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RECLAMATION

# Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects NOFO

March 19, 2026

# Getting Started

- Attendees' cameras and microphones are muted
- A copy of the slides will be available on our website after the webinar:  
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>

- Questions and comments can be posted through the Q&A icon at the top of the Teams event.



# Today's Agenda

- **Overview of the Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Funding Opportunity**
- **Application Tips!**
- **Overview of Reclamation's WaterSMART Selection Process**
- **Financial Assistance Requirements**
- **Tools and Resources**
- **Question and Answer Period**



# Eligible Applicants

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## Category A:

- States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts;
- State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

**Category B:** Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. *Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner, stating that they are acting in partnership with the applicant and agree to the submittal and content of the proposal.*

**To be eligible, applicants must also 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.**



# Category B – Partnership Letter

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Category B applicants should include with their application a letter from the Category A partner, stating that the Category A partner:

1. Is acting in partnership with the applicant;
2. Agrees to the submittal and content of the application; and
3. Intends to participate in the project in some way, for example, by providing input, feedback, or other support for the project.

**Note:** Partners do not necessarily need to contribute cost share funding.



# Eligible Projects

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## Eligible Project Types

- Canal Lining/Piping
- Municipal Metering
- Irrigation Flow Measurement
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation (SCADA)
- Landscape Irrigation Measures

Other projects that are similar to those tasks listed above may be submitted for consideration and will be allowed to the extent that they are consistent with program authorization and goals.

**Refer to page 6 of the NOFO for ineligible projects**



# Operations Maintenance & Replace

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- In accordance with Section 9504 of Secure Water Act, projects that are considered normal operations, maintenance, and replacement (OM&R) are not eligible for funding under this NOFO.
- OM&R is described as system improvements that replace or repair existing infrastructure or function without providing increased efficiency or effectiveness of water distribution over the expected life of the improvement.



# Award Information

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- **Funding**

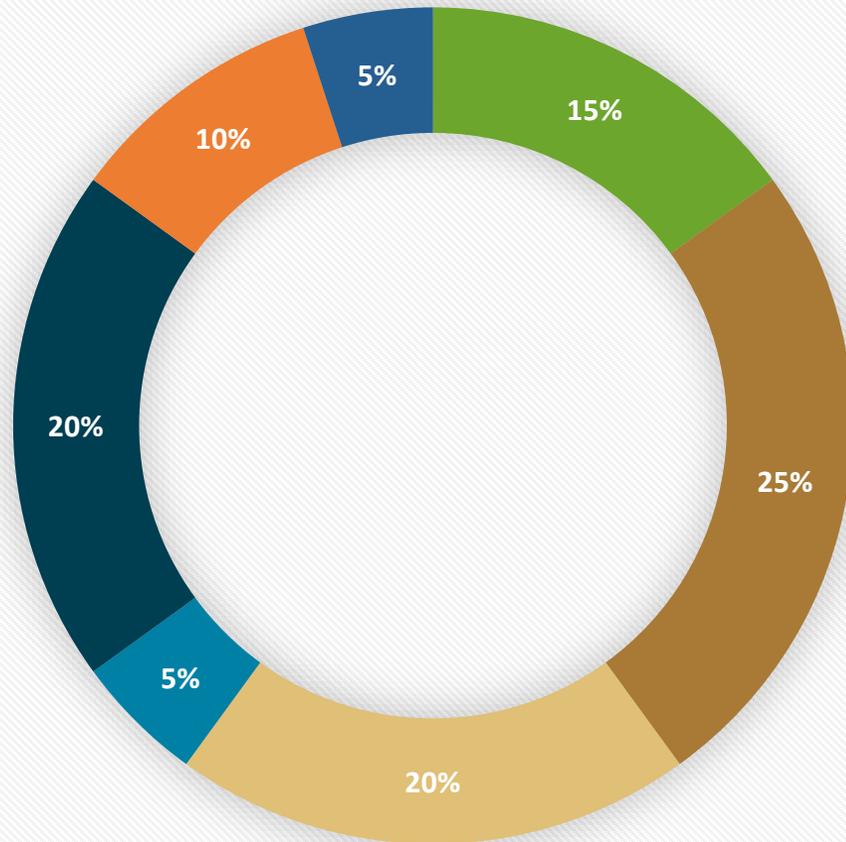
- Up to \$125k in Reclamation funds for 2-year projects
- Total project costs of \$250k
- 50% non-Federal cost share
- \$4 million in available funding
- Approximately 50 awards depending on the number of applications received, amount requested by each applicant

## **Applications Due:**

June 2, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. MT



# Evaluation Criteria



- Criterion A. Project Benefits
- Criterion B. Planning Efforts Supporting the Project
- Criterion C. Project Implementation
- Criterion D. Nexus to Reclamation
- Criterion E. Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities
- Criterion F. Construction Priority
- Criterion G. Cost-Share Priority



# Evaluation Criteria

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## Criterion A – Project Benefits (15 points)

- Discuss
  - Benefits to Category A Applicant's water supply delivery system
  - Other benefits (e.g., broader benefits to supply reliability, increasing collaboration, benefits to other sectors, collaboration with NRCS)
- Does not require quantification of water savings, but do explain the significance of the benefits

## Criterion B – Planning Efforts Supporting the Project (25 points)

- Prioritizes projects supported by existing water management plan, water conservation plan, System Optimization Review, or identified as part of another planning effort led by the Category A applicant.
- Discuss
  - How was the plan developed?
  - How is the project supported by the plan?
- Discuss a specific planning effort, rather than focusing on the design for the project.



