



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I

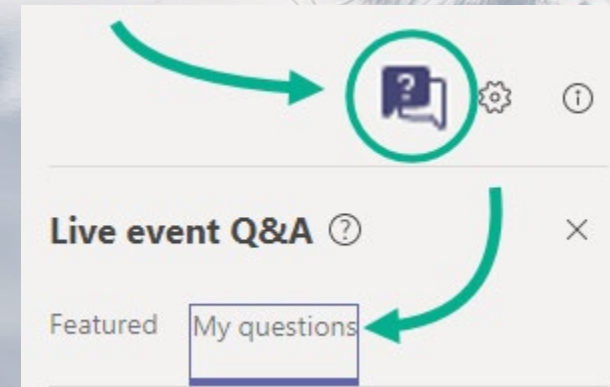
Robin Graber and Nickie McCann
Water Resources and Planning Office
February 17, 2022

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
- Resources



WaterSMART Program

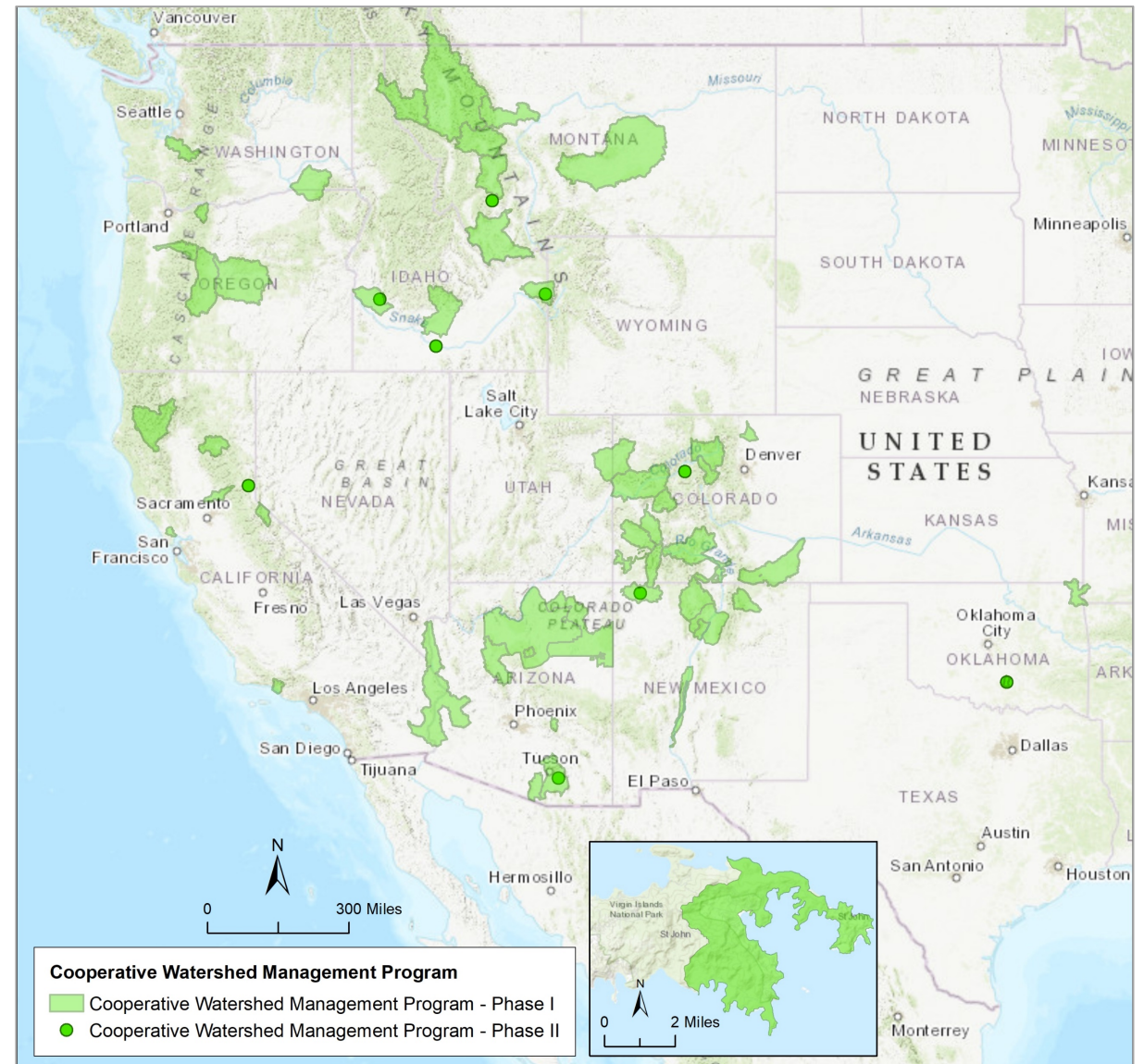


Provides a framework for Interior to support water supply reliability for multiple water users.



Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- Phase I: Form a watershed group, develop a restoration plan and do project design (Up to \$200,000 in Federal funding)
- Implementation of on-the-ground watershed management projects now funded under the Environmental Water Resources Projects funding opportunity.



Overview

Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- Encourage diverse stakeholders to form local solutions
- Support water supply reliability and reduce conflict
- Since 2012, Reclamation has provided \$8.2 million to develop 91 watershed groups.



Applicant Eligibility

Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- There are two categories of eligible applicants:
 - New watershed group
 - Existing watershed group
- Be located in one of the following states or territories: 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, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico

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

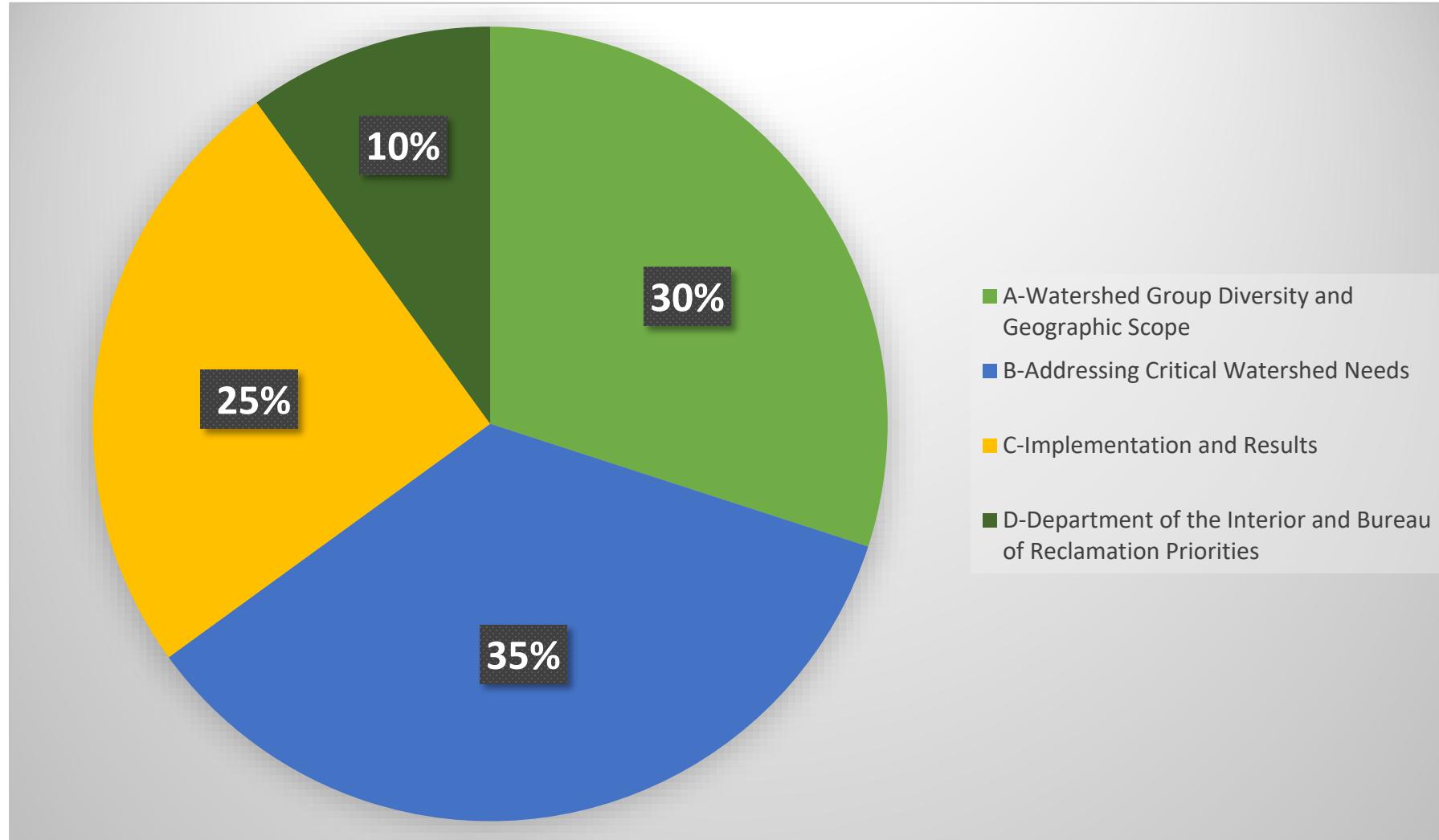
- Definition of a Watershed Group in Section A.2. of the FOA:
 - A “watershed group,” as defined in Section 6001(5) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act (Act) is a grassroots, non-regulatory entity that addresses water availability and quality issues within the relevant watershed, is capable of 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



