

RCO's 2019 Application Webinar Questions & Answers

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation, WWRP Forestland Preservation, and Boating Infrastructure Grants

Here are questions and the answers given during the Q&A section of the Webinar.

Q: Are the projects that were presented last August fully funded in this scenario & the \$1.8 would be available for new projects?

A: Yes.

Q: Which RCW is that?

A: RCW 79A.15 is the WWRP statute.

Q: Since the pre-application is due, I was curious if the full application would be invite-only based on the pre-application. Some agencies are doing this (NOAA)

A: Okay, the way our system is set up, if you have started an application by the May 1st deadline, you will have until June 4 to finish and submit. If you did not start an application by May 1st, you would have to request special permission to submit a "late" application. If RCO has a lot of pre-applications, it would be difficult to let in a late submittal.

Q: Do you have an estimate of the size of the funding pool for the supplemental round?

A: Yes. If we get \$80 million for WWRP for this biennium, we would have about \$2 million available for the Farm and Forest Account. That translates into about \$1.8 million for Farmland and \$200,000 for Forestland.

Q: Will there be a subsequent application period open in 2020 for the forestland category?

A: Yes. We do plan to hold our traditional grant cycle in 2020. The application deadline is May 1, 2020.

Q: Could we use the forest grant to pay workers to restore forestlands such as from invasive species?

A: It would only be allowed as part of an acquisition project. An opportunity to do some restoration on the newly purchased property. Thanks for your question.

Q: Is there any environmental education that supports sustainable timber harvests that are eligible under the forest portion of the grants?

A: I am not sure how to answer your question. Kim Sellers will try to contact you to make sure we understand what you are asking and see if we can get an answer for you. Thank you.

Q: Will this presentation or the information in the graphics be available to download?

A: Yes. We will post this Application Webinar on our Website soon.

Q: Can other entities other than those listed request to be made eligible for grant funds?

A: No. The RCW that created the program specifies the eligible applicants.

Q: Can you show the dates for WWRP again?

A: The pre-applications are due May 1st. The application deadline is June 4. The schedule will be posted online.

Q: The Walla Walla Yacht Club lost our breakwater structure in a recent storm. Is there a way to fast track a BIG Tier 1 or 2 grant application?

A: Michael, please call Karl Jacobs to talk more about the breakwater. His number is 360.902.3084

Q: Are pre-applications mandatory?

A: Another good question. Yes, they are. You may start an application, however, you may withdraw it at any time.

Q: For the Forestland, can an easement be purchased on land already acquired with grant funding?

A: No, that's not eligible.

Q: If a County agency coordinates the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) (which is directly funded by the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC)), would the County need a 50% match if they prepared a Grant proposal seeking funds to purchase an Agricultural Easement to prevent development on that working land? Or should they have SCC staff prepare the grant application so no 50% match is required.

A: The applicant should be the entity that will hold the agricultural easement.

Q: Did I hear accurately that all development rights need to be extinguished in the forestland category

A: Yes. See Manual 10c, *Forestland Preservation*, page 14, Acquisition Projects.