# Evaluation Criteria

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## **Criterion C – Project Implementation (20 points)**

- Describe implementation plan including schedule and milestones
- Discuss required permits and compliance, describe any engineering and design work that has been performed
- Discuss any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project and if additional engineering or design work is needed

## **Criterion D – Nexus to Reclamation (5 points)**

- Demonstrate a nexus between the proposed project and a Reclamation project or activity, if applicable.



# Evaluation Criteria

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## Criterion E – Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities

### (20 points)

- advances the Trump Administration’s priorities, including E.O. 14154: Unleashing American Energy, justifies alignment with priorities and requirements in E.O. 14332: Improving Oversight in Federal Grantmaking;
- includes primary project elements that develop, demonstrate, and or implement artificial intelligence (AI) technologies that advance the Trump Administration and Department of Interior’s priorities for AI, including OMB M-25-21 Accelerating the Use of AI through Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust; S.O. 3444: Leading Interior’s Path to Artificial Intelligence Transformation;

- aligns with Secretary Burgum’s strategic objectives, including those identified in S.O.s 3417: Addressing the National Energy Emergency, 3418 Unleashing American Energy, 3419 Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis;
- aligns with goals and objectives in the U.S. Department of the Interior FY 2026-2030 Strategic Plan;
- supports water management and enhanced operational flexibility in Reclamation States, with priority given to the Colorado River Basin, which is experiencing long-term drought conditions.

Please address only those priorities that are applicable to your project. **All priorities will be given equal consideration..**



# Evaluation Criteria

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## Criterion F – Construction Priority (10 points)

- Prioritizes projects that focus on construction of hard infrastructure to deliver durable, long-term improvements in water reliability and resilience.
- Hard infrastructure is tangible or built infrastructure.
- Identify the hard infrastructure construction components of the project, if applicable.

## Criterion G – Cost Share Priority (5 points)

- Points may be awarded to proposals that include non-Federal cost share contributions exceeding the statutory minimum (50%) by at least 5 percent. Projects with a higher non-Federal cost share may be awarded more points.
- $\text{Non-Federal Funding} / \text{Total Project Cost} = \%$
- See Cost Sharing Requirement and Budget Narrative for more information on cost-share requirements and eligible costs.





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# WaterSMART Application Tips



# Application Tips

## General Considerations

- The most successful projects are those that fit well with the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- Review the objective of the NOFO, the eligible project types, and the evaluation criteria carefully to choose the right NOFO.
- Contact the Program Coordinator to discuss any questions about your project fit or applicant eligibility.
- Look at past successful applications at [www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART](http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART)

## 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.
- Do not assume the Application Review Committee knows you.
- Committee is comprised of Reclamation staff from throughout the Western states.



# Application Tips

## Evaluation Criteria

- Make sure you respond to every criterion and every sub-criterion
- Your responses should:
  - Directly respond to the criterion – We recommend you copy and paste the criteria directly into your proposal and place your response immediately below each criterion/sub-criterion
  - Provide support in the form of quantification or citations to reference documents
  - Make the case for how your project meets the criterion – general statements without explanation or support will not score well
- Application Tip: Well-supported responses to the evaluation criteria are the key to writing a competitive proposal



# Application Tips

## Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance

- All projects funded through WaterSMART funding opportunities must comply with Federal environmental and cultural resources laws and regulations. Reclamation regional and area office staff will ensure compliance. This compliance must occur prior to any ground-disturbing activities taking place.
- We highly recommend you discuss your project with compliance staff at your local Reclamation regional or area office. If you are uncertain who to contact, please contact the Program Coordinator.





