USBR Grants List (water)

USBR WaterSMART Applied Science Grants Program
Deadline: July 8, 2026
Amount: Up to $200,000 per project
Match: 50% non-federal cost share required
Eligibility: States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, universities, nonprofits, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority in the Western United States
Link: USBR WaterSMART Applied Science Grants Program
Summary: The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART Applied Science Grants Program provides funding to develop tools and information that improve water management. The program supports projects that enhance water supply reliability, water quality, and overall water resource management through the application of scientific research and data-driven decision-making tools.
Key Program Goals:

- **Improving Water Supply Reliability**: Develop and apply scientific tools and models to enhance water management and improve the efficiency of water delivery systems.
- **Enhancing Water Quality**: Support projects that assess and improve water quality, benefiting ecosystems and water users.
- **Supporting Climate Change Adaptation**: Fund projects that help communities adapt to climate change by improving their ability to manage and predict water availability.
- **Data-Driven Decision Making**: Provide tools and information to assist water managers in making more informed decisions.

- **Eligible Projects**:
  - **Water Modeling and Forecasting**: Projects that use models or forecasting tools to predict water supply and improve management.
  - **Water Quality Assessment**: Projects focused on monitoring and improving water quality through scientific tools.
  - **Climate Change Adaptation Tools**: Developing models or decision-support tools to address climate variability and long-term water sustainability.
  - **Data Sharing and Collaboration**: Projects that create platforms for sharing water management data among agencies, researchers, and stakeholders.

USBR: Drought Resiliency Projects
Deadline: July 28, 2026
Amount: Up to $5 million per project
Match: 50% non-federal cost share required
Eligibility: States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority in the Western United States or Alaska
Link: USBR Drought Resiliency Projects
Summary: The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Drought Resiliency Projects grant program offers

funding to help communities in the Western United States and Alaska build resilience to drought. The program focuses on long-term infrastructure improvements to enhance water supply reliability, increase drought preparedness, and reduce the need for emergency drought response actions.

Key Program Goals:

- **Enhance Water Supply Reliability**: Improve water storage, conveyance, and distribution systems to boost water supply reliability during droughts.
- **Boost Drought Preparedness**: Help communities prepare for future droughts by reducing their vulnerability to water shortages.
- **Promote Infrastructure Resilience**: Fund projects that strengthen infrastructure, ensuring it can withstand and recover from drought impacts.

Eligible Projects:

- **Water Management**: Upgrading water storage, conveyance, and distribution systems.
- **Water Conservation**: Implementing irrigation efficiency measures and reducing water losses.
- **Water Supply Augmentation**: Developing new water sources like groundwater storage and water reuse systems.
- **Infrastructure Resilience**: Enhancing infrastructure to ensure long-term water supply sustainability.

USBR: Desalination Construction Projects

Deadline: August 26, 2026

Amount: Varies based on project scope

Match: Typically requires a 75% non-federal cost share

Eligibility: States, Indian tribes, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority

Link: https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/362396

Summary: This funding opportunity supports desalination projects to create new water supplies in areas facing water scarcity, enhancing the sustainability of water resources in the Western United States.

USBR: Title XVI Reclamation and Reuse Projects

Deadline: August 26th, 2026 and 2027

Amount: Varies based on project scope

Match: Typically requires a 75% non-federal cost share

Eligibility: States, Indian tribes, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority

Link: USBR Title XVI WIIN Act Projects

Summary: he WaterSMART Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects NOFO invites eligible applicants to submit proposals for the planning, design, and/or construction of water reclamation and reuse projects. Title XVI projects develop and supplement urban and irrigation water supplies through water reuse, which provides growing communities with new sources of clean water, increases water management flexibility during times of shortage, and makes the water supply more reliable.

USBR: WaterSMART Enhancing Water Resources Projects

Deadline: September 9th, 2026

Amount: Min $50,000, Max $3,000,000

Match: 25%

Eligibility: States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority in the Western United States

Link: https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/362394
Summary: The objective of the WaterSMART Enhancing Water Resources Projects funding opportunity is to invite eligible entities to apply for funding to implement projects per the authorizing language referenced above that benefit water resource management for multiple uses, including water conservation and efficiency projects, water infrastructure improvements, and river and watershed restoration. Projects that balance numerous community interests (agriculture, recreation, fisheries, power, etc.), were developed collaboratively, and provide significant watershed benefits will be prioritized under this funding opportunity.

USBR WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program
Deadline: TBD
Amount: Varies depending on project scope and available funding
Match: 50% non-federal cost share required
Eligibility: States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, nonprofit organizations, and other entities with water or power delivery authority in the Western United States
Link: USBR WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program

Summary: The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program provides funding for projects that improve the health of aquatic ecosystems. The program supports efforts to restore aquatic habitats, enhance water quality, and protect native species while improving water management and reducing conflicts over water resources.

Key Program Goals:

- **Aquatic Habitat Restoration**: Restore degraded aquatic ecosystems, including rivers, streams, wetlands, and riparian zones, to support biodiversity and ecological health.
- **Water Quality Enhancement**: Improve water quality in aquatic ecosystems by reducing pollutants and addressing factors that degrade habitat conditions.
- **Native Species Protection**: Fund projects that protect and enhance habitat for native aquatic species, including threatened and endangered species.
- **Sustainable Water Management**: Promote integrated water management practices that balance ecosystem health with water supply reliability.

