



Willamette River Initiative

2017 Basin Wide Impact Grant Opportunity

Meyer Memorial Trust's Willamette River Initiative invites proposals that support efforts to improve the health of the Willamette River system at a basin-wide scale.

For 2017, we will accept Basin Wide Impact proposals from **April 3 to June 15, 2017**. We anticipate making funding decisions by September, with funding available by November.

About the Willamette River Initiative

Meyer created the Willamette River Initiative in 2008 with the following purpose: to achieve meaningful, measurable improvements in the health of the Willamette River system by 2019. We provide grants and other supportive services to the Willamette River restoration field in pursuit of these goals:

- » The Willamette River system is healthy and able to adapt to changing conditions and long-term impacts.
- » Agencies, nonprofits, and other key Willamette River stakeholders share a common vision and priorities to improve river and watershed health.
- » Build a strong foundation for long-term efforts to protect and restore the Willamette River.
- » Advance diversity, equity and inclusion within the collective Willamette River restoration effort.



Our **Mainstem** and **Tributary** strategies focus on restoration activities along the river's main channel and seven tributaries above Willamette Falls. Through these two strategies, we make grants to watershed councils, land trusts and other groups to develop restoration plans, cultivate partnerships with public and private landowners, build organizational capacity and implement on-the-ground projects.

Our **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** strategy is rooted in the belief that a healthy watershed is crucial to all Oregonians. We support projects that advance diversity, equity and inclusion within efforts to restore and protect the health of the Willamette River and its tributaries.

This funding opportunity is for our **Basin Wide Impact** strategy, which supports efforts that are not tied to a specific site and have potential for broad benefits across the basin.

Basin Wide Impact Grant Guidelines

Many challenges facing the Willamette are far-reaching and systemic. Pollution from urban and rural runoff, high stream temperatures, aquatic invasive species, and gaps in our knowledge about river processes and the status of its fish and wildlife are just a few examples. Basin Wide Impact grants support efforts that address needs on a broad scale and cannot be tied to a specific geographical location or individual restoration site. Projects funded through this strategy may include scientific research, public policy research and analysis, regional or basin wide collaboratives, and broad-reaching public engagement and outreach efforts.

Qualities of Strong Proposals

The strongest proposals will demonstrate one or more of the following:

- » Authentic, meaningful collaboration with current project partners, and/or a clear strategy for building relationships with new partners.



- » Clear articulation of the need for the project and how the project will support improving the health of the river or its tributaries at a basin-wide or regional scale.
- » Strategies for building the capacity, sustainability and effectiveness of organizations working for a healthier Willamette River system.
- » Ability to advance the public policy framework to better support Willamette River system health.
- » Potential for strengthening the restoration field through increased knowledge and understanding of Willamette River system status, trends and processes.
- » Supporting the development of a shared vision, goals and metrics for Willamette River system health.
- » Developing or advancing strategies that address key limiting factors in the health of the river system at a basin-wide or regional scale.

Examples of What Fits

Meyer funding can be used for a wide range of activities. Here are some examples of what qualifies for Basin Wide Impact funding:

- » Planning, scoping, discovery, and other early phases of multi-phase projects that benefit the health of the river system at a basin-wide or regional scale.
- » Data collection, assessment, mapping, and other research in support of restoration activities at a basin-wide or regional scale.
- » Investigating or advancing policy or market-based solutions to address basin-wide issues.



- » Developing or administering shared services, collaborative projects, or networks that increase the effectiveness and efficiency of multiple groups working to address common issues at a basin-wide or regional scale.
- » Staff capacity to coordinate/participate in collaborative planning, engage in external stakeholder processes, and develop awareness and support for river protection efforts among key audiences.
- » Communications, education or outreach efforts that further the understanding of key limiting factors in river health and have basin-wide impact.

What Doesn't Fit

- » On-the-ground restoration project implementation
- » Communications, education or outreach efforts that only benefit one organization, or that lack basin-wide or regional applicability
- » Projects outside the Willamette River basin. (For larger statewide or regional projects with a Willamette-based component, we can consider funding a portion of the work that takes place within the Willamette basin. We encourage you to contact us before you apply.)
- » Proposals focused on advancing diversity, equity and inclusion. We have a separate grant category to support this work; interested applicants should visit [Meyer's Annual Funding Opportunity page](#) or [contact us](#) for more information.

How Much to Request

While there is no cap on the amount you can request, most Basin Wide Impact grants generally fall in the range of \$25,000-\$50,000 for 1-year projects and



\$45,000-\$100,000 for 2-year projects. We will accept 1 and 2-year proposals through this funding opportunity.

Eligibility

Most Willamette River Initiative grantees are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations or have a fiscal sponsor that is a 501(c)(3). We can make grants directly to government agencies, though this is rare. Applicants for Basin Wide Impact grants may be based anywhere in the Willamette River basin, but projects must be related to the health of the Willamette River or its tributaries. Meyer grantees with open grants are eligible to apply through this opportunity. However, we do consider the total amount of funding a single organization receives from Meyer, and we are unlikely to fund more than 20% of an organization's total operating budget.

If you have any questions about your eligibility, we encourage you to contact us before submitting an application.

To Apply

Submit the following materials via email to wri@mmt.org by **June 15, 2017**.

1. Narrative responses to the **2017 Basin Wide Impact Application Requirements** found on the final page of this document. *Please limit your narrative responses to no more than 5 pages.*
2. **Project budget.** You may use your preferred budget format. Include the total project cost and timeline, with separate columns showing your Meyer request and other funding sources and amounts (indicate whether secured or pending).
3. Your organization's most current **Strategic Plan**.
4. Any **maps, photos, or other attachments** that will clarify or illustrate information you reference in the narrative application.

During the review process, we may contact you to request additional information, such as **financial reports, letters of support** from project partners or proponents, and **demographic data** about your organization and the communities you serve.



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While applicants can submit proposals beginning on April 1, no funding decisions will be made until after the deadline for submission has passed and all proposals have been reviewed. We will notify applicants whether their proposal will advance for further review by July 31. Depending on the volume of requests, the review process may extend 3-5 months, with funding decisions by September and funding available by November.



Willamette River Initiative

2017 Basin Wide Impact Application Requirements

1. **Organization name, contact information and the name of the primary contact for this proposal.**
 - a. Also include the name of the project lead/principal investigator if different from the primary contact.
 - b. If you have a fiscal sponsor, include the above information for the fiscal sponsor as well. Attach fiscal sponsorship agreement or other evidence of their support/endorsement of this proposal.
2. **Provide a short description of your proposal and what you seek to accomplish.** (25-word limit)
3. **Proposed project start and end date** (Month and Year)
4. **List all Willamette Basin counties** your project will take place in.
5. **Provide a summary of the project that includes the following:**
 - a. Statement of the basin-wide need or issue to be addressed
 - b. How the proposed work will address the issue
 - c. Why the proposed work is a priority focus for your organization
 - d. A list of partners involved and a description of partner roles (include your organization). If you plan to work with consultants or contractors, provide a brief background and summarize their expertise in the subject area.
 - e. Timeline of proposed activities
 - f. Overview of any deliverables expected at the end of the grant period
6. **Measuring success**
 - a. Describe the intended outcomes of the project.
 - b. How will you evaluate if the project has been successful?
 - c. Once this project is complete, what are the expected next steps?