

Reclamation Manual

Policy

Subject:	Climate Change Adaptation
Purpose:	Address climate change impacts upon the Bureau of Reclamation's mission, facilities, operations, and personnel. This benefit of this Policy is it ensures compliance with Departmental Manual (DM) 523 DM 1.
Authority:	Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902 (chapter 1093, 32 Stat. 388; 43 U.S.C. 372, et seq.) and acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto; Section 9503 of the Secure Water Act, Subtitle F of Title IX of Pub. L. 111-11, Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, (Act) (42 U.S.C. 10363 et seq.); Executive Order (EO) 13514, <i>Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance</i> (October 5, 2009); EO 13653, <i>Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change</i> (November 1, 2013); Council on Environmental Quality's Implementing Climate Change Adaptation in Accordance with EO13514 <i>Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance</i> (March 4, 2011); and 523 DM 1 <i>Climate Change Policy</i> .
Approving Official:	Commissioner
Contact:	Science Advisor (91-10000)

1. **Introduction.** The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. Climate change impacts water supplies, water demands, and other environmental conditions that affect Reclamation's ability to fulfill its mission. This Policy establishes how Reclamation will address climate change impacts to its mission, facilities, operations and personnel, in accordance with 523 DM 1. This Policy will:
 - A. help ensure that Reclamation effectively and efficiently adapts to the challenges posed by climate change to its mission, facilities, operations, and personnel, in collaboration with customers and stakeholders;
 - B. maintain and enhance Reclamation's current and future effectiveness in fulfilling its program requirements, contractual obligations, and other Federal mandates in this era of changing climate;
 - C. ensure the best available science and understanding of climate change risks, impacts, and vulnerabilities are incorporated into planning, programs, investments, and operations;
 - D. assist employees in performing related planning, programs, investments, operations, and coordination duties; and

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- E. seek to avoid actions that limit Reclamation's ability to adapt to climate change currently or in the future or increase the vulnerability of stakeholders, customers, and other systems supporting the economic and environmental resources of the United States.

2. **Applicability.**

- A. This Policy applies to all Reclamation offices and personnel and their planning, programs, investments, and operations.
- B. This Policy and associated responsibilities and requirements are effective beginning on the date of release. This Policy does not require Reclamation to revisit actions taken or decisions made prior to its initial release, including planning, investments, cost shares, or infrastructure development. Instead, for activities already underway as of the initial release of this Policy, each responsible party identified in Paragraph 4 of this Policy will determine whether and how to include consideration of climate change in a reasonable manner. Any activities influenced by climate change that are initiated after the date of this release shall be consistent with this Policy.

3. **Definitions.**

A. **Climate.**

- (1) Expected weather, including averages, variations, and extremes. More specifically, climate is the statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant weather variables over a period of time.
- (2) A standard period for defining climate is 30 years, as applied by the World Meteorological Organization.
- (3) Relevant weather variables for describing climate include, but are not limited to, surface temperature, precipitation, humidity, and wind speed.

- B. **Climate Change.** A change in the state of the climate identified by using statistical tests, by changes in the mean and/or other statistical properties, measured over an extended period, typically decades or longer.
- C. **Climate Change Adaptation.** Actions and measures to reduce the vulnerability of human and natural systems to climate change under present climate or in the future.
- D. **Climate Change Vulnerability.** The extent to which a system or resource of interest could be negatively affected as a result of events that are influenced by climate change.
- E. **Climate-Influenced Activity.** Any planning, programs, investments, and operations that involves making any assumptions that could be affected by climate change.

