

## WaterSMART Progress Report Fact Sheet

On December 15, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced the release of the [WaterSMART Progress Report](#). Projects initiated from 2010-2016 under the Department of the Interior's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) program and other conservation activities are expected to result in savings of 1.14 million acre-feet of water per year upon completion, according to the report released today by that amount of water represents approximately the annual household use by 4.6 million people, which equals the current population of Phoenix and surrounding areas.

The [report and data visualization tool](#) details progress made since 2010 to improve water conservation and help water-resource managers narrow the gap between water supply and demand. Through WaterSMART, Interior uses the best available science to improve water conservation and other water-saving strategies.

Accomplishments under WaterSMART include:

- **The Basin Study Program** provides information to plan for future water needs. It includes basin studies and West-wide climate risk assessments and projects funded under landscape conservation cooperatives, which are partnerships of governmental and nongovernmental entities that work together on a region wide basis. Since establishment of this program in 2009, Reclamation has started 25 basin studies and completed 15 of them.
- **The Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program** provides funding for entities to turn unusable water sources into new sources that are less vulnerable to drought and climate change. Reclamation provides funding for congressionally authorized projects, feasibility studies and research studies. Since 2009, funding has been provided for more than 75 authorized projects, research studies and feasibility studies. Approximately \$667 million in federal funding has now been awarded to implement more than \$3.3 billion in water reuse improvements.
- **WaterSMART grants** provide cost-shared funding on a competitive basis to nonfederal partners in the implementation of water and energy conservation and efficiency projects. Since 2010, Reclamation has allocated more than \$135 million in competitively awarded grants to implement more than \$395 million in water management improvements through 243 projects in 15 western states. This funding has been provided to nonfederal partners including tribes, water districts and municipalities. The program will expand in 2017 and will include two new grant opportunities, grants for water marketing activities and small-scale water efficiency projects.
- Reclamation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service are coordinating efforts on water sustainability. WaterSMART grant funding criteria was expanded in 2012 and now not only makes water delivery improvements, but also encourages future on-farm improvements. NRCS then reviews the list of projects and identifies funding opportunities for agricultural producers to carry out complementary on-farm irrigation improvements.
- In 2015, Reclamation launched the **Drought Response Program** that provides assistance for drought contingency planning, on-the-ground projects that build long-term resiliency

to drought, and emergency response actions. Since establishment of the program, Reclamation has provided more than \$10 million in competitively awarded funding for drought planning and resiliency across 13 states. The Drought Response Program also supports the goals of the President's 2016 Memorandum and Federal Action Plan on Building National Capabilities for Long-Term Drought Resilience. Reclamation is also contributing to the National Drought Resilience Partnership through the Drought Response Program and other WaterSMART activities.

- **The Cooperative Watershed Management Program** provides a platform for locally led and community-based water resource management involving diverse stakeholders. The program provides funding to watershed groups to collaborate on local solutions that address their water management needs. Since 2012, Reclamation has awarded \$2.4 million to establish or further develop 30 watershed groups in nine states. The program will expand in 2017 providing funding for watershed management groups to implement on-the-ground watershed management projects.
- In 2016, the USGS realigned all water availability and use outreach research, including its National Water Census, within a new program, the **Water Availability and Use Science Program**. The improved National Water Census provides a more accurate understanding of the nation's water resources and improves water availability forecasting for current and future economic benefits, energy productions and environmental uses. Integration of the census and other programs provides nationally consistent data sets that detail water use for the nation; show the status of and trends for precipitation, streamflow, groundwater and evapotranspiration; improve the current understanding of flow requirements for ecological purposes; and assess water resource conditions in selected river basins.

Interior is implementing the WaterSMART initiative through its Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Geological Survey. Reclamation is the primary water management agency at Interior and is focused on collaboratively improving water conservation and helping water and resource managers. USGS is the science agency at Interior and is working to integrate existing research on various aspects of water availability and use, identify key gaps in scientific capacity and invest in the development of new, cutting-edge hydrologic tools and assessments.

To view the report and data visualization tool, please visit <https://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART>.

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