Eligible Projects:

- **Habitat Restoration**: Projects to restore natural flow regimes, reconnect floodplains, and re-establish native vegetation in riparian areas.
- **Fish Passage Improvements**: Implement fish ladders, remove barriers, or restore stream connectivity to improve fish migration routes.
- **Water Quality Improvement**: Fund projects that reduce nutrient loading, erosion, or sedimentation in aquatic ecosystems.
- **Invasive Species Management**: Remove invasive species that threaten native aquatic habitats and reintroduce native species where appropriate.

Important Considerations:

- Applicants must provide a 50% non-federal match.

- Projects must demonstrate measurable benefits to aquatic ecosystems, water quality, and habitat conditions.
- Collaboration with multiple stakeholders, including local governments, non-profits, and other agencies, is encouraged to maximize project impacts.

USBR: Planning and Project Design Grants
Deadline: TBD Summer 2025.
Amount: Varies depending on project scope
Match: 50% non-federal cost share required
Eligibility: States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority in the Western United States
Link: USBR Planning and Project Design Grants Program
Summary: The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Planning and Project Design Grants provide funding for the development of comprehensive project designs, feasibility studies, and preliminary planning activities for water resource management and infrastructure improvement projects. These grants help ensure that projects are well-planned, efficient, and sustainable, and are crucial for advancing larger-scale infrastructure efforts to improve water supply reliability and environmental outcomes.
Key Program Goals:
- **Project Planning and Design**: Support the detailed planning and design of water infrastructure projects to improve water supply, water quality, and drought resilience.
- **Feasibility Studies**: Fund technical and economic feasibility studies to assess the viability of water management projects.
- **Sustainable Water Management**: Encourage the development of projects that enhance water sustainability and resilience to climate change.

Eligible Projects:
- **Preliminary Engineering**: Design and feasibility studies for new or upgraded water infrastructure projects.
- **Water Management Strategies**: Planning for projects that improve water storage, conveyance, conservation, and reuse.
- **Ecosystem Restoration Planning**: Design of projects aimed at restoring aquatic ecosystems and improving water quality for environmental purposes.

USBR Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) Phase I
Deadline: TBD
Amount: Up to $200,000 per applicant, with funding distributed over a 2-year period
Match: No match required for Phase I
Eligibility: Watershed groups, including states, Indian tribes, local and special districts, nonprofit organizations, and other groups that represent a variety of stakeholders
Link: USBR Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I

Summary: The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) Phase I provides funding to support the creation and development of locally led watershed groups. These groups are focused on improving water management and resolving conflicts in watersheds across the Western United States.

Key Program Goals:

- **Watershed Group Development**: Support the formation of new watershed groups or expand the capacity of existing ones.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration**: Encourage collaboration between diverse stakeholders, including federal, state, tribal, and local entities, to address water resource challenges.
- **Water Management Solutions**: Promote the development of projects and plans that improve water management and resolve water-related conflicts.
- **Sustainable Watershed Management**: Foster long-term solutions for watershed health and sustainability.

Eligible Activities:

- **Watershed Group Formation**: Support the creation of new watershed groups or enhance existing groups.
- **Stakeholder Outreach**: Provide resources for engaging and collaborating with local, state, and federal stakeholders.
- **Watershed Management Planning**: Develop watershed management plans or carry out activities that lead to project planning and implementation.

USBR: WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG) Program
Deadline: TBD Fall 2026
Amount: Up to $5 million per project
Match: 50% non-federal cost share required
Eligibility: States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority in the Western United States, as well as partnering nonprofit conservation organizations.
Link: USBR WaterSMART WEEG Program | Grants.gov Listing
Summary: The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG) program offers funding to help entities conserve water, increase water efficiency, and boost renewable energy production. The program seeks to address water shortages, mitigate future conflicts over water resources, and contribute to water supply sustainability in the Western United States.
Key Program Goals:

- **Water Conservation and Efficiency**: Support projects that conserve and use water more efficiently, benefiting both municipal and agricultural water systems.
- **Renewable Energy Production**: Increase the production of renewable energy in conjunction with water management infrastructure, such as hydropower or solar-powered systems.
- **Drought and Conflict Mitigation**: Fund projects that reduce the risk of future water conflicts in areas prone to water shortages.
- **Sustainable Water Supply**: Contribute to the long-term sustainability of water supplies in the Western United States through improved water management practices.

Eligible Projects:

- **Advanced Metering Systems**: Install water meters and automation systems, such as SCADA, to monitor and control water usage.
- **Irrigation Efficiency**: Convert open canals to pipelines, upgrade irrigation systems, and implement other technologies that enhance water efficiency.
- **Renewable Energy Projects**: Install renewable energy systems, such as hydropower or solar, to power water infrastructure projects.
- **Water Recycling and Reuse**: Fund systems that recycle and reuse water to reduce the overall

demand on fresh water supplies.

USBR: Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects
Deadline: TBD Spring 2027
Amount: Varies based on project scope
Match: Typically requires a 75% non-federal cost share
Eligibility: States, Indian tribes, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority
Link: USBR Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects
Summary: 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 7, 2025): Improving Oversight in Federal Grantmaking (E.O. 14332). The goal of the WaterSMART Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects funding opportunity is to invite eligible entities to apply for up to 25% Federal cost share for the planning, design, and construction of water recycling projects that have a total project cost greater than or equal to $500 million.

USBR: WaterSmart Small-Scale WEE Grant:
Deadline: TBD Spring 2027
Amount: up to $100,000
Match: Yes 50%
Link: https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/index.html
Through the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects (SWEP) Reclamation provides 50/50 cost share funding to irrigation and water districts, tribes, states and other entities with water or power delivery authority for small water efficiency improvements that have been identified through previous planning efforts. Projects eligible for funding include installation of flow measurement or automation in a specific part of a water delivery system, lining of a section of a canal to address seepage, or other similar projects that are limited in scope.