

Water Bank Summary Proposal

We are reviewing the water bank grant application under the 2023-2025 Water Banking Pilot Grants funding opportunity. This summary is posted for a 30-day public comment period. To provide comments on this proposal, use the comment form linked below and include the application number.

Application #: WRWBP-2325-StCLSD-00033

Accepting comments: 12/30/24 — 01/30/25

Summary:

Stevens County Land Services Department has applied for a second grant under the Water Banking Pilot Grant Program.

For over a decade, Stevens County has been investing in developing a water bank to help meet future domestic, municipal, industrial, and agricultural water needs. According to the WRIA 59 Water Bank Implementation Plan, the water bank anticipates 9,844 acre-feet of water resource needs over the next 30 years. The locally controlled water bank was developed through an inclusive process with citizens, and local, state, and tribal governments to address water resource management and planning efforts throughout the Colville River Watershed. The first grant awarded under this pilot grant program provided funding to finish setting up the WRIA 59 Colville River Watershed Bank program and acquire water rights.

This second grant application proposes to acquire another water right to put into the water bank. This additional water right has a 1972 priority date and allows up to 600 gpm, 322 acre-feet per year from an infiltration trench for irrigation of 100 acres from May 1 to September 30 and 1 acre-foot per year continuously for stockwater if there is no alternate source of water. The sellers plan to retain enough water to irrigate 10 acres and for stockwater within the place of use and sell the remaining portion of the water right to Stevens County for water banking purposes. Stevens County will permanently commit one-third of the purchased water right to instream use to meet the funding requirements set by the Legislature. The remaining two-thirds of the water right will be used for water banking purposes in Stevens County.

This proposal would use grant funds for the following activities:

- Complete required due diligence and permitting to split the water right (seller to retain a portion), and change the purpose of use and transfer the purchased portion of the water right to the Trust Water Rights Program.
- Acquire up to 112 acre-feet of water and permanently commit one-third of the water right to instream use to meet the funding requirements set by the Legislature and two-thirds for water banking purposes in Stevens County.

[Online Comment Form](#)

Read more about [Water Banking Pilot Grants Program](#)