

Water Bank Summary Proposal

The water bank proposal summary below is from a submitted grant application under considerations for the 2023-2025 Water Banking Pilot Grants funding opportunity. The summary is posted for a 30-day public comment period. You can provide your input to Ecology by using the comment form linked below. Please include the application number listed below.

Application #: WRWBP-2325-StCLSD-00024

Accepting comments: start 3/25/24 — end 4/24/24

Summary:

Stevens County Land Services Department has applied for a grant to purchase a water right in the headwaters of the Colville River and to finish setting up the county's water bank program. The locally controlled water bank will support long-term sustainable water supply for economic growth and ecological benefit in the Colville River Watershed. The County has been working with citizens, and local, state, and tribal governments on developing this water bank. The County proposes to use grant funds to:

- Purchase a senior surface water right from the headwaters of the Colville River. Up to 480 acre-feet per year will be available. Two-thirds will be used for water banking purposes in Stevens County. One-third of the water right would be permanently put instream for fish and wildlife flow to meet the funding program requirement set by the Legislature. Funding would be used for an appraisal, to complete permitting to change the purpose of use and transfer the water right to the Trust Water Rights Program, and to purchase the water right.
- Develop a public facing website with GIS interface and an internal database management tool for the water bank. The website will:
 - describe the new uses and geographic areas in which the new water right uses may occur; and
 - track mitigated water rights served by the water bank and available mitigation for future needs.

[Online Comment Form](#)

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