

WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE

2010 WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

The WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) program was recently introduced at a kickoff event in Las Vegas, Nevada. Developed by the Department of the Interior, the goal of the WaterSMART Program is to identify strategies that will ensure adequate and reliable clean water supplies now and for future generations.

As part of the WaterSMART Program, the Bureau of Reclamation has issued the first 2010 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for WaterSMART Grants to provide cost shared funding for water and energy conservation projects. States, Indian Tribes, irrigation and water districts and other organizations with water or power delivery authority are invited to consider this FOA as an approach to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on conservation projects. Eligible projects include using water or energy more efficiently through improved management or delivery, protecting threatened or endangered species, facilitating water markets or carrying out other activities to address climate-related impacts on water or prevent water-related crisis or conflict.

Two separate project funds will be awarded as follows:

- 1) Funding Group I is for projects with a Federal share of up to \$300,000
 - 30-40 awards anticipated.
- 2) Funding Group II is for projects with a Federal share from \$300,001 to \$1,000,000
 - 4-8 awards anticipated.

Applicants may submit proposals for both Funding Groups; however, no more than \$1,000,000 in Federal funding will be awarded to any one

applicant under this FOA. Applicants must provide a cost share of 50% or more of the total project cost.

Deadline for submission of an application is May 4, 2010.

To apply visit: www.grants.gov. Search by funding opportunity number (FON): [R10SF80157](https://www.grants.gov/search/display.do?searchCriteria=fon&searchCriteriaValue=R10SF80157).

For questions please contact Reclamations Yuma Area Office Grants and Agreements Specialist, Gerald Casares, at (928) 343-8262 or at gcasares@usbr.gov.

Tax Deductions for Soil and Water Conservation Related Expenses

Farmers may be able to deduct certain expenditures for soil and water conservation activities that are consistent with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation plans in their area. These conservation plans include individual site plans, developed for a specific farm, or general county plans. If no NRCS plan is available, then a comparable state agency plan for a site or county may be used.

Costs may be deducted for activities including, but not limited to:

1. Treatment or movement of earth, such as:
 - a. Leveling/Grading
 - b. Restoration of soil fertility
2. Construction, control and protection of:
 - a. Diversion channels
 - b. Drainage and irrigation ditches
 - c. Watercourses, outlets and ponds
3. Eradication of brush
4. Planting windbreaks.

Restrictions and limitations apply. Consult with a certified tax professional for assistance. For more information visit:

www.irs.gov/publications/p225/ch05.html



Lower Colorado Water Supply Report

As of March 29, 2010 the reservoir storage was as follows:

Reservoir	Percent Full
Lake Powell	56%
Lake Mead	45%
Lake Mohave	92%
Lake Havasu	90%
Total System Content*	55%
Total Last Year	54%

*Total System Content includes Upper and Lower Colorado River reservoirs.

Water year precipitation to date is:

- Colorado Basin
 - 81% of Normal
- Gila Basin
 - 120% of Normal

Current basin snowpack is:

- Colorado Basin
 - 83% of Normal
- Gila Basin
 - 248% of Normal

Above average rain and snow in the Gila Basin have required significant releases at Painted Rock Dam with flows reaching 2,500 cfs on March 31. Flooding is expected along the Gila River with planned road closures. For the latest water supply reports visit, <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/riverops.html> and select the "Water Supply Report" link.

Drop 2 Storage Reservoir Construction Nearly Complete

Construction has almost been completed on the 8,000 acre-foot, Drop 2 Storage Reservoir along the All-American Canal. Once completed, this structure will serve as a valuable tool to Colorado River water operations below Parker Dam. By allowing water that has been ordered, but for a variety of possible reasons is no longer needed, to be redirected into storage and used later, it is estimated that approximately 70,000 acre-feet of additional water annually will be made available for use.

For more information on the Drop 2 Storage Reservoir visit:

<http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/drop2reservoir.html>

Yuma Desalting Plant Pilot Run

The Yuma Desalting Plant Pilot Run is scheduled to begin in May 2010. The Pilot Run will provide for long-term sustained YDP operation to be considered as a means to extend water supplies on the lower Colorado River during an unprecedented drought. About 21,700 acre-feet of desalted water will be produced. This water will be combined with 7,300 acre-feet of untreated irrigation drainage water and the total amount - 29,000 acre-feet - will be discharged into the Colorado River and included in Treaty deliveries to Mexico. This will reduce water releases from Lake Mead required to meet the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico obligations thereby conserving water in Lake Mead and augmenting the river's overall water supply.



Aerial View of the Yuma Desalting Plant, Yuma, Arizona.

For more information on the Yuma Desalting Plant visit:

www.usbr.gov/lc/yuma/facilities/ydp/yao_ydp.html

New Agricultural Engineer at YAO

Alan Jackson has recently joined the Yuma Area Office staff as the Agricultural Engineer. Alan has an extensive background in irrigated agriculture in addition to almost 8 years of experience in irrigation system design and management. He has also worked on various other water conservation projects. Most recently Alan came from JMLord, Inc. where he provided irrigation scheduling and other water conservation services to farmers in the Coachella and Imperial Valleys of southern California.

Alan can be reached at (928) 343-8276 or at ajackson@usbr.gov.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation