The Irrigation Efficiencies Grants Program (IEGP) provides an effective, voluntary solution that improves on-farm irrigation and helps vulnerable salmonid populations. Water-right holders use program funding and resources to increase the efficiency of their on-farm water application and conveyance systems. The saved water is returned to drought-prone streams that are home to ESA-listed fish species, without risk of relinquishing irrigators’ water rights.

**HOW IT WORKS**

- Eligible participants must have valid water rights in one of 16 identified fish-critical basins.
- Program pays up to 85 percent of total costs for landowners to implement prescribed best management practices that increase the efficiency of crop water delivery to irrigated agriculture (up to $400,000 per contract).
- On-farm projects receive Irrigation Water Management planning.
- Source metering and fish screening prescribed as appropriate.
- Pro-rated portion of saved water is transferred to the state’s Trust Water Rights program for in-stream flows (proration based on cost-share amount).

**PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

At the local-level, conservation district staff work with program participants to design and implement effective and site-specific solutions.

State funding for the IEGP is appropriated to the Department of Ecology. The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) administers funding to conservation districts and provides state-level planning and coordination.

**MORE INFORMATION**

- IEGP background and eligibility: www.scc.wa.gov/iegp
- About the Washington State Conservation Commission: www.scc.wa.gov/about-the-commission
- About conservation districts: www.scc.wa.gov/about_conservationdistricts

**PROGRAM CONTACT:** Jon Culp, SCC Water Resources Program Manager, 509.385.7509, jculp@scc.wa.gov

**What have we done so far?**

- **66** Projects completed
- **17,504** Acre feet of water saved / year
- **69** Cubic feet per second of stream flow returned
- **24** Critical tributaries where stream flow has been enhanced

Please call our office (360-407-6200) to request content in an alternate format | SCC-IEGP-01-18 | Updated: January 2018