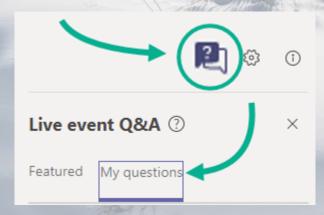


Getting Started

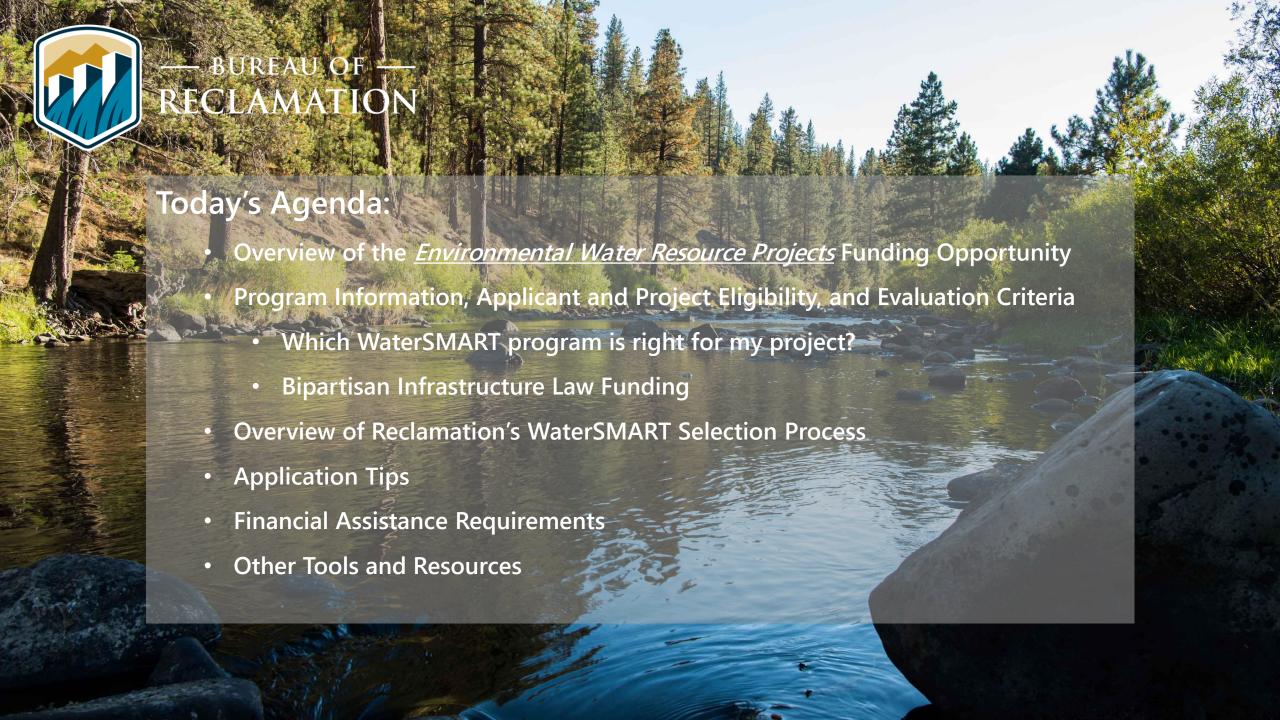
- To watch the recording, use the same link: Join live event
- Attendees' cameras and microphones are muted
- A copy of the slides will be available on our website:

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/

 Questions and comments can be posted in the Q&A icon on the bottom of the menu bar











EWRP Applicant Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be located in the 17 Western States, Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

Category A

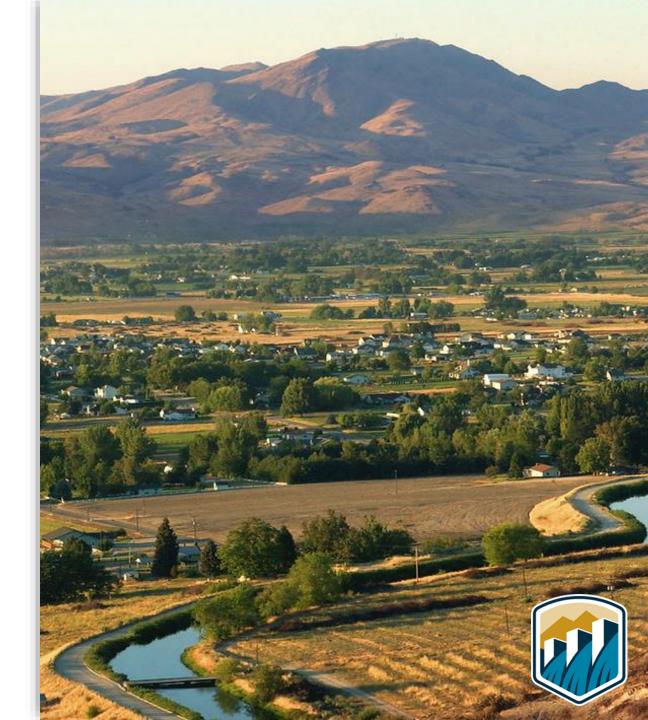
- States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts;
- State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

Category B

Nonprofit conservation organizations, including watershed groups, that
are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity
described in Category A. Category B applicants must include with their
application a letter from the Category A partner, stating that they are
acting in partnership with the applicant and agree to the submittal and
content of the proposal.

Category C

 Non-profit conservation organizations submitting an application for a project to implement a nature-based solution on Federal land may submit an application without a Category A partner, if they demonstrate that entities described in Category A from the applicable service area have been notified and do not object to the project. All Category C applicants must be in the United States or one of the Territories identified above.



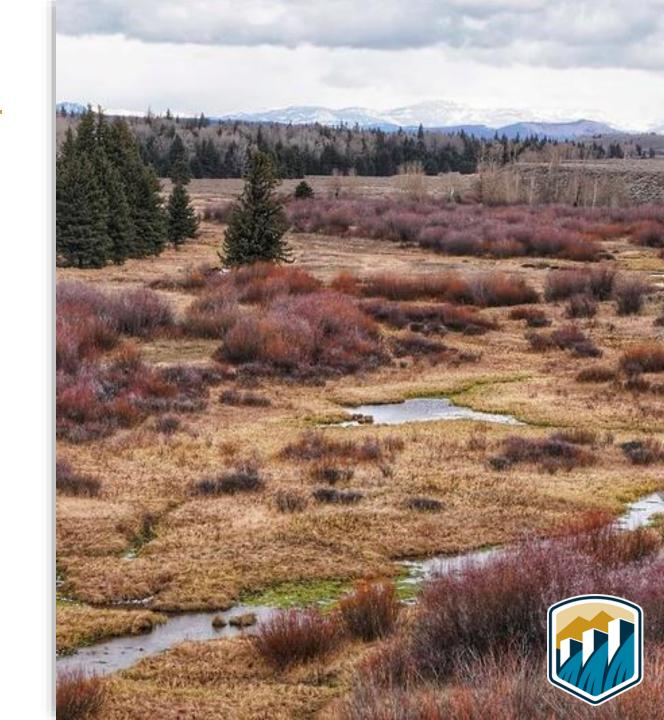
EWRP Funding Guidelines

General Applicants: Up to \$3 million for projects with a total cost of \$6 million or less to be completed within three years

New for FY24! Watershed Groups: Up to \$5 million for projects to be completed within 5 years.

A <u>25% Non-Federal Cost Share</u> is required for all projects. Example: An applicant requesting \$3 million should have a non-Federal cost share of at least \$1 million dollars. Note: this cost-sharing requirement is not applicable to American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands.

Cost-Share <u>MUST be Non-Federal in nature</u>. This means you can not typically include funding from NOAA, US Fish and Wildlife, USDOT, or BPA, among other sources.



Watershed Groups: Definition and Provisions

A watershed group, as defined in Section 6001(6) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act (see Section A.1. Authority for full citation):

- Is a grassroots, non-regulatory entity that addresses water availability and quality issues within the relevant watershed.
- Is capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources in the watershed.
- Makes decisions on a consensus basis.
- Represents a diverse group of stakeholders representing different water use sectors, including hydroelectric producers; livestock grazing; timber production; land development; recreation or tourism; irrigated agriculture; the environment; municipal water supplies; private property owners; Federal, state and local governments; Tribes; and disadvantaged communities.

Applications from watershed groups will be ranked separately from other applicants. Applicants applying as a watershed group must have a letter of partnership from an eligible Category A entity to be eligible for the 75% Federal cost share. Watershed groups that apply without a Category A partner are eligible to receive 50% cost share.

We highly recommend you do not attempt to apply as a watershed group if you do not ORGANICALLY meet this definition.



EWRP Project Eligibility

- Task A: *Ecologically Focused Water Conservation and Efficiency Projects*
- Task B: Ecologically Focused Water Management and Infrastructure Improvements
- Task C: Restoration and Nature-Based Solutions

Applicants may apply for a project that has project components from one or more of the Task Areas



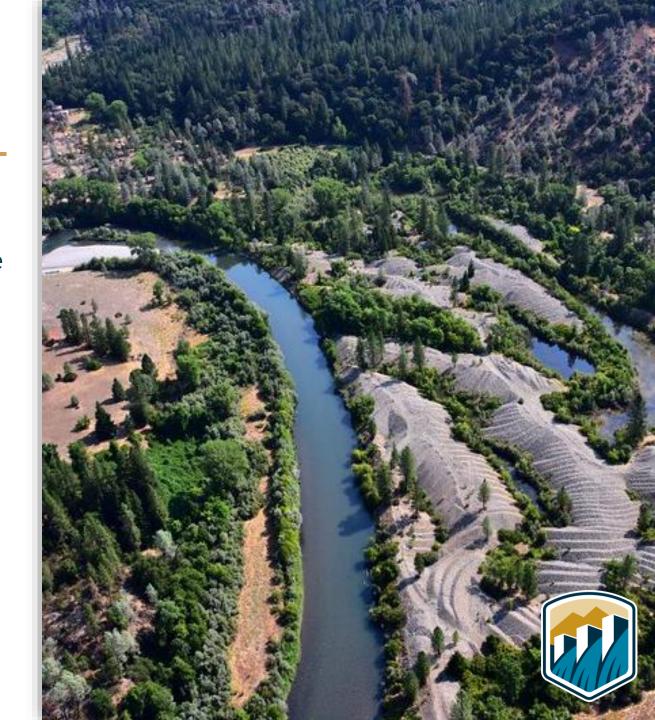
Task A: Ecologically Focused Water Conservation and Efficiency Projects

A primary purpose of the project must be to provide more reliable water supplies *for ecological benefits*.

Some means of ensuring that the conserved water will be made available for ecological benefits is required. This could include a formal mechanism to commit conserved water to instream flows (e.g., instream water right) or other types of assurances (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding between applicable water right holders and stakeholders).

Eligible activities include:

- Canal lining or piping
- Irrigation flow measurements
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) automation

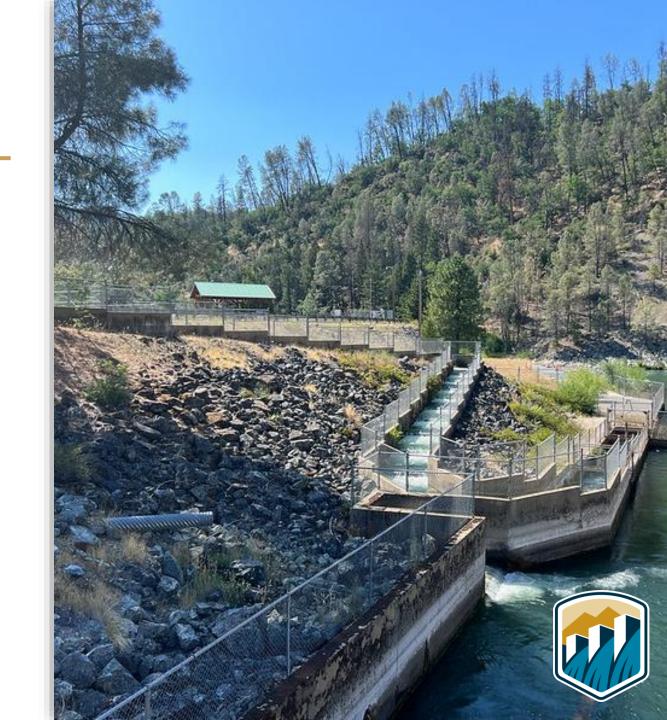


Task B: Ecologically Focused Water Management and Infrastructure Improvements

To be eligible under this task area, a primary project purpose must be to provide ecological benefits.

Eligible activities include:

- Improving fish passage, including installation and/or modification of fish screens, ladders, bypasses, or removing small barriers to fish passage (e.g., diversion dams).
- Improving fish hatcheries (e.g., chillers, holding pens, transport, disease control, or prevention).
- Water management changes or infrastructure improvements that will improve water supply reliability and provide ecological benefits

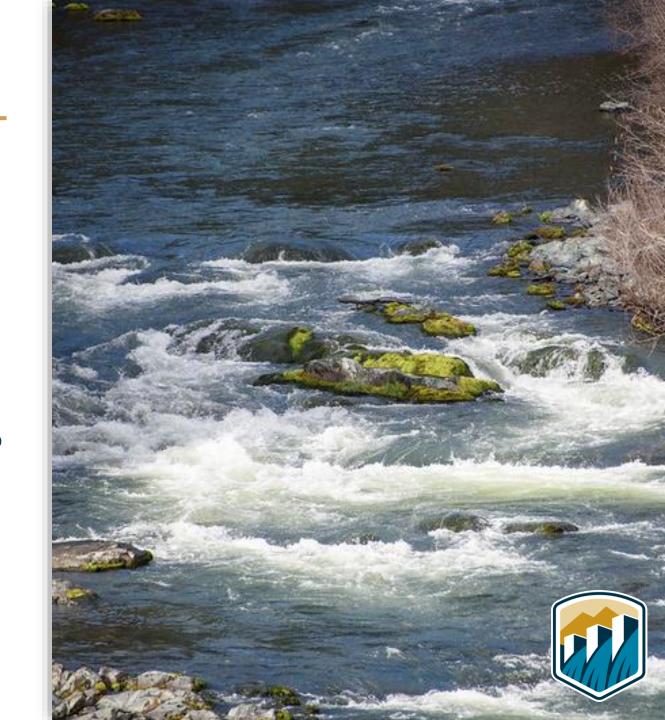


Task C: Restoration and Nature-Based Solutions

To be eligible under this task area, projects must have a clear nexus to water resources or water resources management. Eligible activities include:

- Restoration of Aquatic and Riparian Habitat
- Restoration of Connectivity
- Nature-Based Solutions
- Water Quality and Temperature
- Fisheries Projects
- Invasive Species Projects (With a Clear Nexus to Water Resources)
- Forest Management Projects (With a Clear Nexus to Water Resources)

Projects that provide benefits to multiple sectors, including projects that benefit ecological values or watershed health and agricultural, municipal, tribal, or recreational water uses, are encouraged and prioritized.



Construction Start Date

"For the June 18, 2024, deadline, proposed projects should NOT have an estimated construction start date that is prior to January 1, 2025." January 2025



Featured EWRP Project:

Sun River Watershed, Muddy Creek Restoration and Resilience Project, Phase I

- SRW will restore the flow regime and channel in a 3-mile stretch of Muddy Creek, a tributary to the Sun River in central Montana. The restoration will improve water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitats, and restore hydrologic processes.
- Unnaturally high streamflow events due to irrigation returns have damaged stream banks, resulting in massive erosion that contributes sediment and nutrients into the creek.
- Sun River received around \$1.75 million in Reclamation funding to carry out the restoration project



Featured EWRP Project:

Sun River Watershed, Muddy Creek Restoration and Resilience Project, Phase I

- The project will expand the capacity of an existing reservoir to allow for attenuation and improved management of excess irrigation water and conserve up to 8,000 acre-feet of water annually.
- Project partners will also restore the stream channel with riffle grade control, floodplain expansion, and low-impact bank treatments.
- These combined projects were identified as the top priorities in a Master Plan for Muddy Creek, developed under a 2020 WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase 1 grant, supported by diverse stakeholders.



EWRP Evaluation Criteria Overview

	Evaluation Criteria Scoring Summary	Points
A.	Project Benefits	35
В.	Collaborative Planning	15
C.	Stakeholder Support for Proposed Project	10
D.	Readiness to Proceed	20
E.	Performance measures	5
F.	Presidential and Department of the Interior priorities	15
	Total	100



Evaluation Criterion A: Project Benefits (35 Points)

Subcriterion A.1: Ecological Project Benefits

- Address Ecological Project Benefits
- Provide descriptive examples of benefits, quantification, and citations to appropriate references
- Subcriterion A.2: Multiple Benefits
 - Explain how and to what extent the project will provide multiple benefits



Evaluation Criterion B: Collaborative Planning (15 Points)

- <u>Plan Description and Objective</u>: Is your proposed project supported by a specific planning document? If so, identify the planning document by name and address the following questions
- <u>Plan Development:</u> Was the plan developed through a collaborative process?
- <u>Plan Support for Project:</u> Describe how the plan provides support for your proposed project.



Evaluation Criterion C: Stakeholder Support for Proposed Project (10 Points)

- Points will be awarded based on the level of stakeholder support for the proposed project. Applications that demonstrate support for the project from a diverse array of stakeholders will receive the most points under this criterion.
- Letters of support for the project are considered here



Evaluation Criterion D: Readiness to Proceed (20 Points)

- Points will be awarded based upon the extent to which the proposed project is capable of proceeding upon entering into a financial assistance agreement.
- Project with a clear and detailed implementation plan and budget and a high level of design and engineering complete at the time of application will be prioritized under this evaluation criterion.



Evaluation Criterion E: Performance Measures (5 Points)

 Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the application describes a plan to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the project during and after the proposed project period to track success and adaptively address new challenges as they arise



Evaluation Criterion F: Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities (15 Points)

- Points will be awarded based on the extent that the project demonstrates support for the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities, including, including E.O. 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad and the President's memorandum, Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships.
- Climate Change
- Benefits to Disadvantaged and Tribal Communities

Note: Applicants should utilize the White House Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool to identify how communities in their project area may be classified as disadvantaged or underserved. Explore the map - Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (geoplatform.gov)



Which Funding Opportunity is Right For You?

	Environmental Water Resource Projects (EWRP)	Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects (AERP)
Total Project Cost (for implementation projects) (COST SHARE + BOR FUNDING)	Up to \$6 Million	Between \$6 million and \$20 million.
Federal Cost Share	75%	65%
Does the funding opportunity cover restoration planning projects?	No, but interested applicants looking to fund the design of an EWRP project are welcome to apply for the WaterSMART Planning and project Design Funding Opportunity, or the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program if they are a watershed group.	Yes - Applicants may apply under Task A: Study and Design to receive between \$500,000 and \$2 million for the study and design of a large-scale aquatic ecosystem restoration project!
Funding for projects in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico?	Yes!	-
Funding for fish passage improvements?	Yes!	Yes!
Funding for complete dam removal?	Small diversion dam removals	Yes!
Funding for ecologically beneficial water conservation or infrastructure improvements without other actions?	Yes!	-
Funding for large-scale, multi-basin, comprehensive restoration portfolios?	-	Yes!

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding for WaterSMART Programs

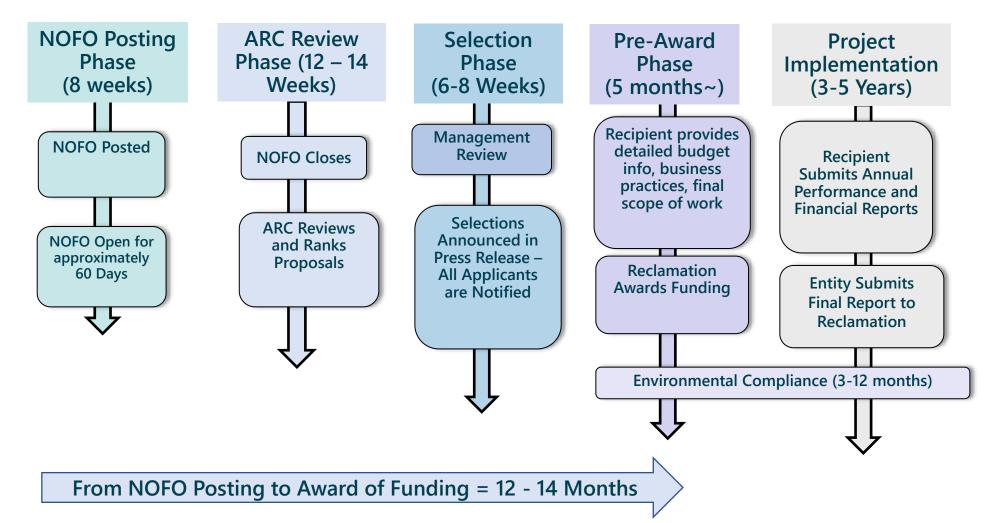
WaterSMART Programs Receiving Infrastructure Funding				
Program Area	Funding Amount (Over Five Years)	Activities Funded		
WaterSMART Grants (for Nature-Based Features)	\$100 million	Water conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, natural and nature-based features		
Cooperative Watershed Management Program	\$100 million	Watershed planning and restoration projects for watershed groups		
Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration and Protection Projects	\$250 million	Aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection projects to improve habitat		
Multi-Benefit Projects to Improve Watershed Health	\$100 million	Restoration projects to improve watershed health		





WaterSMART Selection Process

Sample schedule

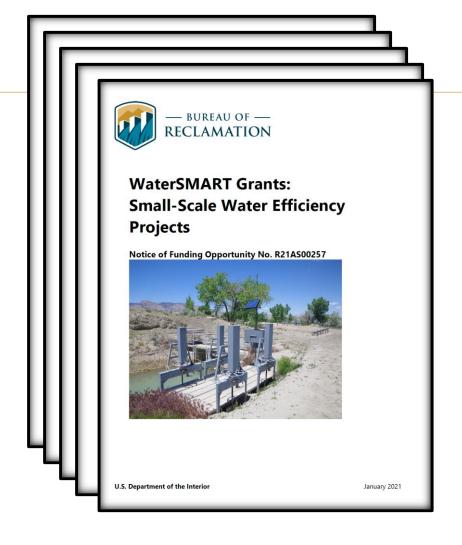






General Application Tips

- The most successful projects are those that fit well with the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- Review the objective of the NOFO, the eligible project types and the evaluation criteria carefully to choose the right NOFO.
- Suggested Pre-Application Actions:
 - Contact the Program Coordinator to discuss which NOFO your project fits best under.
 - Look at past successful applications at www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART





General Considerations

- Important: Read everything in the NOFO!
 - Ask questions if something does not make sense.
- Give yourself plenty of time to write and submit the proposal.
- Do not assume the Application Review Committee knows you.
 - Paint the reviewers a picture- and back it up with data!
 - Committee is comprised of Reclamation staff from throughout the Western states.
- If your application is not awarded, ask for a debriefing to help prepare better proposal next year.



Evaluation Criteria

- Make sure you respond to every criterion and every sub-criterion
- Your responses should:
 - Directly respond to the criterion We recommend you copy and paste the criteria directly into your proposal and place your response immediately below each criterion/sub-criterion
 - Provide support in the form of quantification or citations to reference documents
 - Make the case for how your project meets the criterion – general statements without explanation or support will not score well
- Application Tip: Well-supported responses to the evaluation criteria are the key to writing a competitive proposal





Other Considerations

- Project scope and budget should align! Reviewers will consider whether the budget is reasonable to complete the scope described in the technical project description.
- Consider inflation when developing your budget.







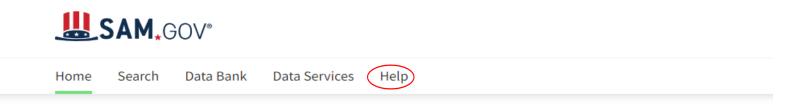
Application Tips Where to Start

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects For Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00299

Register in SAM.gov and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

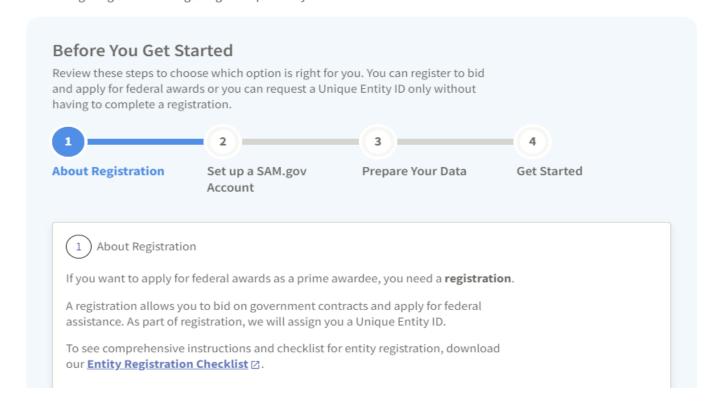
- SAM.gov | Entity | Registrations
- If you have difficulties

 document
 communications with
 help desk.
- Include communications with your application



Get Started with Registration and the Unique Entity ID

Submitting a registration and getting a Unique Entity ID are FREE.



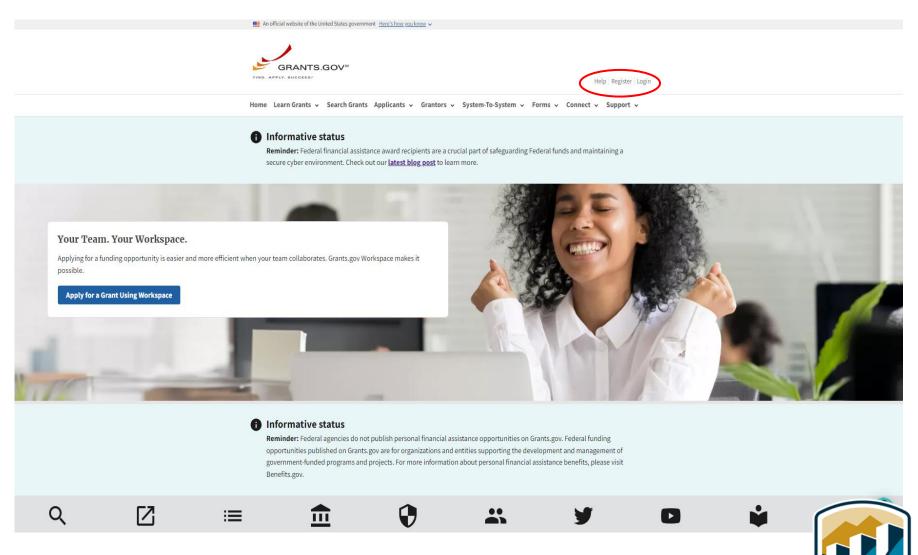


Application Tips Where to Start

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects For Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00299

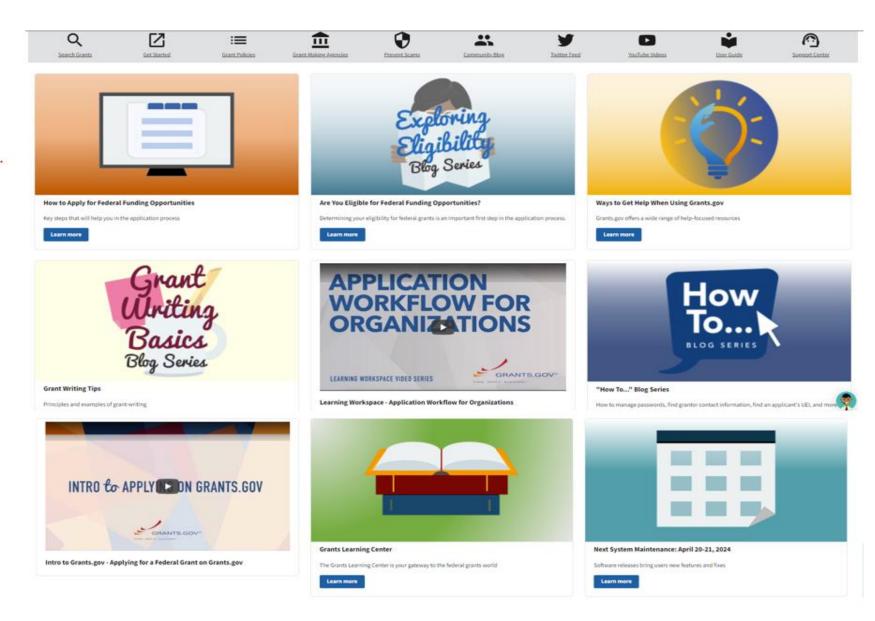
Find all Required
Documentation and
Register and Apply for
Federal Grants

- www.grants.gov
- If you have difficulties, document communications with help desk.
- Include communications with your application



Additional Resources

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects For Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00299



Grants.gov provides many different guidance opportunities, regardless of the applicant's experience level.

How to use Grants.gov



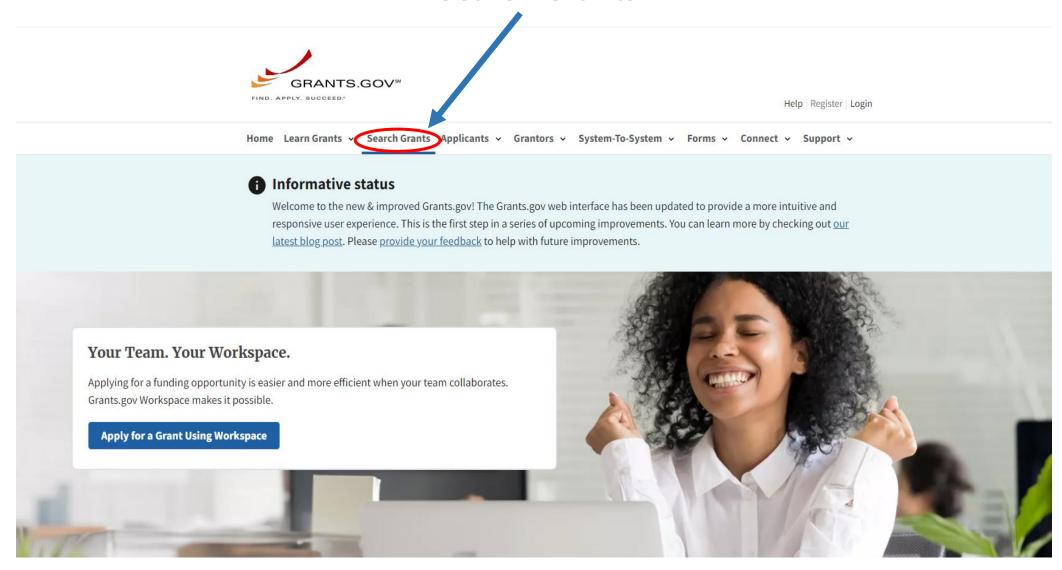
Reclamation partnered with grants.gov to bring you this webinar to help familiarize yourself with the site and to provide an overview of how to submit a grant application. View the Powerpoint

