

**ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND
GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES
2023**

Public Comments Received

Date	Sender	Doc#
02/07/2023	Wilcox-San Simon Natural Resource Conservation District	1
02/10/2023	Big Sandy Natural Resource Conservation District	2

Summary of Comments

Doc #1

- The [grant application] process can be streamlined by implementing a pre-application phase followed by invitations to submit a final application.
- Applicant presentations should not be part of the grant process. Presentations allow for human bias and a pre-application phase followed by a final application phase will allow for staff to ask questions and provide feedback for final submissions. Applications should be able to stand on their own merit without a presentation.
- Areas where landscape scale approaches to conservation are being implemented should be prioritized.
- The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission should consider looking at areas of the State where broad partnerships exist to help protect large landscapes.
- The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission should consider broadening its application to include landscape scale land management practices like erosion control structures in upstream tributaries, wildfire mitigation and prevention measures, vegetation management, and recharge opportunities that can and do benefit and impact riparian ecosystems.
- Groundwater recharge projects and local, well documented science should be considered in designing and implementing effective projects, if the Arizona Water Protection Fund is to make a meaningful contribution to the State’s riparian areas.

Doc #2

- Landscape scale conservation measures should be considered as part of the Arizona Water Protection Fund priorities.
- To enhance the application process, the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission should consider management of riparian ecosystems. Landscapes that are managed holistically have a higher chance of success.
- Groundwater recharge and recovery projects should be considered an eligible practice, if the Arizona Water Protection Fund is to make a meaningful contribution to the health and recovery of state’s riparian areas.
- The use of grant application presentations to supplement the process allows for human bias and the practice is not typically used in other grant application processes. If there is concern that applicants need to adjust their applications per staff and public comment recommendations, then a pre-proposal and final proposal time period should be implemented similar to other grant processes.