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- F. **Reclamation Executives.** The Deputy Commissioners, Regional Directors, Directors, and Senior Level positions.
- G. **Investment.** Any expenditure made to acquire, develop, or construct property, software, plants, or equipment that utilizes federally-appropriated funding, including expenditures related to federally-owned but independently-operated facilities that have a cost equal to or greater than Reclamation's established capitalization threshold. Reclamation follows the Department of the Interior's \$15,000 capitalization threshold for moveable property and equipment. Reclamation uses a zero capitalization threshold for real property, such as buildings, features, facilities, land, and other fixed assets.
- H. **Planning.**
- (1) A structured process used to support and inform investment decisions and implementation actions through the identification and definition of water resource and related problems, formulation and evaluation of solutions, and coordination with internal and external customers, stakeholders, and interest groups.
 - (2) Studies which utilize Principles and Requirements for Federal Investments in Water Resources pursuant to the Water Resources Planning Act of 1965 (Pub. L. 89-8), as amended (42 U.S.C. 1962a-2) and consistent with Section 2031 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Pub. L. 110-114).
 - (3) Planning investigations including appraisal, feasibility, and special studies.
 - (4) Investigations used to support major infrastructure investment decisions.
- I. **Resilience.** Ability of a system to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions.
- J. **Weather.** The state of the air and atmosphere at a particular time and place; the temperature and other outside conditions (such as rain, cloudiness, etc.) at a particular time and place.
4. **Responsibilities.**
- A. **Commissioner.** The Commissioner is responsible for the implementation of this Policy Reclamation-wide.
 - B. **Reclamation Executives.** Reclamation Executives are responsible for implementation of this Policy within the planning, programs, investments, and operations for which they are responsible.
 - C. **Science Advisor.** The Science Advisor is responsible for providing access to the best available science to increase understanding of climate change impacts and to support the implementation of this Policy in coordination with the Landscape Conservation

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Cooperatives, Climate Science Centers, and United States Global Change Research Program, academic institutions, and other science providers and partnerships.

5. **Policy.** Consistent with 523 DM 1, it is the policy of Reclamation to effectively and efficiently adapt to the challenges posed by climate change to its mission. Reclamation will work within Congressional authority with customers and stakeholders to use the best available science, consistent with its *Scientific Integrity* (CMP P13) and *Peer Review* (CMP TRMR-30) policies, to increase understanding of climate change impacts and uncertainty and will develop appropriate climate adaptation strategies to address impacts to land, water, natural, energy, cultural, and tribal resources; facilities and assets for which it is responsible; and personnel. Reclamation will implement this policy in a manner that demonstrates leadership, technical expertise, and responsive customer service. Reclamation will integrate climate change adaptation strategies into climate relevant planning, programs, investments, and operations, to meet its contractual obligations and other Federal mandates including, but not limited to water delivery and management; generation of hydroelectricity; public land management; habitat restoration; wildland fire management; conservation of species and ecosystems; services and support for tribes; protection and preservation of historic properties; protection and preservation of tribal trust assets and resources of traditional religious and cultural importance to Indian tribes; scientific research and data collection; management of employees and volunteers; visitor services; construction; use authorizations; and facilities maintenance. It is Reclamation's Policy to:
 - A. determine climate change impacts to its mission, facilities, operations, and personnel and identify appropriate climate change adaptation strategies;
 - B. integrate climate change adaptation strategies into appropriate planning, programs, investments, and operations, and incorporate those strategies into Directives and Standards and Policies, as needed; and
 - C. seek to avoid actions that limit Reclamation's ability to adapt to climate change currently or in the future, or which increase the vulnerability of stakeholders, customers, and other systems supporting the economic and environmental resources of the United States.

RECLAMATION MANUAL TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Effective Date: _____

Release No. _____

Ensure all employees needing this information are provided a copy of this release.

Reclamation Manual Release Number and Subject

Summary of Changes

NOTE: This Reclamation Manual release applies to all Reclamation employees. When an exclusive bargaining unit exists, changes to this release may be subject to the provisions of collective bargaining agreements.

Filing instructions

Remove Sheets

Insert Sheets

All Reclamation Manual releases are available at <http://www.usbr.gov/recman/>

Filed by: _____

Date: _____