



# WaterSMART Applied Science Grants

Through WaterSMART Applied Science Grants, Reclamation provides cost-shared financial assistance for projects to develop hydrologic information and water management tools and improve modeling and forecasting capabilities. Increased access to information and improved modeling and forecasting capabilities will meet a variety of water management objectives, including: support for water supply reliability, management of water deliveries, water marketing activities, drought management activities, conjunctive use of ground and surface water, water rights administration, ability to meet endangered species requirements, watershed health, conservation and efficiency, and other water management objectives.

Applied Science Tools activity includes an internal component to build the technical capacity of Reclamation staff that support improved water management and operations. Eligibility includes projects that demonstrate, apply, or improve applied science tools needed to inform specific water management decisions, including improved modeling, forecasting, and water measurement tools, projects to support the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), projects to increase access to water resources data, and projects that support nature-based solutions decision making.

Results from these projects will be used to increase water supply reliability, provide flexibility in water operations, and improve water management. Reclamation funding is also provided for projects that improve use of forecasts to inform water availability and the use of technology to increase water reliability.

Eligible applicants include States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, universities, nonprofit research institutions, and nonprofit organizations, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

## Funding Levels

Program funding is allocated through a competitive processes. Applicants for Applied Science Grants may request federal funding up to \$400,000 for projects to be completed within two years; with a non-Federal cost share of 50% or more of the total project cost. Projects that incorporate Nature-based Solutions may be eligible for a 25% non-federal cost share.

## Applied Science Projects

Eligible project types include:

- Improved Hydrologic Modeling
- Improved Forecasting Tools
- Improved GIS and Data Management
- Nature-Base Solution Decision Making Tools



WSR-88D Doppler radar at New Underwood, SD. Courtesy NASA.

## Featured Projects

In May 2024, Reclamation announced 51 successful projects under the Applied Science program and will provide approximately \$13.3 million to improve water modeling, forecasting, and information to support water management decisions. Successful projects are in all five of Reclamation's regions. A few of the successful projects are as follows: In the Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf regions, the Tri-Basin Natural Resources Department received a grant for the development of a groundwater recharge management tool in south central Nebraska. In the Upper Colorado Basin region, the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer received a grant for development of a map-based analytical interface for water rights administration in New Mexico. In the California-Pacific Northwest region, the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe received a grant for the Snoqualmie Tribe ancestral forest-data driven headwaters management. In the California-Great Basin region, the University of California, Davis received a grant for modeling the impact of stream inflows on water quality under a changing climate. In the Lower Colorado Basin region, the Mojave Water Agency Public Facilities Corp received a grant to develop the Mojave River Basin integrated groundwater/surface water model.

**For more information:** Please visit [www.usbr.gov/watersmart/appliedscience/index.html](http://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/appliedscience/index.html) or contact Stephanie Micek at (720) 799-3158 or [smicek@usbr.gov](mailto:smicek@usbr.gov).

For more information on selected projects, visit [www.usbr.gov/watersmart](http://www.usbr.gov/watersmart).