

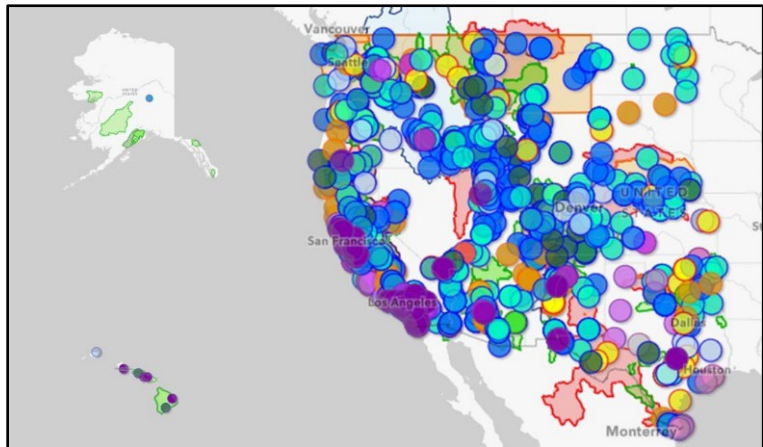
WaterSMART's Quarterly Newsletter: The Tributary



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

April - June 2025

Welcome to the WaterSMART quarterly newsletter, The Tributary. This publication provides Reclamation staff and partners with updates and highlights from programs under the WaterSMART umbrella. In this edition, we showcase projects from WaterSMART's Water and Energy Efficiency Grants, Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects, and the Drought Response Program. Since 2010, Reclamation has partnered with stakeholders across the Western United States to implement over 1,400 water conservation and supply reliability projects through these three programs.



WaterSMART Project Locations – From the [WaterSMART Dashboard](#).

WaterSMART Overview

Through WaterSMART, Reclamation works cooperatively with states, Tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply and hydropower reliability. The WaterSMART programs support water management improvements, planning and design activities, water reclamation and reuse projects, comprehensive approaches to drought planning, implementation actions to proactively address water shortages, and other similar projects that contribute to sustainability and reliability in the Western United States.

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Through WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants or WEEG, Reclamation provides cost-share funding, on a competitive basis, for projects that conserve water and improve efficiency, increase the production of hydropower, mitigate conflict risk in areas prone to future water disputes, and achieve additional benefits that contribute to water supply reliability in the

western United States. To date, WEEG has facilitated the implementation of over 725 water conservation and efficiency projects, conserving over 1,200,000 acre-feet of water per year.

Colorado River Indian Tribes Modernize SCADA System for Water Conservation



Colorado River Indian Tribes. On the Lower Colorado River near Parker, Arizona. 2023.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes in Parker, Arizona, modernized its SCADA System, including high-speed radio telemetry equipment and remote terminal units. Through real-time monitoring and automated control of water distribution networks, the Tribe can optimize flow rates and anticipates an annual water savings of 10,000 acre-feet that was lost to operational spills and evaporation.

North Side Pumping Company Upgrades Pumping and Piping Systems

The North Side Pumping Company, located in southern Idaho, decommissioned two outdated pumping plants from the 1920s and installed 25 small-scale high efficiency pump stations, each equipped with a variable frequency drive and flow meter, that connect to existing on-farm irrigation infrastructure through a series of new pipelines. The new pipeline system allowed the Company to retire 14.5 miles of an unlined irrigation canal. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 6,286 acre-feet that was previously lost to seepage. Water conserved as a result of the project will be retained in the Snake River storage system to help avoid reduced allocations during times of drought.



North Side Pumping Company, southern Idaho. 2024

Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grants

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grants or SWEP, provide cost-share funding, on a competitive basis, to implement small-scale projects (\$250,000 or less) that aim to conserve, better manage, or enhance the efficient use of water supplies. SWEP prioritizes projects supported by previous planning efforts, including but not limited to, canal lining, water delivery automation, and flow measurement. To date, SWEP has facilitated the implementation of over 470 projects.

Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District Upgrades Diversion Headgates for Optimal Water Management



Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District, Trinidad, Colorado. 2023.

The Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District, located in southern Colorado, replaced three manually operated diversion headgates with new automated headgates. This project increases diversion and water use efficiency by improving the timing of changes to river diversions, providing for more consistent diversion rates. The project is supported by the 2020 River Assessment Report, completed by the Purgatoire River Partnership through a WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant.

Drought Response Program

The WaterSMART Drought Response Program proactively addresses drought by providing cost-share funding, on a competitive basis, for drought contingency planning and on-the-ground resiliency projects to increase operational flexibilities by diversifying water supplies and improving management. Projects include, but are not limited to, infrastructure improvements, water recycling, groundwater recharge, water treatment, storage facilities, and the development of decision support tools for water management.

Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board Upgrades Pumping and Piping Infrastructure for Drought Resiliency

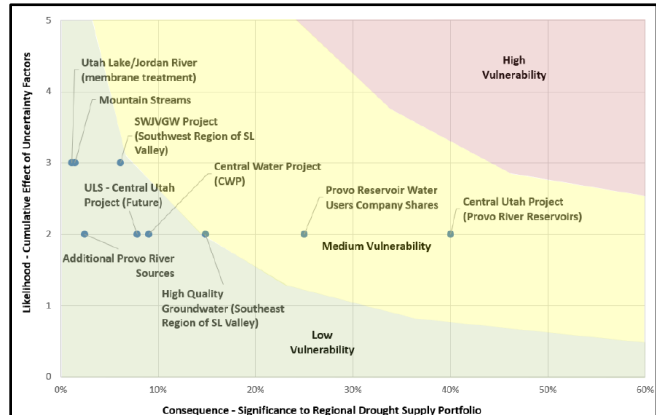
The Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board, near Santa Barbara, California, installed new pumping and piping infrastructure at Lake Cachuma, providing new access to lower reservoir levels. This upgrade provides access to an additional 20,500 acre-feet of water, ensuring a more reliable supply for approximately 200,000 residents. Lake Cachuma has experienced extreme drought, with reservoir capacity dropping to a historic low of 7.2%. This project will facilitate water delivery even when lake levels fall below the inlet gates.



Lake Cachuma Emergency Pumping Facility - Secured Pipeline Project. Lake Cachuma, California. 2023.

Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Develops Drought Contingency Plan

The Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District developed a drought contingency plan for its service area in Salt Lake and Utah counties. The District serves nearly 25% of Utah's population and supplies water for agricultural use while managing facilities that provide recreational and environmental benefits. In response to the severe drought, the District assembled stakeholders to identify drought vulnerabilities, prioritize mitigation projects, and outline response actions. This collaboration established essential partnerships to prepare for and alleviate water shortages, ensuring an effective drought response for the region's multiple water users.



Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District - Drought Plan's Vulnerability of Supply. 2021.

General WaterSMART Updates

For announcements and updates, please visit www.usbr.gov/watersmart



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