Info webinar available at www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART

Application Tips Where to Start

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects For Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00299

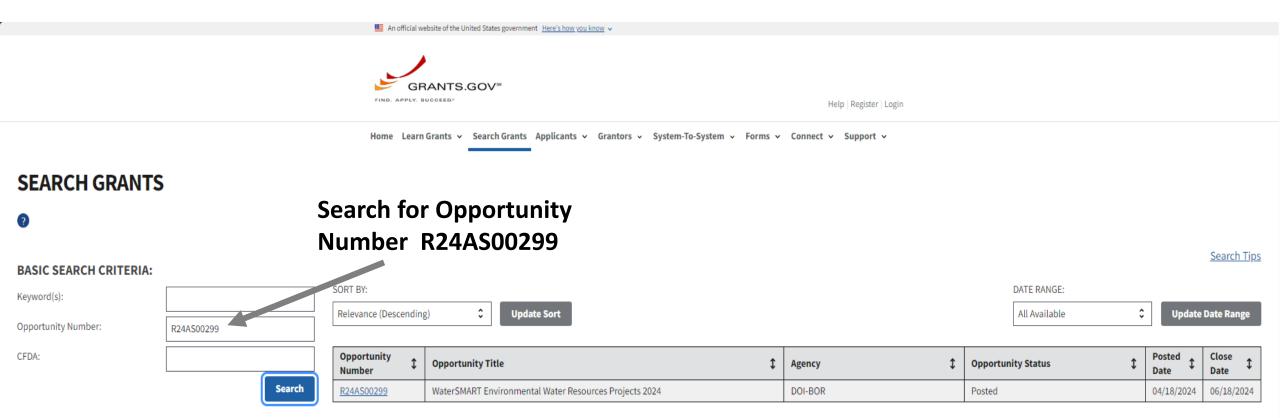
Search Grants





Application Tips Where to Start

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects For Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00299



OPPORTUNITY STATUS:



Posted (1)

Closed (0)

Archived (0)



Application Tips Where to Start

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects For Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00299

An official website of the United States government Here's how you know



Help | Register | Login

Home Learn Grants v Search Grants Applicants v Grantors v System-To-System v Forms v Connect v Support v

VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

R24AS00299

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects 2024

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Reclamation

SYNOPSIS

VERSION HISTORY



PACKAGE

Click on the following file link(s) to download the related document(s):

File Description	File Name	Last Updated Date/Time	File Size
* Folder: Full Announcement - Full Announcement	R24AS00299-Full Announcement - Full Announcement.zip	Apr 18, 2024 02:21:02 PM EDT	1015.1 KB
FY24_25_Environmental Water Resources Projects_NOFO_Final508.pdf	FY24 25 Environmental Water Resources Projects NOFO Final508.pdf	Apr 18, 2024 02:21:02 PM EDT	1.0 MB
▼ Folder: Revised Full Announcement - Revised Full Announcement	R24AS00299-Revised Full Announcement - Revised Full Announcement.zip		NaN MB
Folder: Other Supporting Documents - Other Supporting Documents	R24AS00299-Other Supporting Documents - Other Supporting Documents.zip	Apr 18, 2024 02:21:24 PM EDT	295.9 KB
Attachment A - Budget Detail and Narrative template.xlsx	Attachment A - Budget Detail and Narrative template.xlsx	Apr 18, 2024 02:21:17 PM EDT	83.4 KB
Attachment B - Budget Narrative Guidance.pdf	Attachment B - Budget Narrative Guidance.pdf	Apr 18, 2024 02:21:24 PM EDT	232.1 KB

Return to top

Connect with Us	Health & Human Services	Community	Additional Help			
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Twitter	EEOC / No Fear Act	WhiteHouse.gov	Frequently Asked Questions			



Application Tips Where to Start

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects For Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00299

VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

R24AS00299

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects 2024

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Reclamation

RELATED DOCUMENTS



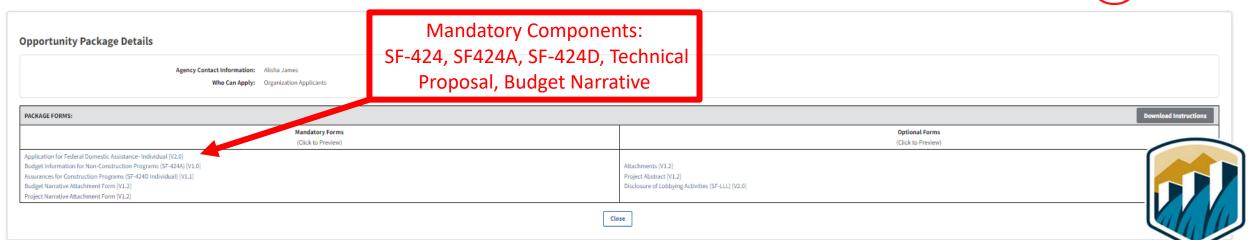
Select Grant Opportunity Package

PLEASE READ BEFORE APPLYING!

If you view and complete your application package using Grants.gov downloadable PDF forms, you MUST have Adobe Reader. If more than one person is working on the PDF forms, ALL applicants must be using the same Adobe Reader version. Click for more information on Adobe Reader Compatibility

Opportunity Package(s) Currently Available for this Funding Opportunity:

CFDA	Competition ID	Competition Title	Opportunity Package ID	Opening Date	Closing Date	Actions	
15.507	R24AS00299	WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects 2024	PKG00285929	Apr 18, 2024	Jun 18, 2024	Preview /	pply



Preparing your budget

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects For Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00299

- Budget should align with technical proposal
- Budget costs represent total project costs (Federal and Non-Federal)
- Recommend using Attachment A-Budget Narrative Guidance & Attachment B-Budget Detail
 - No required format, but required information listed in the NOFO must be included
- Application Tip: Write budget narrative while preparing the budget estimate

6a. Personnel

This category includes salaries and wages of employees of the applicant organization that will be working directly on the project. Generally, salaries of administrative and/or clerical personnel are classified as indirect or overhead costs in your organization's accounting system included as a portion of the stated indirect costs. If these salaries can be adequately documented as direct costs, they can be included in this section; however, a justification must be included in the narrative. Recommend reviewing § 200.430 Compensation - personal services for more information on the specific requirements regarding compensation costs, including the Standards for Documentation of Personnel Expenses at §200.430(i).

