Walla Walla Policy, Funding, and Outreach Working Group- Federal Funding Resources

Thursday, April 28, 2022
9am – 11am
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation: WaterSMART

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WaterSMART: Drought Response Program
Background

- NOFO is for drought resiliency projects
- State, Tribe, irrigation and water districts (+ partner NGOs) eligible
- Up to $5M per project, allocated through three distinct groups
- For projects to be completed in 2-3 years
- 50% non-federal cost share required
- Proposal deadline is June 15, 2022 at 3 p.m. pacific
- Notification anticipated in fall of 2022 with award by 3/31/2023
WaterSMART: Drought Response Program

Project Purposes

• Enable water managers to deliver water & power during drought
• Provide water managers flexibility during drought
• Reduce the need for emergency response actions
• Build long-term resilience to drought
• Part of a long-term planning effort
  • Ecology’s 2018 Drought Contingency Plan
Project Types

- Infrastructure improvements
- Groundwater recovery to supplement supplies during times of drought (including MAR and ASR)
- Decision support tools, modeling, and measurement
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

1.03: Direct additional winter flow down the Little Walla Walla
1.05: Improve and expand managed aquifer recharge
1.08: Decrease surface water diversions or substitute for basalt wells
1.13: Expand and support aquifer storage and recovery
1.15: Expand and fund streamflow gages
1.17: Increase infiltration of stormwater
1.20: Improve agricultural irrigation water use metering
WaterSMART: Environmental Water Resources Projects
Background

• New Program, first NOFO closed in December 2021
• State, Tribe, irrigation and water districts (+ partner NGOs) eligible
• Up to $2M per project
• For projects to be completed in 3 years
• 25% to 50% non-federal cost share depending on three requirements
• Anticipated funding for 15-20 projects
• Notification anticipated in spring of 2022 with award by fall
Project Purposes

- Generate quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values
- Mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values
- Benefit ecological values that have a nexus to water resources/management
Project Types

- Water conservation and efficiency projects;
- Water management or infrastructure improvements
- Watershed management or restoration projects
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

1.01: Reconnect floodplain and restore channel complexity
1.03: Direct additional winter flow down the Little Walla Walla
1.05: Improve and expand managed aquifer recharge
1.06: Improve weired and concrete channel sections in Mill Creek
1.07: Restore and protect riparian habitat
1.08: Decrease surface water diversions or substitute for basalt wells
1.09, 1.12, 1.19, & 1.23: Improve fish passage and implement levee setback projects
1.13: Expand and support aquifer storage and recovery
1.17: Increase stormwater infiltration
WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Background

- Last NOFO closed in November 2021
- State, Tribe, irrigation and water districts (+ partner NGOs) eligible
- Up to $500K-$2M per project, allocated through two funding groups
- For projects to be completed in 2-3 years
- 50% non-federal cost share required
- Notification anticipated in spring of 2022 with award by fall
Project Purposes

• Conserve and use water more efficiently
• Increase hydropower production
• Mitigate conflict risk
• Contribute to water supply reliability in the western U.S.
WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

**Project Types**

- Canal lining/piping
- Municipal metering
- Irrigation flow measurement
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation
- Landscape irrigation measures
- High-efficiency indoor appliances and fixtures
- Commercial cooling systems
- Hydropower
- Solar, wind energy
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

1.15: Expand and fund streamflow gages
1.20: Improve agricultural irrigation water use metering
WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
Background

• NOFO is for small water efficiency improvements identified through previous local planning efforts
• State, Tribe, irrigation and water districts (+ partner NGOs) eligible
• Up to $100K per project, with total project costs $225K or less
• 50% non-federal cost share required
• Anticipated funding for 50-70 projects
• Proposal deadline is April 28, 2022 at 3 p.m. pacific
• Notification anticipated in fall of 2022 with award by April 2023
Project Purposes

• Increase water supply reliability
• Increase collaboration between sectors, including with NRCS
WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Project Types

- Canal lining/piping
- Municipal metering
- Irrigation flow measurement
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation
- Landscape irrigation measures
- High-efficiency indoor appliances and fixtures
- Commercial cooling systems
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

1.15: Expand and fund streamflow gages
1.20: Improve agricultural irrigation water use metering
WaterSMART: Water Marketing Strategy Grants
Background

