



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

# U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Watershed and Stormwater Funding Opportunities

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Phoenix Area Office

September 29, 2022

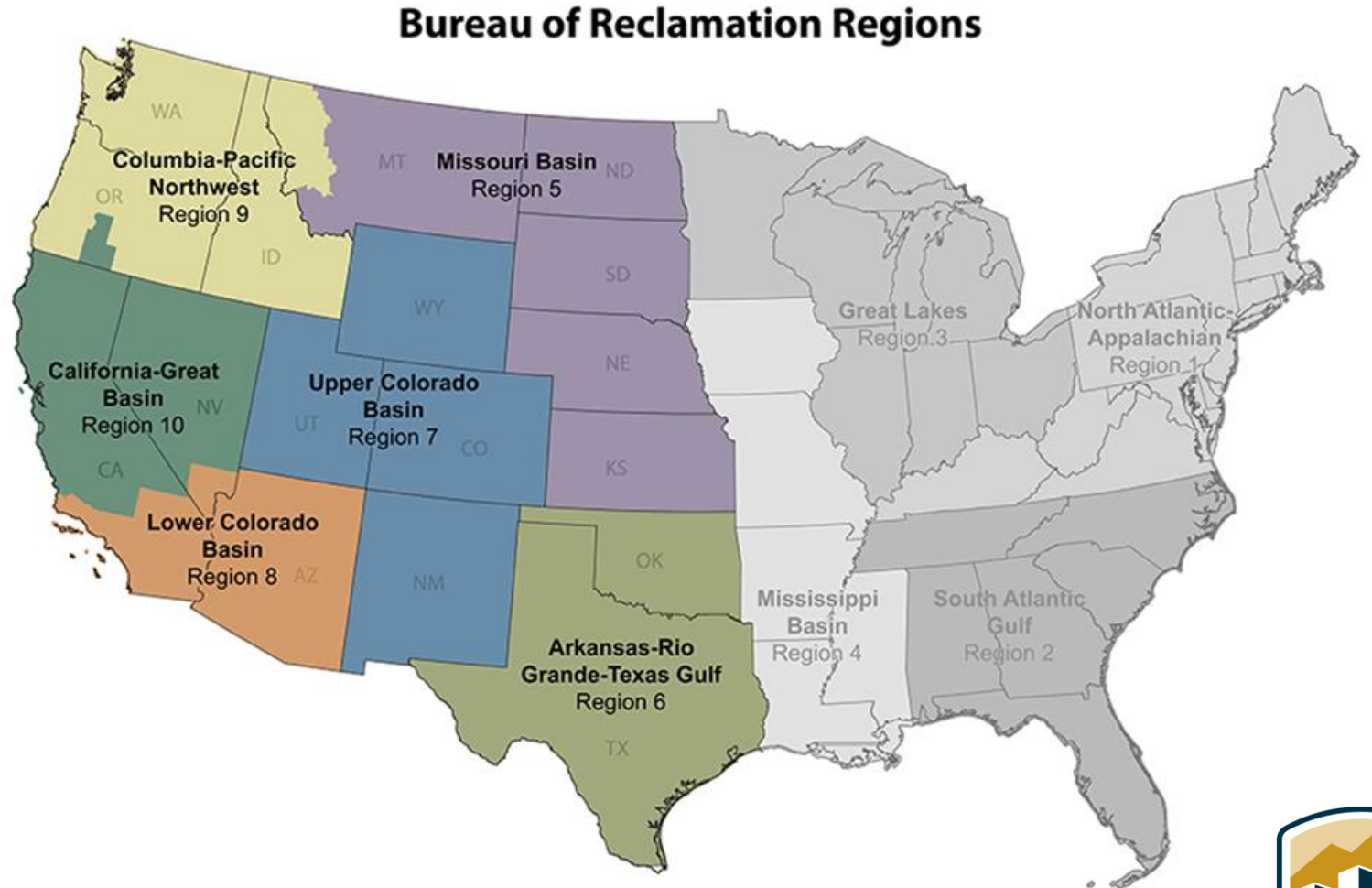
# Presentation Agenda

- Reclamation overview
- WaterSMART watershed and stormwater funding opportunities
- Selection and funding process
- Environmental and cultural resource compliance
- Tips for applicants
- Additional Reclamation funding opportunities
- Questions



# Bureau of Reclamation Mission

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

*Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow*

- Increase water supply reliability through investments and attention to local water conflicts
- Support water conservation and water management improvements to help meet competing demands for water
- Leverage Federal and non-Federal funding
- Collaboration with stakeholders to develop local solutions to water supply issues



# WaterSMART Program Framework



Supports water supply reliability for multiple water users



# Build a Foundation Through WaterSMART

## Planning

- Drought Contingency Planning
- Water Marketing Strategy Grants
- Water Conservation Field Services
- Title XVI Program/Desalination Projects
- Basin Studies
- Cooperative Watershed Management Program - Phase I

## Science and Tools

- Applied Science Grants
- Drought Resiliency Projects
- Basin Studies
- Water Management Options Pilots

## On-the-Ground Projects

- Drought Resiliency Projects
- Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
- Water & Energy Efficiency Grants
- Environmental Water Resources Projects
- Title XVI Program/Desalination Projects



# WaterSMART Program Basics



**Most WaterSMART activities are grant programs**



**Generally, a 50% non-Federal cost share is required for grants**



**Applicants include entities such as states, tribes, cities, water districts, irrigation districts, flood control districts, non-profits\*, and watershed groups\* within the 17 western states, Alaska, Hawaii, and territories**



**Funding is allocated through annual competitive processes**



# Basin Studies

## *Basin Study Program*

Note: These are collaborative studies, not grants.

**Objective:** Evaluate current and future water supply and demand imbalances; identify strategies to meet future water demands.

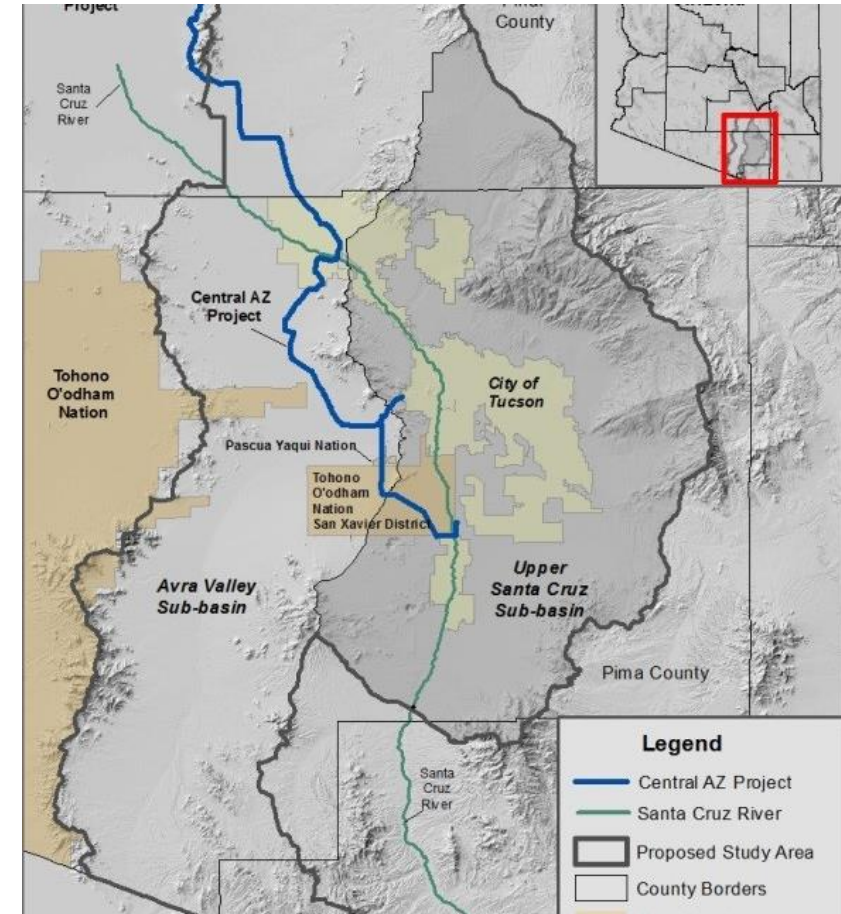
- (1) State-of-the-art projections of future water supply and demand
- (2) Analysis of how the basin's existing water and power operations and infrastructure will perform in the face of changing water realities
- (3) Development of strategies to meet current and future water demands
- (4) Trade-off analysis of strategies identified

### Funding

- 50% non-Federal cost share required

### Basin Studies in Arizona:

- Colorado River Basin Study – completed in 2012
- West Salt River Valley Basin Study – final report coming soon
- Lower Santa Cruz River Basin Study – final report coming soon
- Eloy and Maricopa-Stanfield Basin Study – in process





# Water Management Options Pilots

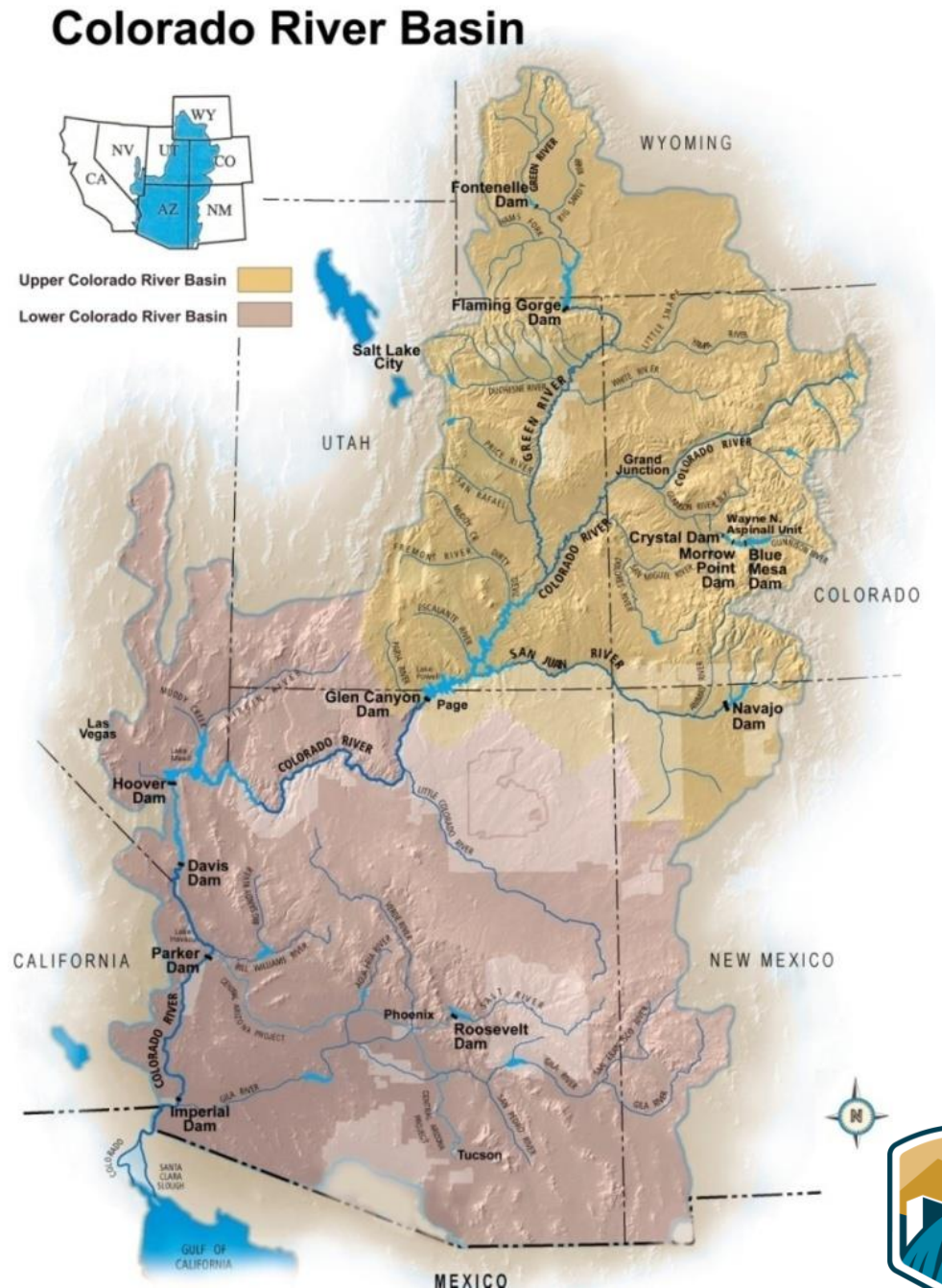
## *Basin Study Program*

**Objective:** Technical efforts that build upon *completed* Basin Studies, such as additional, updated, or expanded analysis to further develop strategies identified in a Basin Study.

Entities submit a *Letter of Interest* to Reclamation.

