



DOI Priority Goal Action Plan

Water Conservation and Supply Enhancement

Goal Leader: Brenda Burman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

Deputy Goal Leader: Robert Wolf, Director of Program and Budget, BOR

Overview

Goal Statement

- By September 30, 2021, the Bureau of Reclamation will facilitate water conservation capacity of 114,108 acre-feet to help reduce the impact of drought.

Challenge

- The Nation faces an increasing set of water resource challenges: aging water-related infrastructure, rapid population growth, and depletion of groundwater resources.
- Water issues and challenges are especially increasing in the West due to prolonged drought.
- The primary challenges and risks that influence achievement of the Priority Goal include the availability of water measurement data, state water laws, ability to complete environmental compliance, and local cost-sharing ability.

Opportunity

- A sustainable water supply would help address current and future water shortages, degraded water quality, demands for water/energy from growing populations, and water inequity for Indian tribes and rural communities disadvantaged by financial need or geographic isolation.

Leadership & Implementation Team

**Goal Leader: Brenda Burman,
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation**

**Deputy Goal Leader: Robert Wolf,
Director of Program and Budget**

WaterSMART Grants	Title XVI and WaterSMART Desalination Construction	CALFED Water Conservation Grants	Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Josh German -- Program Coordinator• Dean Marrone -- Manager, Water Resources and Planning Division• One regional coordinator for each of Reclamation's five regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amanda Erath -- Program Coordinator• Dean Marrone -- Manager, Water Resources and Planning Division• One regional coordinator for each of Reclamation's five regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anna Sutton Program Coordinator• Heather Casillas Branch Chief, Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brianna Pitcock Program Coordinator• Jaimee Turner Regional Program Coordinator

Goal Structure & Strategies

Implementation strategy overview

In facilitating water conservation, Reclamation will negotiate formal agreements or provide cost-shared grants on a competitive basis for the following types of on-the-ground projects:

- Projects that line or pipe canals, resulting in conserved water.
- Projects that improve irrigation flow measurement accuracy and result in reduced spills and over-deliveries.
- Projects that include the installation of automated systems, such as components that allow for remote operation of gates or remote monitoring of delivery system conditions to increase efficiency.
- Other similar water efficiency and conservation projects that save water, mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of water conflict, and accomplish other benefits to increase the reliability of existing supplies.

All pending agreements and grant proposals will be evaluated using criteria that give priority to projects that save the most water, address how water savings will help to address water supply sustainability, complement on-farm irrigation improvements, implement improvements connected to existing Reclamation activities, and exceed the minimum 50 percent non-Federal cost share requirement.

Summary of Progress – FY 2020 Q3

- **Level of Results Achieved**

- One milestone previously due is delayed until Q4. Two milestones planned for Q4 were completed ahead schedule.

- **Likelihood of Success**

- High

- **Basis for the Assessment**

- This goal is on target for accomplishment based on past experience with this process.

- **Actions planned to ensure achievement of the goal**

- No additional actions required at this time.

Key Milestones

FY 2020 Milestone Summary								
Key Milestone	Planned Q1	Actual Q1	Planned Q2	Actual Q2	Planned Q3	Actual Q3	Planned Q4	Comments
WaterSMART Grants								
Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) released	12/31/19	8/6/19						
First level review of proposals complete	12/31/19	11/1/19						
Final selection of projects			3/31/20	2/18/20				
Funding awarded							9/30/20	
Title XVI								
FOA released		12/19/19	3/31/20					
First level review of proposals complete							9/30/20	
Final selection of projects						6/8/20	9/30/20	
Funding awarded							9/30/20	
California Federal Bay-Delta (CALFED)								
FOA released	12/31/19	12/2/19						
First level review of proposals complete		12/18/19	3/31/20					
Final selection of projects							9/30/20	
Funding awarded							9/30/20	
Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project								
Award FY 2020 for Phase II construction						5/6/20	9/30/20	
WaterSMART Desalination Construction Projects								
FOA released			3/31/20				9/30/20	Milestone was not met. The FY 2019 project selections are still under review by OMB. The FY 2020 FOA cannot be released until FY 2019 project selections are transmitted to Congress and project sponsors are notified.
First level review of proposals complete							9/30/20	
Final selection of projects							9/30/20	
Funding awarded							9/30/20	

