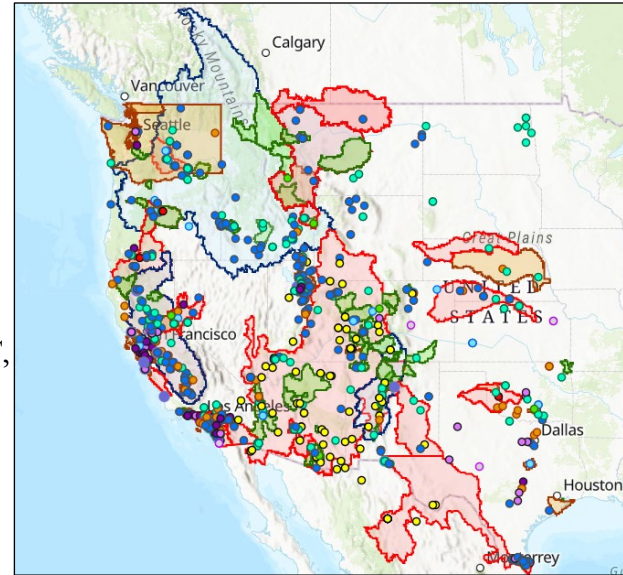




WaterSMART Program

Through the WaterSMART Program, the Bureau of Reclamation provides financial assistance to support water management improvements, planning and design activities, watershed management projects, 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. Wide-spread drought, aging infrastructure, and environmental requirements all strain existing water and hydropower resources. Adequate and safe water supplies are fundamental to the health, economy, and security of the country. Through WaterSMART, Reclamation continues to work 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 avoid potential water conflicts.

WaterSMART offers multiple programs for a wide range of projects, each with their own funding opportunities.



[WaterSMART Program Data Portal](#)

Highlights

- In July 2025, WaterSMART awarded \$200 million in Federal funding towards water reuse projects for developing long-term sustainability in the Colorado River Basin.
- In June 2025, 15 new Drought Resiliency projects received \$33 million in Federal funding for water treatment, new or improved infrastructure, and implementation of new water management tools and technology to stretch existing water supplies.
- Several funding opportunities are currently 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 may be available in your area.

Funding Highlights FISCAL YEAR 2017 – 2026

Through WaterSMART, Reclamation has helped fund over 2,400 projects, totaling \$12.26 billion in improvements.

Federal Funding: \$3.37B
Non-Federal Funding: \$8.89B

Total: \$12.26 billion



Join the WaterSMART mailing list to receive program updates from the Bureau of Reclamation.
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>

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

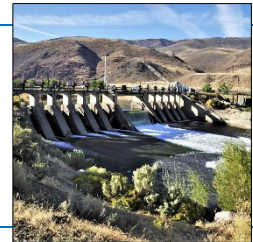
The primary category of funding under WaterSMART Grants, focusing on projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings.

Program Coordinator: Josh German, at 720-812-0875 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.

Program Coordinator: Nickie McCann, at 720-610-3480 or nmccann@usbr.gov



Enhancing Water Resources Projects

(Formerly known as Environmental Water Resources Projects)

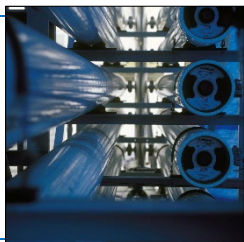
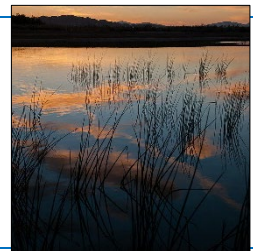
Provides funding for water conservation projects, water management improvements, and river and watershed restoration projects that benefit multiple sectors and stakeholders.

Program Coordinator: Katherine Tucker, at 303-445-2586 or ktucker@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: Katherine Tucker, at 303-445-2586 or ktucker@usbr.gov



Water Recycling and Desalination

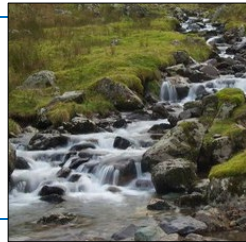
Provides funding for the planning, design, or construction of water recycling and desalination projects to develop alternative water supplies and stretch limited water supplies in the Western United States.

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

Planning and Project Design

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

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



Cooperative Watershed Management Program

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

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

Drought Response Program

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

Program Coordinator: Shelbie Neff, at 303-445-2881 or sneff@usbr.gov



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 Hellekson, at 720-799-3158 or shellekson@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 Hellekson, at 720-799-3158 or shellekson@usbr.gov



