Getting Started

- To watch the recording, use the same link: [Join Live Teams Event](#)

- 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
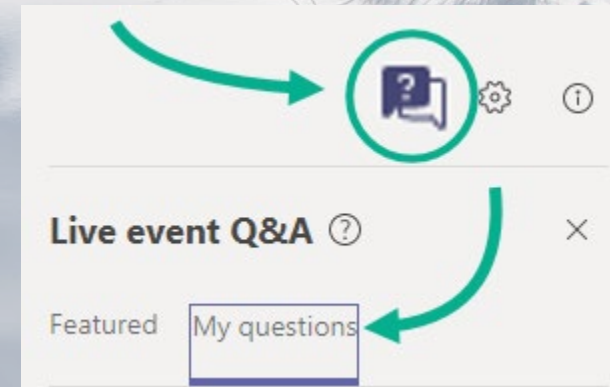
Agenda Overview

- 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

- Increases water supply reliability through collaborative efforts to improve water management

- Supports projects to improve water supply reliability to meet competing demands for water and avoid conflict

- Leverages Federal and non-Federal funding

- Relies on collaboration with stakeholders to develop local solutions to water supply issues
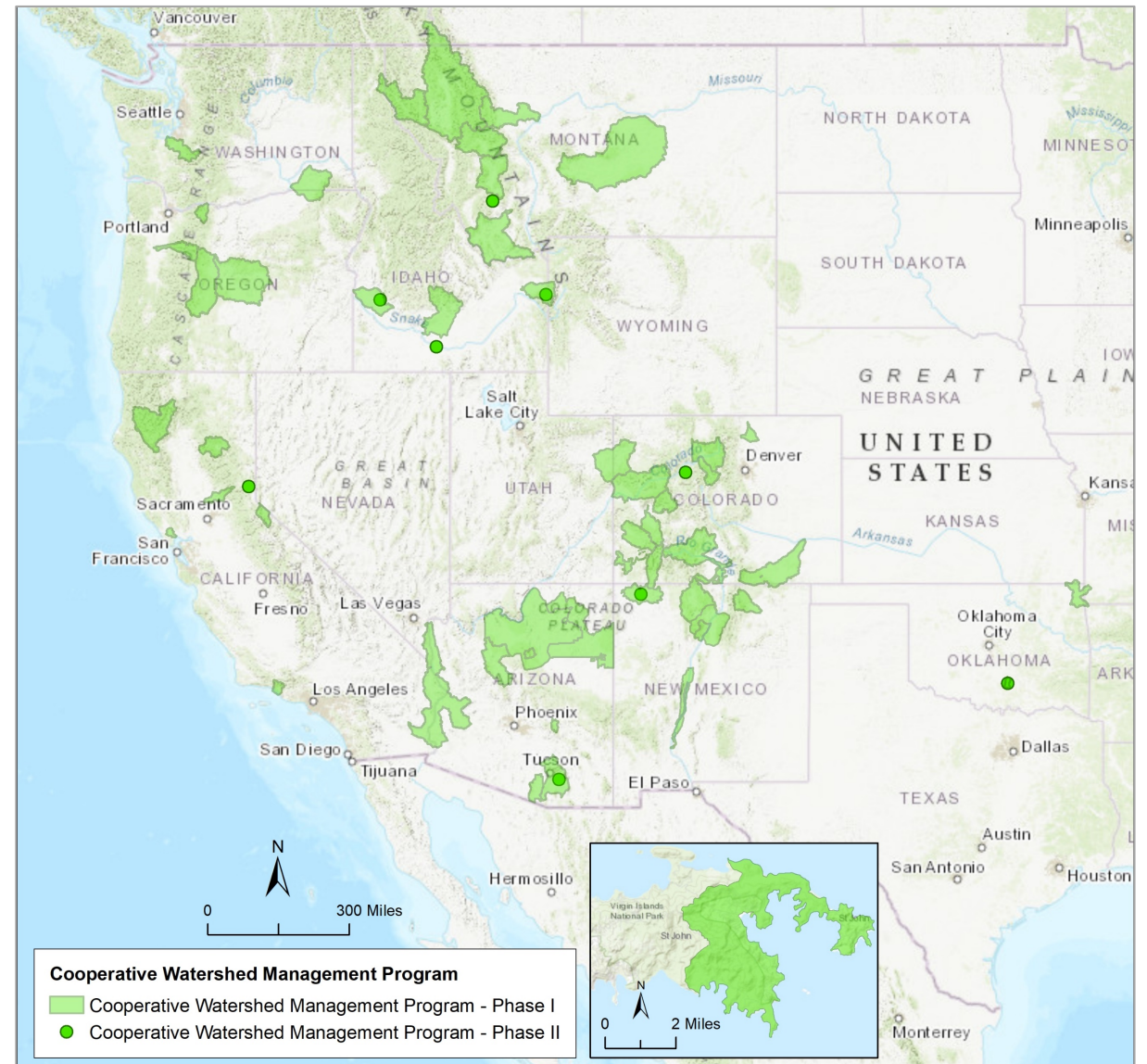
Growing Populations

