



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

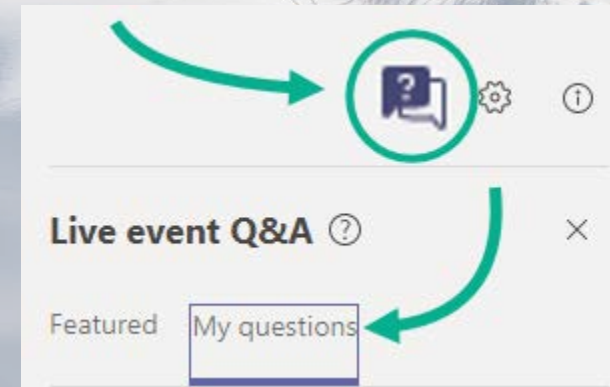
WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase II

Robin Graber and Nickie McCann
Water Resources and Planning Office
September 30, 2020

Getting Started

- To watch the recording, use the same link: [Join Live Teams Event](https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/cwmp/)
- Attendees cameras and microphones are muted
- A copy of the slides will be available on our website:
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/cwmp/>

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



Agenda Overview

- Introductions
- WaterSMART Program Overview
- Cooperative Watershed Management Program Overview
- Eligible Applicants
- Eligible Projects
- Evaluation Criteria
- Application Tips
- Data Visualization Tool



WaterSMART Program



Provides a framework for Interior to support water supply reliability for multiple water users.



WaterSMART Program Overview

- Increases water supply reliability through investments and attention to local water conflicts
- Supports water conservation and water management improvements to help meet competing demands for water
- Leverages Federal and non-Federal funding
- Relies on collaboration with stakeholders to develop local solutions to water supply issues



