WaterSMART Grants and Drought Response Program Webinar

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WaterSMART Program

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.
WaterSMART Program

- 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
WaterSMART Funding Opportunities

**Eligible Applicants**
- States, Indian Tribes, Irrigation Districts, Water Districts, and Other organizations with water and power delivery authority.

**Cost Share**
- 50% non-Federal cost-share requirement (in-kind contributions are allowed)

**Time Frame for Completion**
- 2-3 years depending on the program and funding group
WaterSMART Grants

Fiscal Year 2018 WaterSMART Grants
- Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
- Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
- Water Marketing Strategy Grants

Map of FY 2018 WaterSMART Grants

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
WaterSMART Grants
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

- **Project types:**
  - Canal lining/piping
  - Municipal metering
  - Irrigation flow measurement
  - SCADA
  - Landscape irrigation measures
  - Hydropower

- Funding Group I: Up to $300k (2 year project)
- Funding Group II: Up to $1.5 million (3 year project)
Evaluation Criteria

- A-Quantifiable Water Savings 30
- B-Water Supply Reliability 18
- C-Hydropower 18
- D-On-Farm Improvements 10
- E-DOI Priorities 10
- F-Implementation and Results 6
- G-Nexus to BOR 4
- H-Non-Federal Funding 4
WaterSMART Grants
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Evaluation Criterion A—Quantifiable Water Savings (30 points)
• Quantifiable water savings expected to result.
• Greater consideration for greater water savings.

Evaluation Criterion B—Water Supply Reliability (18 points)
• Addressing water reliability concerns, including making water available for multiple beneficial uses and resolving water related conflicts in the region.

Evaluation Criterion C—Implementing Hydropower (18 points)
• Projects that will install new hydropower capacity

Evaluation Criterion D—Complementing On-Farm Irrigation Improvements (10 points)
• Complement on-farm irrigation improvements eligible for NRCS financial or technical assistance.

Evaluation Criterion E—Department of the Interior Priorities (10 points)
• Demonstrate that the project supports the Department of the Interior priorities.

Evaluation Criterion F—Implementation and Results (6 points)
• Planning efforts; performance measures to quantify project benefits; and readiness to proceed.

Evaluation Criterion G—Nexus to Reclamation Project Activities (4 Points)
• Connection to Reclamation project activities.

Evaluation Criterion H—Additional Non-Federal Funding (4 points)
• Non-Federal funding in excess of 50 percent.
Drought Response Program

Drought Resiliency Projects
Drought Response Program - Drought Resiliency Projects

Eligible Projects Include:

• Infrastructure Improvements
  • Modifying surface water intakes
  • New conveyance system components
  • Additional water storage
  • Recharge facilities
  • Capture and treat alternative supplies
• Decision Support Tools & Modeling
  • Tools to support water marketing
  • Tools to convey water supply information
  • Measurement
• Environmental Protection
  • Improve habitat
  • Install fish screens and ladders

Projects build resilience to drought
Projects supported by a drought plan are more competitive
Funding Level I: $300k 2 years
Funding Level II: $750k 3 years
Drought Response Program-
Drought Resiliency Projects

Evaluation Criteria

Project Benefits – 40 points
- How does your project build long-term resilience to drought?
- Quantitative and Qualitative description

Drought Planning and Preparedness – 15 points
- Projects specifically identified in a drought plan* with a high importance/priority are prioritized

Severity of Actual or Potential Drought Impacts to be addressed by the Project – 15 points
- Severity of Impacts
- Existing or Potential Drought Conditions

Project Implementation – 10 points
- Well-supported budget – table and narrative
- Identification of necessary permits and regulatory compliance
- Detailed, thorough schedule

Nexus to Reclamation – 10 points
- Consider support of Reclamation activities such as a Basin Study if there is no direct nexus to a water delivery project.

Department of the Interior Priorities – 10 points

*Drought plan is not an eligibility requirement.
## WaterSMART Schedule

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WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool

- Provides users with interactive maps of each WaterSMART Program and project
- Includes Featured Project tours
- Shows program growth since 2010
- Recently updated with new application features
## WaterSMART Program Links

### Basin Studies
- WWRA: [https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/wcra/index.html](https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/wcra/index.html)
- Reservoir Operations: [https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/wcra/reservoirpilot.html](https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/wcra/reservoirpilot.html)

### Title XVI
- Title XVI: [https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/index.html](https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/index.html)

### WaterSMART Grants
- Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grants: [https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/ssweg.html](https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/ssweg.html)

### Water Conservation Field Services
- [https://www.usbr.gov/waterconservation/](https://www.usbr.gov/waterconservation/)

### Drought
- [https://www.usbr.gov/drought/](https://www.usbr.gov/drought/)

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