



Water Irrigation Efficiencies Program

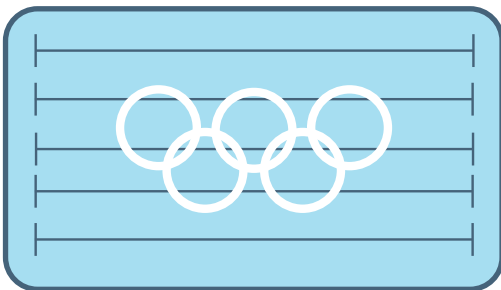
Funding will be invested in 12 projects currently under development that enhance water supply for people, farms, and fish. On-farm irrigation and water delivery systems will be replaced with more efficient, modern systems that conserve water. Saved water will be returned to streams to enhance flow — benefiting salmonid species and water quality — without risk of relinquishing irrigators' water rights.

Funding requested: \$4,000,000

Why this request can't wait

- ▶ For 19 years, the Water Irrigation Efficiencies Program has been a proven-effective solution for enhancing water supply needs of our farming communities and fish.
- ▶ It breaks down barriers that prevent irrigators from upgrading to more efficient systems. It provides technical expertise, pays a portion of construction costs, and places water left in streams in the Trust Water Rights Program that protects existing water rights from interruption during drought years.
- ▶ To date, around 18,000 acre feet of water — enough to cover the City of Yakima in over a foot of water — is saved in streams each year through voluntary participation in this program. More projects are under development, but they're contingent on this capital budget request.

What to expect when you invest in the Water Irrigation Efficiencies Program



The construction projects funded by this request are estimated to return a minimum of 14.1 cubic feet per second of water to streams.

That's enough to fill 14 Olympic-sized swimming pools per day.

More efficient irrigation equipment and delivery systems offer multiple benefits:

Farm efficiency



Upgrading to automated equipment saves on labor, and converting open ditches to pipeline means less maintenance.

Crop production



Modern irrigation technology applies water more precisely to root zones only when crops need it, creating the potential for production increases.

Stream conditions



Higher water levels and cooler water temperatures that result from water conservation help fish maintain healthy populations.

What does the Water Irrigation Efficiencies Program look like on the ground?



Upgrading to center pivot systems saves water, energy, and time. These are one of the most efficient and effective irrigation systems available.



This booster pump was constructed as part of a mitigation project with the Union Gap Irrigation District to address impacts to the mainline pipe that once carried water through the Rattlesnake Ridge Landslide area.



Converting open irrigation ditches to pipeline saves water and reduces the potential for sediment and pollutants to drain into waters also used by salmon. (Clallam Conservation District)

Contacts

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