

FY 2016 Cooperative Watershed Management Program Funding

Task A - Establishing a Watershed Group

Colorado

Shadowcliff, Establishing an Upper Colorado River Watershed Group

Reclamation Funding: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$115,000

Shadowcliff, a non-profit organization located in Grand County, Colorado, will bring together a broad cross-section of stakeholders to form a new watershed group in the Upper Colorado River Basin, extending across Grand County, which includes a section of the continental divide and the headwaters of the Colorado River. The Upper Colorado River Basin Watershed Group will include stakeholders from across multiple sectors, including hydroelectric production, livestock grazing, timber production, recreation, irrigated agriculture, multiple environmental groups, municipal water providers, private property owners and Federal agencies. The group will develop a watershed restoration plan addressing critical issues identified in the 2012 Upper Colorado River Water Quality Management Plan and the 2015 Colorado Water Plan, including the loss of riverine habitat, drought, sedimentation, erosion, and nutrient loading.

New Mexico

Upper Rio Grande Watershed District, Watershed Group Formation

Reclamation Funding: \$50,000

Total Project Cost: \$50,000

The Upper Rio Grande Watershed District, located in North Central New Mexico, will form a new watershed group comprised of representatives of the affected stakeholders within the Upper Rio Grande River watershed. The District was originally formed by landowners to address flooding and erosion issues that were damaging farmlands. The new watershed group will focus on a broader set of issues, including promoting ecological resilience, maintaining habitat for threatened and endangered species, including the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and water quality issues. The District seeks to bring together Federal, State, and local land and water management agencies with the representatives of acequias ranchers, landowners and environmental interests in the watershed.

Oklahoma

The Chickasaw Nation, Chickasaw Nation Lake of the Arbuckles Watershed Group

Reclamation Funding: \$53,921

Total Project Cost: \$89,937

The Chickasaw Nation of Ada, Oklahoma, will establish the Lake of the Arbuckles Watershed Group to promote the sustainable use of water resources in the Lake of the Arbuckles watershed. The Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer, which underlies more than 500 square miles in South Central Oklahoma, is the principal water source for the City of Sulphur and is the source of a number of important springs in the region, including those in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Stakeholders are concerned that withdrawals

from the aquifer will result in declining flows in streams and springs. This new Watershed Group will be comprised of a diverse set of stakeholders that will work collaboratively to improve water quality and ecological resilience, conserve water and reduce conflicts over water. Watershed group activities include selecting a watershed group coordinator and facilitator, finalizing a mission statement, identifying watershed management concepts, and developing a watershed restoration plan.

Oregon

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation, Walla Walla Basin Water Management Plan
Reclamation Funding: \$100,000 **Total Project Cost: \$160,000**

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, located in Milton-Freewater, Oregon, proposes to create a bi-state Walla Walla Basin Watershed Management Group and develop a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Walla Walla River in Washington and Oregon. Water resource issues include inadequate stream flows to sustain Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish and ecosystem functions, while also providing irrigation water for over 40,000 acres of farmland and the city of Walla Walla. This new watershed group will recruit diverse stakeholders including representation from irrigation districts, individual farms, livestock owners, business owners, Native American Tribes with ceded territory, local environmental organizations, county governments, city governments, and state water and fish management agencies from both Oregon and Washington. The group will develop project concepts and finalize a watershed management plan that will enhance instream flows necessary to sustain ESA listed aquatic species, tribally re-introduced spring Chinook, and vital ecosystem functions, while continuing to provide water for irrigated agriculture and municipal uses.

Task B - Further Developing a Watershed Group

Arizona

Clean Colorado River Sustainability Coalition, Watershed Expansion & Management Project
Reclamation Funding: \$80,700 **Total Project Cost: \$80,700**

The Clean Colorado River Sustainability Coalition, in Western Arizona, will further develop by increasing membership within the Havasu-Mohave Lakes and Imperial watersheds. The watersheds are plagued by water quality issues, including the invasive quagga mussel, non-native plant growth, cyanobacteria, mine contamination, and E. coli outbreaks, some of which have been exacerbated by the drought conditions of the past 16 years. The Coalition currently has limited representation from Tribes, businesses, agriculture, and the recreation and environmental sectors. The Coalition will diversify their membership and form collaborative partnerships with several Federal and state government agencies in order to educate stakeholders and expand the Coalition's understanding of important water quality issues and the impacts of drought. In addition, the Coalition will develop and prioritize project concepts and develop a watershed management plan based on the scientific understanding of the river's water quality issues.

Tse Si Ani Chapter, Working Across Tribal Borders: Restoring the Black Mesa Watersheds Together

Reclamation Funding: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$168,965

The Little Colorado River Watershed Chapters Association, on the Colorado Plateau in Northeastern Arizona and Northwestern New Mexico, will further develop by creating the Black Mesa Watershed Working Group. This intertribal working group will provide a forum for Navajo and Hopi stakeholders to work together to develop a watershed restoration plan focusing on critical issues, within the five Black Mesa watersheds, which consist of both Navajo and Hopi land. The most critical issues, many of which have been exacerbated by the drought that has impacted the Navajo Nation since the mid-1990s, include insufficient water supply for human and livestock consumption, inadequate flows for wildlife habitat, and water quality degradation. Currently, there is no collaborative watershed association on the Hopi Reservation; therefore the proposed work with Hopi stakeholders is essential for effective management of the Black Mesa watersheds.

California

Sierra Streams Institute, Further Development of Bear River Watershed Group

Reclamation Funding: \$99,933

Total Project Cost: \$159,288

The Sierra Streams Institute will further develop the Bear River Watershed Group in the western Sierra Nevada Mountains, which was initially established through a 2014 Cooperative Watershed Management grant from the Bureau of Reclamation. The Bear River Watershed Group will build on their recently completed "disturbance inventory" to develop a prioritization model, which will prioritize watershed management projects and will support the development of a more comprehensive watershed restoration plan. These planning efforts will focus on addressing the critical issues of the watershed, including water demands, endangered species concerns, invasive species, water quality issues, and drought impacts. The watershed lies within four of the fastest growing counties in California - Nevada, Placer, Sutter, and Yuba Counties - which has increased the demand for water and exacerbated environmental concerns.

Trinity County Resource Conservation District, Trinity River Watershed Council Expansion

Reclamation Funding: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$106,438

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District, located in Northwestern California, will further develop the Trinity River Watershed Council. Currently the Council focuses on management of the mainstem of the Trinity River from Lewiston Dam to the North Fork of the Trinity River. As part of this project, the Council will expand its focus to include the entire Trinity River Watershed, and will perform outreach to stakeholders in the newly represented areas. The Council will develop a watershed restoration plan and project concepts that will address major watershed issues, including water conflict, rising water temperatures, and forest health, all of which have grown worse due to recent severe drought conditions.

Montana

Beaverhead Conservation District, Further Development of the Beaverhead Watershed Committee Reclamation Funding: \$100,000 Total Project Cost: \$117,500

The Beaverhead Watershed Committee, in Southwestern Montana, currently serves the Beaverhead Watershed downstream of Reclamation's Clark Canyon Dam. The Committee will further develop by establishing partnerships with communities and stakeholders in the Red Rock and Horse Prairie watersheds located above Clark Canyon Dam, areas that lack active watershed groups. The Committee will develop a watershed restoration plan and project concepts to address five major critical watershed issues: (1) assess causes of recent algal blooms, (2) address water quality impairments through the total maximum daily load (TMDL) process, (3) protect Montana Fish Species of Concern such as Arctic grayling and Westslope Cutthroat Trout, (4) support the improvement of water rights administration in the Red Rock watershed, and (5) improve economic and environmental resilience to drought. A participant in the National Drought Resilience Partnership, the Committee will expand their efforts to build drought resilience across the three watersheds.

Petroleum County Conservation District, Expanding Efforts to Coordinate Watershed Planning in the Musselshell River Watershed Reclamation Funding: \$61,011.50 Total Project Cost: \$81,012

The Musselshell Watershed Coalition will further develop their watershed group in the Musselshell River Watershed, located in Central Montana. They will focus on critical issues that impact the watershed, including water shortages, flood damage, water quality issues, drought resilience, and aging irrigation infrastructure used to deliver water. Although the Coalition already has a diverse stakeholder group, they will further develop their group by writing bylaws and articles of incorporation, facilitating stakeholder meetings, producing outreach materials, and visiting new and existing partners. Additionally, they will use knowledge gained through outreach to identify goals and develop a watershed restoration plan that will outline a plan to address water quality, water conservation, and reduction of water conflicts.

Sun River Watershed Group, Revise Work Plan to Build Long-Term Resiliency of the Sun River Watershed Reclamation Funding: \$31,000 Total Project Cost: \$72,500

The Sun River Watershed Group will further develop in order to build long-term ecological and economic resilience of the Sun River watershed in Northwestern Montana. Due to low flows and poor water quality, partially attributed to drought conditions, the Sun River and several tributaries are listed as Impaired Waters under the Clean Water Act, and the Sun River is listed as a Chronically Dewatered Stream by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. To address these concerns, the Group will also develop watershed management project concepts and a watershed restoration plan focused on water conservation, ecological resilience, and increasing instream flows while meeting consumptive use needs. In order to ensure the continued collaboration of a diverse set of stakeholders, the Group will establish an outreach plan, including an online engagement tool.