# WaterSMART Program



Through the WaterSMART Program, the Bureau of Reclamation provides financial assistance to support water management improvements, planning and design activities, water reclamation and reuse projects, establishment and development of collaborative watershed groups, watershed management projects, habitat restoration and improved fish passage, a comprehensive approach to drought planning, implementation actions to proactively address water shortages, and other similar projects that contribute to sustainability in the Western United States. Through WaterSMART, Reclamation works cooperatively with states, tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply through investments to modernize existing infrastructure and attention to local water conflicts.

WaterSMART offers multiple programs for a wide range of projects, each with their own funding opportunities including, but not limited to: WaterSMART Grants, Drought Response, Basin Study Program, Title XVI, Cooperative Watershed Management Program, and Applied Science.



# Highlights

- In 2022, water reuse projects funded through the Title XVI Program delivered over 440,000 acre-feet of recycled water.
- In December 2022, 36 new Drought Resiliency projects received \$84 million in Federal funding for groundwater storage, rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge, water reuse, ion exchange treatment, and other methods to stretch existing water supplies.
- In 2022, 31% of funded projects in Applied Science were for universities.
- In 2022, the Environmental Water Restoration Program awarded \$36
  million in Federal funding towards fish habitat improvement, riparian
  restoration, and diversion structure improvement projects, among other
  activities.
- Funding opportunities are available to the 17 western United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands. Please check individual programs to see which are available in your area.

# Funding Highlights FISCAL YEAR 2017 – 2022

Through WaterSMART, Reclamation has helped fund over 530 projects, totaling \$2.8 billion in improvements.

Federal Funding: \$239.8M BIL Funding: \$553.8M Non-Federal Funding: \$2B

Total: \$2.8 billion

# **Funding Opportunities Under WaterSMART**

WaterSMART funding opportunities provide financial assistance to water managers for projects that seek to implement actions to increase water supply reliability and mitigate potential water conflicts in the western United States.



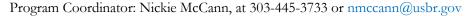
#### Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

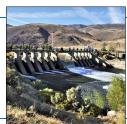
The primary category of funding under WaterSMART Grants, focusing on projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings.

Program Coordinator: Josh German, at 303-445-2839 or jgerman@usbr.gov

#### **Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects**

Provides funding for small-scale on-the-ground water management projects that conserve, better manage, or otherwise increase efficient use of water supplies.







#### **Environmental Water Resources Projects**

Provides funding for water conservation projects, water management improvements, and river and watershed restoration projects that provide significant ecological benefits.

Program Coordinator: Robin Graber, at 303-445-2764 or rgraber@usbr.gov

# **Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program**

Provides funding for the study, design and construction of large-scale restoration projects that result in the improvement of the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat.



Program Coordinator: Avra Morgan, at 303-445-2906 or aomorgan@usbr.gov



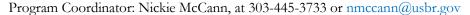
#### Water Strategy Grants

Provides funding for collaborative planning to improve water supplies such as water marketing, water conservation, drought resilience, and ecological resilience.

Program Coordinator: Irene Hoiby, at 303-445-3575 or ihoiby@usbr.gov

#### **Project Design Grants**

Provides funding for site-specific final design of on-the ground water supply construction, water management construction, and restoration projects.







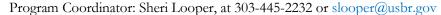
## Cooperative Watershed Management Program

Provides funding to diverse, local watershed groups to complete group development activities, watershed restoration planning, watershed management project design.

Program Coordinator: Robin Graber, at 303-445-2764 or rgraber@usbr.gov

# **Drought Response Program**

Provides funding for collaborative drought planning efforts, decision support tools, and the construction of infrastructure projects to mitigate impacts of drought.







#### **Basin Studies**

Helps stakeholders address and plan for water supply and demand imbalances, with Reclamation providing technical assistance, tool development, and support to identify collaborative solutions.

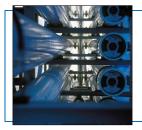
Program Coordinator: Stephanie Micek, at 406-247-7320 or smicek@usbr.gov

#### **Applied Science**

Provides financial assistance for the development of hydrologic information and water management tools as well as improvements to modeling and forecasting capabilities.

Program Coordinator: Stephanie Micek, at 406-247-7320 or smicek@usbr.gov





#### Title XVI Program and Desalination Construction

Provides funding for the planning, design, or construction of water recycling and desalination projects to develop alternative water supplies and stretch limited water supplies in the Western United States.

Program Coordinator: Maribeth Menendez, at 303-445-2094 or mmendendez@usbr.gov