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 – Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities (10 points)

- **Combating the Climate Crisis:** How will the project help increase resilience to climate change or support climate change adaptation?
- **Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities:** How does the project serve disadvantaged or underserved communities?
- **Tribal Benefits:** How will the project serve a tribe?



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 \$200,000 in Federal funds per applicant per award, with no more than \$100,000 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

Semi Annual 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.

NOFO Deadline: Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. MDT

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 project scope of work, milestones, and reporting requirements



Important Dates

NOFO Deadline: March 31, 2022

Anticipated Announcement Timeframe: Late Summer 2022

Pre-award Cost Date: July 1, 2022

Anticipated Award Date: January 2023



Application Tips

General Tips

- Important: Read everything in the NOFO!
 - 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

- 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.

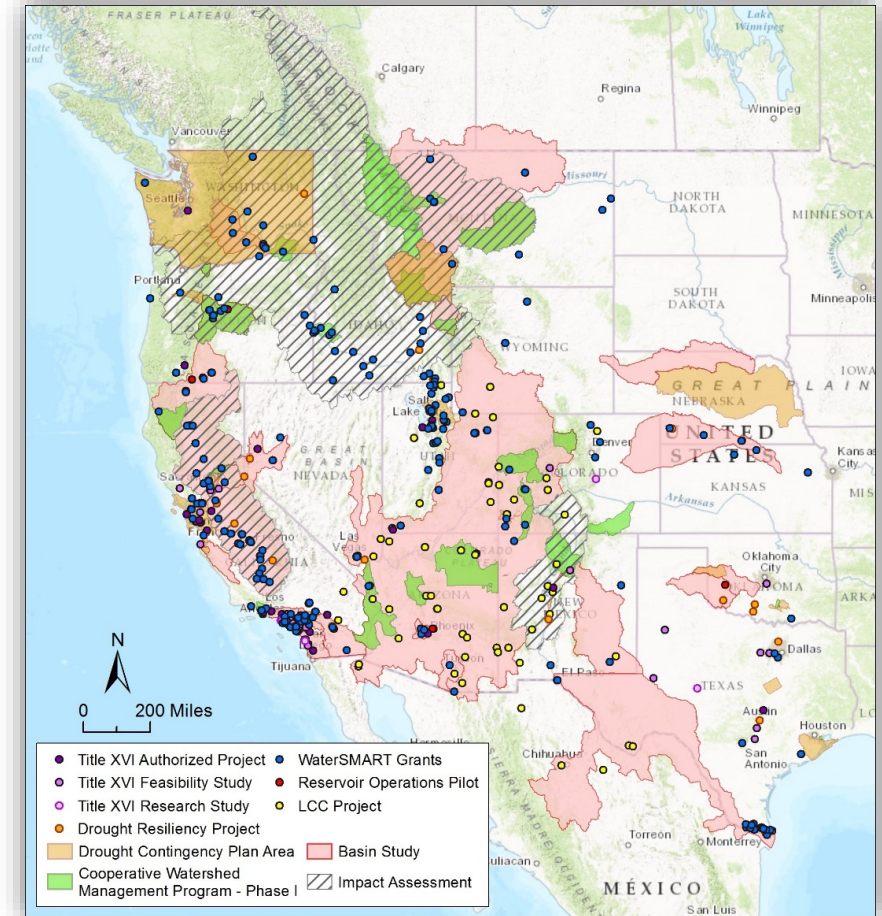


WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool

- 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
- Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00163
- Applications are due March 31, 2022



Thank you!

If you have questions regarding applicant and project eligibility, program requirements, or the evaluation criteria, [click here](#) and select CWMP Phase I Program Inquiry to schedule a time to talk with the program coordinators.

Program Contacts: Questions regarding project and applicant eligibility

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

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

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

Grants Management Specialist: Questions regarding budgets and system requirements

Email: bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov



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