## Funding

- 50% non-Federal cost share required
- These pilots *are not* grants or financial assistance
- Reclamation funding must be used for Reclamation staff time or contractors



# Applied Science Grants

## *Basin Study Program*

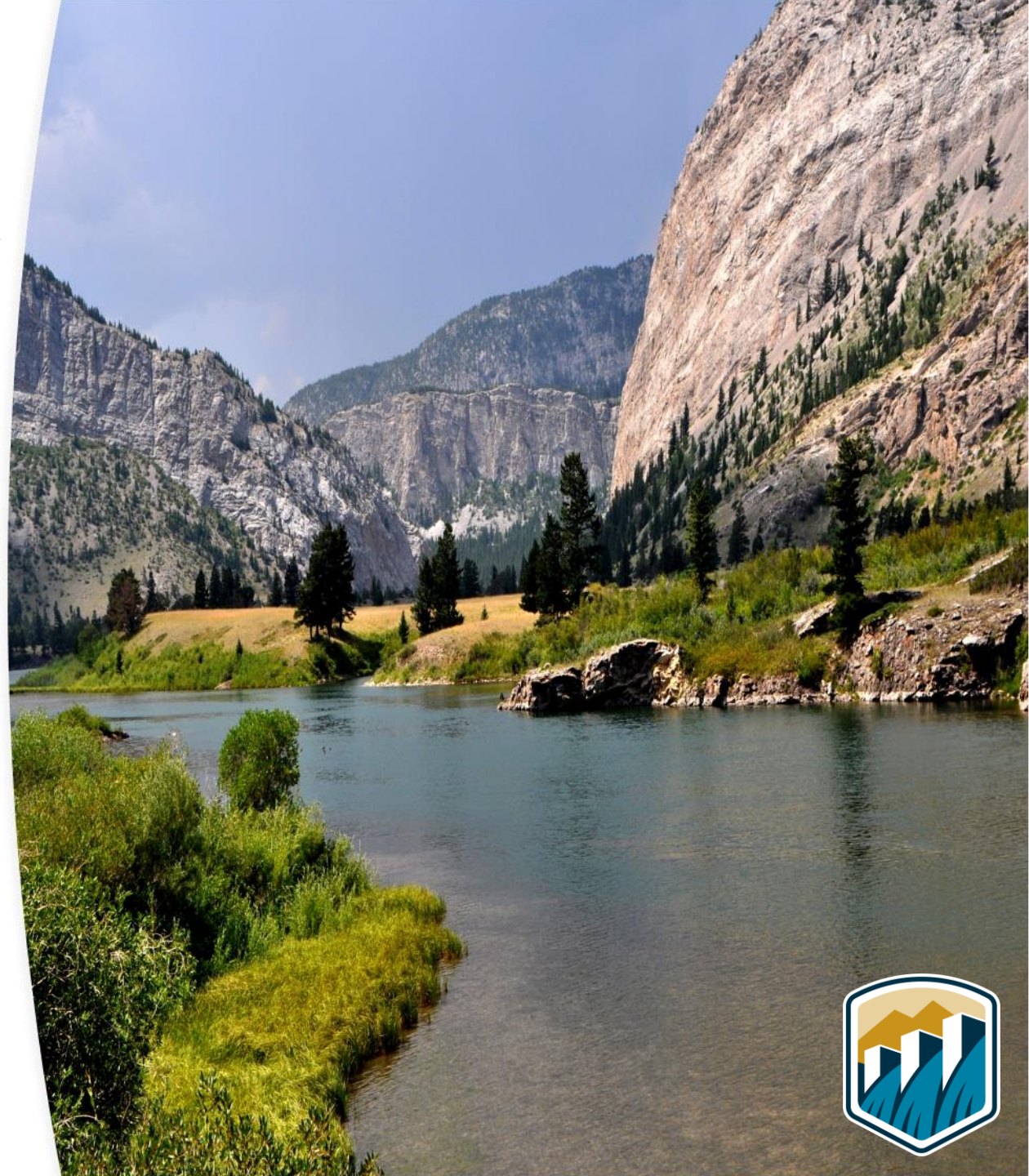
### Eligible Watershed and Stormwater Projects

- Improve or enhance modeling capabilities
- Improve or adapt forecasting tools and technologies
- New or improved access to and use of water resources data

### Funding

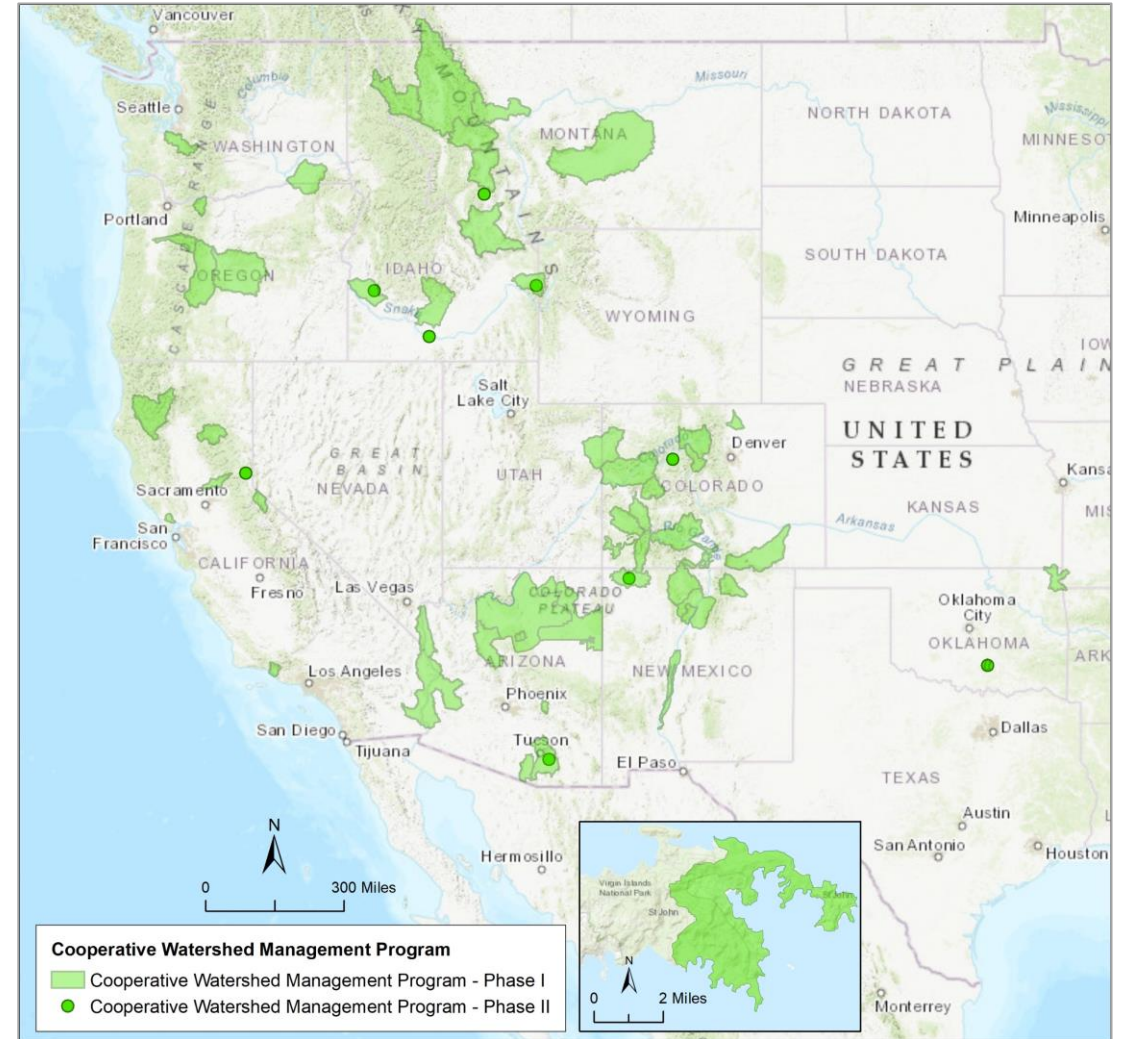
- 50% non-Federal cost share required
- Up to \$200,000 in Federal funding
- Completed within 2 years

Note: Universities and non-profit organizations are eligible if they partner with an entity with water delivery authority.



# Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP)

- *Cooperative Watershed Management Program - Phase I*
  - Note: The Environmental Water Resources Projects funding opportunity replaced the former CWMP- Phase II



# Cooperative Watershed Management Program - Phase I

**Objective:** Provides funding to watershed groups to encourage diverse stakeholders to form local solutions to address their water management needs.

## Eligible Project Activities

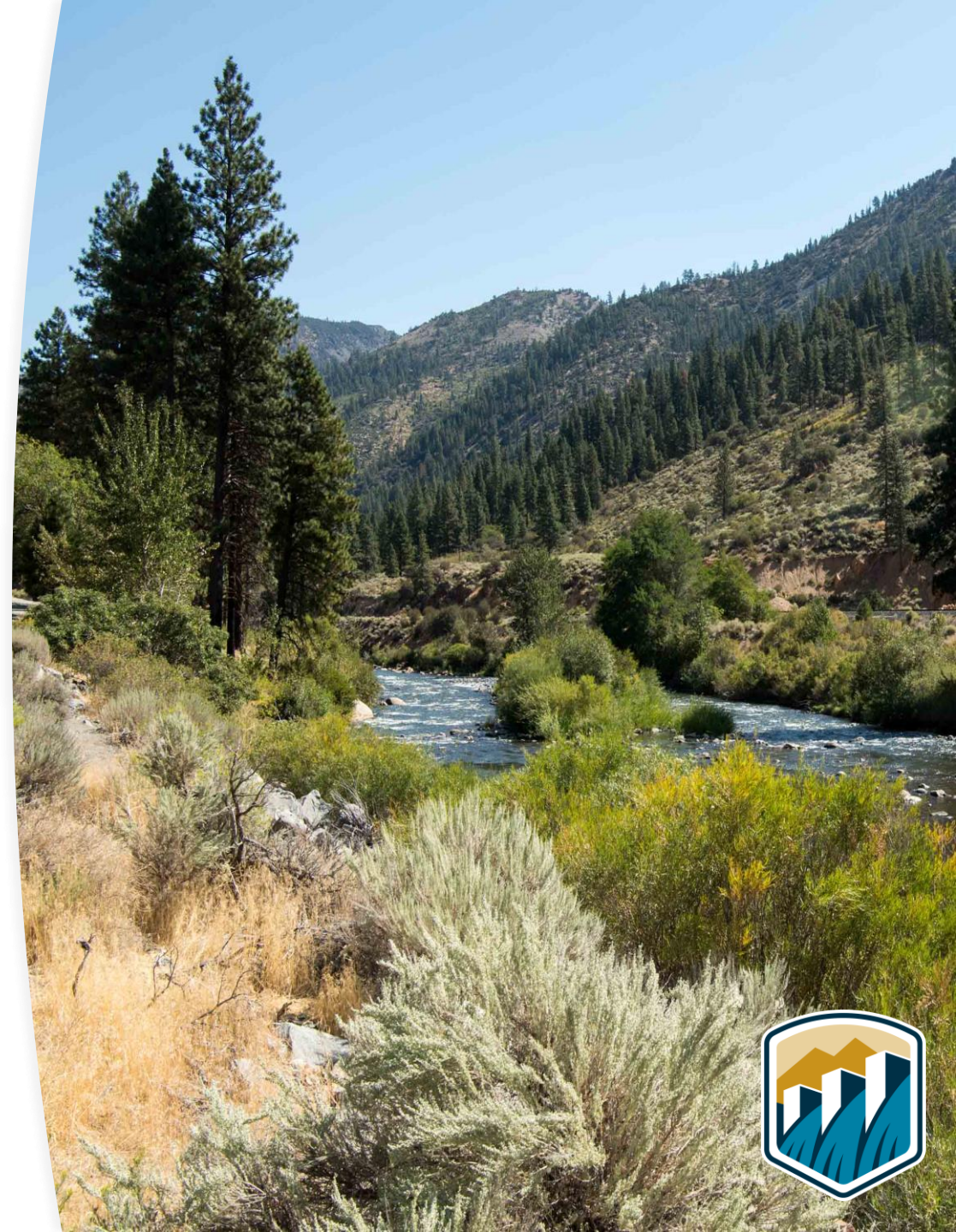
- Watershed group development
- Conducting outreach activities
- Gathering data about the watershed
- Watershed restoration plans
- Designing watershed management projects

## Funding

- 0% non-Federal cost share required
- Up to \$200,000 in Reclamation funding over 2 years
- Sufficiency review required for second year funding

## Eligible Applicants

- *Existing* watershed groups; or states, tribes, water/irrigation/flood control districts, interstate organizations, or non-profit organizations *seeking to form* a new watershed group.



# Environmental Water Resources Projects

**Objective:** Support projects focused on environmental benefits developed through a collaborative process to help carry out an established strategy/plan to increase reliability of water resources.

## Eligible Projects

- Watershed management or restoration projects that benefit wildlife species, habitats, riparian areas, or ecosystems directly influenced by water resources management

## Eligible Applicants

- States, tribes, organizations with water or power authority
- Non-profit conservation organizations, including watershed groups (alone, or in partnership with an entity described above)

## Funding

- 25% to 50% non-Federal cost share required (dependent on meeting eligibility criteria)
- Funding Level I: Up to \$2 million for 3-year project
- Funding Level II: Up to \$5 million for 3-year project



# Drought Resiliency Projects

## *Drought Response Program*

### Eligible Stormwater Projects

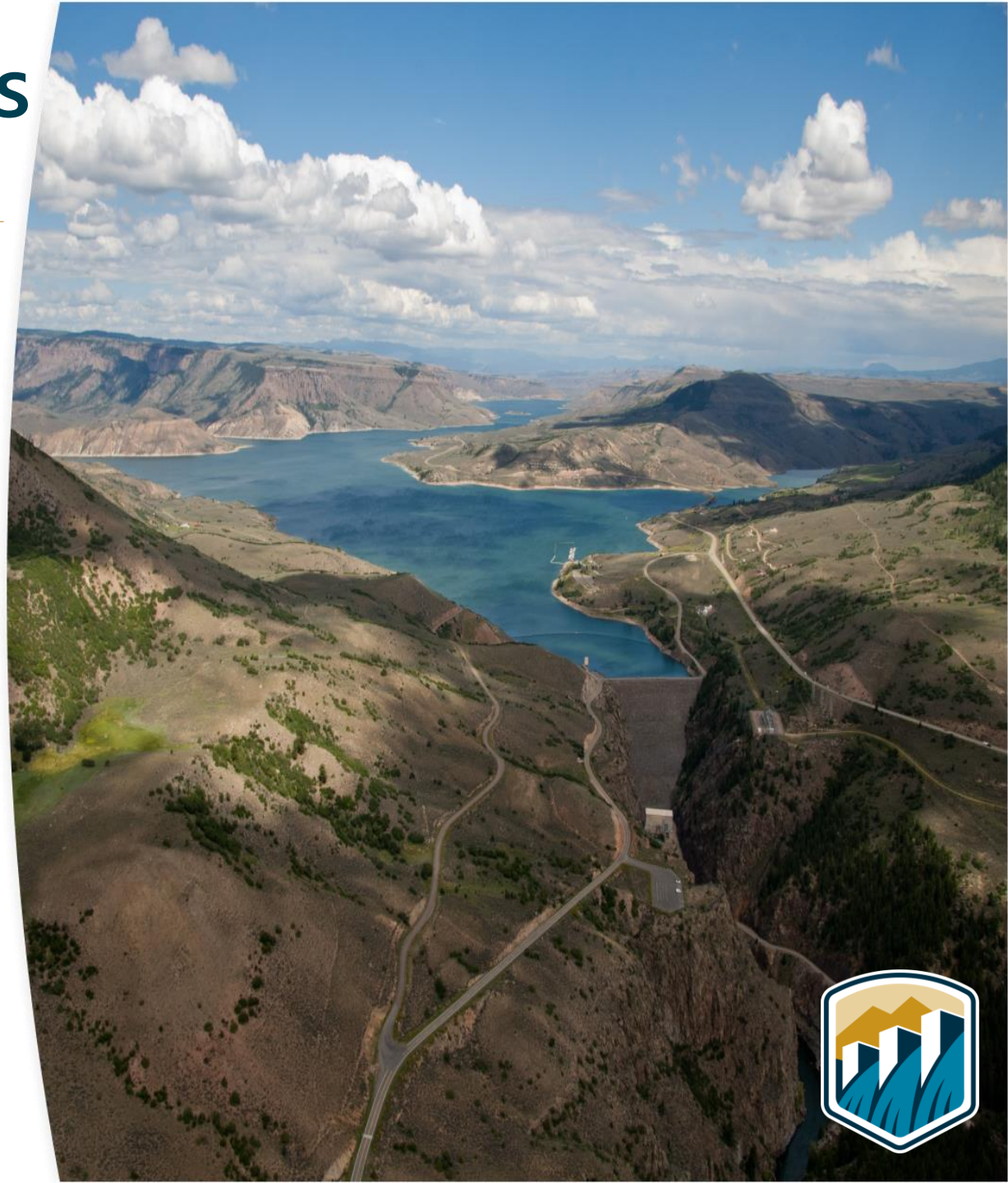
- Construct or expand small-scale water treatment facilities to treat stormwater runoff
- Construct stormwater capture and reuse systems, including green stormwater infrastructure (rain gardens, cisterns, bioswales, etc.)
- Install residential rain catchment systems

### Funding

- 50% non-Federal cost share required
- Funding Level I: Up to \$500,000 for 2-year project
- Funding Level II: Up to \$2 million for 3-year project
- Funding Level III: Up to \$5 million for 3-year project

### Eligible Applicants

- States, tribes, entities with water/power delivery authority
- Non-profit conservation organizations



# System Optimization Review (SOR)

*WCFSP*

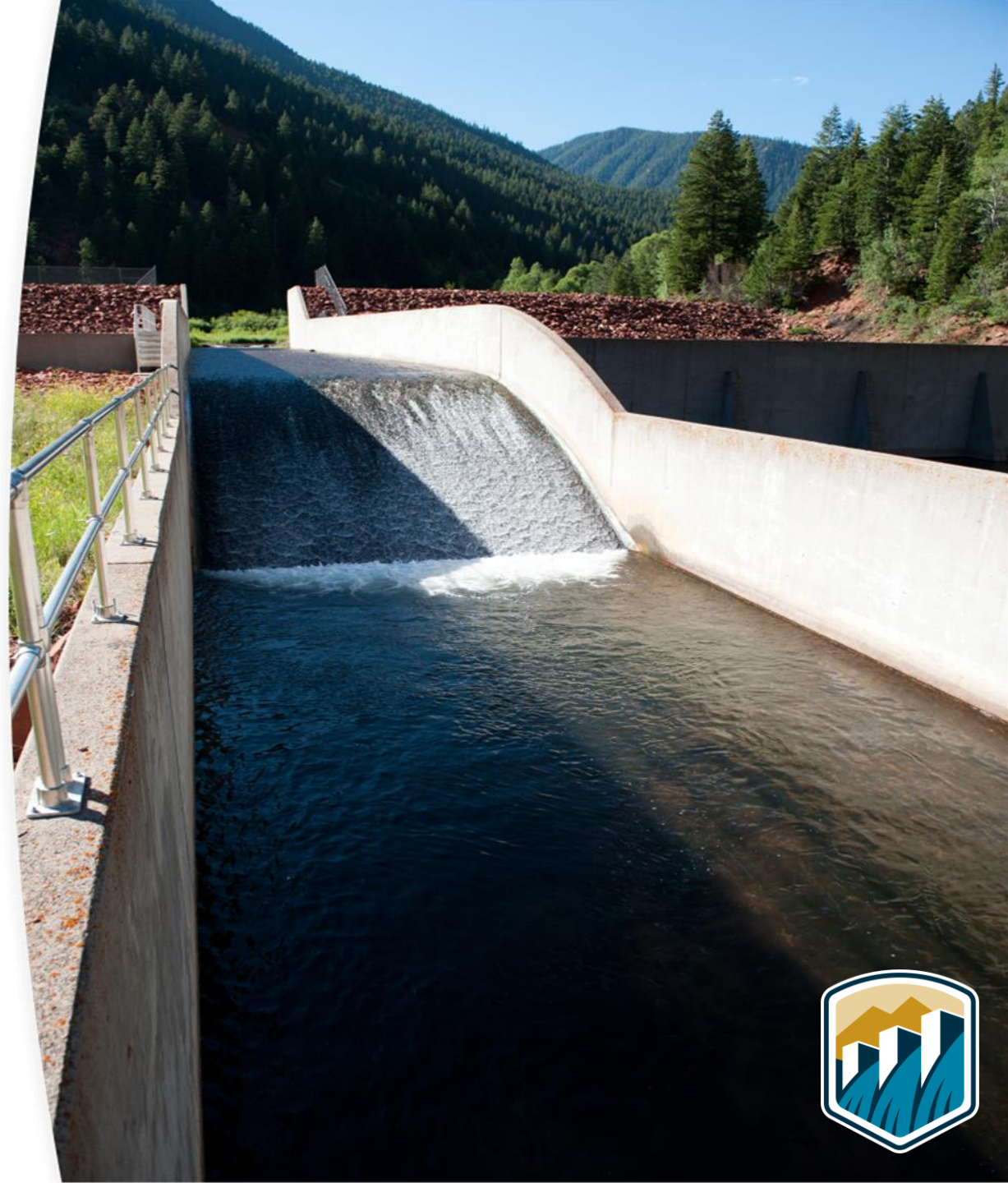
**Objective:** A review to identify needed water management improvements and create a plan of action with recommendations for implementing specific improvements.

