



# Riparian Grant Program Request for Applications 2025 – 2027 Mid-Biennium Funding Opportunity

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Application materials, including the application questions, budget template, metrics spreadsheets, and supporting guidance, will be available on the Riparian Grant Program (RGP) webpage beginning May 1, 2026. **Application opens May 8.** Additional information about this funding opportunity will be posted on the [RGP webpage](#).

During the open application period, all questions must be submitted by email. Responses will be compiled and posted in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document on the RGP webpage.

This Request for Applications provides an outline of the application, review process, and a summary of RGP eligibility. Funding requests must align with the details provided in the [RGP Guidelines](#). Grant awardees must follow all applicable laws and regulations and comply with [SCC Grant & Contract Policy and Procedure Manual](#).

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## General Information

The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) is opening a mid-biennium funding opportunity through the Riparian Grant Program (RGP) to award remaining funds from the 2025–27 biennium. Approximately \$3.2 million is available through this competitive funding round.

This interim funding opportunity is intended to move available funding quickly so conservation districts can implement high-priority work before June 30, 2027.

Washington conservation districts are the only eligible applicants. Each conservation district may submit **one application**. A single application may include one or more eligible funding tracks.

The maximum funding request is **\$250,000 per district**.

Funding awarded through this process is tied to the projects submitted in the application. Because awards are competitive, funds generally may not be moved to new projects not included in the original application after award. Districts may request movement of funds within existing outcomes with prior approval from the RGP Manager.

Any additional returned funds received later in the biennium may be offered to the next highest-ranked unfunded applications.

## Application Timeline

- Application materials posted: May 1, 2026
- Application opens: May 8, 2026
- Application deadline: June 5, 2026
- Application review period: June 8 – June 30, 2026
- Awards anticipated to begin summer 2026
- Project completion deadline: June 30, 2027

## Definitions and Terms

Applicants should refer to the [RGP Guidelines](#) and this Request for Applications for definitions, eligibility standards, and program requirements.

Key terms used in the application and scoring process include:

**Critical Riparian Management Zone (RMZ):** An area adjacent to freshwater, wetland, or marine environments that has been locally or regionally identified as a priority for salmon recovery efforts, where enhanced protection or restoration would provide significant ecological benefits.

**BMP:** Best Management Practice

**TA:** Technical Assistance

**DIP:** District-Implemented Project

**HUC10:** Watershed scale used for maintenance areas and target areas.

**HUC12:** Sub-watershed scale used for targeted project scoring.

**Overburdened Communities:** Minority, low-income, tribal, or indigenous populations or geographic locations in the United States that often experience disproportionate environmental harms and risks. This disproportionality can be the result of greater vulnerability to environmental hazards, lack of opportunity for public participation, or other factors. Increased vulnerability may be attributable to an accumulation of negative or lack of positive environmental, health, economic, or social conditions within these populations or places. The term describes situations where multiple factors, including both environmental and socio-economic stressors, may act cumulatively to affect health and the environment and contribute to persistent environmental health disparities.

**Vulnerable Populations:** Population groups that are more likely to be at higher risk for poor health outcomes in response to environmental harms, due to: 1.) adverse socioeconomic factors, such as unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to income, limited access to nutritious food and adequate health care, linguistic isolation, and other factors that negatively affect health outcomes and increase vulnerability to the effects of environmental harms; and 2.) sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates of hospitalization.

“Vulnerable populations” include, but is not limited to:

- Racial or ethnic minorities
- Low-income populations
- Populations disproportionately impacted by environmental harms
- Populations of workers experiencing environmental harms

**Underserved Communities:** Populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life.

**Direct and Meaningful Benefits:** Include 1.) the direct reduction of environmental burdens in overburdened communities, 2.) the reduction of disproportionate, cumulative risk from environmental burdens, including those associated with climate change, 3.) the support of community led project development, planning, and participation costs, and/or 4.) meeting a community need identified by the community that is consistent with the intent of CCA or Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act.

## Eligible Activities

Projects must demonstrate improvements to an RMZ. See the [RGP Guidelines](#) for a list of eligible BMPs and BMP implementation requirements.