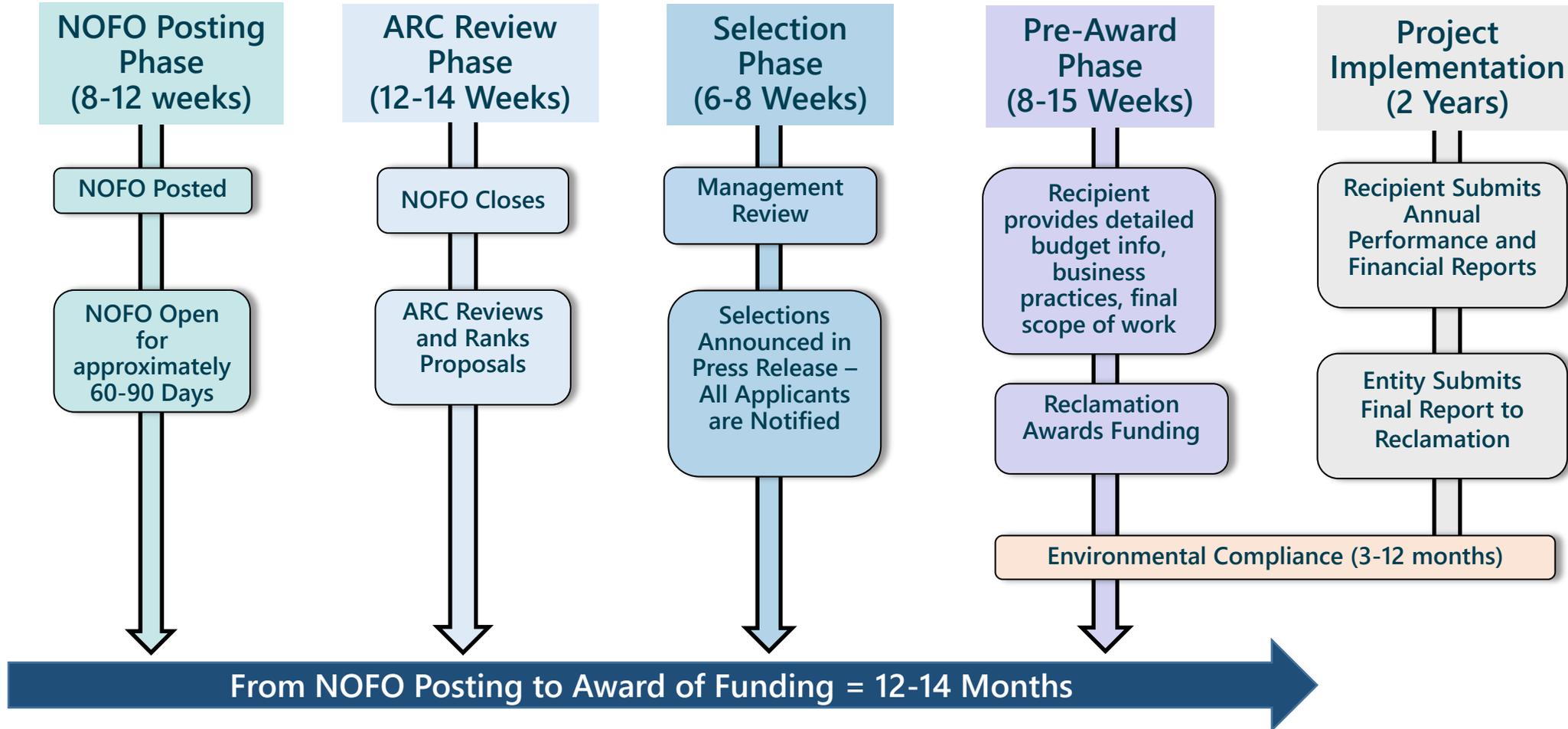
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**What happens next?**

**From NOFO to Selection**

# WaterSMART Selection Process

## Sample schedule





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# WaterSMART Financial Assistance Requirements

# Pre-award Documentation

What to expect if selected for funding

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You may be asked to provide:

- Additional budget clarifications
- Pre-award system survey (if no audit is required) or single audit if not available on the Federal Audit Clearinghouse
- Cost-share documentation
- Explanation of requested pre-award costs
- All reports up to date on other Reclamation awards



# Financial Assistance (FA) Office

## Primary Role of the FA Office

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- Answer questions about financial assistance requirements during the application process
- Conduct Initial Screening and remove applications that do not meet the completeness, eligibility and timeliness for submission requirements of the NOFO.
- Notify Applicants of Application status based on the contact information provided on the SF-424 Form



# Before you Begin

Register in SAM.gov

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## Account Set Up

- “Sign Up” in Sam.gov (Login.gov)
- Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
- [Register Entity in SAM.gov](#)
- [Entity Registration Checklist](#)
- If you have difficulties – document communications with help desk.
- Include communications with your application

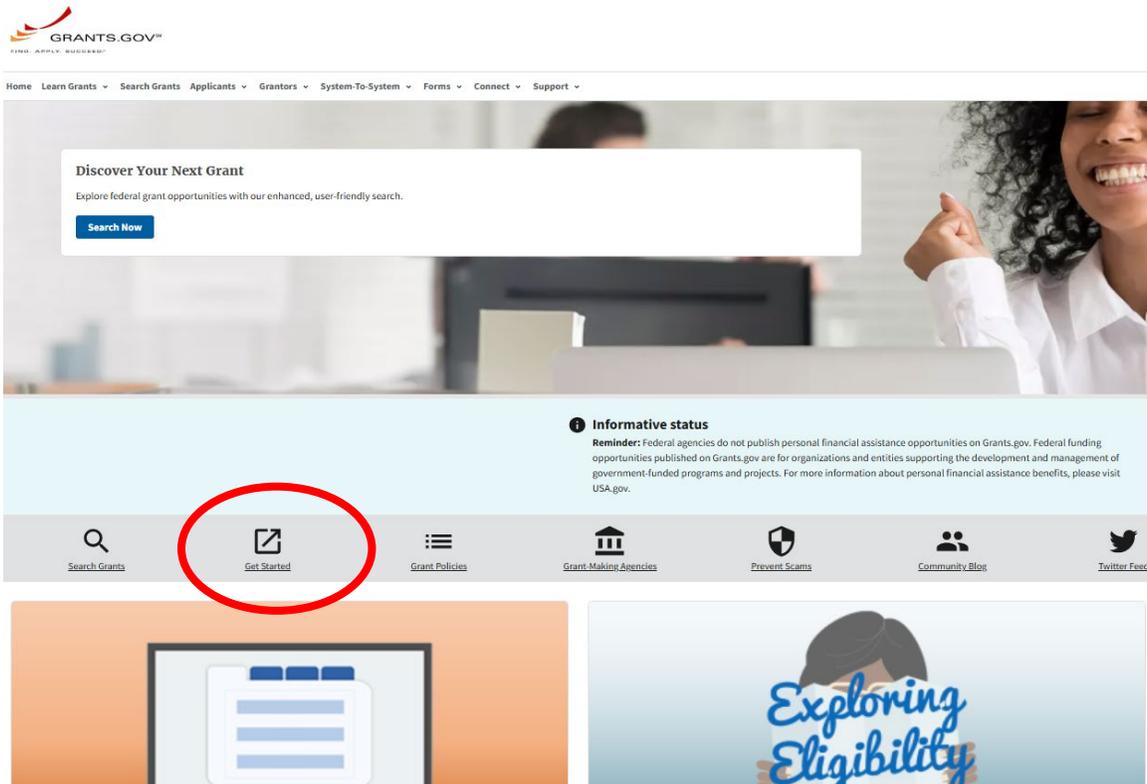
**NOTE:** For all new registrants, creating the account with SAM.gov may take up to several weeks for the account to be approved and considered as ACTIVE!



# Before you Begin

## Register in Grants.gov

- [Get Started | GRANTS.GOV](#)
- [Applicant Registration | GRANTS.GOV](#)



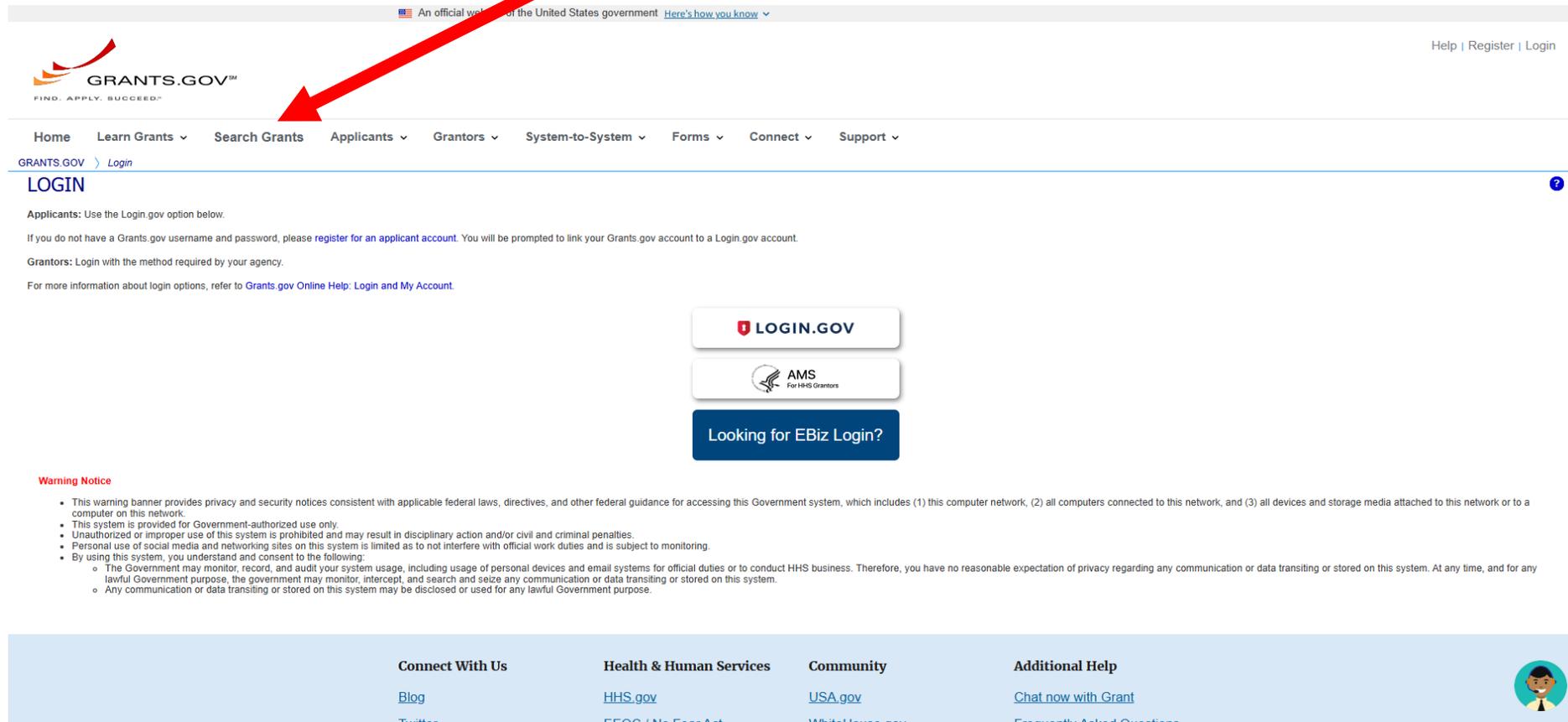
The screenshot shows the Grants.gov homepage. At the top left is the logo "GRANTS.GOV™" with the tagline "FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED." Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: Home, Learn Grants, Search Grants, Applicants, Grantors, System-To-System, Forms, Connect, and Support. The main content area features a "Discover Your Next Grant" section with a search bar and a "Search Now" button. Below this is an "Informative status" section with a reminder about personal financial assistance. At the bottom is a navigation bar with icons for Search Grants, Get Started (circled in red), Grant Policies, Grant-Making Agencies, Prevent Scams, Community Blog, and Twitter Feed. Below the navigation bar are two large banners: one with a calendar icon and another with the text "Exploring Eligibility" and a person icon.



# How to Apply

Start at [www.GRANTS.gov](http://www.GRANTS.gov)

Select the search feature, you will be rerouted to [Simpler.Grants.gov](http://Simpler.Grants.gov)



An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) ▾

Help | Register | Login

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GRANTS.GOV > Login

## LOGIN

Applicants: Use the Login.gov option below.

If you do not have a Grants.gov username and password, please [register for an applicant account](#). You will be prompted to link your Grants.gov account to a Login.gov account.

Grantors: Login with the method required by your agency.

For more information about login options, refer to [Grants.gov Online Help: Login and My Account](#).

**LOGIN.GOV**

**AMS**  
For HHS Grantors

Looking for EBiz Login?

**Warning Notice**

- This warning banner provides privacy and security notices consistent with applicable federal laws, directives, and other federal guidance for accessing this Government system, which includes (1) this computer network, (2) all computers connected to this network, and (3) all devices and storage media attached to this network or to a computer on this network.
- This system is provided for Government-authorized use only.
- Unauthorized or improper use of this system is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action and/or civil and criminal penalties.
- Personal use of social media and networking sites on this system is limited as to not interfere with official work duties and is subject to monitoring.
- By using this system, you understand and consent to the following:
  - The Government may monitor, record, and audit your system usage, including usage of personal devices and email systems for official duties or to conduct HHS business. Therefore, you have no reasonable expectation of privacy regarding any communication or data transiting or stored on this system. At any time, and for any lawful Government purpose, the government may monitor, intercept, and search and seize any communication or data transiting or stored on this system.
  - Any communication or data transiting or stored on this system may be disclosed or used for any lawful Government purpose.

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**Health & Human Services**  
[HHS.gov](#)  
[EEOC / No Fear Act](#)

**Community**  
[USA.gov](#)  
[WhiteHouse.gov](#)

**Additional Help**  
[Chat now with Grant](#)  
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)



# View Grant Opportunity

## Search R25AS00279

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

 [Home](#) [Search](#) [About](#) [Community](#) [Sign in](#)

### Search funding opportunities [Return to Grants.gov](#)

Tip: Use a minus sign to exclude words or phrases, like "-research"

R25AS00279 [Search](#) [Filters](#) [Copy this search query](#)

Must include all words (ex. transportation AND safety)  
 May include any words (ex. transportation OR safety)

[Forecasted](#) [Open](#)

**1 Opportunity** 1

[Export results as .csv](#) Sort by: Most relevant (Default)

Close date	Status	Title	Agency	Award min	Award max
Jun 2, 2026	<span>Open</span>	 <a href="#">Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects</a> Number: R25AS00279	Bureau of Reclamation Posted date: Mar 5, 2026 Expected awards: 50	\$1,000	\$125,000