Narrative: For key personnel such as the project manager or principal investigator, identify the name individual and position/title. Other personnel should be identified by position only. For all positions, identify the project tasks that will be performed. Compensation rates can be expressed as hourly rates and number of hours or annual salary and percentage effort that will be contributed to each task, but must be consistent with your organization's accounting and timekeeping policies. Include estimated hours for compliance with reporting requirements, including the final project report and evaluation. For multi-year projects, identify the level of effort anticipated for each budget year and any estimates increases in compensation rates. Within the budget narrative, provide a certification that the labor rates included in the budget proposal represent the actual labor rates of the identified personnel/positions and are consistently applied to Federal and non-Federal activities. Note: The annual/hourly labor rate must not include fringe benefits.

Links:	§ 200.430 Compensation - personal services.										
Personnel											
Position Title	Time (Hrs or %)	Rate (Hr or Salary)	Total Cost	Rate	Basis	Comments (as needed)					
EXAMPLE!!! Sr. Engineer Y1	400	\$46	\$18,400	Current Salary		hourly rate based on average rate for all personnel occupying this po				s position	
EXAMPLE!!! Sr. Engineer Y2	400	\$48	\$19,000	Current Salary + 3% increase Increase based on the average annual increase for all personnel position			personnel o	occupying this			
			\$0								
			\$0								
			\$0								
			\$0								
			\$0								
			\$0								
			\$0								
	Total										



Application Content

Verify you have a completed mandatory forms:



SF-424



SF-424A



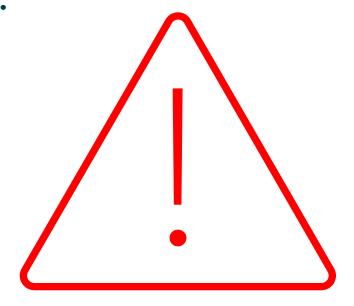
SF-424D



Technical Proposal (use Project Narrative form to upload in Grants.gov)



Budget Narrative (use Budget Narrative form to upload in Grants.gov)





Financial Assistance Staff

- Answer questions about financial assistance requirements during the application process
- Conduct Initial Screening and remove applications that do not meet the completeness, eligibility and timeliness requirements of the NOFO.

 Notify Applicants of Application status based on the contact information provided on the SF-424 Form



Financial Assistance

First Level Screening

All application packages will be screened to ensure:

- The applicant meets the completeness, eligibility, and timeliness requirements
- The applicant meets the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and SAM registration requirements
- The application meets the content requirements
- The application contains completed mandatory forms

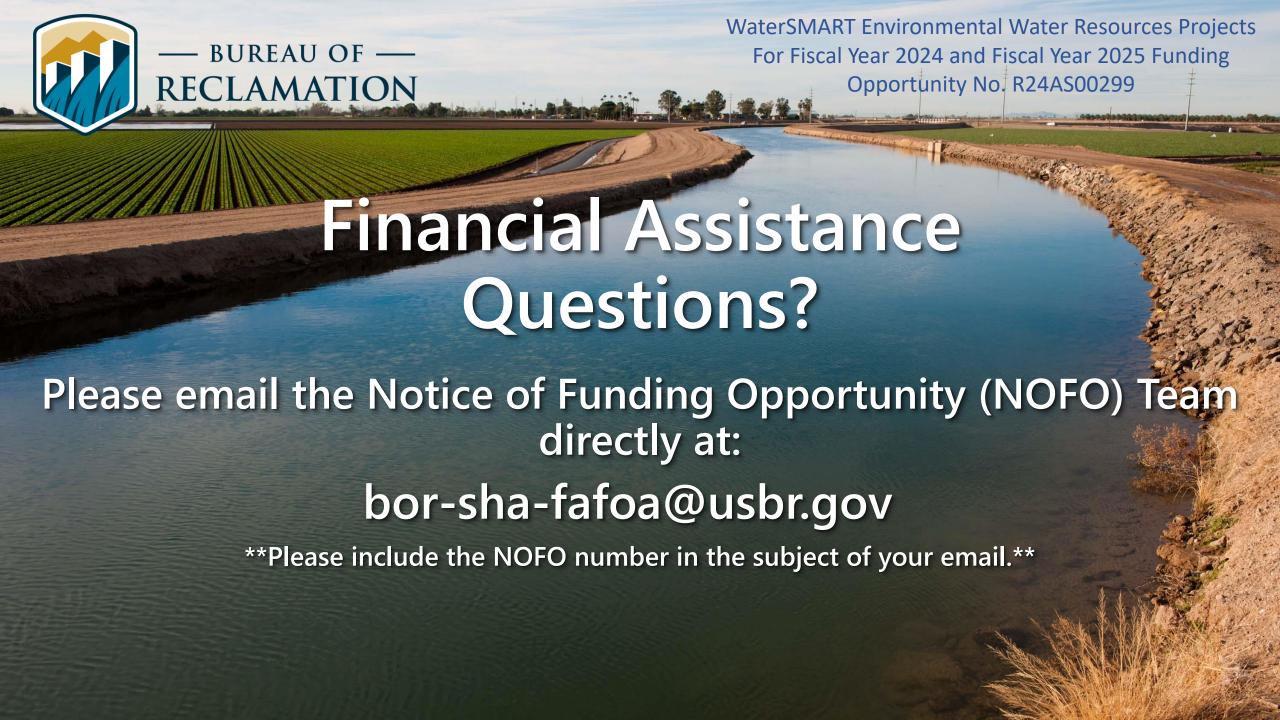


Financial Assistance Selection Notification

After Initial screening:

- Ineligible applicants will be notified by Grants Officer
- Eligible applicants will move on to the Merit Review
- All successful and unsuccessful applications will be notified by Grants Officer.
- The Financial Assistance Office will reach out to the successful applicant regarding next steps for entering into a Financial Assistance award.







Cooperative Watershed Management Program

Phase I – Watershed Group Formation and Restoration Planning

Eligible Project Activities

- Watershed group development
- Conducting outreach activities
- Gathering data about the watershed
- Watershed restoration plans
- Project design

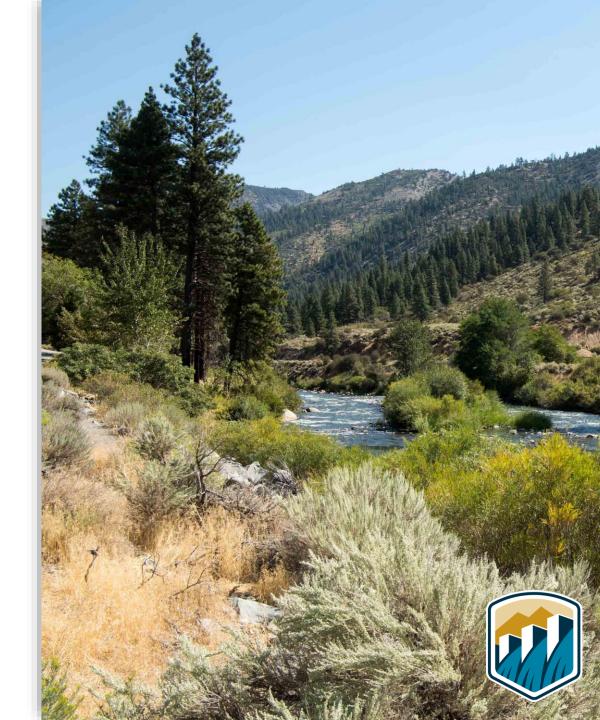
Funding

- 0% Non-Federal cost share required
- Up to \$300,000 in Reclamation funding over 3 years
- Sufficiency review required for second year funding

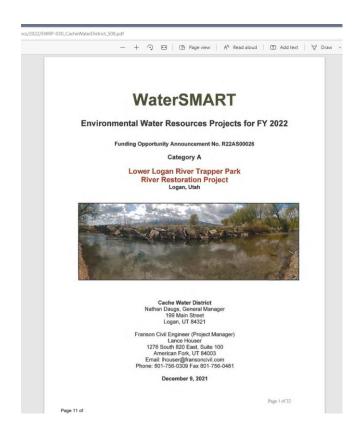
Eligible Applicants:

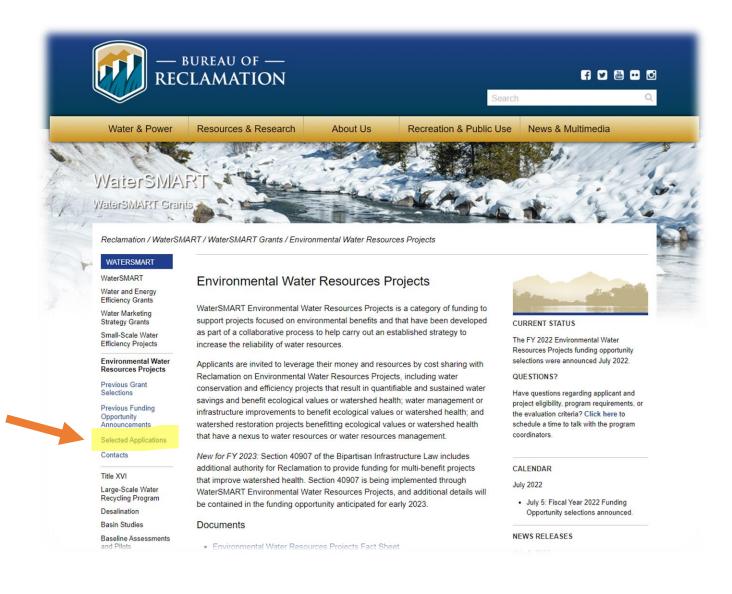
Existing OR proposed watershed groups, states, Indian Tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation and water districts), local governmental entities, interstate organizations, and non-profit organizations.

Funding Opportunity Open: Applications due September 3rd, 2024



View Successful Applications Online







Helpful Tools

WaterSMART Program Data Portal

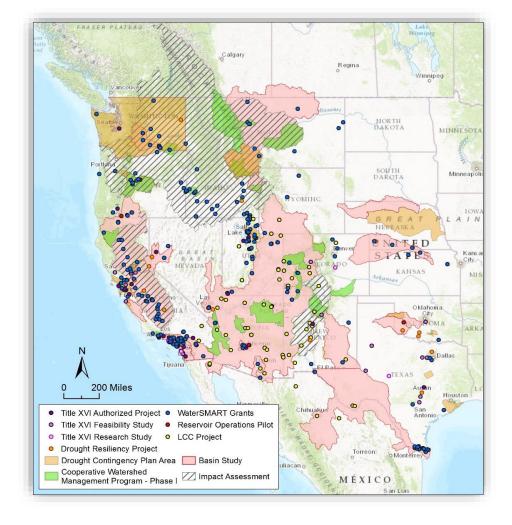
➤ On the portal, you can find information about recently awarded projects, BIL Funding, useful data visualizations, and interactive maps.

WaterSMART Data Portal:

https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/bf5c5357e7044e0c80d5a55788 d1db34/

WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool:

http://arcg.is/1TcT68S





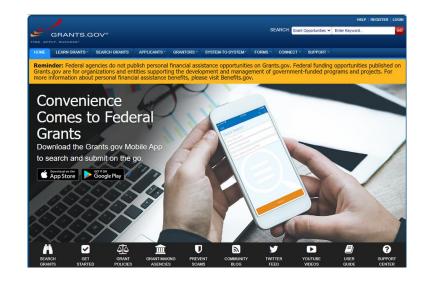
WaterSMART Program Resources

For General Information and for help using grants.gov:

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/

For information about upcoming WaterSMART Funding Opportunities, you may sign up for <u>our mailing list</u>.

To find and apply for Funding Opportunities: www.grants.gov



Additional Resources

Climate Mapping and Resilience and Adaptation:

https://resilience.climate.gov/

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool:

https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5





