RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Reclamation's WaterSMART Program Information

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Basin Studies Program addresses basin-wide efforts to evaluate and address the impacts of climate change. Funding is available for comprehensive water studies that define options for meeting future water demands in river basins in the western United States where imbalances in water supply and demand exist or are projected. Announcement letters will be mailed to targeted non-federal entities requesting submission of a short letter of interest. Each region will evaluate the submissions and determined the appropriate projects to be invited to submit a full proposal. Area coordinators will work with the invited entities to develop the proposals and submit them for review.

(1) Applicants must be eligible to cost-share with Reclamation to conduct a basin study. Organizations eligible to cost-share include non-Federal entities with water delivery or water management authority within the basin, including: state(s), cities, or sub-divisions of a state or city; Tribes or tribal water organizations; and irrigation or water districts, water conservancy districts, and other similar associations.
(2) The costs to conduct a basin study will be shared between Reclamation and the cost-share partner(s), with a minimum 50 percent cost-share required by non-Federal cost-share partners. This not a financial assistance program.
(3) Funding amount varies each year but in FY 2016 the amount was $1,000,000 per study. The period of performance shall not exceed 3 years

Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) was established in 2009 as part of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act (Public Law 111-11, Sections 6001-03). The Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish a new grant program to support the formation and development of locally led watershed groups and to facilitate the development of multi-stakeholder watershed management projects. In the past funding years, the CWMP has provided financial assistance for Phase I to form new watershed groups or to expand existing watershed groups. CWMP funding for Phase II to conduct one or more projects in accordance with the goals of watershed groups started in 2017.

(1) Phase I
    a. Eligible applicants are states, Indian tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation and water districts, etc.), local governmental entities, interstate organizations, and non-profit organizations.
    b. A non-Federal cost share contribution is not required. Reclamation will provide 100 percent of the total cost for Phase I Cooperative Watershed Management Program

activities. Proposals should demonstrate the diversity and geographic scope of the proposed watershed group; identify the critical issues to be addressed; whether the proposed activities are aligned with a state water plan; and, describe how the development of a mission statement, watershed restoration plan, and watershed management project concepts will be accomplished.

c. Up to $50,000 may be awarded to an applicant per year, for a period of up to two years. The period of performance shall not exceed 2 years.

(2) Phase II

a. Eligible applicants are established watershed groups that represent a diverse group of stakeholders, have completed a watershed restoration plan, and are capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources.

b. A non-Federal cost share of 50 percent or more of project costs is required. Program funding may be used for projects that improve water quality and ecological resilience, reduce water conflicts, and advance other goals related to water quality and quantity.

c. Up to $100,000 in Federal funds may be awarded to an applicant per award. The period of performance shall not exceed 2 years.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) are partnerships of governmental (federal, state, tribal and local) and non-governmental entities. The primary goal of the LCCs is to bring together science and resource management to inform climate adaptation strategies to address climate change and other stressors within an ecological region, or "landscape." Each LCC will function in a specific geographic area and together will form a national and ultimately an international network. The Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative is managed out of the Lower Colorado Region.

Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (Desert LCC). Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have partnered to develop the Desert LCC. The Desert LCC is a bi-national, self-directed, non-regulatory regional partnership formed and directed by resource management entities as well as interested public and private entities in the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan Desert regions of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Through collaborative partnerships, the Desert LCC seeks to provide scientific and technical support, coordination, and communication to resource managers and the broader Desert LCC community to address climate change and other landscape-scale ecosystem stressors. A Steering Committee serves as the executive body of the LCC, providing leadership, direction and guidance to the LCC. The Desert LCC's Steering Committee is comprised of Federal agencies, States, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and Mexican government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Working Groups take the lead on specific tasks to accomplish the goals of the LCC, as well as help identify priorities for Steering Committee consideration and communicate LCC products to a wide network.

(1) Funding for applied science projects that enhance the management of natural and cultural resources and have a nexus to water resource management in a changing climate within the Desert and Southern Rockies LCCs boundaries

a. Eligible applicants are states (including state agencies), tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, organizations with water or power delivery, universities, non-profit research organizations, and non-profit organizations

b. A non-Federal cost share of 50 percent or more of project costs is required.

c. Up to $100,000 may be awarded for projects to be completed with two years.

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Drought Response Program provides assistance to water users to conduct drought contingency planning, including consideration of climate change information, and to take actions that will build long-term resiliency to drought. Since 1991, Reclamation has been providing emergency drought assistance to States and Tribes under the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, as amended (43 U.S.C. 2214(c)). The Drought Act includes useful authorities to implement emergency response actions (Title I) and to develop drought contingency plans (Title II). However, in recent years, most program funding has been used for emergency response actions and has not been used to support drought contingency planning. Additionally, the Drought Act does not authorize financial assistance for projects that will mitigate the impacts of drought in advance of a crisis.