1



# View Grant Opportunity

## Select the View on Grants.gov link

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[Return to Grants.gov](#)

[Home](#) > [Search](#) > Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects: R25AS00279

## Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

[★ Save](#)

**Agency:** Bureau of Reclamation

[Assistance Listings:](#) 15.507 -- WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow)

Last Updated: March 5, 2026 [View version history on Grants.gov](#)

### Description

[Jump to all documents](#)

Through WaterSMART, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to work cooperatively with States, Tribes, and other entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply and hydropower reliability. The WaterSMART Program demonstrably advances Trump administration priorities, such as those identified in Presidential Executive Order 14154 (January 20, 2025): Unleashing American Energy (E.O. 14154) and Secretarial Order 3418, and aligns with other priorities and requirements, such as those identified in Presidential Executive Order 14332 (August...

[Show full description](#)

### Eligibility

**Eligible applicants**

**Closing:** June 2, 2026

June 02, 2026 at 4:00 pm MDT

**Application process**  
This site is a work in progress. Go to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) to apply, track application status, and subscribe to updates.

[View on Grants.gov](#)

### Award

<b>\$4,000,000</b>	<b>50</b>
Program Funding	Expected awards



# View Grant Opportunity



www.grants.gov

View  
**SYNOPSIS**  
for key information

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

GRANTS.GOV<sup>SM</sup>  
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## VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

R25AS00279  
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects  
Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

**SYNOPSIS** | VERSION HISTORY | RELATED DOCUMENTS | PACKAGE

### General Information

<b>Document Type:</b> Grants Notice	<b>Version:</b> Synopsis 1
<b>Funding Opportunity Number:</b> R25AS00279	<b>Posted Date:</b> Mar 05, 2026
	<b>Last Updated Date:</b> Mar 05, 2026
	<b>Original Closing Date for:</b> Jun 03, 2026 Jun 03, 2026 at 4:00

**PLEASE SUBSCRIBE**  
To receive notifications  
of any changes



# View Grant Opportunity



**View  
VERSION HISTORY  
for  
older Versions  
and  
Modifications**

GRANTS.GOV<sup>SM</sup>  
FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.<sup>SM</sup>

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## VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

[View similar opportunities](#)

R25AS00279  
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects  
Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

**Apply** **Subscribe**

**SYNOPSIS** **VERSION HISTORY** RELATED DOCUMENTS PACKAGE

### Version History

Click on Version Name to view previous versions of this grant opportunity. Modifications from the previous version are highlighted with a light gray background. For more information on versions, see Online Help.

**Synopsis History:**

Version	Modification Description	Updated Date
<a href="#">Synopsis 1</a>		Mar 05, 2026

**DISPLAYING: Synopsis 1**

**General Information**



# View Grant Opportunity

## VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

[View similar opportunities](#)

R25AS00279

Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Reclamation

Apply

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SYNOPSIS

VERSION HISTORY

RELATED DOCUMENTS

PACKAGE

Click on the following file link(s) to download the related document(s):

File Description	File Name	Last Updated Date/Time	File Size
^ Folder: Full Announcement - Full Announcement	<a href="#">R25AS00279-Full Announcement - Full Announcement.zip</a>	Mar 05, 2026 01:36:24 PM EST	174.1 KB
Foa_Content_of_R25AS00279_Final.pdf	<a href="#">Foa_Content_of_R25AS00279_Final.pdf</a>	Mar 05, 2026 01:36:24 PM EST	188.5 KB
^ Folder: Other Supporting Documents - Other Supporting Documents	<a href="#">R25AS00279-Other Supporting Documents - Other Supporting Documents.zip</a>	Mar 05, 2026 01:38:16 PM EST	773.0 KB
Attachment A - Budget_Detail_and_Narrative_template_v2025_March.xlsx	<a href="#">Attachment A - Budget Detail and Narrative template v2025 March.xlsx</a>	Mar 05, 2026 01:36:50 PM EST	72.0 KB
Attachment B - Budget_Narrative_Guidance_v2025_March.docx	<a href="#">Attachment B - Budget Narrative Guidance v2025 March.docx</a>	Mar 05, 2026 01:37:37 PM EST	221.6 KB
General NOFO FAQ.pdf	<a href="#">General NOFO FAQ.pdf</a>	Mar 05, 2026 01:38:16 PM EST	211.8 KB
Submission Instructions & Tips.pdf	<a href="#">Submission Instructions &amp; Tips.pdf</a>	Mar 05, 2026 01:36:38 PM EST	37.0 KB



## Select Grant Opportunity Package

### PLEASE READ BEFORE APPLYING!

If you view and complete your application package using Grants.gov downloadable PDF forms, you MUST have Adobe Reader installed. You may receive a validation error using incompatible versions of Adobe Reader. To prevent a validation error, it is now recommended you uninstall any earlier versions of Adobe Reader and install the latest compatible version of Adobe Reader. If more than one person is working on the PDF forms, ALL applicants must be using the same Adobe Reader version. [Click for more information on Adobe Reader Compatibility.](#)