## Components of an SOR:

- Gather information (e.g., surveying, data searches, literature reviews, site visits)
- Identify, describe, prioritize water management issues
- Establish goals
- Identify, evaluate, and prioritize potential improvement projects with the ability to mitigate the identified issues and accomplish goals

## Funding

- 50% non-Federal cost share required
- Up to \$100,000



# Designing Water Management Improvements

*WCFSP*

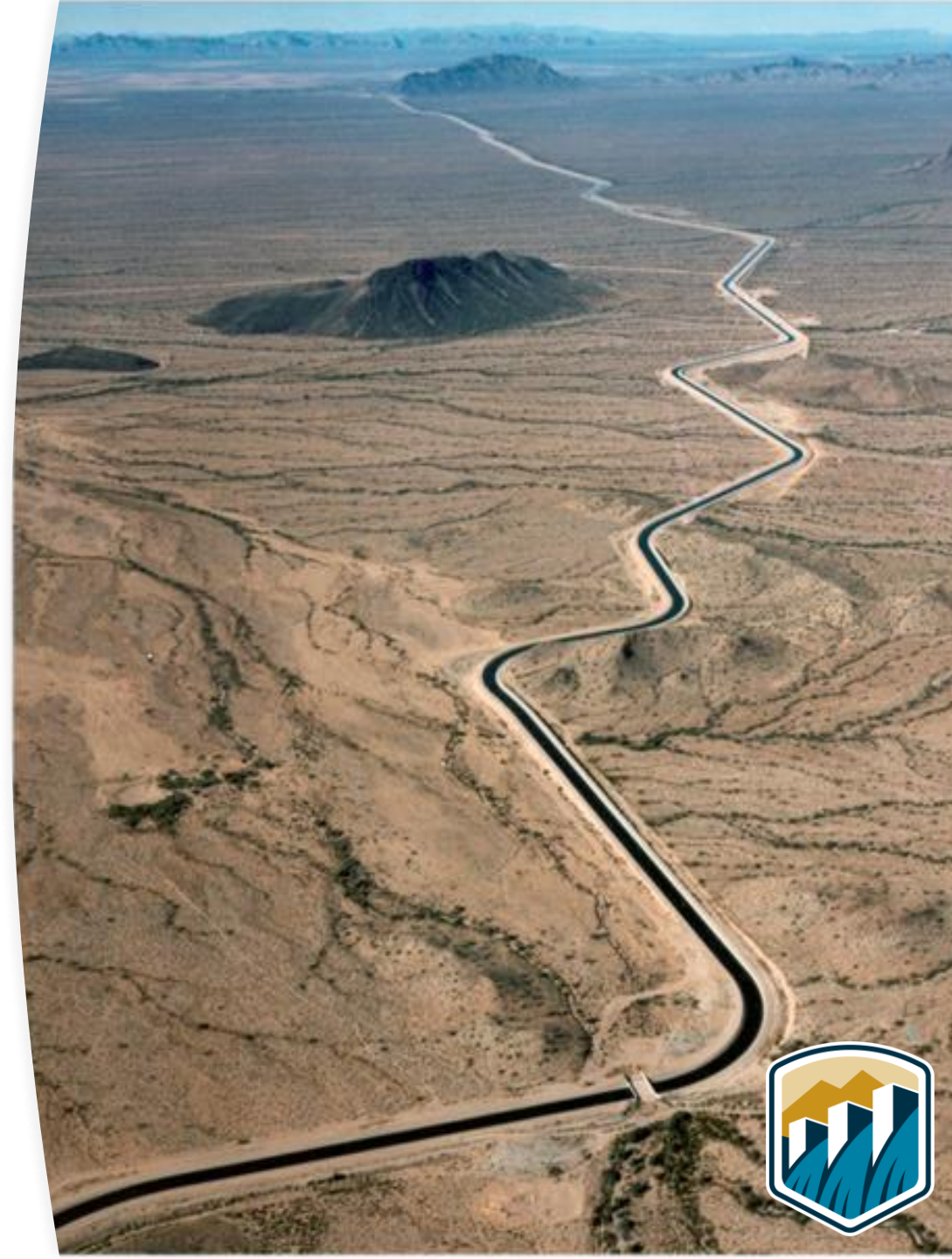
**Objective:** Design of water management improvement projects. Includes necessary preliminary work, such as surveying and gathering site-specific information.

## Eligible Design Activities related to stormwater

- conversion of an open conveyance system to closed conveyance
- aquifer storage recovery ponds
- water storage ponds

## Funding

- 50% non-Federal cost share required
- Up to \$100,000





# Demonstrating Conservation Project Technologies

*WCFSP*

**Objective:** Installing or applying a particular technology in a new way or in a new setting, with the intent of answering questions about the reliability of this technology and reporting the results to others for wider adoption.

**Note:** To qualify, your organization must not have conducted any portion of the proposed project or used the technology in the past.

## Funding

- 50% non-Federal cost share required
- Up to \$100,000



# Title XVI Program

**Objective:** Planning, design, and construction of water reclamation and reuse projects.

## Eligible Projects

- Seek to address water supply challenges by:
  - establishing or expanding the use of water reclamation and reuse,
  - improving existing water reuse facilities
  - streamlining the implementation of state-of-the-art technology for new facilities

## Funding

- 75% non-Federal cost share required
- Maximum Federal cost-share of \$20-\$30 million

## Eligible Applicants

- Sponsors of water reclamation and reuse projects with completed feasibility studies submitted to Reclamation for review.



# WaterSMART Program Website Links

Note: Successful proposals for each program are available on the website

<b>Basin Study Program</b>	Basin Studies - <a href="https://usbr.gov/watersmart/bsp/">usbr.gov/watersmart/bsp/</a> Applied Science - <a href="https://usbr.gov/watersmart/appliedscience/">usbr.gov/watersmart/appliedscience/</a>
<b>Title XVI Program and Desalination Projects</b>	Title XVI Program - <a href="https://usbr.gov/watersmart/title/">usbr.gov/watersmart/title/</a> Desalination Projects - <a href="https://usbr.gov/watersmart/desalination/">usbr.gov/watersmart/desalination/</a>
<b>WaterSMART Grants</b>	Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG) - <a href="https://usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/">usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/</a> Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grants (SWEP) - <a href="https://usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/">usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/</a> Environmental Water Resources Projects - <a href="https://usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/">usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/</a> Water Marketing Strategy Grants - <a href="https://usbr.gov/watersmart/watermarketing/">usbr.gov/watersmart/watermarketing/</a>
<b>Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP)</b>	<a href="https://usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/wtrconsv.html">usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/wtrconsv.html</a>
<b>Drought Response Program</b>	<a href="https://usbr.gov/drought/">usbr.gov/drought/</a>
<b>Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP)</b>	CWMP Phase 1 - <a href="https://usbr.gov/watersmart/cwmp/">usbr.gov/watersmart/cwmp/</a>



# More Information about Funding Opportunities

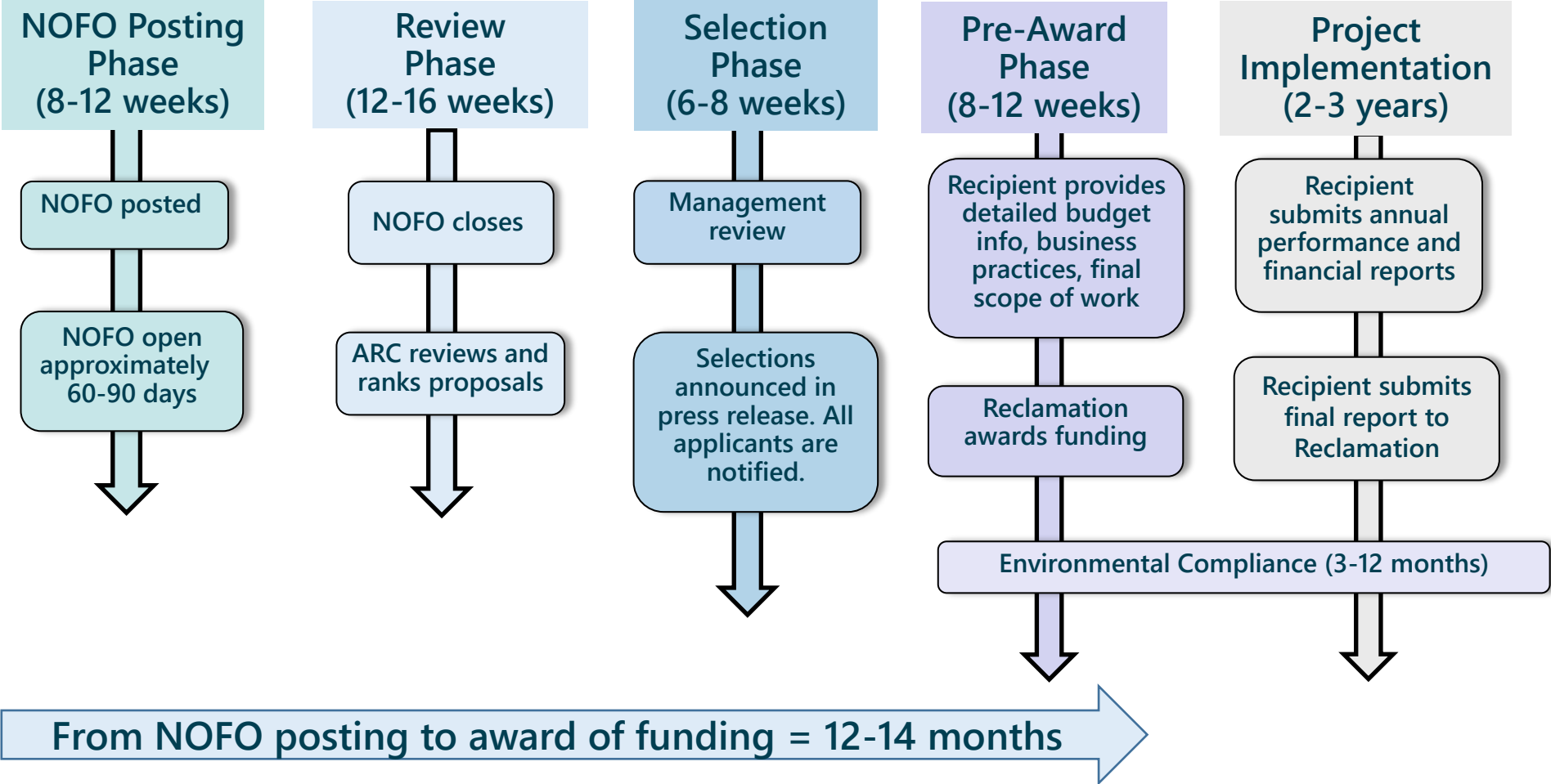
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- WaterSMART funding announcements are posted on the [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov) website.
- Reclamation's WaterSMART Website, Dashboard, and Data Visualization Tool: [usbr.gov/watersmart/](https://usbr.gov/watersmart/)
- To request to receive WaterSMART Program updates, complete the request form on the WaterSMART website. Or, send an email to [watersmart@usbr.gov](mailto:watersmart@usbr.gov).
- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) open or expected in coming months for:
  - Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) (open September 2022)
  - Environmental Water Resources Projects (expected to open in Fall 2022)
  - Water Marketing Strategy Grants (expected to open in January 2023)