Growing Populations



Restoration Needs



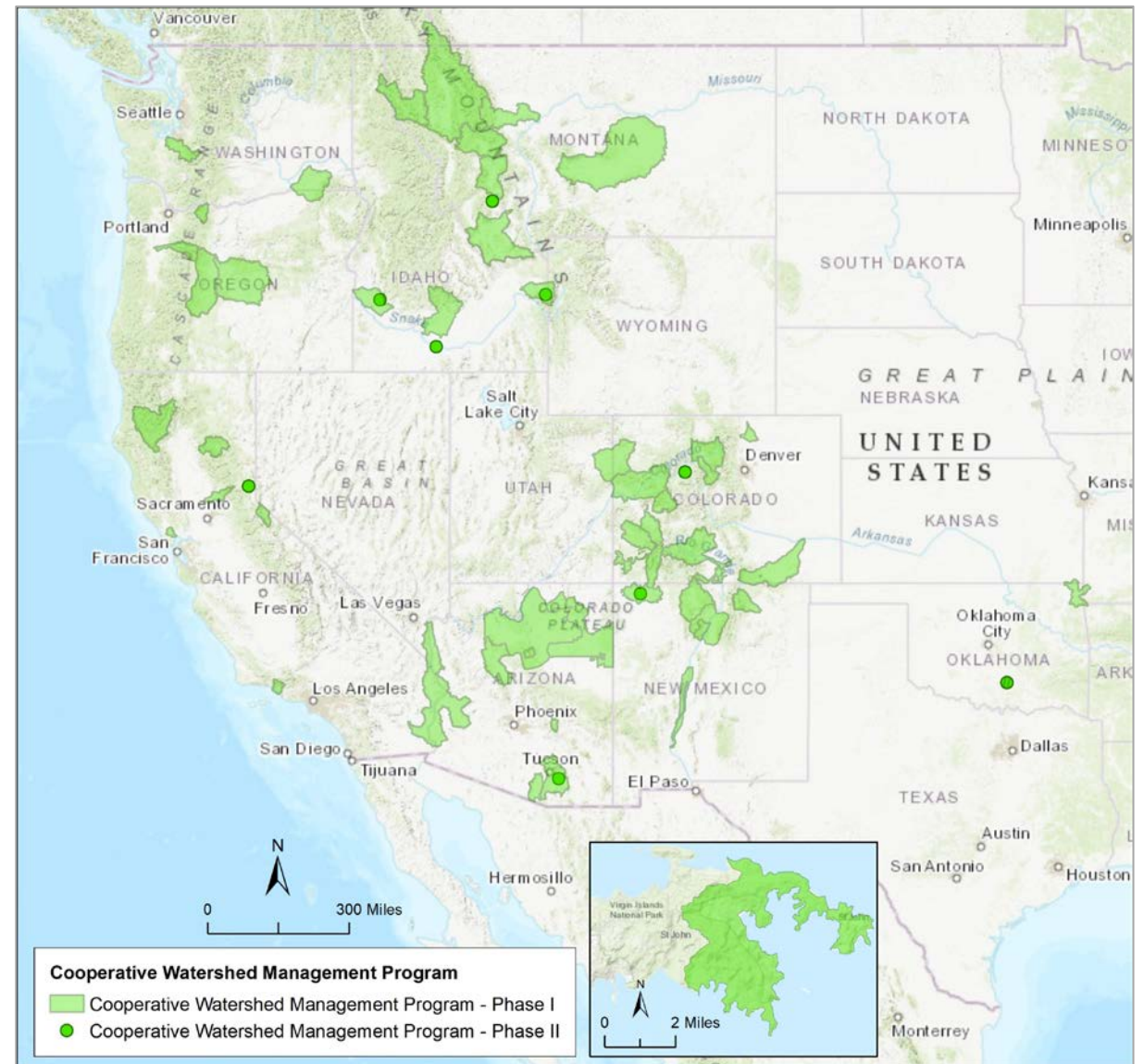
Drought



Cooperative Watershed Management Program

2 sub-activities

- Phase I: Form a watershed group, develop a restoration plan and do project design
- Phase II: Implement on-the-ground watershed management projects



Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase II- *Program Requirements Summary*

Eligible Applicants	Incorporated Watershed Groups
Funding Groups	Up to \$300,000 for projects completed within 2 years
Cost Share	50% or more non-Federal cost-share is required
Evaluation Criteria	Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria which comprise a total of 100 points.

FOA Deadline: Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. MST



Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase II – Applicant Eligibility

Eligible Applicants:

- An eligible applicant is an established watershed group as defined in Section 6001(5) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act that has met the requirements outlined in Section 6002(c)(2)(A)(iv) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act. An established watershed group may also apply through a fiscal agent.
- In summary, the applicant must be a
 - Grassroots, non-regulatory entity that addresses water availability and quality issues within the relevant watershed;
 - Represents a diverse group of stakeholders;
 - Is capable of promoting water supply reliability in the watershed;
 - Has approved articles of incorporation, bylaws, and a mission statement;
 - Hold regular meetings; and
 - Have developed a restoration plan and project concepts for the watershed.



Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase II – Applicant Eligibility

Fiscal Agents

To be eligible to apply, a fiscal agent must have permission to apply on behalf of an eligible watershed group. A fiscal agent must also be capable of applying for, accepting and administering Federal funding on the group's behalf. A fiscal agent includes states, Indian tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation and water districts, conservation districts), local governmental entities, interstate organizations, institutes of higher education, and non-profit organizations, that otherwise meet the requirements in this section.



Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase II – Applicant Eligibility

D.2.2.8. Documentation in Support of Applicant Eligibility

- Watershed group that meets the definition of a “Watershed Group,” as defined in Section 6001(5) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act
 - The watershed group must self-certify that it is a grassroots, non-regulatory entity that addresses water availability and quality issues within the relevant watershed, represents a diverse group of stakeholders, and is capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources in the watershed.
 - Include a list of members in the watershed group.



Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase II – Applicant Eligibility

D.2.2.8. Documentation in Support of Applicant Eligibility

- Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
 - If the watershed group itself is the applicant, attach a copy of the group's articles of incorporation and bylaws.
 - If the watershed group is applying through a fiscal agent, explain the relationship between the fiscal agent and the watershed group and the mechanism by which the applicant serves as the watershed group's fiscal agent; attach a letter of support from the watershed group stating that the applicant is authorized to apply as a fiscal agent on behalf of the watershed group
 - Watershed groups that are not currently incorporated and do not have a fiscal agent may apply, but they will need to complete the incorporation process and adopt bylaws prior to an award of funding.



Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase II – Applicant Eligibility

D.2.2.8. Documentation in Support of Applicant Eligibility

- **Mission Statement**
 - To be eligible under this FOA, the watershed group must also have a mission statement.
 - Attach a copy of the mission statement developed by the watershed group.
- **Meetings**
 - Watershed group must self-certify that the group holds regular meetings.



Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase II – Applicant Eligibility

D.2.2.8. Documentation in Support of Applicant Eligibility

- Watershed Restoration Plan
 - Attach a copy of the restoration plan or include a link in your application. In either case, identify the part of the plan that supports the proposed project.
 - Reclamation does not prescribe a certain format for the restoration plan.
 - Plans that are more holistic, addressing multiple issues related to water resources within the watershed, plans developed by stakeholders with diverse interests, and plans that better support the proposed project are prioritized within the evaluation criteria.



Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase II – Applicant Eligibility

Ineligible Applicants:

- Federal government entities
- Individuals
- 501(c)4 and 501(c)6 organizations



Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase II – Project Eligibility

Eligible Projects:

- Watershed management activities that address critical water supply needs, water quality concerns, and restoration needs that will benefit multiple water uses in the watershed (e.g., agricultural, municipal, tribal, environmental, recreation).

Ineligible Projects:

- Projects that adhere to specific regulatory requirements
- OM&R
- Reclamation, Reuse, and Desalination
- Water and Land Purchases and Easements
- Building Construction
- On-farm irrigation efficiency improvements
- Pilot projects



Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase II – Project Eligibility

- Improving stream channel structure and complexity;
- Improving channel/floodplain connectivity;
- Protecting and stabilizing stream and river banks;
- Reducing erosion;
- Improving water delivery systems to increase efficiency or other projects to address water supply needs;
- Providing fish passage;
- Removing invasive species and restoring vegetation;
- Influencing water temperature or improving the timing or volume of available flows at particular locations to improve aquatic conditions;
- And other watershed management projects that will address water supply needs, water quality concerns, and restoration needs in the watershed.



Dates to Consider

C.3.3. Construction Start Date Restrictions

- Proposed projects shall not have a construction start date that is prior to September 1, 2021, for funding under this FOA.

D.2.2.5 Project Budget

- In no case will costs incurred prior to July 1, 2020, be considered for inclusion in the proposed project budget.



Example Project – Eagle River Watershed Council

- Converted the entire length of the JPO ditch to 18,900 linear feet of pipe.
- Anticipated to reduce water loss from seepage and evaporation by 40%, which will remain instream when flows in Abrams Creek are at or below 1.25 cfs – the flow required to maintain the Abrams Creek cutthroat trout population.



Example Project – Friends of Teton River

- Worked with irrigators to divert water through canals early in the irrigation season, to increase passive recharge into the aquifer
- The recharged water will gradually discharge into the Teton River downstream, increasing base flows by 10-15 cubic feet per second during critical summer months.

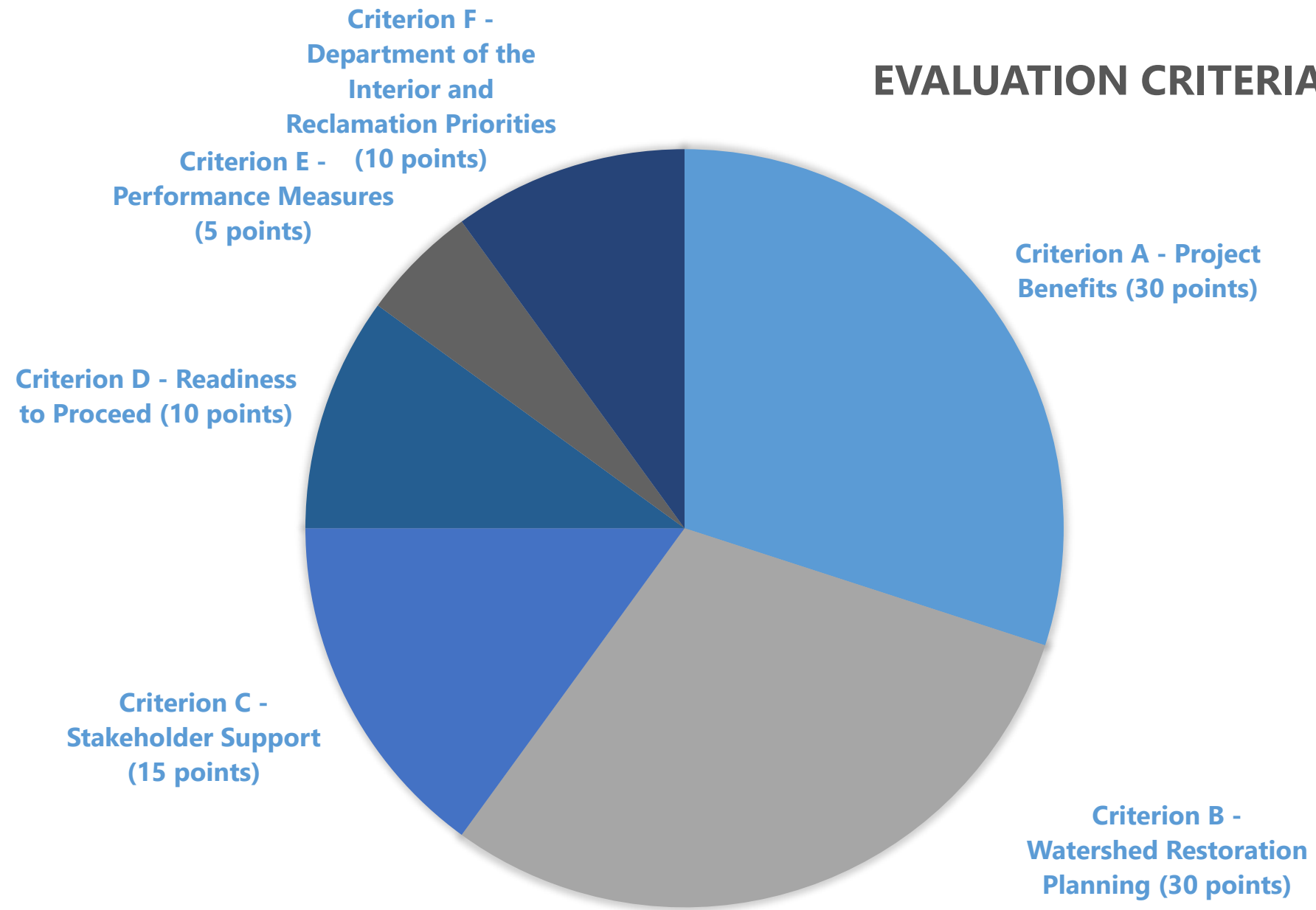


Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance

- Compliance with Federal environmental and cultural resources laws and other regulations (“compliance”) must be met prior to the start of any boots-on-the-ground work.
- The types of projects funded under this FOA (i.e., watershed management projects) typically incur relatively high compliance costs (e.g., between \$30,000 and \$50,000 per project).
- While Reclamation may be able to complete a portion of its compliance activities without additional cost to the recipient, in cases where compliance requires significant participation by Reclamation, such costs will be added as a line item to the budget during development of the financial assistance agreement and cost shared accordingly (i.e., withheld from the Federal award amount). **To account for this uncertainty, we require that you include a line item in the project budget in your proposal for compliance, using 5 percent of the total project costs as the estimated amount that will be cost-shared by the recipient and Reclamation.**



EVALUATION CRITERIA



Criterion A – Project Benefits (30 points)

- Address all bullets and sub-bullets that are applicable
- Projects with multiple benefits and benefits to multiple sectors prioritized
- Provide on-the-ground examples of project benefits. Who will benefits and where are these benefits expected to be seen? The more specific the better.



Criterion B – Watershed Restoration Planning (30 points)

- No prescriptive format for restoration plan in terms of eligibility
- Plans that are more holistic, addressing multiple issues related to water resources within the watershed, plans developed by stakeholders with diverse interests, and plans that better support the proposed project are prioritized within the evaluation criteria.



Criterion C – Stakeholder Support (15 points)

- Description of who supports the project and letters of support
- Does support come from a diverse group of stakeholders?
- Will the project complement other watershed management activities?
- Is it on Federal land? If so, does the agency support the project?
- Is there opposition to the project?



Criterion D – Readiness to Proceed (10 points)

- Major tasks, milestones, dates (or timeframes). It is helpful to link this schedule to costs/budget.
- Describe required permits and approvals and discuss timeline for receiving.
- Describe design and engineering work that has been done for project.
- Discussion of environmental and cultural resource compliance.



Criterion E – Performance Measures (5 points)

- Description of performance measures that will be used to assess project benefits (e.g., continued monitoring of water quality and aquatic organisms)



Criterion F – Department of the Interior Priorities & Reclamation Priorities (10 points)

Department of Interior Priorities	Reclamation Priorities
1. Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt	1. Increase Water Supplies, Storage, and Reliability under WIIN and other Authorities
2. Utilizing our Natural Resources	2. Streamline Regulatory Processes and Remove Unnecessary Burdens to Provide More Water and Power Supply Reliability
3. Restoring Trust with Local Communities	3. Leverage Science and Technology to Improve Water Supply Reliability to Communities
4. Striking a Regulatory Balance	4. Address Ongoing Drought
5. Modernizing our Infrastructure	5. Improve the Value of Hydropower to Reclamation Power Customers
	6. Improve Water Supplies for Tribal and Rural Communities
	7. Implementation of new Title Transfer authority pursuant to P.L. 116-9



Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase II – Post Selection Requirements

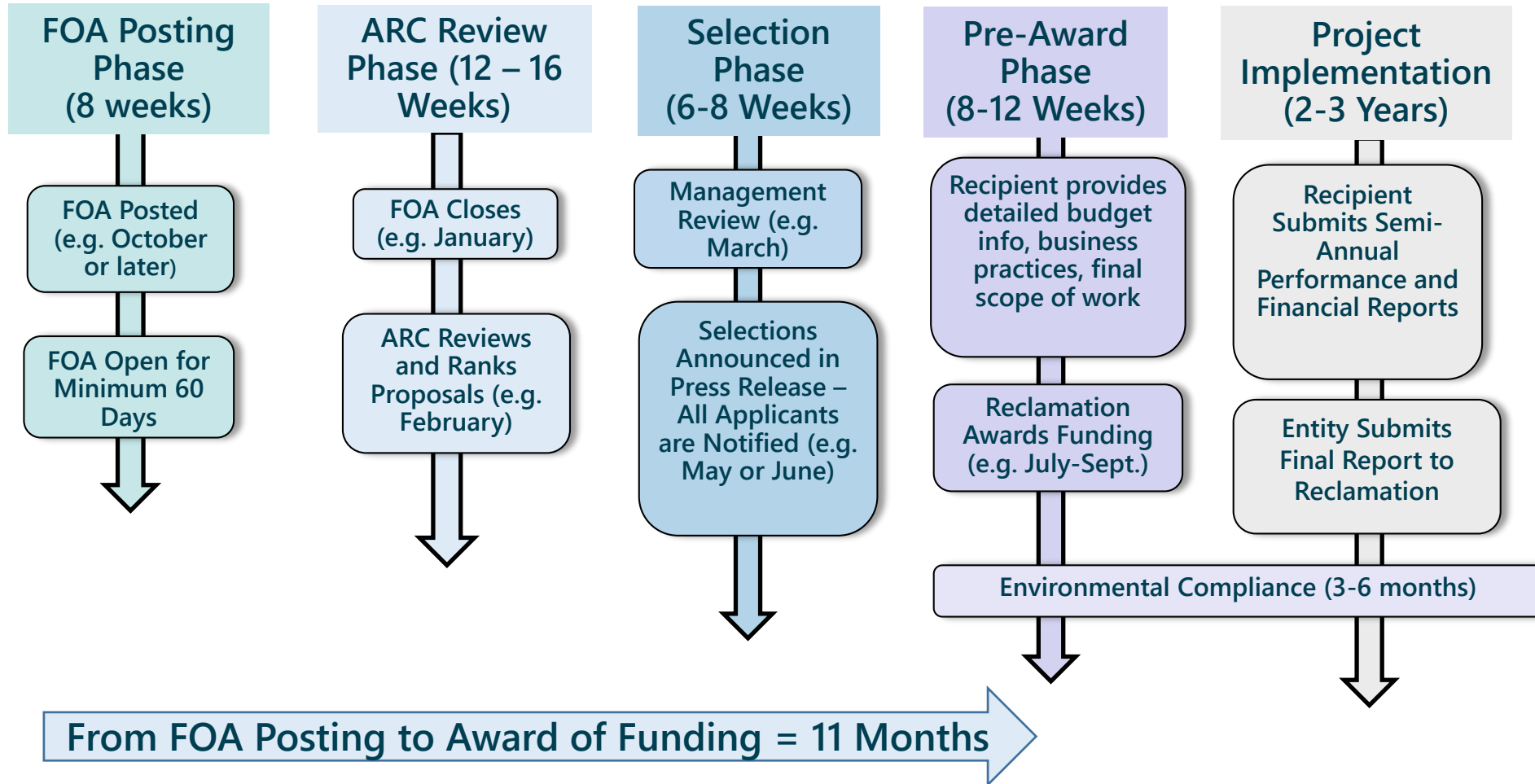
After the applicant is informed of being selected, Reclamation will enter into a financial assistance agreement:

- The financial assistance agreement documents the milestones, project, and reporting requirements
- Required planning components



WaterSMART Selection Process

Sample schedule



Application Tips

General Tips

- Important: Read everything in the FOA!
 - Ask questions if something does not make sense.
- Do not assume the Application Review Committee knows you.
- Committee is comprised of Reclamation staff from throughout the Western states.
- Understand 50/50 cost share is non-Federal funding
 - Could apply for state funding for the same project.
 - State funding can count as your cost share portion.
 - Water Infrastructure Finance Authority loans can count as cost share.
- Costs are reimbursable.



Application Tips

Additional General Tips

- For large projects, consider doing it in phases and applying for funding in sequential years.
- Previously successful applications are on our website.
- Give yourself plenty of time to write and submit the proposal.
- If your application is not awarded, ask for a debriefing to help prepare better proposal next year.
- Copy and paste evaluation criteria into your application.
- Answer all parts of multipart questions.

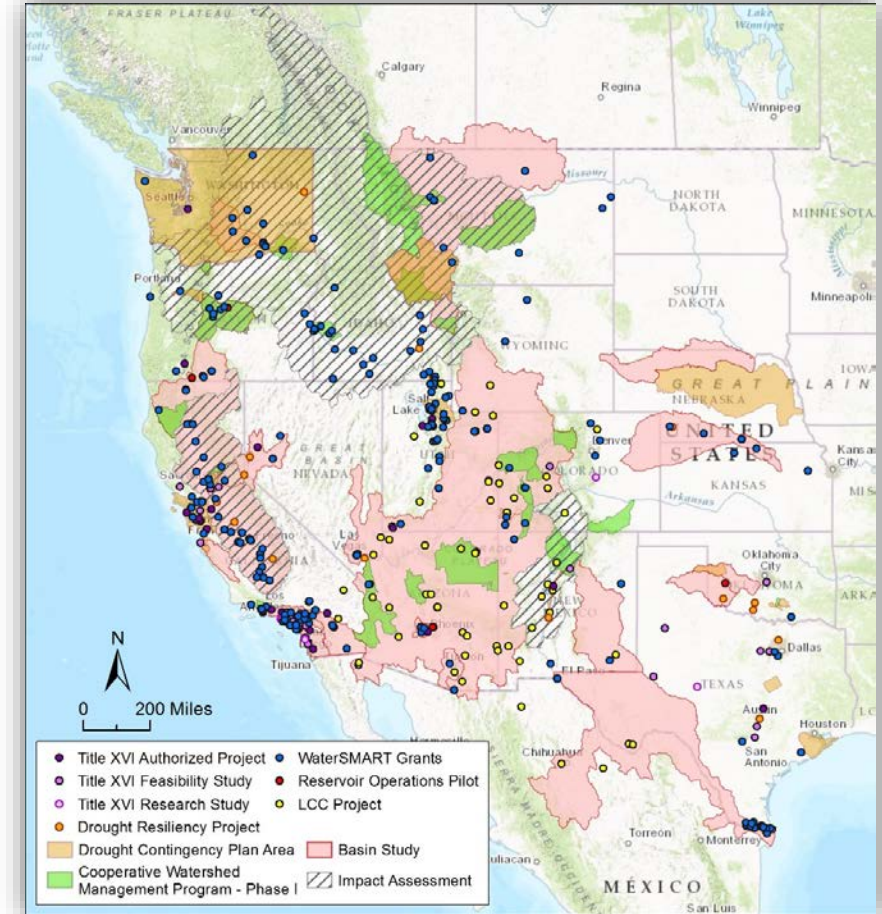


WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool

- Data visualization site is an interactive companion to this report:
- Interactive maps
- Featured project tours
- Program growth over time

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

Data Visualization Tool: arcg.is/1TcT68S



Ready to Apply?

- www.grants.gov
- Funding Opportunity: BOR-DO-21-F002
- Applications are due November 17th, 2020





Thank you!

Robin Graber; rgraber@usbr.gov; (303)445-2764

Avra Morgan; aomorgan@usbr.gov; (303)445-2906



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION