

Summary of Proposed Water Bank

The Okanogan Conservation District has applied for a grant from the Water Banking Pilot Grant fund, established in 2021, to create a new county-wide water bank and to purchase an initial water right in the Methow basin for use in this bank.

The new water bank would serve users throughout Okanogan County, including [all of/ areas within?] both WRIAs 48 and 49. Its operations would initially focus on providing mitigation and leasing opportunities for seasonal irrigation use, but may expand in the future to serve other water uses as well. The primary objective of this water bank would be to protect existing agricultural water uses in the county for future use while benefiting local instream flows.

This proposal would use grant funds for the creation of the Okanogan County Water Bank. Activities funded for this purpose would include:

- Establishment of an interlocal agreement between the Okanogan Conservation District and Okanogan County;
- Publication of water bank guidance and business rules;
- Preparation of water bank template applications, water banking mitigation agreements, and processing procedures;
- Development of a Master Trust Water Right Agreement with Ecology.
- Okanogan Conservation District also requests grant funding to acquire a 60.8 acre-foot/year adjudicated water right in the Wolf Creek sub-basin of the Methow watershed. The applicant has agreed to permanently commit one-third of this water right to instream use to meet the funding requirements set by the Legislature.

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