# Proposal Selection and Implementation Process

## Sample schedule



# Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance

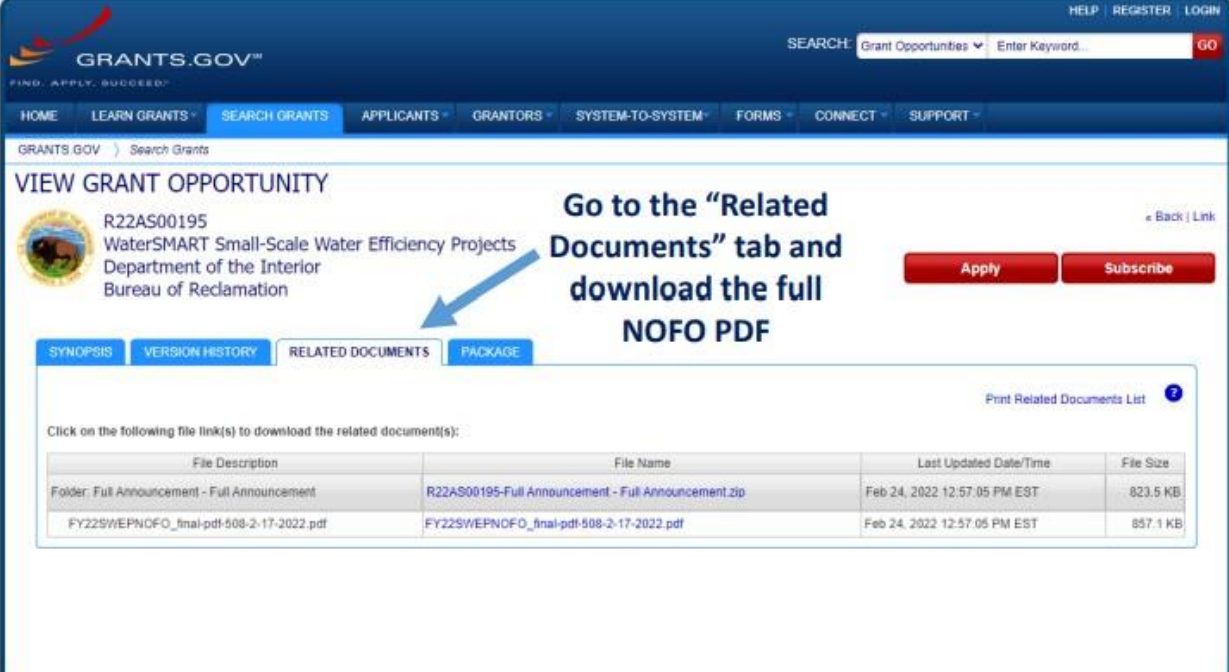
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- All funded projects must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other Federal environmental and cultural resource laws.
- Contact the local Reclamation office to discuss the potential compliance requirements and associated costs.
  - Reclamation assists with covering some or all environmental compliance costs.
  - Local Reclamation offices complete the environmental compliance.
- This compliance must occur before any ground disturbing activities can take place, including installation of meters and similar devices.
- Compliance process typically takes 3 to 12 months.



# Tips for Applicants – Grants.gov

- [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) website has tutorial videos on how to register with and use required systems.
  - Register with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov) well in advance.
  - System for Award Management (SAM) registration must be renewed annually.
- Use the search function to find Reclamation funding opportunities.
- Or search for a specific NOFO by using the funding opportunity number.
- Click on the “Related Documents” tab to download the NOFO’s Full Announcement document (PDF).



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R22AS00195  
WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects  
Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

Go to the “Related Documents” tab and download the full NOFO PDF

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SYNOPSIS VERSION HISTORY RELATED DOCUMENTS PACKAGE

Print Related Documents List

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	R22AS00195-Full Announcement - Full Announcement.zip	Feb 24, 2022 12:57:05 PM EST	823.5 KB
FY22SWEPNOFO_final-pdf-508-2-17-2022.pdf	FY22SWEPNOFO_final-pdf-508-2-17-2022.pdf	Feb 24, 2022 12:57:05 PM EST	857.1 KB



# Tips for Applicants – Evaluation Criteria

## *Crafting grant proposals and submitting applications*

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- Thoroughly read and follow instructions in the funding opportunity!
  - Contact the Program Coordinator listed in the NOFO if you have questions.
- Give yourself plenty of time to write and submit the proposal on time.
  - Copy and paste the Evaluation Criteria from the NOFO into your proposal. (Could use this as an application template.)
  - Focus closely on the Evaluation Criteria, answer all multipart questions, and use the Application Checklist.
  - Thoroughly explain and provide support for your answers.
- Do not assume the Application Review Committee (ARC) knows your entity.
  - Committee is comprised of Reclamation staff from many offices.
- Soon after a new NOFO opens in grants.gov, Reclamation typically hosts an informational webinar about the funding opportunity.





# Tips for Applicants - Budget

*Crafting grant proposals and submitting applications*

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- Cost share must be *non-Federal funding*.
  - State funding through the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) and State Revolving Funds (SRF) loans may count as non-federal cost share, *only if there is no loan forgiveness*.
- Project costs are reimbursed. (Not a lump sum grant.)
- Budget must represent all project costs, including those to be paid with Federal funds and non-Federal funds.
- Reviewers use the budget to confirm their understanding of the project's scope and intended benefits.
- If you have questions as you prepare your proposed budget, send an email to [SHA-DROFAFOA@usbr.gov](mailto:SHA-DROFAFOA@usbr.gov).



# Tips for Applicants – Additional Considerations

## *Crafting grant proposals and submitting applications*

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- Submit applications a few days before the deadline. Late submissions are not accepted.
  - Note: Most deadlines are Denver's time zone, usually 4:00 PM.
- Able to apply for multiple grants.
  - If a *project* is selected for multiple awards, we'll award *one* opportunity providing the most benefit.
  - Most programs have funding limits.
  - Applicants are limited to a total of \$5 million in Federal funding through fiscal year 2023 NOFOs for WEEG, Drought Resiliency Projects, and Environmental Water Resources Projects.
- For large projects, consider doing it in phases and applying for funding in different years.
- If your application is not awarded, ask for a debriefing to help prepare a stronger proposal next time.



# Small Storage Program

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- New competitive grant program for small water storage and groundwater storage projects. NOFO open September 2022.
- Eligible projects:
  - Storage capacity of 2,000 to 30,000 acre-feet
  - Increase surface or groundwater storage; or
  - Convey water, directly or indirectly, to or from surface water or groundwater storage
- Note: A completed feasibility study must be submitted to Reclamation for review and found to meet all requirements. Submission deadline is October 31, 2022.
- Federal Funding:
  - Up to \$30 million or 25% of project costs
- More information:
  - Small Storage Program website: [usbr.gov/smallstorage/](https://usbr.gov/smallstorage/)
  - Join the Program's mailing list (see form on website)
  - Program Coordinator: Carrie Diroll, [cdiroll@usbr.gov](mailto:cdiroll@usbr.gov)



# Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program

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- Managed by Reclamation's Native American and International Affairs Office.
- **Objective:** Reclamation partners with or assists tribes as they develop, manage, and protect their water and related resources.
- **Eligible stormwater and watershed activities:**
  - Stabilizing streambanks and controlling erosion
  - Developing water basin plans
  - Restoring wetlands
  - Short-term water quality or water measurement data collection and assessment
- **Federal Funding:**
  - Up to \$200,000 for 2-year projects
  - No cost share required
- **More information:**
  - Program website: [usbr.gov/native/](https://usbr.gov/native/)
  - Phoenix Area Office Program Manager: Lawrence Marquez, [Imarquez@usbr.gov](mailto:Imarquez@usbr.gov)



# Thank you!

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