### Opportunity Package(s) Currently Available for this Funding Opportunity:

Assistance Listing Number	Competition ID	Competition Title	Opportunity Package ID	Opening Date	Closing Date	Actions
15.507	R25AS00279	Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects	PKG00292059	Mar 05, 2026	Jun 02, 2026	<a href="#">Preview</a>   <a href="#">Apply</a>

## Opportunity Package Details

Agency Contact Information: Christina Munoz

Who Can Apply: Organization Applicants

### PACKAGE FORMS:

#### Mandatory Forms

(Click to Preview)

Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) [V4.0]  
Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A) [V1.0]  
Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B) [V1.1]  
Project Narrative Attachment Form [V1.2]  
Budget Narrative Attachment Form [V1.2]

Attachments [V1.2]  
Project Abstract Summary [V2.0]  
Grants.gov Lobbying Form [V1.1]  
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) [V2.0]

Close

### Mandatory Forms are:

SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance  
Budget Information for Non-Construction (SF-424A)  
Assurances for Non-Construction (SF-424B)





# Application Tips

Before you Submit

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## Verify that your Application is Complete!

- SAM.gov Registration is ACTIVE
- Grants.gov Registration account set up
- SF-424 (remember signature)
- SF-424A
- SF-424B
- Technical Proposal
- Budget Narrative



# Financial Assistance – First Level Screening

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All application packages will be screened to ensure:

- The applicant meets the completeness, eligibility, and timeliness requirements
- The applicant meets the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and SAM registration requirements
- The application meets the content requirements
- The application contains completed mandatory forms



# Financial Assistance – Selection Notification

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- Once Initial screening is complete,
  - Ineligible applicants will be notified by the Grants Officer, and
  - Eligible applicants will move on to the Merit Review
- All successful applications will be notified by the Grants Officer of selection.
- The Financial Assistance Office will reach out to the applicant regarding next steps for entering into a Financial Assistance award.





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For Questions relating to the Application Process,  
SF-424 and Application Forms, Grants.gov, and SAM  
Registration,  
please reach out to the  
Reclamation Financial Assistance Contact:

**[bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov](mailto:bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov)**

**\*\*Please include the NOFO number in the subject of your  
email.\*\***



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# Additional Opportunities, Tools and Resources

