The Drinking Water Providers Partnership (DWPP) is inviting project proposals for 2020. 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, WildEarth Guardians, and The Freshwater Trust. 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, safe, and inexpensive drinking water to communities and protect and restore native fish populations and habitat. Responding to on-the-ground demand, the Partnership supports collaborations between drinking water providers and watershed restoration practitioners by coordinating agency funding for activities that will enhance or protect water quality for native fish and drinking water supplies. Building on four successful grant award years, the Partnership is pleased to release this Request for Proposals for 2020 projects.
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. See “Terms of Funding” overview in this document for more details.

Eligible Project Types
Benefits to drinking water and native fish: Projects should clearly benefit native fish habitat as well as address a known water quality or supply concern for the public drinking water system. Projects should focus on activities that will demonstrably improve or protect aquatic, riparian, and/or watershed health. Applicants are encouraged to submit projects identified in a recognized source water protection plan, restoration action plan, rare species recovery plan, and/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 eligible restoration and conservation projects; the list is not intended to be comprehensive nor exclusive. Please keep in mind that the connection to how these projects benefit drinking water and native fish must be clearly made in the application.

- 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 herbicide and/or 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 voluntarily decommission onsite sewer systems affecting the source area and connect homes to existing sewer lines
• Voluntary 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 Awardees**
Applications are encouraged from a variety of organizations. However, organization type will affect the type of funding that can be awarded.

Eligible recipients of 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 to receive state funding are public water systems reliant – partially or exclusively – on surface water (i.e., streams, lakes, groundwater under the influence of surface water).* For a list of public drinking water systems in Oregon see [https://www.yourwater.oregon.gov](https://www.yourwater.oregon.gov) 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. 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 2020 funding.

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:

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. Applicants should identify a federal partner if the project occurs on federal land.

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**Unsure whether you are eligible?**

Read the following “terms of available funding” and contact any of the Partners listed at the end of this document to discuss your project.

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**Terms of Available Funding**

We are proud that our Partnership consists of several federal and state agencies. However, this can also lead to some confusion for applicants. 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.

In 2020, we anticipate between $400,000 to $600,000 in project funding.

- Grantees may receive grant dollars from one or more of the following three federal agencies: USDA Forest Service (USFS) Region 6, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) OR/WA State Office, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10. In 2020, they expect to have approximately $300,000 to $400,000 available.
- Applicants may also be recommended for state funding. 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.
- **Oregon**: The Oregon Health Authority manages, and administers grant awards through the [Drinking Water Source Protection Fund](#) while the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality assists in the solicitation and review of grant proposals. In 2020, there will be approximately $100,000 available for source water grants. The OR DEQ & OHA will release their next Request for Proposals in early 2020. Funding under the Oregon Source Protection Fund requires contracting with Business Oregon, meeting state procurement conditions and may not be available until Fall 2020.

- **Washington**: The Washington Department of Health solicits, manages and administers grants through the [Source Water Local Assistance Grant Program](#) in 2020, they expect to have approximately $100,000 available. The Washington Department of Health accepts proposals year-round.

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<tr>
<th>TERMS OF FUNDING OVERVIEW</th>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Source</td>
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<td>FEDERAL</td>
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<td>USFS</td>
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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 (i.e., not within a drainage that has USFS or BLM lands) 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](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](doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/SourceWater/LocalAssistanceGrantProgram)

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<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Who can apply?</th>
<th>Agreement Type</th>
<th>When must funds be used?</th>
<th>Where must project occur?</th>
<th>Estimated Award Date</th>
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<td>STATE</td>
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<td>WA DOH</td>
<td>Group A water systems or a local government if the work benefits a Group A system, except for profit Non-Community Systems</td>
<td>Contract with WA DOH</td>
<td>July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021</td>
<td>Within a public drinking water watershed and have a drinking water nexus. 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 public water system.</td>
<td>Determination made within 60 days of application re-submission to WA DOH.</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHA (in cooperation with OR DEQ and OR IFA)</td>
<td>Public drinking water systems, except Transient and For-Profit Non-Community Systems.</td>
<td>Contract with OHA-Business Oregon</td>
<td>Two full years from the grant agreement date.</td>
<td>Fall 2020</td>
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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. If the applicant is anyone other than a drinking water provider, it should be evident in the funding application that a partnership with the local drinking water system has been developed in order to meet shared goals. A letter of support from the water provider is recommended. 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 encouraged and may be required, depending upon agency funding transfer agreement direction.
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. While these requirements are often completed by the federal partners, 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
• 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 james.capurso@usda.gov by 5:00PM PST on 20 January 2020.

