

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

## WaterSMART Program History & Purpose

- Established by Secretarial Order 3297
- Established WaterSMART Task Force to carryout implementation of the Program
- Includes participation from the U.S. Geological Survey as well as coordination across all other Department of the Interior Bureaus

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## WaterSMART Program History & Purpose

- Includes:
  - WaterSMART Grants
  - Basin Study Program
  - Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program
  - **Cooperative Watershed Management Program**
  - Water Conservation Field Services Program
  - WaterSMART Clearinghouse
  
- Important to Reclamation’s implementation of P.L. 111-11, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, including:
  - The SECURE Water Act (P.L. 111-11, Title IX, Subtitle F),

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## WaterSMART Program Funding

Program (\$ Thousands)	FY 2011 Budget	FY 2012 Budget	FY 2013 Request
WaterSMART Grants	\$33,046	\$12,233	\$21,500
<b>Cooperative Watershed Management Program <sup>1/</sup></b>	--	<b>247</b>	<b>250</b>
Basin Study Program	8,288	4,928	6,000
Title XVI Program	20,542	19,333	20,271
Water Conservation Field Services Program <sup>2/</sup>		5,047	5,886
<b>WaterSMART Program Total</b>	<b>\$72,387</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

<sup>1/</sup> The Cooperative Watershed Management Program and ongoing <sup>2/</sup> Water Conservation Field Services Program were included in the WaterSMART Program beginning in FY 2012. Prior to FY 2012, Water Conservation Field Services Program was listed as a bureau-wide program.

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# Cooperative Watershed Management Program

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## Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- The Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) is a Department-led initiative authorized in the Cooperative Watershed Management Act (PL 111-11, Sections 6001-03) (the Act) in 2009.
- The purpose of the CWMP is to improve water quality and ecological resilience, and to reduce conflicts over water at the watershed level, by supporting the formation of watershed groups to develop local solutions to address water management issues.

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## Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- Through the CWMP Reclamation will provide financial assistance to establish and expand collaborative watershed groups and to fund watershed management projects, including restoration projects.
- Implementation of the Cooperative Watershed Management Program is planned to begin on a pilot scale in FY 2012, contingent on appropriations
  - In FY 2012, funding will be made available through a funding opportunity focused on Phase I activities, to establish or expand existing watershed groups.

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## Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- Cooperative Watershed Management Act, P.L. 111-11, Sections 6003-6006
  - Defined: a “watershed group” as a self-sustaining, non-regulatory, consensus-based group composed of a diverse array of stakeholders, which may include, but is not limited to:
    - Private property owners
    - Any Federal, State, or local agency that has authority with respect to the watershed
    - Indian tribes

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## Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- Reclamation posted a Notice of Availability for the draft FOA for Phase I activities on the Federal Register on November 4, 2011.
- Responses to comments posted in February 2012.
- FOA for phase I posted late February 2012.

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## Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- **Funding:**
  - Up to \$50,000 per year, for a period of up to two years.
  - cost-share contribution is not required for Phase I activities
- **Eligibility:**
  - Applicants eligible for Phase I funding will include: States, Indian tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation and water districts, county soil conservation districts, etc.), local governmental entities, and non-profit organizations.
  - Applicants must also be located within the 17 western states; significantly affect or be affected by the quality or quantity of water in a watershed; and be capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources within the given watershed.
  - Individuals, for-profit organizations or companies, universities, and Federal governmental entities are not eligible for funding under this FOA.

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## Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- ***Prioritization criteria under this FOA include:***
  - the diversity and geographic scope of the proposed watershed group;
  - the critical nature of the issues to be addressed by the group;
  - whether the proposed group (or its proposed activities) is aligned with a state water plan;
  - whether the amount of funding requested is reasonable for the work proposed; and
  - whether the proposed schedule and milestones are reasonable and appropriate.
  
- ***The FOA will also prioritize proposals that establish a nexus to a Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC).***
  - Applicants that are not participating in an LCC are still eligible to apply, but those who can demonstrate involvement in an LCC, or that proposed activities are aligned with the goals of an LCC in the area, will receive more points.

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## Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- When additional funding is available, Reclamation will expand implementation of the CWMP to include funding for Phase II and Phase III watershed management projects through a separate FOA.
  - **Watershed management projects eligible for funding include projects that:**
    - Enhance water conservation
    - Improve water quality and ecological resilience
    - Reduce water conflicts
    - Advance other goals related to water quality and quantity
  
- A 50% non-Federal cost share is required for Phase II and III activities.

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ANY QUESTIONS?



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