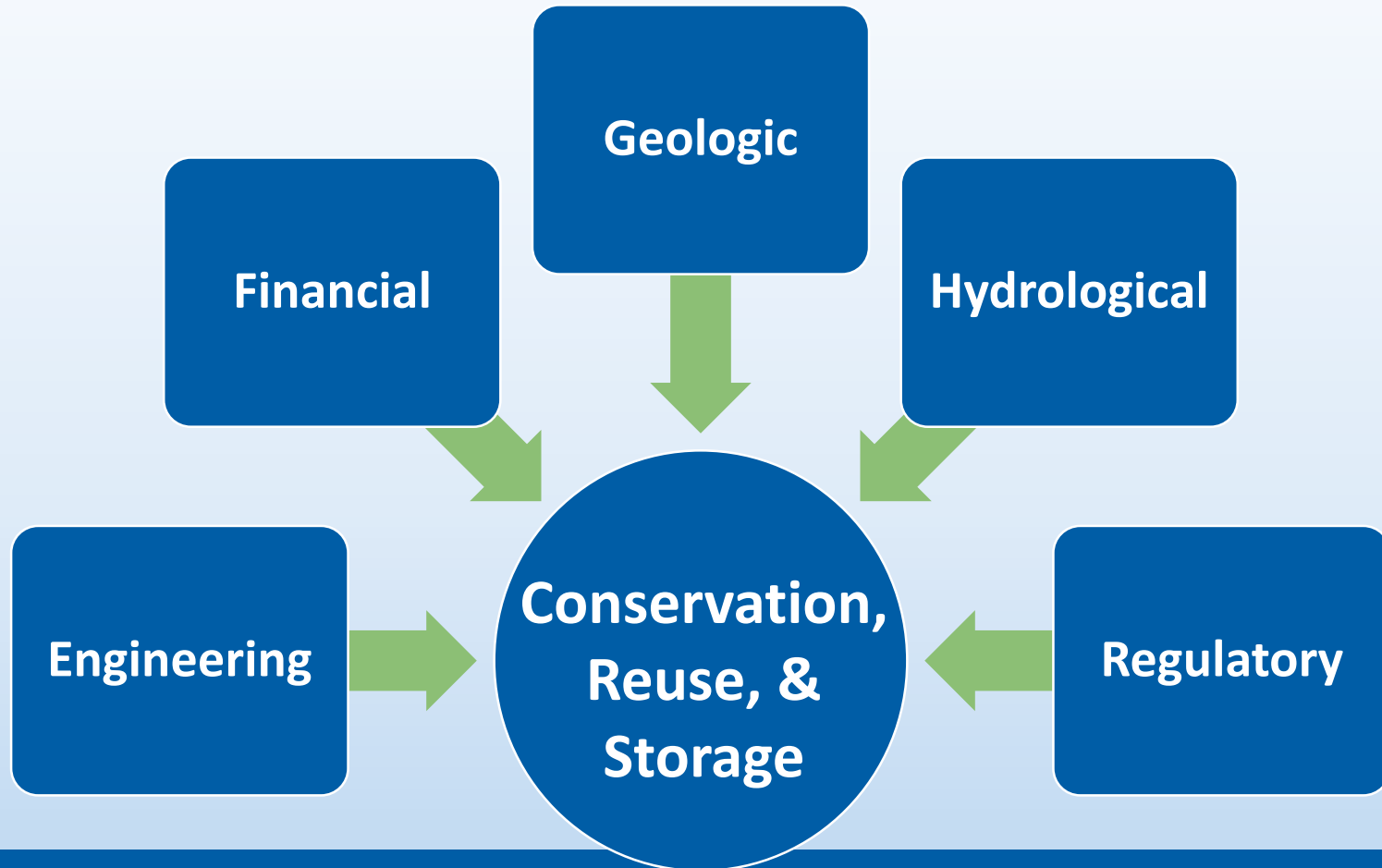
**Reuse**



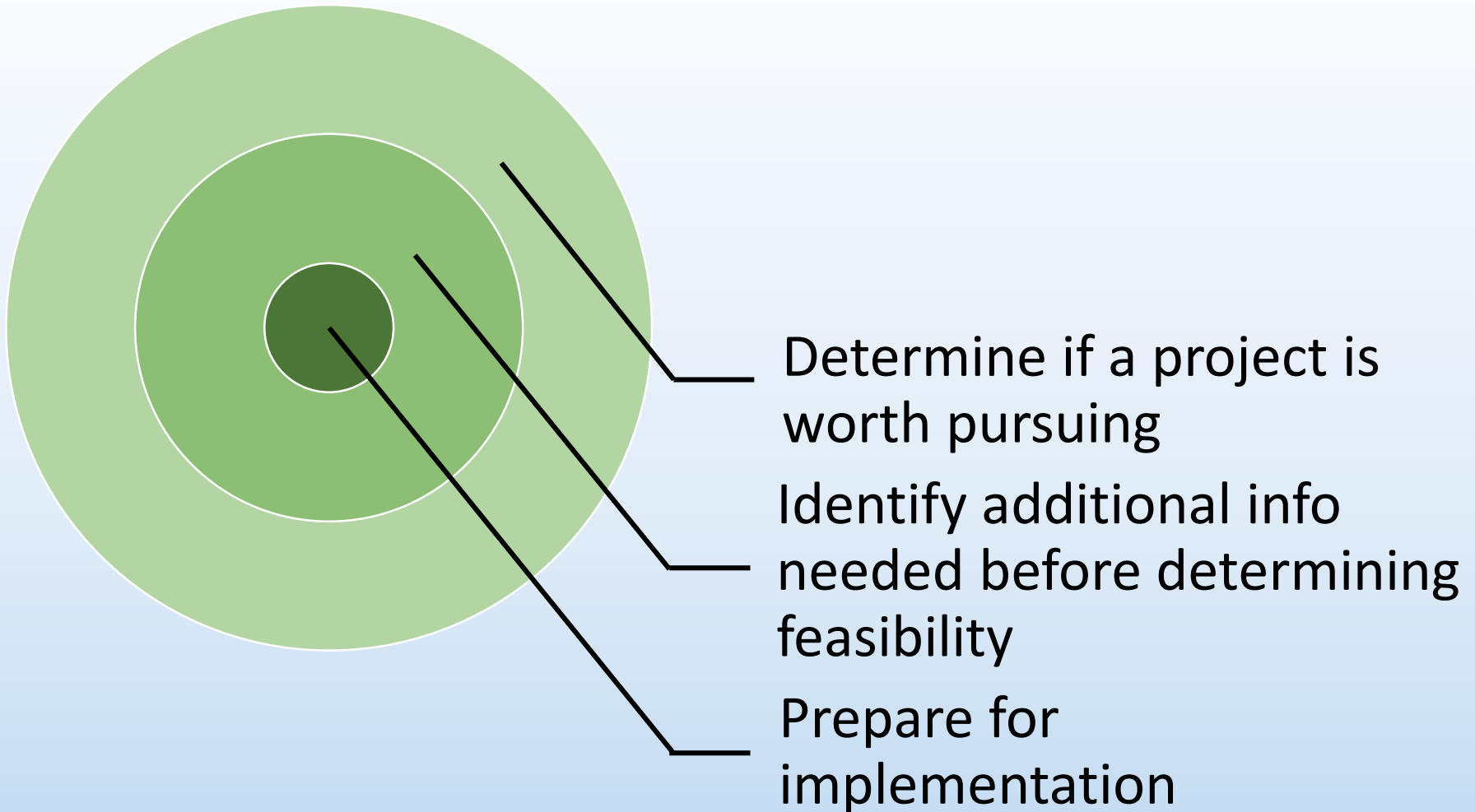
**Storage**

# Funding Purpose

A feasibility study seeks to answer the question: Should we (or how should we) proceed with a proposed project idea?



# Value of Feasibility Study Grants



# Grant Details

- Studies limited to water conservation, reuse, and storage projects
- \$500,000 funding cap
- Storage projects that meet certain criteria are required by statute to include certain analyses (e.g., analyses of environmental harm or impacts)

# History

- SB 1069 passed in 2008
- 82 studies funded
  - 29 conservation
  - 19 reuse
  - 36 storage
- Over \$5 million in grants awarded
- Grants last awarded in May 2017

Biennium	Funds Awarded
2009-11	~\$1.3 million
2011-13	~\$1.0 million
2013-15	~\$0.7 million
2015-17	~\$2.1 million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>~\$5.1 million</b>



# 2018-19 Funding Cycle Review Process

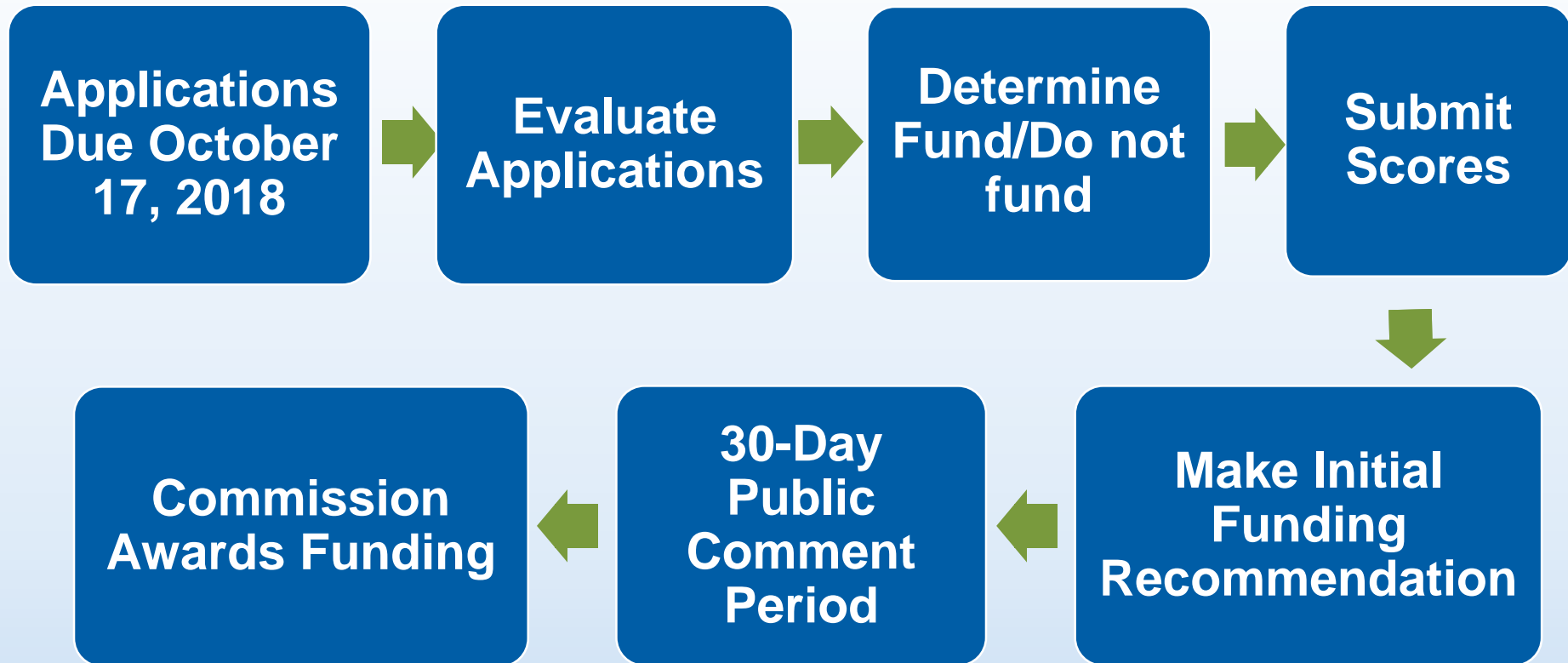
# 2018-19 Funding Cycle

- Approximately \$2.5 million available to award
- Applications due October 17, 2018
- Eight complete applications received
  - 1 Below-ground storage study
  - 7 Conservation studies

# Applications Received

Study Name	Funding Requested	Total Cost of Study
Enhancing the Reliability of the Alluvial Groundwater Supply in the Walla Walla Basin	\$77,715	\$155,799
Lundy Ditch Irrigation Efficiency Feasibility Study	\$43,857	\$87,714
Talent Irrigation District Water Conservation Study	\$49,000	\$153,000
Tower Ditch Sleeving Feasibility Study	\$17,180	\$35,196
Upper John Day Irrigation Water Conservation Feasibility Study	\$151,758	\$303,516
Water & Energy Conservation with Variable Speed Drives on the Rogue River	\$43,264	\$86,527
White Ditch Sucker Creek Water Conservation Study	\$64,000	\$129,400
City of Umatilla Hydraulically Connected Wells	\$364,000	\$728,387
	<b>\$810,773</b>	<b>\$1,679,538</b>

# Application Review Process





# Application Review Team



# Application Evaluation

- ART makes a fund/do not fund vote, considering:
  - Is the proposal a Feasibility Study?
  - Readiness for funding?
    - Missing elements
    - Insufficient details
  - Is water available? (or, will this question be evaluated in the study?)

# Application Evaluation

- Projects that receive a “fund” vote are scored on:
  - Study goal
  - Water need
  - Community benefit
  - Technical planning and preparedness
- Projects are ranked by score and recommended for funding based on fund availability

# Studies Recommended for Funding



# Enhancing the Reliability of the Alluvial Groundwater Supply in the Walla Walla Basin

## Study Type

Below-Ground Storage

## Applicant

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council

## Recommended Funding

\$77,715

## Total Cost

\$155,799

## County

Umatilla

## Highlights

- Evaluate three alternatives to recharge the alluvial aquifer:
  - Irrigate acres during winter to promote infiltration
  - Increase natural seepage loss in the Little Walla Walla
  - Store water with larger scale managed aquifer recharge sites
- Examine technical, political, regulatory, and economic feasibility

# Lundy Ditch Irrigation Efficiency Feasibility Study

## Study Type

Conservation

## Applicant

Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District and Arnold Irrigation District

## Recommended Funding

\$44,070

### Total Cost

\$189,870

## County

Deschutes

## Highlights

- Examine the feasibility of converting a private open lateral to pipe, consolidating other private laterals, and improving on-farm irrigation water efficiency
- Assess potential water and energy savings, technical feasibility, and estimated costs

# Talent Irrigation District Water Conservation Study

## Study Type

Conservation

## Applicant

Farmers Conservation Alliance

## Recommended Funding

\$49,000

## Total Cost

\$153,000

## County

Jackson

## Highlights

- Analyze the existing water delivery infrastructure
- Evaluate one or more alternatives for modernization
- Produce high-level engineering designs, cost estimates, projected water savings, projected hydroelectric power generation and energy conservation potentials, and fish screening and passage opportunities

# Tower Ditch Sleeving Feasibility Study

## Study Type

Conservation

## Applicant

Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District and Swalley Irrigation District

## Recommended Funding

\$17,180

## Total Cost

\$35,196

## County

Deschutes

## Highlights

- Determine the technical feasibility of sleeving (lining) a segment of the Tower Ditch pipeline
- Examine estimated costs for future on-demand pressurized irrigation water



# Upper John Day Irrigation Water Conservation Feasibility Study

## Study Type

Conservation

## Applicant

The Freshwater Trust

## Recommended Funding

\$151,758

### Total Cost

\$303,516

## County

Grant

## Highlights

- Identify potential water-saving infrastructure upgrades
- Prioritize potential upgrades based on cost, instream and on-farm benefit, and landowner interest
- Complete 50% design(s) of highest priority projects

# Water and Energy with Variable Speed Drives on the Rogue River

## Study Type

Conservation

## Applicant

Grants Pass Irrigation District

## Recommended Funding

\$43,264

## Total Cost

\$86,527

## County

Josephine

## Highlights

- Evaluate the replacement of current electrical systems with more efficient variable speed drive of pumps
- Assess the water conservation, technical considerations, and potential energy savings
- Develop cost estimates

# White Ditch Sucker Creek Water Conservation Study

## StudyType

Conservation

## Applicant

Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

## Recommended Funding

\$64,000

## Total Cost

\$129,400

## County

Josephine

## Highlights

- Investigate options for ditch and on-farm improvements
- Clarify water rights, evaluate current infrastructure and system efficiency, and assess alternatives
- Produce preliminary design and construction cost estimates for the preferred alternative

# Studies Not Recommended For Funding At This Time



# City of Umatilla Hydraulically Connected Wells

## Study Type

Conservation

## Applicant

City of Umatilla

## Recommended Funding

\$364,000

## Total Cost

\$728,387

## County

Umatilla

## Highlights

- Investigate potential for using well hydraulically connected to surface water
- Drill exploratory boreholes and test well, test and monitor the water to determine hydraulic connection
- Assess potential for lower water demand

# Review Team Findings

Review team did not consider the application to contain all tasks needed to show technical preparedness and readiness.

- Did not identify actions to address the development limitation or the Water Management Conservation Plan
- Did not identify the need for a permit amendment to address the well location

# Review Team Findings

- Study goal and potential economic opportunity of project were viewed favorably
- Study proposal represented an interesting and innovative concept
- ART recommended the application be revised and resubmitted in a future funding cycle

# Public Comments

- Comments in support of:
  - Talent Irrigation District Water Conservation Study
  - White Ditch Sucker Creek Water Conservation Study
- Comments from the City of Umatilla
  - Responded to the ART's evaluation
  - Requested that the Commission reconsider the grant application and award funding to the study

# Tribal Comments

- Affected Tribes were notified of the funding recommendation and also given the opportunity to provide comments
- Received comments from Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation:
  - Expressed concern about the proposed study “Enhancing the Reliability of the Alluvial Groundwater Supply in the Walla Walla Basin”
  - Requested study modifications

# Funding Recommendation

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$810,773</b>	<b>\$446,773</b>

# Alternatives

1. Adopt the staff funding recommendations contained in Table 1, Section IV of this report.
2. Adopt modified funding recommendations.
3. Direct the Department to further evaluate the applications and return with a revised funding proposal.

# Recommendation

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2. Adopt modified funding recommendations.
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Thank you.  
Questions?



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# Extra Slides



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