All stream types, regardless of the presence of salmonids, are eligible if projects are designed to benefit native salmon, steelhead, trout, or char prioritized in plans within Washington salmon recovery regions.

Projects may also be eligible outside of a salmon recovery region where coordinated, multi-stakeholder planning efforts have identified riparian resource concerns and the proposed project will support salmon recovery objectives, including planned reintroduction areas.

For scoring criteria referencing plans or strategies, “other documented local salmon recovery strategy” must reflect coordination among multiple partners and demonstrate local priority. Standalone organizational plans may not be competitive.

Applicants should quote relevant language from plans or strategies rather than only stating general alignment.

## Ineligible Activities

The following will not be funded:

- Upland BMPs not directly tied to restoration within the riparian management zone
- General outreach activities
- Cost overruns on previously funded projects will not be prioritized
- General equipment or administrative purchases
- General training costs not directly required to complete proposed projects
- New projects added after award that were not included in the original application

SCC reserves the right to partially fund only eligible portions of an application.

## Funding Award Process

Applications will be reviewed competitively by SCC using [RGP Scoring Criteria](#). Projects within an application will each be reviewed and scored. Applications in each track will have a total score and ranked lists based on scores will be created for each track.

Available funding is anticipated to be distributed as follows:

- **Track 1 – Project Implementation:** 50%
- **Track 2 – Project Maintenance:** 35%
- **Track 3 – Project Development:** 15%

If requests in one track are less than the allocated amount, remaining funds may move to the next track.

If multiple applications score at the funding line in a track, SCC reserves the right to:

- Partially fund applications
- Prioritize projects based on direct benefits to critical RMZ restoration
- Consider acres restored or maintained relative to cost
- Prioritize project development proposals that will result in shovel-ready projects

Funded tracks will be awarded into one RGP outcome for fiscal administrative purposes. While each track includes a technical assistance request, technical assistance will be consolidated within Riparian Grant Technical Assistance (RGTA) for the award.

## Application Materials

Applicants should review and prepare all required materials before submitting.

### Required:

- Completed application form (Formstack submission)
- [SCC Budget Template](#) (Excel workbook)

- Metrics spreadsheet templates (Excel workbooks: [DIP](#) and/or [Maintenance](#), as applicable)
- [Climate Commitment Act \(CCA\) Tribal notification documentation](#)

**Required if applicable:**

- Engineering plans (required for engineering practices; conceptual accepted where appropriate)
- Maps for in-stream work associated with riparian restoration
- [WDFW](#) letter demonstrating salmonid recovery benefit (for projects outside a salmon recovery region)
- [CPDS](#) entries for cost-share projects and/or DIPs (if not using the [DIP Metrics Template](#))

**Optional:**

- Maps, photos or site assessment visuals
- Relevant planning documents
- Partner letters of support

## Track 1: Project Implementation Guidance

Eligible Track 1 activities include DIP, cost-share projects, and project administration.

Examples may include:

- Riparian planting
- Fencing associated with riparian restoration
- Invasive species control
- Site preparation
- Livestock exclusion measures
- Other eligible BMPs consistent with RGP Guidelines

All activities within the first year of implementing a new restoration project that are necessary to ensure survivability at the site (such as watering or replanting) are allowable and should be included in implementation costs.

Projects demonstrating readiness to proceed and ability to complete the proposed scope of work by June 30, 2027, will be more competitive.

For metrics and budgeting:

- List all BMPs for all projects as separate rows or line items
- Include site names, landowners, and coordinates where required
- TA / project administration should be listed separately in the budget template
- Direct implementation labor (such as planting crews) should be embedded within BMP costs, including overhead associated with implementation labor
- Cost-share projects must be entered into [CPDS](#) at the time of applying

## Track 2: Project Maintenance Guidance

Track 2 funds maintenance of previously installed eligible restoration sites and project administration.

Maintenance funding is limited to sites up to 10 years old. Sites older than 10 years are not eligible.

Maintenance activities **must be grouped** into maintenance areas no larger than a HUC10 watershed. Maintenance areas can include one to many sites.

For each maintenance area, applicants must provide:

- Area name (example: Wynoochee Maintenance Area)
- Location description
- HUC10 code
- Total footprint (acres receiving maintenance BMPs)
- Participant / site names (in the metrics spreadsheet)
- Year restored for each site (in the metrics spreadsheet)

Do not include funds for to-be-determined sites.

TA / project administration costs should be listed separately in the budget template. Direct maintenance labor (including overhead on the maintenance labor) should be included within BMP costs.

### Track 3: Project Development Guidance

Track 3 supports planning and technical assistance that develops future implementation ready projects.

Eligible activities include:

- Project planning (BMP planning, prioritization efforts, data analysis, etc.)
- Design development (conceptual, final design, etc.)
- Engineering (in-house or sub-contract)
- Monitoring
- Permitting
- Technical assistance tied to future BMP implementation (site visits, etc.)

Activities **must be grouped** into target areas no larger than a HUC10 watershed.

For each target area, applicants must provide:

- Target area name
- Location description
- HUC10 code
- Anticipated BMP opportunities based on identified riparian restoration needs
- Summary of TA tasks
- Intended outputs or deliverables

Strong applications will demonstrate a clear pathway to future shovel-ready implementation.

### General Questions Guidance (Applies to All Tracks)

Applicants should ensure all narratives are specific, concise, and evidence based.

Where scoring references plans, strategies, or watershed priorities:

- Name the exact stream reach, creek, or HUC area referenced, if applicable
- Quote relevant language from plans
- Explain how proposed activities match identified riparian restoration needs

Applicants may use available mapping tools, including [The National Map 3D Viewer](#), to identify HUC10 and HUC12 boundaries.

Schedules should realistically account for permitting timelines, procurement, seasonal work windows, and project sequencing.

Applications with missing budget data, unclear locations, or unsupported claims may be less competitive.

## Climate Commitment Act Requirements

This funding opportunity is supported by Washington's Climate Commitment Act (CCA), which invests cap-and-invest revenue into reducing pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at [climate.wa.gov](https://climate.wa.gov).

For SCC grant programs funded through CCA, applicants must notify all affected federally recognized Tribes within the project area as early as possible prior to approval of funding.

Please follow [CCA Pre-Application Notification Instructions](#).

CCA requirements may change based on direction from the Washington Department of Ecology, including additional reporting requirements.

See [scc.wa.gov/cd/cca](https://scc.wa.gov/cd/cca) for all Climate Commitment Act Requirements.

## Tribal Support

For each project included in an application, Tribal support can be demonstrated in the following ways:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Interlocal Agreement (ILA)
- Tribal resolution specifically identifying the project
- Match or in-kind contributions tied to the project

For maintenance areas, support can be demonstrated for maintenance activities or for original restoration of the site(s) with a maintenance area. For TA target areas, support can be demonstrated through committed match and/or in-kind services for project development for one or more projects in the area.

CCA notification or cultural resources engagement alone does not qualify as Tribal support for scoring purposes.

## Targeted Projects

Applications may receive points for demonstrating coordination with other restoration work in the same HUC12 sub-watershed. Applicants should identify at least one other project that:

- Was completed or funded within the last five years, or
- Is currently ongoing

Include:

- Project name
- Sponsor
- Year funded or completed

## Budget and Schedule

Applicants must use the [SCC Budget Template](#) and complete all tabs for every track included in the application. Budgets must account for all costs necessary to complete the proposed work by June 30, 2027.

Include TA / project administration costs in the budget template.

On-the-ground staff costs related to implementation or maintenance, such as planting crew salaries, labor, and overhead, must be included within BMP costs rather than listed separately.

For implementation and maintenance proposals, all BMPs for all projects must be listed as separate rows or line items.

Training or equipment purchases included in the budget must be clearly described in the application and must be directly necessary to complete proposed work.

Clearly describe all tasks required to complete the project and identify who will perform each activity, including district staff, partners, or contractors.

Provide estimated start and end dates for each BMP or TA task.

Funding for cultural resources surveys will be awarded separately. **Do not include cultural resources survey costs in this budget.**

## Reporting

Project reporting will occur through Formstack and [CPDS](#). Additional instructions will be provided at a future date.

## Questions

During the funding opportunity, all questions must be submitted by email. Responses will be compiled and posted in a public FAQ.

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