



BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION

Upper Basin Environmental Drought Mitigation (B2E2)

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022, Section 50233

Upper Colorado Region Office

Authority – IRA, 50233

- Mitigate the impacts of drought
- Appropriation of \$4B
- Funds available until Sept 30, 2026
- Public entities and Tribes eligible

SEC. 50233. DROUGHT MITIGATION IN THE RECLAMATION STATES.

(a) DEFINITION OF RECLAMATION STATE. —In this section, the term “Reclamation State” means a State or territory described in the first section of the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093; 43 U.S.C. 391).

(b) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary (acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation), for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$4,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2026, for grants, contracts, or financial assistance agreements, in accordance with the reclamation laws, to or with public entities and Indian Tribes, that provide for the conduct of the following activities to mitigate the impacts of drought in the Reclamation States, with priority given to the Colorado River Basin and other basins experiencing comparable levels of long-term drought, to be implemented in compliance with applicable environmental law:

(1) Compensation for a temporary or multiyear voluntary reduction in diversion of water or consumptive water use.

(2) Voluntary system conservation projects that achieve verifiable reductions in use of or demand for water supplies or provide environmental benefits in the Lower Basin or Upper Basin of the Colorado River.

(3) Ecosystem and habitat restoration projects to address issues directly caused by drought in a river basin or inland water body.



IRA Drought Mitigation Program Upper Colorado Basin Region

- **Components:**
 - **Bucket 1 - System Conservation Pilot Program**
 - Compensation for temporary voluntary reduction
 - **Bucket 2 -**
 - **B2E = Bucket 2 Environmental Mitigation**
 - Provide environmental benefits or ecosystem/habitat restoration projects
 - **B2E2 = Bucket 2 Environmental Mitigation with Water Savings**
 - Provide environmental benefits or ecosystem/habitat restoration projects with water savings benefits



B2E2 Program

- Under IRA Section 50233
- Funding opportunity for projects that are environmentally oriented and also include water savings benefits
- Same requirements and evaluation criteria as B2E



B2E2 – Request for Applications

- Announced December 4, 2024
- Applications due January 10, 2025, 11:59 p.m. MDT
- RFA and required forms are on the [B2E2 program website \(https://www.usbr.gov/uc/progact/SystemConservation/index.html\)](https://www.usbr.gov/uc/progact/SystemConservation/index.html)
- Applications to be submitted to ucbefficiency@usbr.gov
- Encourage coordination with state agencies
- No resubmittal needed if previously applied under B2E



B2E2 – Program Eligibility Requirements

- **Applicant:**

- Must be a public entity or Tribe
- Non-government entities and other stakeholders may partner with public entities or Tribes

- **Project:**

- Must provide environmental benefits or ecosystem/habitat restoration with water savings benefits
- Must be within the Upper Colorado River Basin



B2E2 - Application Components

- Applicants must be registered in SAM.gov to be eligible for funding
- All applications must include the following:
 - Technical Proposal (RFA D.2.4)
 - Budget Proposal (RFA D.2.5)
 - Budget Narrative (RFA Appendix B)
 - SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
 - SF-424A Budget Information Form
 - SF-424B or SF-424D Assurances Form



B2E2 - Evaluation Considerations

- **Application Completeness:**
 - All application components submitted and complete
 - The Technical Proposal, Budget Proposal, and Budget Narrative contain requested information
- **Program Priority Alignment:**
 - Contributions of the project clear and in line with the program priorities to mitigate the impacts of drought
- **Benefit(s) of the Project:**
 - Environment, ecosystem, habitat, etc.
 - Water savings



B2E2 - Evaluation Considerations (continued)

- **Collaboration:**

- Project has overall support
 - Multiple stakeholders
 - Governing board support
 - Commitments of time and funding

- **Project Approach and Feasibility:**

- Concept, design, methods, and technology are properly developed, well integrated, and appropriate
- Likelihood that the proposal can be accomplished on time and budget



B2E2 – State Agency Review

- State Point of Contact:

- Colorado: Amy Ostdiek, amy.ostdiek@state.co.us
- New Mexico: Ali Effati, ali.effati@ose.nm.gov
- Utah: Marc Stilson, mkstilson@utah.gov
- Wyoming: Jeff Cowley, jeff.cowley@wyo.gov



B2E2 – Approval and Award

- Reclamation review and recommendation
- Federal review and approval
- Notification and announcement
- Grant agreement



Questions?

ucbefficiency@usbr.gov

<https://www.usbr.gov/uc/progact/SystemConservation/index.html>



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION