

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-YaCoPS-00028

Accepting comments: start 11/04/24 — end 12/04/24

Summary:

Yakima County Public Services Department has applied for a grant to purchase water rights and develop a water bank. The existing Yakima County Water Resource System (YCWRS) was designed to only serve permit-exempt uses and does not function as a general purpose water bank. Establishing a water bank will help the county meet obligations under the Growth Management Act, provide stable water supplies for food storage and processing, protect the agricultural economy during drought, and protect instream flows, especially in streams such as the Ahtanum and Cowlitz creeks. The County proposes to use grant funds to:

- Negotiate a Master Trust Water Right Agreement with Ecology;
- Develop a water bank including any charters or ordinances to operate the bank;
- Purchase up to 98 acre-feet of water rights and permanently commit one-third of the water rights to instream use to meet the funding requirements set by the Legislature. The remaining two-thirds of the water rights will be used for water banking purposes in Yakima County;
- Create a website explaining how the water bank operates and defining service areas. The website will be a link between the water bank and other County programs, including the YCWRS, and disclose other options that citizens and other local governments can take to provide mitigated water supplies for their projects.

[Online Comment Form](#)

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