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

Overview
Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- Encourage diverse stakeholders to form local solutions

- Support water supply reliability and reduce conflict

- Since 2012, Reclamation has provided $7.6 million to develop 84 watershed groups and $800k for eight watershed management projects.

Applicant Eligibility
Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- There are two categories of eligible applicants:
  - New watershed group
  - Existing watershed group
- All applicants must be located in one of the following states or territories in order to be eligible: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands

Applicant Eligibility
Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- Applicant Eligibility for New Watershed Groups:
  - States, Indian tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation and water districts), local governmental entities, interstate organizations, and non-profit organizations who:
    - Significantly affects or is affected by the quality or quantity of water in a watershed;
    - Is capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources; and,
    - Is located in one of the states or territories identified in the previous slide
- Applicant Eligibility for Existing Watershed Groups
  - To receive an award for an existing watershed group, applicants must be an eligible entity as described above and must either be:
    - a "grassroots, non-regulatory legal entity" that meets the definition of a watershed group in Section A.2. of the FOA, or
    - A participant in an existing watershed group that meets the definition in A.2. of the FOA.

Applicant Eligibility
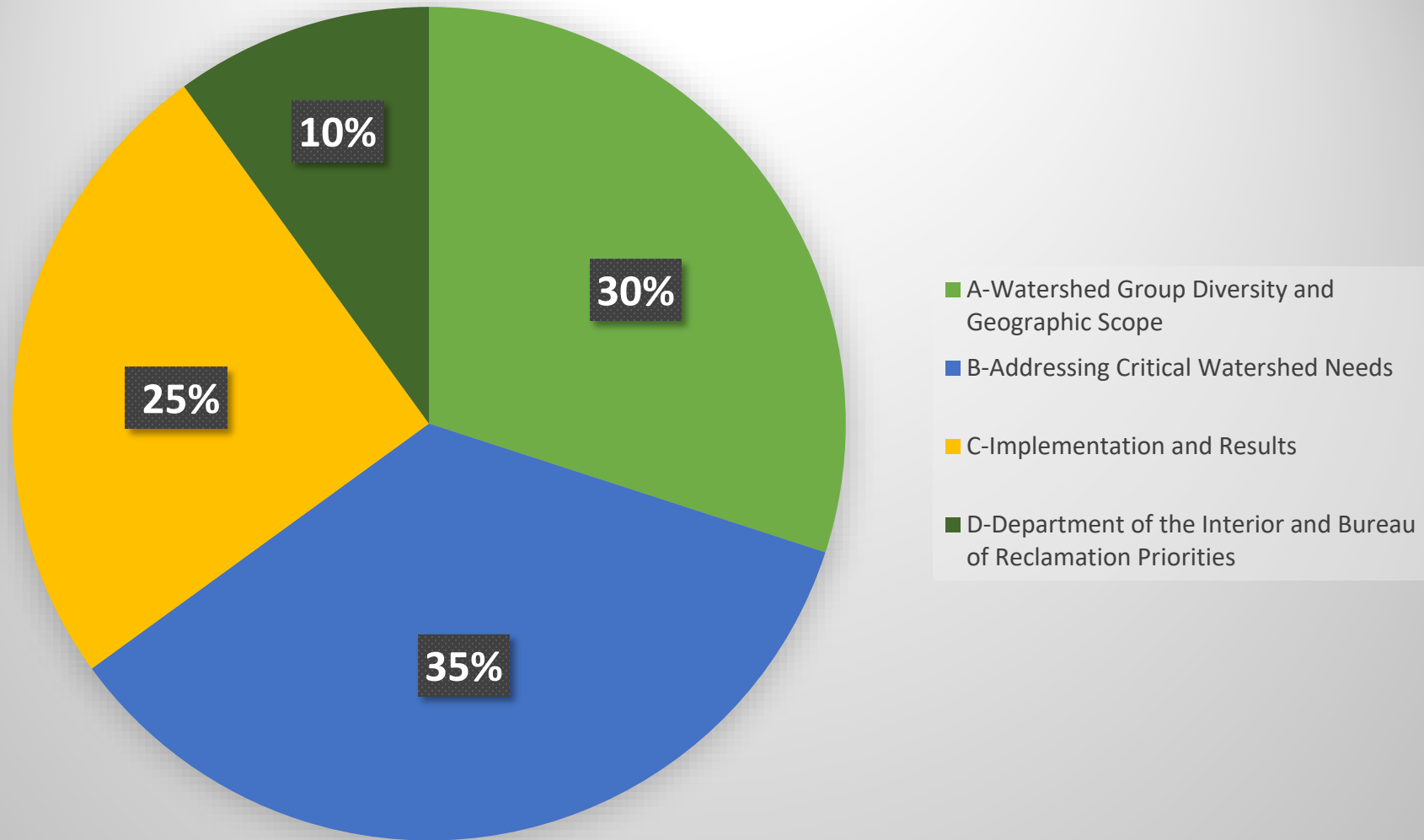## Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- Definition of a Watershed Group in Section A.2. of the FOA:
  - A "watershed group," as defined in Section 6001(5) (see *Section A.3. Statutory Authority* for full citation) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act (Act) is a grassroots, non-regulatory entity that addresses water availability and quality issues within the relevant watershed, is capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources in the watershed, makes decisions on a consensus basis, and represents a diverse group of stakeholders, including hydroelectric producers, livestock grazing, timber production, land development, recreation or tourism, irrigated agriculture, the environment, municipal water supplies, private property owners, Federal, state and local governments, and tribes. (See Section 6001(5) of the Act for the statutory definition of a "watershed group").

