The Drinking Water Providers Partnership (DWPP) is inviting project proposals for 2017. The partnership includes USDA Forest Service, Geos Institute, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Washington Department of Health, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and WildEarth Guardians. Together, the partners present this watershed restoration funding opportunity for water providers and watershed restoration practitioners in Oregon and Washington. The goals of the DWPP are to:

- Restore and protect the health of watersheds which communities depend upon for drinking water through the development and support of local partnerships between drinking water providers, landowners, and restoration practitioners.
- Benefit aquatic and riparian ecosystems, including the native fish that inhabit them, through the successful implementation of restoration and protection projects.

**Background**

The participants in the DWPP share a common vision that watershed restoration is an important and effective way to provide clean, inexpensive drinking water to communities and protect and restore native fish populations and habitat. Over the last two years, the partners have been gauging interest among water providers to partner with watershed restoration practitioners in activities that will enhance or protect water quality and the upstream watershed. There was unanimous support among water providers, but drinking water providers and local restoration partners requested assistance, specifically requesting a regional funding source for on-the-ground activities that protect and restore water sources. This RFP responds to that request through the creation of an interagency partnership to coordinate funding for those activities.

**Grant Awards**

Project proposals should range between $10,000 and $50,000. Funded activities must be completed within 18 months of the award start date.
Eligible Project Types

**Benefits to drinking water + native fish:** Projects should focus on activities that will protect or restore aquatic, riparian, or watershed health in a public water system watershed in Oregon or Washington. Projects should clearly benefit native fish and their habitat as well as address a known water quality or supply concern for the public drinking water system. Applicants are encouraged to submit projects identified in a recognized source water protection plan, restoration action plan, rare species recovery plan, or other publicly vetted prioritization document.

**Range of activities:** Eligible activities may include feasibility analyses, planning, design, outreach, education, and, to a lesser degree, monitoring. Activities that constitute legally required mitigation for the adverse effects of an activity regulated or otherwise governed by local, state, tribal, or federal law will not be considered.

**Types of projects:** The following are examples of the types of eligible restoration and conservation projects. This list is not intended to be comprehensive nor exclusive.

- Implementation of pollution prevention or waste reduction projects
- Removal and replacement of ageing or undersized culverts; e.g., traditional culvert replacement with streambed simulation type culverts or bridges
- Removal of dams or other large obstructions (not for permitting)
- Breaching or removal of levees and tide gates
- Road decommissioning, improvements, or modifications to improve drainage, minimize erosion, and prevent sediment from entering streams; e.g., road redesigns to route runoff onto the vegetated forest floor, storm-proofing, etc.
- Reestablishing river flow patterns, meanders, and channels that have been previously altered
- Restoring stream complexity and roughness, increasing streamflow travel times to improve water quality
- Restoring and enhancing connections between lakes, sloughs, side channels, floodplains, and main channels
- Restoring river banks and floodplains, including riparian restoration
- Establishing management plans for conservation easements or lands purchased within source areas
- Management plans of forest management to address catastrophic fires or impacts from recent fires
- Projects for reducing pesticide application rates and loadings in source area
- Projects for reforestation or replanting in sensitive or riparian areas
- Installation of fencing to protect sensitive riparian areas
- Development of educational flyers/brochures for purposes of public education
- Implementation of educational outreach projects emphasizing watershed resource conservation
• Planning and preparation for the purchase of lands within the drinking water source area
• Planning and preparation for the purchase of water for instream flow purposes
• Installation of signs at boundaries of zones or protection areas
• Projects to decommission onsite sewer systems affecting the source area and connect homes to existing sewer lines
• Installation of fencing around the immediate water intake area to provide protection
• Structures to divert or treat contaminated storm water runoff affecting the source area, such as bio-swales, or other green infrastructure
• Implementation of water reuse and other conservation measures related to source protection
• Development of an Ecosystem Services project in watershed to fund preservation areas
• Implementation of conservation easements to protect sensitive source areas, such as fencing or habitat restoration

Eligible Applicants
Eligible applicants for federal funds include Tribal, local, state, or federal governments, educational institutions, public water systems, non-profit organizations, watershed councils, landowners, soil and water conservation districts, and others.

The only applicants eligible for state funding are public water systems.* For a list of public drinking water systems in Oregon see [https://yourwater.oregon.gov/index.html](https://yourwater.oregon.gov/index.html) and in Washington see [https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/portal/odw/si/Intro.aspx](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/portal/odw/si/Intro.aspx)

*Some exceptions apply. E.g., in Washington, local governmental groups, other than water systems, are eligible to receive state funding if the work benefits a Group A drinking water system. In Oregon, Transient and For-Profit Non-Community Systems are ineligible. To confirm your eligibility for state funding, please contact your state agency representative listed at the end of this document.

Geographic Eligibility
Only projects located in a public drinking water watershed in the state of Oregon or Washington will be considered for 2017 funding. To receive federal funding, eligible projects must fall within a drinking water source watershed and have a nexus with USFS or BLM lands. A federal nexus for the purposes of the Partnership means that the project will result in benefits to natural resources on agency lands, such as water quality or migratory fish.

Please see Attachment 1 for a map of source watersheds (i.e., areas upstream of intakes). You can also visit the following sites for interactive map viewers of source watersheds:

- Oregon [http://deq14.deq.state.or.us(Html5viewer261/?viewer=drinkingwater](http://deq14.deq.state.or.us(Html5viewer261/?viewer=drinkingwater)
Terms of Available Funding
To better evaluate whether your project will be competitive for DWPP funding, it is helpful to familiarize yourself with the nature of the Partnership and restrictions associated with its various sources of funding.

**FEDERAL GRANT DOLLARS**
- In 2017, we anticipate a total of $363,000 being available in federal funds.
- Grantees may receive funding from one or more of the following three federal funding sources: USDA Forest Service (USFS) Region 6, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) OR/WA State Office, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10.
- Grantees who receive BLM funds will have up to 18 months from the grant award start date to expend those monies.
- Grantees who receive USFS funds must obligate funds by the end of the federal fiscal year.
- Grantees who receive EPA funds will have until the end of September 2017 to expend those monies (~6 months).
- Eligible applicants for federal funds include Tribal, local, state, or federal governments, educational institutions, water systems, non-profit organizations, watershed councils, landowners, soil and water conservation districts, and others.
- To be eligible for federal funds, the project must fall within a drinking water source watershed and have a nexus with USFS or BLM lands. A federal nexus for the purpose of this partnership means that the project will benefit natural resources associated with USFS or BLM lands, such as migratory fish produced on those lands but using down- or up-stream lands for part of their life history.
- EXAMPLE: A watershed council may wish to do a riparian restoration project in a drinking water source watershed to reduce sediment inputs to a stream. The project has clear benefits to native fish and the downstream water provider who’s been experiencing problems with turbidity. If the project is located on USFS or BLM land, it is eligible for federal grant dollars. If the project is located on private land and the native fish travel up or down the stream to USFS or BLM land, it is also eligible for federal grant dollars.
STATE GRANT DOLLARS
Oregon and Washington each run a drinking water source grant program available to public water systems within their respective states. As the Partnership team reviews grant applications, those projects qualifying for state funding sources will be recommended to those programs and the state staff will work directly with drinking water providers to assist with the state application process using the application materials already prepared.

- The only entities eligible to receive state sources of source water funding are public water systems.*
  *Some exceptions apply. To confirm your eligibility for state funding, please contact your state agency representative listed at the end of this document.
- The maximum size of a state grant is $30,000.
- Only projects located in a public drinking water watershed and that have a drinking water nexus are eligible. A drinking water nexus for the purpose of this partnership means that the project will benefit the quality and/or supply of drinking water for a downstream public water system.
- Recipients of state source water protection grants will have two full years from the grant agreement date to expend their funds.
- To learn more about each funding program, follow links below.
  - Oregon: The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality works with the Oregon Health Authority to solicit and review grant proposals. The Oregon Health Authority and Infrastructure Finance Authority manage and administer grant awards through the Drinking Water Source Protection Fund. In 2017 they expect to have approximately $200,000 available for source water grants. The OR DEQ & OHA will release their next Request for Proposals on or near January 2, 2017.
  - Washington: The Washington Department of Health solicits, manages and administers grants. In 2017, they expect to have approximately $200,000 available through the Source Water Protection Local Assistance Grant Program. The Washington Department of Health accepts proposals year-round.
- EXAMPLE: A watershed council may wish to install riparian fencing to protect the stream. The project is eligible for state dollars if the fencing will protect the public water system’s intake or the work will clearly address a known water quality concern for the public water system.
If you are a **public water system** with a project cost of less than $30,000 **and** your project does **not** have a USFS or BLM nexus, it is recommended that you apply directly to your respective state agency* for a source water protection grant.

*To learn more about the Oregon Drinking Water Source Protection Fund, visit: [public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/SRF/Pages/spf.aspx](http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/SRF/Pages/spf.aspx)

*To learn more about the Washington Source Water Protection Local Assistance Grant Program, visit: [doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWater/LocalAssistanceGrantProgram](http://doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWater/LocalAssistanceGrantProgram)

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**Partnerships and Match**

One of the goals of the DWPP is to initiate dialogue and strengthen working relationships between water providers and restoration practitioners at a watershed scale. It should be evident in the funding application that a local partnership has been developed in order to meet shared goals. Cost-sharing and in-kind contributions by each partner for services, personnel, equipment, and other resources should be documented. A 25% match (in-kind and/or cash) is required for all project proposals.

**Compliance with NEPA and Other State and Federal Regulations**

Successful applicants are likely to receive federal funds and will be required to satisfy applicable financial and programmatic requirements and meet all applicable local, state, and Tribal environmental laws and federal requirements before project implementation, including but not limited to the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Clean Water Act. If environmental compliance requirements have not already been completed, applicants can request necessary funding in the application.