Proposal Overview and 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 (10 points total)
Only projects that fall within drinking water source watersheds in Oregon and Washington are eligible for consideration.

• A nexus with federally managed lands - USFS or BLM - is not required for eligibility but will make the proposal more competitive.
• To be eligible for federal funds, the project must 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 will be given to the distance between the project and the drinking water intake. Projects located nearer to the intake will receive a higher portion of the available points.
• 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 designated sensitive areas as identified in a Source
B. Project Description, Justification, and Goals (35 points total)

Description: Briefly describe 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 application answers should be specific to the discrete activities of this phase).

Justification: What is the problem the project is addressing? Note that it is imperative that the benefits to drinking water quality or supply are clearly evident. 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 watershed restoration plan? If so, cite the specific reports used to justify this work.

Goals, Benefits, and Outcomes: Summarize the project goals and anticipated outcomes. E.g., how will the proposed work address the problem(s) identified in the project justification section above? Include short- and long-term benefits to water quality or supply, but also to aquatic and riparian habitat and the species dependent upon them; e.g., number of acres or miles of habitat improved, the magnitude of improvements. Benefits and outcomes may also be described in terms of economic or social impacts, such as changes in public opinion, attitudes, or behavior; e.g., using trail-user surveys.

C. Capacity (30 points total)

Partners: The development of local, grassroots partnerships between restoration practitioners and water providers is one of the goals of the DWPP. It should be clear that the relevant public water system(s) is familiar with and supportive of the proposed work. Applicant should also indicate whether the drinking water system is willing to act as a grant recipient. If the applicant is not the public water system manager, a letter of support from the public water system manager is recommended but not required. In addition to the grassroots partnerships, value is placed on the number of significant partners involved in the project, as measured by the number and level of confirmed partner contributions. Use the table provided to document cash and in-kind contributions by each partner for services, personnel, equipment, and other project resources.

Experience. Applicants must 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 and appropriate given the project activities, goals, and budget. The applicant 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. A project that is unambiguously ready for implementation during the grant award period may score higher during evaluation.

D. Effectiveness & Engagement (15 points total)

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. Note that a project report will be required to be submitted upon completion of the project, using the Partnership’s final report template.

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.

E. Budget (10 points total)

The budget table 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 working partnerships between water providers and restoration practitioners throughout Oregon and Washington. Please don’t hesitate to contact any of the following individuals with questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Phone:</th>
<th>Email:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>James Capurso</td>
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<td>503-808-2847</td>
<td><a href="mailto:james.capurso@usda.gov">james.capurso@usda.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geos Institute</td>
<td>Tonya Graham</td>
<td>Working Waters Director</td>
<td>541-482-4459 x-309</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tonya@geosinstitute.org">tonya@geosinstitute.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon DEQ</td>
<td>Julie Harvey</td>
<td>Drinking Water Protection Coordinator</td>
<td>503-229-5664</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Julie.HARVEY@state.or.us">Julie.HARVEY@state.or.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington DOH</td>
<td>Corina Hayes</td>
<td>Source Water Protection Manager</td>
<td>360-236-3114</td>
<td><a href="mailto:corina.hayes@doh.wa.gov">corina.hayes@doh.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US BLM</td>
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<td>Fisheries Program Lead, OR/WA</td>
<td>541-464-3325</td>
<td><a href="mailto:slightca@blm.gov">slightca@blm.gov</a></td>
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<td>US EPA</td>
<td>Dan Brown</td>
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<td>503-326-6832</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Brown.Dan@epa.gov">Brown.Dan@epa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WildEarth Guardians</td>
<td>Marlies Wierenga</td>
<td>PNW Conservation Manager</td>
<td>503-278-0669</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mwierenga@wildearthguardians.org">mwierenga@wildearthguardians.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Freshwater Trust</td>
<td>Mark McCollister</td>
<td>Habitat Restoration Director</td>
<td>503-222-9091x15</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mark@thefreshwatertrust.org">Mark@thefreshwatertrust.org</a></td>
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This request for proposals was developed in part under Assistant Agreement No. DW-012-92404901 awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It has not been formally reviewed by EPA. The views expressed are solely those of their partners and EPA does not endorse any products or commercial services mentioned.
ATTRACTIONS
Attachment 1: Source Watersheds Map with BLM and USFS Lands
Attachment 2: Oregon Priority Watershed Map
Attachment 3: Washington Priority Watershed Map
Surface Water Source Areas in Washington

Source Area containing Federal Land
Other Source Area
BLM Focus and Priority Watersheds
USFS Priority Watersheds
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Forest Service

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