Eligible Project Types
Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- Applicants can apply for funding for activities within one or more of the following three Task Areas
  - Task A - Watershed Group Development: This includes efforts to establish or expand a watershed group, including developing a mission statement, conducting outreach, and conducting pre-planning activities.

  - Task B - Watershed Restoration Planning: Developing or updating a watershed restoration plan, mapping and modeling, technical assessments of water quantity or quality, collaborating with stakeholder to gather information and to seek input, developing restoration goals and general watershed management project concepts, and creating a matrix to evaluate and prioritize potential projects.

  - Task C - Watershed Management Project Design: Conducting an analysis to prioritize watershed management projects and identify specific project locations, completing site-specific design and engineering, developing project timelines and milestones, and researching potential environmental compliance requirements.

Evaluation Criteria

Pie chart legend:
- A-Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope — 30%
- B-Addressing Critical Watershed Needs — 35%
- C-Implementation and Results — 25%
- D-Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation Priorities — 10%

Evaluation Criterion A—Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope (30 points)

- Diverse stakeholder interests and sectors are represented within the group
- Greater consideration for small to medium watersheds (8 digit HUC) and groups whose work extends to entire watershed.

Evaluation Criterion B—Addressing Critical Watershed Needs (35 points)

- Describe the critical issues or needs within the watershed
- Describe how the work funded under this program will benefit the issues or needs identified.
- Note: specific guidance is provided by task area

Evaluation Criterion C—Implementation and Results (25 points)

- Ability to meet program requirements evaluated based on schedule with milestones broken out for each task, start and end dates, and budget identifying costs for each task.
- Building on relevant Federal, state or regional planning efforts, e.g., water conservation or drought plans or plans that meet EPA criteria for Nonpoint Source Management Program or Watershed Based Plans.

Criterion D – 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-Program Requirements Summary

Eligible Applicants

Existing watershed groups and applicants to establish new watershed groups, including States, Indian tribes, local and special districts, local governmental entities, interstate organizations, and non-profit organizations.

Funding Groups

Up to $100,000 in Federal funds per applicant per award, with no more than $50,000 made available in each year for a period of up to two years.

Cost Share

Non-Federal cost-share is NOT required

Required Project Components

Quarterly financial and performance reports, 270-day sufficient progress report, and final report.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria which comprise a total of 100 points.