**Application Process**

- Applicants are required to use the application available at [www.workingwatersgeos.org](http://www.workingwatersgeos.org)
- The total application, including attachments, should not exceed 17 pages.
- Responses to narrative questions may be single-spaced and font should be size 12.
- Applications and all other required documentation must be submitted electronically to [jcapurso@fs.fed.us](mailto:jcapurso@fs.fed.us) by 5:00PM PST on 17 January 2017.
Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Each proposal will be reviewed by an evaluation committee composed of representatives of the seven core DWPP organizations on a scale of 100 points and awarded funding based upon how well it meets the following criteria:

- **Geographic Focus:** Only projects that fall within drinking water source watersheds in Oregon and Washington are eligible for consideration. To be eligible for federal funds, the project must also have a nexus with USFS or BLM lands. A federal nexus for the purpose of this partnership means that the project will benefit resources associated with agency lands. For example, a project on private land could be funded if it improves habitat for migratory fish that may use federal lands for some part of their life history.
  - Extra consideration may be given to projects that fall within, or will result in benefits to, a “Priority Watershed,” or “Focus Watershed,” as identified by the USFS or the BLM. See attachments for maps and lists of names.
  - Extra consideration may be given to sensitive areas identified in a watershed plan. For questions, consult with your drinking water provider. Or, in Oregon, call the Oregon DEQ Drinking Water Protection GIS Coordinator at 503-229-6798.

- **Project Description:** What are the proposed activities and methods? If this project is part of a larger phased project, describe the overall project, but clearly identify the discrete activities of this phase for which funding is sought (note: all subsequent answers should be specific to the discrete activities of this phase).

- **Project Justification:** What is the problem the project is addressing? E.g., what priority risks to drinking water quality and key limiting factors to native fish viability will this work affect? Have the proposed activities been identified in an existing source water control or restoration plan? If so, cite the specific reports used to justify this work.

- **Project Goals, Benefits, and Outcomes:** What are the project goals and anticipated outcomes? E.g., how will the proposed work address the problem(s) identified in the project justification section above? The description should include benefits to water quality or supply, but also to aquatic and riparian habitat and the species dependent upon them. Benefits and outcomes may also be described in the number of acres or miles of habitat improved, the magnitude of improvements, as well as economic and social impacts.

- **Partnerships and Experience:** The development of local, grassroots partnerships between restoration practitioners and water providers is one of the goals of the DWPP. In addition to the grassroots partnership, value is placed on the number of partners involved in the project, as measured by the number and level of confirmed partner contributions. Cost-sharing and in-kind contributions by each partner for services, personnel, equipment, and other resources should be documented. Applicants must also show capacity to implement the scope and scale of the proposed work and the
ability to successfully complete the project within the proposed budget and timeline. Organizations previously participating in similar projects with a proven record of project completion and qualified staff may score higher during the evaluation process.

• Timeline and Readiness: The project timeline should be feasible for the grant award period given the project activities, goals, and budget. The applicant(s) should clearly describe project “readiness” as the degree to which the project is ready for implementation in terms of landowner willingness (include a letter of support from the landowner), NEPA standing, design, permits, and/or contract preparation.

• Monitoring: Project monitoring is important and should be described. Implementation monitoring is required (e.g., was the project implemented as described? Were the project design parameters achieved?). Project monitoring reports must include before and after photos illustrating the issue(s) the project is addressing and then the effects of the project. Projects that incorporate effectiveness monitoring (Did the project perform as promised?) and/or leverage existing monitoring efforts within the watershed may score higher during evaluation.

• Community Outreach: Ideal projects will demonstrate a high degree of community involvement in and benefit from project development, implementation, and monitoring. Proposals including complementary public outreach and awareness-building components contributing to their watershed restoration project may be scored higher than those without outreach activities.

• Budget: The budget description should detail all funds requested, as well as all matching funds and in-kind contributions, and whether the contributions are pending or secured. The budget form provided must be used.
Points of Contact:
The members of the DWPP look forward to working with you to foster partnerships between water providers and restoration practitioners throughout Oregon and Washington. Please don’t hesitate to contact any of the following individuals with questions.

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<tr>
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Source Watersheds Map with BLM and USFS Lands
Attachment 2: Washington Federal Priority & Focus Watersheds
Attachment 3: Oregon Federal Priority & Focus Watersheds
Source Watersheds for Public, Surface Drinking Water Systems in Oregon and Washington

Data sources: Washington Department of Health, Oregon DEQ, BLM, USDA-FS, Esri, Geos Institute
Surface Water Source Areas in Washington

- Source Area containing Federal Land
- Other Source Area
- BLM Priority Watershed
- BLM Focus Watershed
- Other BLM Land
- USFS Priority Watershed
- USFS Focus Watershed
- Other USFS Land

Data sources: Washington Department of Health, Oregon DEQ, BLM, USDA-FS, Esri, Geos Institute
Surface Water Source Areas in Oregon

- Source Area containing Federal Land
- Other Source Area
- BLM Priority Watershed
- BLM Focus Watershed
- Other BLM Land
- USFS Priority Watershed
- USFS Focus Watershed
- Other USFS Land

Data sources: Washington Department of Health, Oregon DEQ, BLM, USDA-FS, Esri, Geos Institute