



Cooperative Watershed Management Program

Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) provides funding to grassroots, local watershed groups to encourage diverse stakeholders to develop collaborative solutions to address their water management needs. A watershed group is a self-sustaining, non-regulatory group that is composed of a diverse array of stakeholders, which may include, but is not limited to, private property owners, non-profit organizations, Federal, state, or local agencies, and tribes. Funding is provided for the support of watershed groups on a competitive basis for the development of watershed groups, watershed restoration planning, and watershed management project design.

Watershed Group Development and Restoration Planning (Phase I)

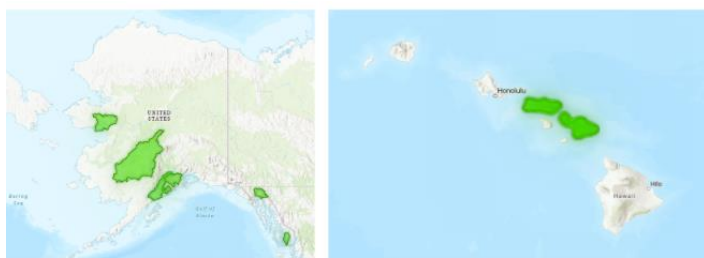


In 2012, Reclamation began providing funding for the development of watershed groups and for these groups to complete watershed restoration planning. As part of Phase I activities, applicants may use funding to perform stakeholder outreach; develop bylaws, a mission statement, watershed management project concepts, a watershed restoration plan; and complete watershed management project design work. Eligible applicants for Phase I include states, tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation and water districts), local governmental entities, and non-profit organizations in the Western U.S. and capable of supporting the sustainable use of water resources within the watershed.

Featured Projects

Friends of the Teton River, Inc. will work collaboratively with irrigators and other stakeholders in Canyon Creek Watershed, a sub-basin of the Teton Watershed in eastern Idaho and western Wyoming, to plan irrigation infrastructure improvements and projects to maximize water supplies for irrigators and

improve instream flows for fish and wildlife. The Canyon Creek drainage comprises nearly a quarter of the Teton Watershed and is one of the few remaining spawning streams for native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, which are in significant decline. This project is supported by a group of Canyon Creek irrigators who have committed to working with Friends of the Teton River to allow access to lands for fisheries and hydrologic data collection, work on project design, to support implementation of projects designed



through this planning effort. Friends of the Teton River is an existing watershed group, established in 2000 by a diverse group of stakeholders, including farmers, anglers, scientists, local agencies, and environmental interests.

The **Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition**, in Central Arizona, was successful in developing a watershed restoration plan that brought together multiple partners across resource areas and laid the foundation for watershed management projects. The coalition's initial step was to form a watershed task force composed of stakeholders with responsibility and accountability for land or water resources in the watershed. This task force then developed a plan that contained broad-scale vision and specific on the ground watershed restoration projects. Buy-in from the stakeholders has made it possible for the coalition to implement various projects outlined in the watershed restoration plan, which has attracted additional partners, including private landowners, additional agencies, and the wood products industry.

For more information: Please visit <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/cwmp/index.html> or contact Robin Graber, at 303-445-2764 or rgraber@usbr.gov.

For more information on selected projects, visit the WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool at www.usbr.gov/watersmart.