FOA Deadline: Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. MST

Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I – Post Selection Requirements
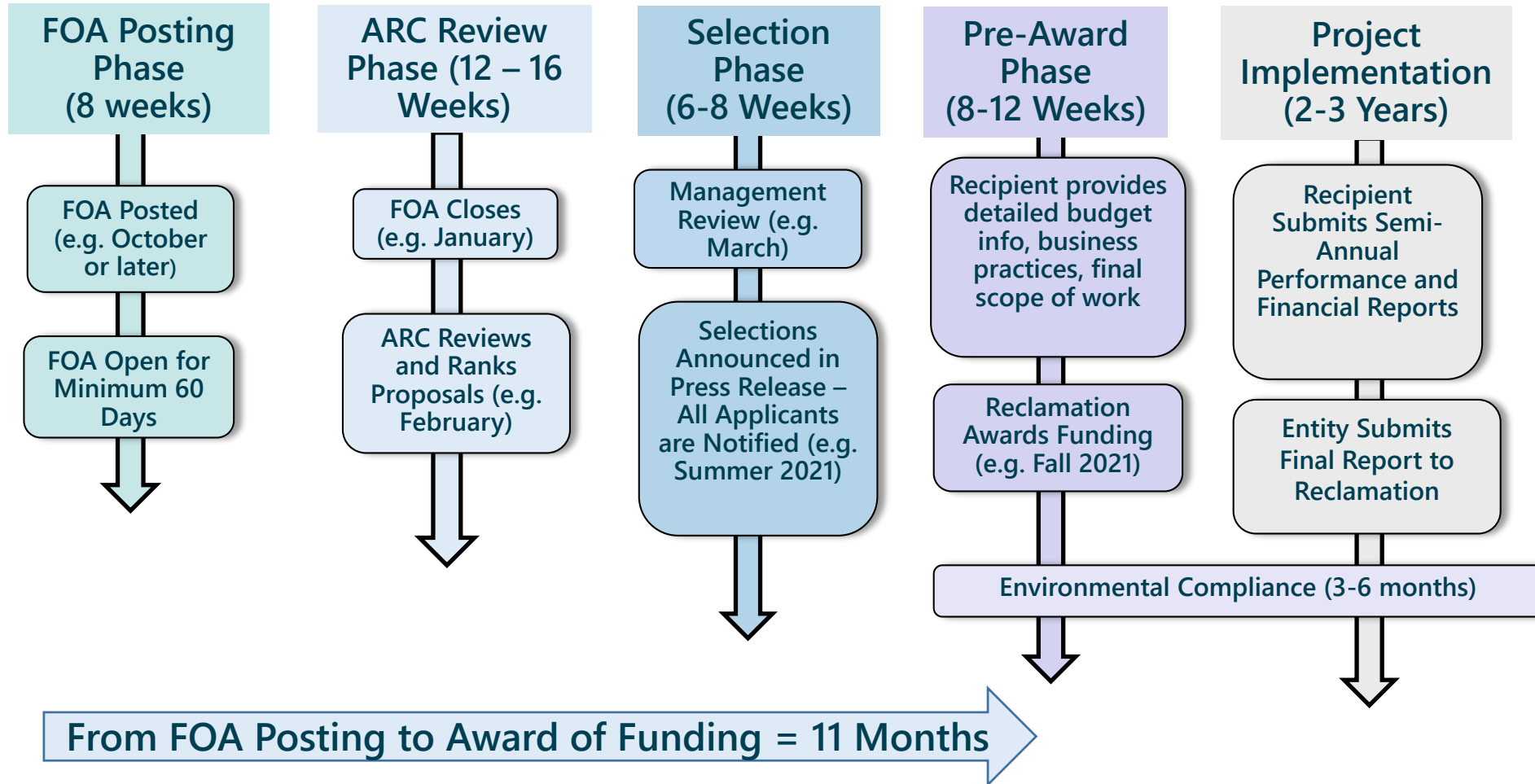
After the applicant is informed of being selected, Reclamation will enter into a financial assistance agreement:

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

WaterSMART Selection Process

Sample schedule

FOA Posting Phase (8 weeks)	ARC Review Phase (12 – 16 Weeks)	Selection Phase (6-8 Weeks)	Pre-Award Phase (8-12 Weeks)	Project Implementation (2-3 Years)
FOA Posted (e.g. October or later)	FOA Closes (e.g. January)	Management Review (e.g. March)	Recipient provides detailed budget info, business practices, final scope of work	Recipient Submits Semi-Annual Performance and Financial Reports
FOA Open for Minimum 60 Days	ARC Reviews and Ranks Proposals (e.g. February)	Selections Announced in Press Release – All Applicants are Notified (e.g. Summer 2021)	Reclamation Awards Funding (e.g. Fall 2021)	Entity Submits Final Report to Reclamation

Environmental Compliance (3-6 months)

From FOA Posting to Award of Funding = 11 Months

Application Tips
General Tips

- Important: Read everything in the FOA!
  - Ask questions if something does not make sense.
- Give yourself plenty of time to write and submit the proposal.
- Copy and paste evaluation criteria into your application.
- Answer all parts of multipart questions.
- Do not assume the Application Review Committee knows you.
- Committee is comprised of Reclamation staff from throughout the Western states.

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.

- If your application is not awarded, ask for a debriefing to help prepare better proposal next year.

Application Tips
Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance

- All projects funded through this opportunity must comply with Federal environmental and cultural resource laws. Reclamation regional and area office staff will ensure this compliance. This compliance must occur prior to any ground disturbing activities can take place. For example, water or invertebrate sampling and other monitoring activities are considered ground disturbing activities.
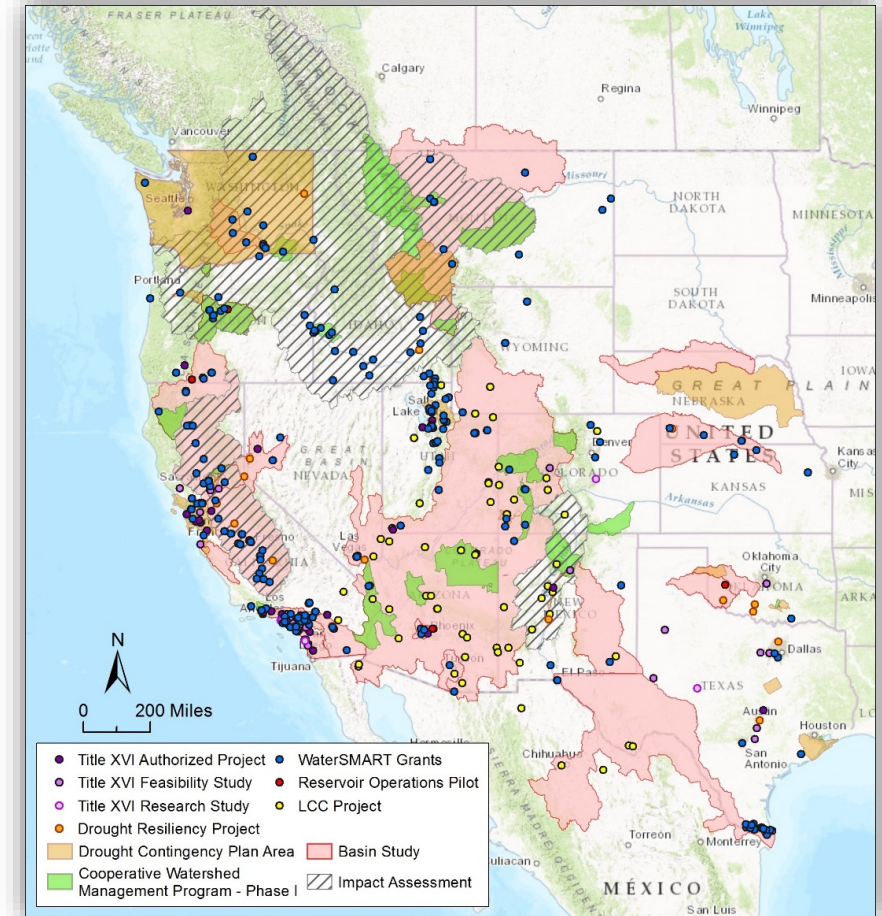
WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool

- 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-F003
- Applications are due January 19th, 2021

Thank you!

Program Contacts: Questions regarding project and applicant eligibility

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Nickie McCann; nmccann@usbr.gov; (303)445-3733

Grants Management Specialist: Questions regarding budgets and system requirements

Edmund (Ned) Weakland; eweakland@usbr.gov; (303)445-3757

— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION