

Ecology drought relief funds would provide grants and loans for a variety of projects and activities

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) closely monitors winter weather patterns and snowpack declines in anticipation of drought conditions developing in some regions of the state.

In the event of a drought declaration, more than 30 types of projects and activities are eligible for drought relief funds in the form of grants and loans.

Irrigation and stockwater supply projects

- Pumps and accessories.
- Discharge lines.
- Pipelines.
- Canals and laterals with control structures.
- Lining of leaky canals.
- Diversion structures.
- Re-regulating reservoirs.
- Measuring devices.
- Modifying an existing source or deepening an existing well.
- Developing an emergency or alternate water source.
- Replacement water sources, including purchasing or leasing water or water rights to be used during the drought period.

Drinking water supply projects

- Modifying or deepening an existing well.
- Developing an emergency or alternate water source.
- Replacement water sources, including purchasing or leasing water or water rights to be used during the drought period.
- Constructing an emergency intertie to another approved public water supply.
- Transmission pipelines.
- Diversion structures.
- Pumps and accessories.

MORE INFORMATION

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For additional information on drought preparedness, see Ecology publication 10-11-002:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/1011002.html>

Special accommodations

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Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

- Source meters.
- Leak detection and repair.

Fish hatcheries

- Purchase and installation of water-reuse pumps.
- Modifying hatchery intake and outlet structures.
- Modifying stream channels adjacent to a hatchery to ensure passage to the facility.
- Provision and maintenance of oxygen levels in on-site and off-site ponds by purchase and installation of bottled gas (using air stones), oxygen generation systems, or mechanical aeration.
- Modification to existing wells and aeration towers.
- Drilling new wells.

Instream protection

- Augmentation of instream flows through transfers of diversionary surface and ground water rights.
- Augmentation of instream flows through temporary withdrawals of groundwaters.
- Stream channel modification such as trenching, sandbagging, or berming to protect spawning gravels or to provide migratory channels for fish passage.
- Capture and relocation of stranded fish.

Aquatic and upland wildlife protection

- Temporary diversion of stream flow to critical bird nesting habitat or wetland habitat populated by priority species, as identified by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).
- Temporary impoundment of water in existing wetland habitat populated by priority species, as identified by WDFW.
- Temporary diversion of stream flow to upland watering devices.