Key Milestones

FY 2021 Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Planned Q1	Planned Q2	Planned Q3	Planned Q4	Comments
WaterSMART Grants					
Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) released	12/31/20				
First level review of proposals complete	12/31/20				
Final selection of projects		3/31/21			
Funding awarded				9/30/21	
TitleXVI					
FOA released		3/31/21			
First level review of proposals complete					
Final selection of projects					
Funding awarded					
CALFED					
FOA released	12/31/20				
First level review of proposals complete		3/31/21			
Final selection of projects			6/30/21		
Funding awarded				9/30/21	
Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project					
Funding awarded for Phase II construction				9/30/21	
WaterSMART Desalination Construction Projects					
FOA released		3/31/21			
First level review of proposals complete				9/30/21	
Final selection of projects				9/30/21	
Funding awarded				9/30/21	

Key Indicators

Estimated Acre-feet of Potential Water Savings						
(As of June 30, 2020)						
	FY 2020		FY 2021		Cumulative through FY 2021	
Water Conservation & Supply Enhancement	Planned	Q3 Estimate from Project Proposals	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
WaterSMART Grants	70,000	90,000	8,000		78,000	
Title XVI	20,000	18,000	0		20,000	
CALFED	4,000	0	4,000		8,000	
YRBWEP	554	553	554		1,108	
WaterSMART Desalination Construction Program	3,500	4,965	3,500		7,000	
Total	98,054	113,518	16,054		114,108	

Data Accuracy and Reliability

Means used to verify and validate measured values: Reclamation developed an application review committee (ARC) comprised of technical experts from across Reclamation to review proposals for funding. ARC members read and evaluate applications individually, using a pre-determined evaluation criteria. During these “consensus sessions” ARC members are encouraged to reach a general agreement on scores for each individual criterion and on the amount of water savings for which an applicant is given credit.

Data Sources Each fiscal year, Reclamation reports the water savings expected from water conservation activities funded that year toward the Department of the Interior’s Priority Goal for Water Conservation. Water savings for each funded project are based on estimates of the number of acre-feet expected to be conserved each year once that project becomes operational. The estimates are provided by non-Federal project sponsors and are based on water measurement and accounting records, calculations by the project sponsor’s engineering sources, hydrologic modeling, statistical analysis of historic climatic data, and other information.

Level of accuracy required for the intended use of the data: Reclamation requires documentation on how a water savings estimate provided in an application was derived. Each year’s funding opportunity announcement describes in detail the types of data / documentation necessary for an applicant’s water savings estimate to be accepted. The ARC determines the additional data / documentation supporting the estimate that is necessary; the ARC evaluates the additional information provided and if inadequate documentation is provided for a particular project, Reclamation does not include water savings from the project in Priority Goal reporting.

Limitations to the data at the required level of accuracy: Since water savings estimates are provided by non-Federal project sponsors prior to undertaking the actual project, it is still possible that, despite a rigorous application review, that the actual water savings might vary from the estimate.

How the agency has compensated for such limitations if needed to reach the required level of accuracy: In order to improve on the accuracy of water savings estimates on the front end, Reclamation makes a concerted effort to improve the application and review each year. Applicants are required to include performance measures or methods of quantifying project benefits.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs: The following programs assist Reclamation in accomplishing its goal to enable capability to increase available water supply for agricultural, municipal, industrial, and environmental uses in the western United States:

- *WaterSMART Grants:* Reclamation provides competitive WaterSMART Grants that provide up to 50% of the cost of on-the-ground projects to save water, increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in water management, address environmental issues, recover endangered species, and facilitate transfers to new uses.
- *Title XVI Program:* Through the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program, authorized by P.L.102-575 in 1992, Reclamation provides financial and technical assistance to local water agencies for the planning, design, and construction of water recycling and reuse projects, thereby improving efficiency, providing flexibility during water shortages, and diversifying the water supply.
- *CALFED Water Conservation Grants:* CALFED is a combined State of California and Federal program focused on the restoration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta's ecosystem while improving water supply reliability for urban and agricultural water users. CALFED includes the implementation of cost-effective water conservation actions that provide state-wide benefits.
- *Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP):* Under the YRBWEP, Reclamation evaluates and implements structural and nonstructural measures to increase the reliability of the irrigation water supply and enhance streamflows and fish passage in the Yakima River basin.
- *WaterSMART Desalination Construction Program:* The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act provides new authority to develop a program that will provide a path for ocean/brackish water desalination projects to receive Federal funding, in 2019.

Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations: Reclamation works collaboratively with non-federal, state, local and tribal governments, water districts, and other entities on a cost-shared basis to implement water management and conservation projects in the 17 Western states.

- Through the water conservation program oversight and through stakeholder engagement, Reclamation utilizes feedback into its conservation efforts to implement enhanced methodologies during program formulation. For example, based on applicant feedback, Reclamation revised the Title XVI funding opportunity to make it easier for applicants to request funding for ongoing work without having to break it into project phases. Similarly, Reclamation published the WaterSMART Strategic Implementation Plan in the Federal Register in March 2011 and incorporated comments into the final document.