# WaterSMART Program Resources

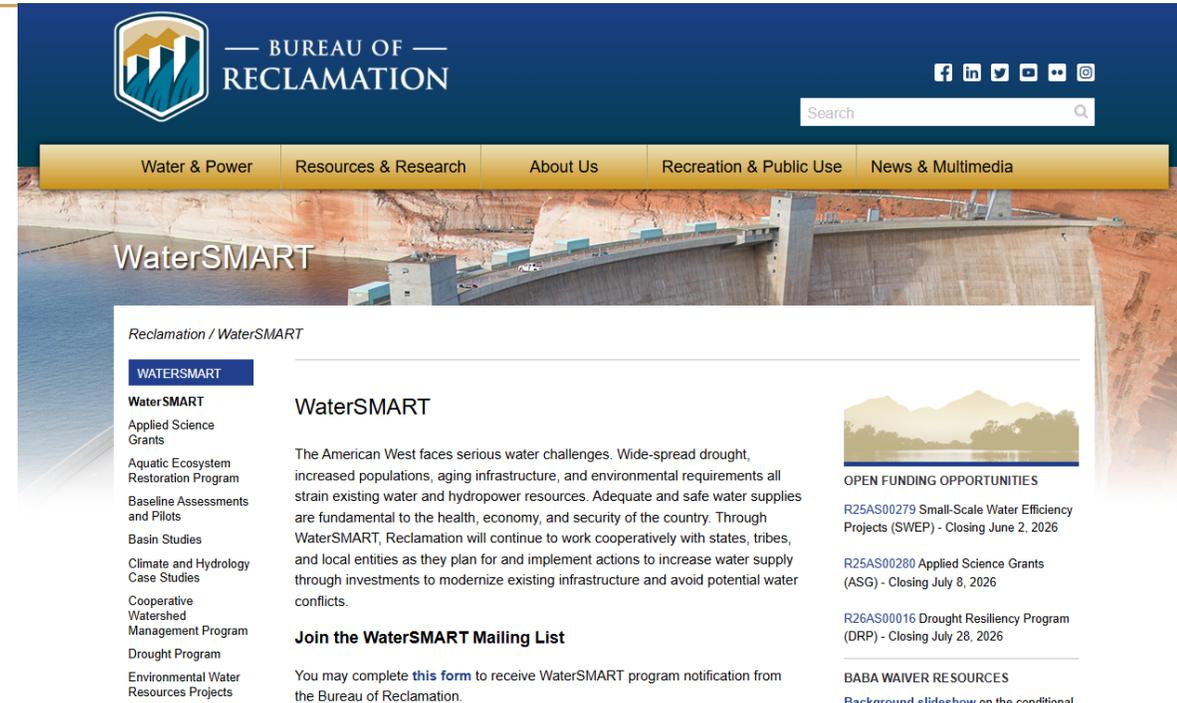
## *WaterSMART Program Website*

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

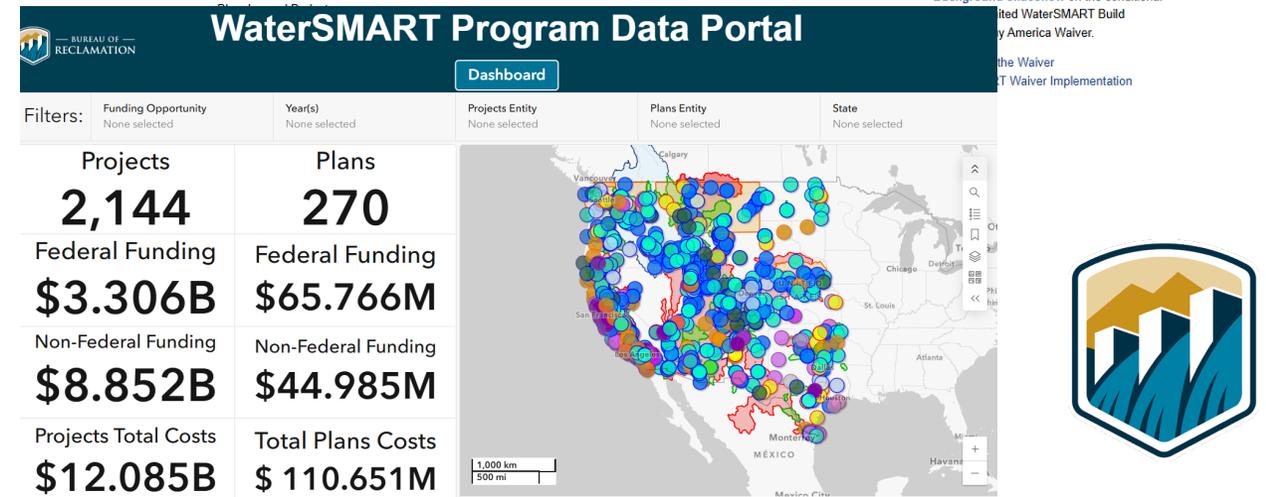
- Previously funded applications for all programs
- WaterSMART Dashboard
- WaterSMART mailing list
- Recent announcements

## *Additional Resources*

- All open Funding Opportunities can be found at: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)



The screenshot shows the top portion of the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART website. The header includes the Bureau of Reclamation logo and name, a search bar, and social media icons. A navigation menu contains links for Water & Power, Resources & Research, About Us, Recreation & Public Use, and News & Multimedia. The main content area features a large image of a dam with the text 'WaterSMART' overlaid. Below this, there is a sidebar with a list of program categories such as Applied Science Grants, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program, and Basin Studies. The main text area provides an overview of the WaterSMART program, stating that it addresses water challenges in the American West through cooperative efforts with states, tribes, and local entities. It also includes a link to 'Join the WaterSMART Mailing List' and a section for 'OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES' with links to various grant programs like Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects (SWEP) and Applied Science Grants (ASG).



The screenshot displays the WaterSMART Program Data Portal. At the top, it features the Bureau of Reclamation logo and the title 'WaterSMART Program Data Portal'. Below the title is a 'Dashboard' button. The main content area is divided into a table of filters and a map. The filters table shows the following data:

Filters:	Funding Opportunity	Year(s)	Projects Entity	Plans Entity	State
	None selected	None selected	None selected	None selected	None selected
	<b>Projects</b>			<b>Plans</b>	
	<b>2,144</b>			<b>270</b>	
	<b>Federal Funding</b>			<b>Federal Funding</b>	
	<b>\$3.306B</b>			<b>\$65.766M</b>	
	<b>Non-Federal Funding</b>			<b>Non-Federal Funding</b>	
	<b>\$8.852B</b>			<b>\$44.985M</b>	
	<b>Projects Total Costs</b>			<b>Total Plans Costs</b>	
	<b>\$12.085B</b>			<b>\$ 110.651M</b>	

To the right of the filters is a map of the United States showing the distribution of WaterSMART projects and plans, represented by colored circles of varying sizes. The map includes a scale bar (1,000 km / 500 mi) and a legend. The bottom right corner of the screenshot shows the Bureau of Reclamation logo.



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# Questions?

Please utilize the Q&A Function to ask questions.

Questions regarding project and applicant eligibility:  
Nickie McCann - [nmccann@usbr.gov](mailto:nmccann@usbr.gov); (720)610-3480