

# CIEF Grant Award Criteria

The Conservation, Infrastructure & Efficiency Fund (CIEF) is authorized according to the terms and principles embodied in the Big Wood River Groundwater Management Plan (Plan), approved by order of the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) for the Big Wood River Groundwater Management Area (BWGWMA). The Plan directs:

CIEF funds will be used primarily for infrastructure improvements and other permanent measures that improve the efficiency of delivering senior water rights, protect ground water levels, or increase surface water flows, and for purchasing storage water.

CIEF funding decisions shall be approved by the CIEF Committee, which shall be comprised of an equal number of surface water right holders and ground water right holders in Water Districts 37 and 37B who are elected/appointed in accordance with CIEF Committee bylaws, plus one representative of the Idaho Water Resource Board (“IWRB”), and one representative from a Non-Government Organization (“NGO”) within the Wood River basin.

CIEF Funds will be collected, held, and administered by the Wood River Resource Conservation and Development Council (“WRRCDC”).

CIEF Grant Award Criteria have been adopted by the CIEF Committee and are modeled in large part on the Idaho Water Resource Board’s Aging Infrastructure Grant Criteria. As such, these criteria are intended to take into account public input for the expenditures of money for grants, which shall be competitive, matching grants that prioritize projects based on the public benefits they provide.

Considerations of public benefits should include the protection of existing water rights; uses identified in Section 42-1760(2)(d), Idaho Code; rehabilitation or improvement to public or private water infrastructure, support of the regional economy, or providing economic value; ensuring long-term water resource stability, conservation, efficiency of use and sustainability.

The CIEF Committee has developed these criteria, below, to provide financial assistance on a regional competitive basis through grants to eligible entities or persons interested in pursuing projects to rehabilitate or improve conservation, infrastructure or efficiency values related to the diversion and use of their consumptive water rights. Grant awards made under this program are not intended to be used for the purpose of acquiring or leasing storage water.

**Eligible Projects:** Any project intended to repair, maintain, replace, or improve existing infrastructure, or to develop new infrastructure, that supports irrigation water delivery, storage, drainage, treatment, and use of water for irrigation. This grant program shall not address municipal drinking or wastewater systems. Project applications may include engineering or other project planning costs, but these activities should not be the entire purpose of the project. Project applications also may include administrative costs, if applicable.

**Eligible Entities:** Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Lateral Ditch Users Associations, Reservoir Districts, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 42, chapter 18, Idaho Code), Municipalities, Counties, Water Districts, or any private or commercial user of consumptive water rights, including non-profit entities and conservation districts.

**Eligible Geographic Area:** Big Wood River Basin within Water Districts 37 & 37B.

**Grant Process:**

- Applications will be considered in two cycles each year. Application deadlines are March 1<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications received after these dates will be considered in the subsequent cycle.
- CIEF Committee will initiate review of project proposals and applications at the next scheduled meeting following receipt. Potential applicants are expected to give a presentation to the CIEF committee and will be notified of a scheduled meeting date and time.
- CIEF Secretary will notify applicant of the CIEF Committee decision whether or not to approve the grant award.
- Grant contracts between the WRRCDC and project applicants will be developed and executed following CIEF Committee decision.
- Funding will be distributed to grantees under the terms of each contract. Funding distribution requests must 1) reference contract number; and 2) be submitted to Wood River Resource Conservation & Development Council, 141 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, Gooding, Idaho 83330.

**Grant Funding Considerations:**

- Total grant awards shall be limited by available funding, which will vary year to year.
- Grant portion not exceeding 50% of total project costs is preferred.
- Funding distributions shall occur on a reimbursement basis. Invoices must be submitted to WRRCDC (cc: CIEF Committee) prior to disbursement.
- Approved permits are not required during the application phase; however, for projects requiring local, state, or federal permits, funding reimbursement will not be made unless the project is fully permitted.
- Applicant shall provide on a timely basis documentation of all applicable permits, site access, or other authorizations necessary to complete a project to the CIEF Committee & IDWR Staff.
- Funding awards may be reallocated if a project is not completed within the grant period of the grant award contract. Projects may occur in stages. Implementation may occur in calendar years following the grant award.

**Grant Application and Evaluation Criteria:** To maximize the effective and efficient use of available funds, grant applications submitted by eligible entities for eligible projects will be evaluated, scored (*100- point scale*) and ranked according to the following criteria. Applications should include all of the requested information. Project scoring will be used to prioritize funding.

**Project Background** (*up to 30 points*)

- Project description – conceptual plan and design overview; clear and detailed narrative, plans, maps and/or diagrams describing infrastructure or delivery system, repairs, rehabilitation, improvements, including specifications where relevant
- Project need - needs/objectives/benefits; what will happen if this project is not implemented
- Project schedule
- Required permits, land entitlements or other authorizations (if any), at project location

### Project Applicant and Organizational Capacity of Applicant (up to 15 points)

- Applicant organization type, background, revenue sources, current operations
- Description of the personnel (applicant employees, contractors and/or volunteers) that will plan, design, construct and implement the proposed project; descriptions may include the number, qualifications (resumés if applicable) and time commitment of personnel that will be involved in the project
- Has the applicant demonstrated the capacity, authority and ability to complete the project? Demonstration may include a synopsis of the applicant's organization and descriptions of similar projects completed by the applicant.
- Discussion of project longevity and projections of when the proposed project would need replacement and/or repair.

### Water Savings and Effectiveness (up to 20 points)

- Clear demonstration of water savings, reductions in consumptive use, and/or increase in reliable water supply to senior surface water users, as determined through water measuring, engineering, or other studies
- Description of methods that will be used to document water savings, reductions in consumptive use, and/or increase in reliable supply to senior surface water users after project implementation
- Effectiveness & immediacy of the proposal in accomplishing project objectives and benefits (e.g., nature and magnitude of operational efficiency improvements; water savings, etc.)

### Public Interest of Project (up to 15 points)

- Economic values supported by the infrastructure, including consideration of the affected communities, irrigated acres, provision of water for other water users and stability of economic activity served by the water infrastructure.
- Demonstration of stakeholder support.
- Public Interest uses/benefits as follows:
  - water quality
  - fish & wildlife
  - riparian habitat
  - recreation
  - hydropower
  - water supply stability & sustainability
  - drought resiliency
  - public safety
  - other benefits to the citizens of the region

### Project Budget (up to 20 points)

- Budget and total cost
- Budget cost/benefit - reasonableness of costs (labor, equipment, materials), comparison of costs to project outcomes
- Description of how project cost was determined; also, if any adjustments to cost are anticipated during implementation
- Demonstration that other funding sources have been secured, or a projected timeline of when other funding is expected to be secured
- Grant amount requested is at or below 50% of total project cost.

**Grant Closing Report:**

- A report with the following sections will be submitted by the grant recipient to the CIEF Committee within 60 days of the end of the water year in which the completed project is first put to use:
  - Description of project implementation, including how the project was implemented as compared to project application. Describe any challenges with implementation.
  - Demonstration of water savings – provide documentation of water savings and detail how water savings are being measured and monitored.
  - Final financial reporting and documentation of how CIEF funds and other matching funds were used.
- An interim report will be submitted by the grantee to the CIEF Committee with the final invoice, if the final invoice is submitted to WRRC&D prior to project completion or before the start of irrigation season in the water year in which the project is to be put to use. The interim report should include a project status report, completion and implementation timeline.