In 2015, a Drought Response Team (Team) was formed to look at the existing drought program and recommend changes to improve it. A framework was developed by the Team to guide implementation of Program on a pilot basis until the program process and requirements was formalized in Reclamation Directives and Standards in FY 2016. The Framework established new competitive processes for funding three activities: (1) Drought contingency planning; (2) Drought resiliency projects; and (3) Emergency response actions.

(1) Drought contingency planning
    a. Eligible applicants are states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the Reclamation States or Hawaii.
    b. A non-Federal cost share of 50 percent or more of total project costs.
    c. Up to $200,000 per agreement for a project that can be completed in 2 years to develop a drought contingency plan or to update an existing plan.
(2) Drought resiliency projects
    a. Eligible applicants are states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the western United States or United States Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended
    b. A non-Federal cost share of 50 percent or more of project costs is required
    c. Funding Group I: Up to $300,000 per agreement for a project up to 2 years.
    d. Funding Group II: Up to $750,000 per agreement for a project that can be completed within 3 years.
(3) Emergency response actions
    a. Eligible emergency response actions are limited to temporary construction activities and other actions authorized under Title I that do not involve construction of permanent facilities.
    b. Funding for emergency response actions will either be used by Reclamation to implement the action(s) selected for funding, or to contract with another entity to implement the selected action(s). This is not financial assistance.
    c. A non-Federal cost-share is not required for emergency response actions; however, requests that include a non-Federal cost-share contribution will receive additional points in the evaluation criteria
    d. Eligible applicants are states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and local government entities located in the Reclamation States and Hawaii, as identified in the Drought Act, as amended. In addition, the applicant needs an existing drought contingency plan on file or a state governor or tribal leader drought declaration. Assistance must be requested in writing.

e. Up to $100,000 in Federal funds will be made available for each emergency response action
f. Emergency response actions must be able to be completed within 6 months of entering into a contract

Title XVI Program identifies and investigates opportunities to reclaim and reuse wastewaters and naturally impaired ground and surface water in the 17 Western States and Hawaii. Title XVI is budgeted for by Reclamation's regional offices and includes funding for planning studies and the construction of water recycling projects, on a project specific basis, in partnership with local governmental entities. The funding opportunity typically closes in December.

(1) Projects - Planning, design, and/or construction of Title XVI authorized projects
   a. Sponsors of water reclamation and reuse projects specifically authorized for funding under Title XVI of Public Law 102-575, as amended (43 United States Code [U.S.C.] 390h through 390h-39)
   b. A non-Federal cost share of 75 percent or more of total costs.
   c. Up to $4,000,000 per applicant
   d. Applicants must provide a description of planning, design, and construction activities that are planned through the 2 year grant
(2) Research - Address water supply challenges by establishing or expanding of water reclamation and reuse markets, improving existing water reuse facilities, and/or streamlining the implementation of state of the art technology for new facilities.
   a. State, regional, or local authorities; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; or other entities such as a water district, wastewater district, or rural water district. Applicants must be located within the 17 Western States or Hawaii
   b. A non-Federal cost share of 75 percent or more of project costs
   c. Funding
      i. Funding Group I: Up to $75,000 per agreement for desktop research studies to develop science and decision-support tools to assist communities in decision-making related to implementing or expanding water reclamation projects, for up to 18 months.
      ii. Funding Group II: Up to $150,000 per agreement for research at existing facilities up to 24 months.
      iii. Funding Group III: Up to $300,000 in Federal funds for a research study at new facilities that can be completed within 36 months.
(3) Feasibility Studies - Development of new water reuse feasibility studies
   a. State, regional, or local authorities; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; or other entities such as a water district, wastewater district, or rural water district. Applicants must be located within the 17 Western States or Hawaii
   b. A non-Federal cost share of 50 percent or more of project costs
   c. Funding
      i. Funding Group I: Up to $150,000 per agreement for a feasibility study to be completed within 18 months.
      ii. Funding Group II: Up to $450,000 in Federal funds for feasibility studies to be completed within 3 years within 36 months.

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Water and Energy Efficiency Grants – for projects that seek to conserve and use water more efficiently, improve energy efficiency, benefit endangered and threatened species, or carry out other activities to address impacts on water or prevent any water-related crisis or conflict. The Funding opportunity announcement (FOA) typically closes in January.

(1) Eligible applicants are states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the western United States or United States Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended
(2) A non-Federal cost share of 50 percent or more of project costs is required
(3) Funding Group I: Up to $300,000 per agreement for a project up to 2 years.
(4) Funding Group II: Up to $1,000,000 in Federal funds for a project that can be completed within 3 years.

Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grants – for on-the-ground efficiency projects which seek to implement work identified in an applicant's water planning efforts. The FOA typically closes in January.

(1) Eligible applicants are states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the western United States or United States Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended
(2) A non-Federal cost share of 50 percent or more of project costs is required.
(3) Up to $75,000. The total project cost for a project under this grant category is expected to be capped at $150,000. Eligible applicants should only submit proposals for projects that have a total project cost (i.e., Federal funding + non-Federal funding) of $150,000 or less. For projects with a total cost above $150,000, please see the WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant.
(4) In general, the projects funded under this opportunity should be completed within 2 years of award.

Water Marketing Grants – Support for entities exploring actions that can be taken to develop or facilitate water marketing that could provide a mechanism for willing participants to buy, sell, lease, or exchange water. The funding opportunity typically closes in early spring.

(1) Eligible applicants are states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the western United States or United States Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended
(2) A non-Federal cost share of 50 percent or more of project costs is required.
(3) Funding Group I: Up to $200,000 per agreement for a project up to 2 years.
(4) Funding Group II: Up to $400,000 in Federal funds for a project that can be completed within 3 years.

Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) was created in 1997 to encourage water conservation and efficient use of water supplies on federal Reclamation projects, as well as foster improved water management on a watershed basis throughout the 17 Western states. The WCFSP was designed to implement the Preferred Alternative in Reclamation's March 1996 Final Environmental Impact Statement on Implementation of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (RRA). Because the WCFSP works collaboratively with many local water users, it was determined that this program would continue to be managed locally in the area offices, so that it could focus on issues that are specific to

the local areas. Each area works under centrally established Directives and Standards that are designed to give flexibility for optimum implementation. The area coordinators work collaboratively to provide technical assistance and financial assistance in preparing water conservation plans, developing water conservation programs, and evaluating water efficiency needs in the field. Funding opportunity announcements are managed by each regional office under Reclamation-wide ranking criteria. The FOA typically closes in December-January.

All of the project categories listed below have these in common:

a. Eligible applicants are states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the Lower Colorado Region.
b. A non-Federal cost share of 50 percent or more of total project costs is required.
c. Up to $100,000 per agreement for a project that can be completed within 2 years

WCFSP Project Categories:

(1) **System Optimization Review Grants** – for a broad look at system-wide efficiency focused on improving efficiency and operations of a complete or partial water system, water district, or water basin. The Review results in a plan of action that focuses on improving efficiency and operations.

(2) **Designing Water Management Improvements** – design of water improvement projects such as pipelines, canal lining, water measurement structures, or other water management improvement projects. This activity includes the necessary preliminary work in preparation of the design such as surveying, and gathering pertinent site specific information (e.g., hydraulic head available at site, soil testing, or for determining groundwater level).

(3) **Demonstration/Pilot Projects** – Projects that demonstrate innovative technologies in water management or water conservation to increase technical understanding of unfamiliar water management and conservation principles and practices that have not been previously used by the applicant. A demonstration activity's/project's purpose is to install or apply a particular technology in a new way, or in a new setting, with the intent of answering questions about the reliability of this technology and reporting the results to others for potential wider adoption, or determining if a different course of action is necessary. This type of project is normally required because there is some question of whether a particular technology will be effective enough to apply to the full service area. Therefore, a demonstration, or pilot project, is used to answer these questions or doubts of whether it would be cost effective to pursue use of the technology in the agency's water conservation program.

(4) **Water Conservation Plans** – involves the development of a written water management or conservation plan. Water conservation plans are required for Colorado River water contractors in the Lower Colorado Region, in accordance with the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982.

West-wide Climate Risk Assessments (WWCRAs) are a complementary activity with the Basin Studies and the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives within the WaterSMART Initiative, in accordance with Secretarial Order 3289. As a whole, these activities represent a comprehensive approach to incorporate the best available science into planning activities for climate change adaptation planning. WWCRAs assess impacts to water supplies and demands on a reconnaissance level that include a baseline risk and impact assessment. The assessments establish a foundation for more in-depth analyses and the development of adaptation options through Basin Studies, operations planning,

or any other activity that can benefit from the assessments. In February 2015, a new report was published that revealed a projected shift in demand for crop irrigation across eight major river basins. The study evaluated irrigation water requirements for the second half of the 20th century and, as compared to projected demand for the second half of the 21st century, found that net irrigation water requirements in the West may be six percent higher.

Other Resources:

WaterSMART Program Website: https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/

WCFSP Websites:

RO - https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/wtrconsv.html

SCAO - https://www.usbr.gov/lc/socal/wtrcons.html

PXAO - https://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/programs/pxwatercon.html

YAO - https://www.usbr.gov/lc/yuma/programs/water_conservation.html

For help with your financial assistance application, please see successful application awarded in previous years at:

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/applications/