- State, Tribe, irrigation and water districts (+ partner NGOs) eligible
- Funding for collaborative planning efforts to develop or expand water markets
  - Up to $200K for efforts to be completed within 2 years
    - Smaller scope, less complex
  - Up to $400K for efforts to be completed within 3 years
    - Larger scope, more complex
- 50% non-federal cost share required
Project Purposes

• Address water supply reliability
• Increase water management flexibility
• Meet demands efficiently during times of shortage
• Help prevent conflicts
Project Types

• Development of a water marketing strategy to establish or expand
  • Current water markets
  • Water marketing activities
• Planning activities that support development of a water marketing strategy, include pilot activities
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

1.03: Direct additional winter flow down the Little Walla Walla
1.04: Water rights acquisitions to restore streamflow
1.08: Decrease surface water diversions or substitute for basalt wells
1.13: Expand and support aquifer storage and recovery
WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program
Background

- CWMP Phase I to support water group, planning, and project design
  - Past Phase II for project implementation supplanted by new EWRP
- State, Tribe, irrigation and water districts (+ partner NGOs) eligible
- Up to $200K per project
- For projects to be completed in 2 years ($100K/year)
- No non-federal cost share required
- Anticipated funding for 15-20 projects
- Notification anticipated in spring of 2022 with award by January 2023
Project Purposes

• Encourage diverse stakeholders to form local solutions
• Support development of a watershed group, complete restoration planning, design restoration projects
• Promote water reliability and cooperation to reduce conflict
• Facilitate solutions to complex water issues
• Stretch limited water supplies
Project Types

• Outreach
• Planning
• Project design
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

- Any strategy for which additional outreach, planning, and design work is necessary for progress
Background

- Completed to identify strategies to address imbalances in water supply and demand
WaterSMART: Basin Studies

Project Purposes

• Make state-of-the-art projections of future supply and demand
• Analyze how water and power operations/infrastructure will perform in the face of changing hydrology
• Develop strategies to meet current and future water demands
• Analyze trade-offs of identified strategies
Project Types

• Partner with irrigation districts and other water users to understand future changes in watershed condition

• Study how changes may affect basin hydrology and impact water supply and demand

• Analyze and prioritize appropriate response strategies
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

Per 2/10/2022 letter of interest to Reclamation, Walla Walla basin study would:

• Review previous work and assess whether all water demands are fully considered
• Assess how water from the Columbia might be used relative to existing diversions
• Analyze water supply challenges and opportunities and alternatives to address imbalances
• Develop conceptualized facility plans
• Discuss regulator and institutional framework for implementing strategy
WaterSMART: Title XVI
WaterSMART: Title XVI

Background

- Water recycling and reuse projects authorized for funding by Congress under *Title XVI of P.L. 102-575*
- Must have a completed feasibility study found by Congress to meet all of the requirements of Reclamation’s Manual Release WTR 11-01
- Funding for planning, design, and/or construction
- 75% non-federal cost share required
- Up to $20M allocated per project
- NOFO issued for eligible projects to request cost-sharing funding
Project Purposes

- Generate new sources of clean water
- Stretch limited water supplies in the western U.S.
- Develop and supplement urban and irrigation water supplies
- Diversify water supply
- Provide flexibility during water shortages
Project Types

• Aquifer and groundwater recharge (see Kitsap County Recycled Water Facility Plan)
• Recycled water system
• Treatment plant upgrade
• Reverse osmosis facility
• Desalination project
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

1.03: Direct additional winter flow down the Little Walla Walla
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## U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Watershed Protection & Flood Prevention Program
Watershed Protection & Flood Protection Program

Background

• Authorized under *PL 566*, originally enacted in 1954
• Supports local sponsors (federal, state, tribal, and local governments)
• Funds planning and implementing watershed projects
• Funding provided through congressional appropriations
• NRCS which provides financial & technical assistance
• Pertains to watersheds up to 250,000 acres in size
• A watershed plan is required to receive funding
• Agricultural benefits must be at least 20% of total
Watershed Protection & Flood Protection Program

**Project Purposes**

- Erosion and sediment control
- Watershed protection
- Flood prevention
- Water quality improvements
- Rural, municipal and industrial water supply
- Water management
- Fish and wildlife habitat enhancement
- Hydropower sources
Project Types

- Land treatment solutions
  - Riparian buffer
  - Marsh and wetland
  - Floodplain
  - Lake fringe and river geomorphology
  - Upland

- Structural solutions, which require construction
  - Flood control dams, levees, dikes, and diversions
  - Water management, including irrigation infrastructure
  - Groundwater recharge, including diversion, injection, and storage
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

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1.03: Direct additional winter flow down the Little Walla Walla
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1.06: Improve weired and concrete channel sections in Mill Creek
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1.08: Decrease surface water diversions or substitute for basalt wells
1.09, 1.12, 1.19, & 1.23: Improve fish passage and implement levee setback projects
1.13: Expand and support aquifer storage and recovery
NRCS: Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
NRCS: Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Background

• Authorized by 2014 Farm Bill, restructured in 2018
• $300 million in funding per year
• Co-investments with partners on innovative conservation projects
• Partners apply for project awards, NRCS works with partners to set aside funding pools, then producers/landowners enter into contracts to carry out agreed-upon activities
• NRCS goal that partner contributions at least equal NRCS investment in a project
• Two funding pools – Critical Conservation Areas (CCA) and state/multistate
  • Walla Walla watershed is within western waters CCA
• Application deadline for 2022: April 13th, 2022
  • Also will offered in 2023
Project Purposes

- To expand collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns
- Promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners
- Program flexibility
- Projects that integrate multiple conservation approaches, implement innovative approaches/technologies, and/or build new partnerships
- Activities implemented by local farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners
NRCS: Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Project Types

• Land management, land improvement, restoration practices
• Land rentals
• Entity-held easements
• United States-held easements
• Public works/watersheds
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

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1.13: Expand and support aquifer storage and recovery
1.17: Increase infiltration of stormwater
1.20: Improve agricultural irrigation water use metering and reporting programs
1.22: Implement conservation tillage and soil erosion BMPs
NRCS: Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
NRCS: Conservation Stewardship Program

Background

• Authorized by 2008 Farm Bill, reauthorized in 2014 and 2018
• Administered by NRCS – provides financial and technical assistance
• Available to all agricultural producers in all 50 states regardless of operation size or type of crop
• For working landscapes – private/Tribal agricultural lands, nonindustrial private forest land, farmsteads, public lands, etc.
  • Land must be compliant with USDA’s highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions to be eligible
• Sign up deadline for all ranking pools and renewals – April 15, 2022
• Contracts last 5 years – receive payments for existing and additional conservation activity
• As of January 2022 – CSP updated to allow an agricultural producer to immediately re-enroll in the program after contract expiration
NRCS: Conservation Stewardship Program

Project Purposes

• Increased crop productivity
• Enhanced resilience to weather and market volatility
• Decreased need for agricultural inputs
• Improved wildlife habitat conditions
NRCS: Conservation Stewardship Program

**Project Types**

- **Enhancements** – 140 to choose from (examples below)
  - Conservation crop rotation
  - No-till or reduced till agriculture
  - Riparian herbaceous cover and stream shading
  - Grazing management
  - Stream corridor bank stability and vegetation
  - Stream crossing removal
  - Establish and maintain wildlife habitat
  - Stream habitat improvement through placement of woody biomass
- **Comprehensive conservation plan** – new activity under 2018 Farm Bill
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

1.09, 1.12, 1.19, & 1.23: improve fish passage
1.22: Implement conservation tillage and soil erosion BMPs
NRCS: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
NRCS: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Background

- First authorized in 1996 Farm Bill, has been reauthorized in each subsequent Farm Bill
- 2018 Farm Bill increased funding available - up to $2 billion by 2023
- Administered by NRCS – provides financial and technical assistance
- Historically underserved participants are eligible for advance payments of at least 50% of payment amount (as of 2018 Farm Bill)
- Application dates for 2023 (state-specific): TBD though expected in Fall
- Contains specific initiatives within EQIP:
  - High Tunnel, Organic, Air Quality, Landscape, On-Farm Energy, Conservation Innovation, and Colorado Basin River Salinity initiatives
Project Purposes

• To provide agricultural producers one-on-one financial and technical assistance to plan and implement conservation practices
• Address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits:
  • Improved water and air quality,
  • Conserved surface and groundwater,
  • Increased soil health, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation,
  • Improved or created wildlife habitat
  • Mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility
• Conservation Incentive Contracts (CICs) focus on climate-smart forestry and agriculture and drought resilience management practices
NRCS: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Project Types

• NRCS offers ~200 unique practices designed for working farms, ranches, and forests
• FY2022 – activity types broken down into 3 categories:
  • Conservation Planning Activities (CPAs)
  • Design and Implementation Activities (DIAs)
  • Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities (CEMAs)
• Popular practices:
  • Cover crops
  • Forest stand improvement
  • Prescribed grazing
  • Irrigation
NRCS: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

1.22: Implement conservation tillage and soil erosion BMPs
NRCS: Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)
NRCS: Conservation Innovation Grants

Background

• First authorized by 2002 Farm Bill
• Funding source is EQIP
• Annual national funding average = $20 million
• Maximum CIG award is set annually by NRCS Chief
  • Has historically been either $1 million or $2 million
• Requires 1:1 match of non-federal funding (any combo of cash and in-kind contributions)
• Grantee responsible for providing technical assistance for completion of project, but NRCS will provide technical oversight
• National and state competitions
  • Oregon: $300,000 available, deadline **May 13, 2022**
  • Washington: has not been announced yet for FY2022
  • National: has not been announced yet for FY2022
NRCS: Conservation Innovation Grants

**Project Purposes**

- Competitive grants to drive public and private sector innovation in resource conservation
- Public and private grantees develop the tools, technologies, and strategies to support next-generation conservation efforts
- Supports market-based solutions to resource challenges
- On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (new to 2018 Farm Bill):
  - supports more widespread adoption of innovative approaches, practices, and systems on working lands
  - Collaboration between NRCS and partners to implement on-the-ground conservation activities and then evaluate their impact
Project Types

- Each year, NRCS identifies priority categories within CIG.
- FY2022 announcement not released, FY2021 priorities were:
  - Climate-smart strategies for water resources and increased resilience
  - Soil health for climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience
  - Nutrient management adoption to meet watershed or regional water quality goals
  - Grazing lands conservation
  - Increasing conservation adoption
NRCS: Conservation Innovation Grants

Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies*

*Hard to know which ones without FY2022 priority announcement
# U.S. Department of Defense

Army Corps of Engineers

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USACE: Water Resources Infrastructure
Background

• Projects identified by Chief of Engineers in “Reports to Congress on Future Water Resources Development”
• Reports submitted from late-2018 through mid-2020 pursuant to Section 7001 of 2014 WRDA
• Federal funding authorized by Congress for 46 projects under Section 401 of 2020 WRDA
• Variable cost-share component
Project Purposes*

- Navigation
- Flood risk management
- Hurricane and storm damage risk reduction
- Flood risk management and ecosystem restoration
- Ecosystem restoration
- Water supply
- Modifications and other projects

*per original legislation
Project Types*

- Floodplain grading and lowering
- Bank scalloping
- Riparian vegetation
- Side channel and back water habitat creation Engineered log jams and large woody debris
- Dam bypass or removal

*from $100M Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration Project ($65M Federal)
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies*

1.01: Reconnect floodplain and restore channel complexity
1.06: Improve weirded and concrete channel sections in Mill Creek
1.07: Restore and protect riparian habitat
1.09, 1.12, 1.19, & 1.23: Improve fish passage and implement levee setback projects

*potentially additional strategies based on other authorized projects
USACE: Section 595 Program
Background

• Authorized under Section 595 of 1999 WRDA
• Administered by the Corps, which provides design & construction assistance in partnership with a non-federal sponsor
  • Limited to communities within ID, MT, rural-NV, rural-UT, NM, and WYO
  • The Corps Walla Walla District currently administer the program in ID & rural-NV
  • **Applicability requires expanded authorization to Washington**
• Supports public entities, including small and rural communities
• Funds wastewater collection and treatment, amongst other purposes
• Funding provided through congressional WRDA appropriations
• 25% non-federal cost share required
Project Purposes*

• Wastewater treatment
• Water supply
• Environmental restoration
• Surface water resource protection and development

*per original legislation
USACE: Section 595 Program

**Project Types***

- Design only
- Design and construction
- Construction only
  - Construction activities require design review and environmental documentation, amongst other requirements

*additional research needed on use of other authorized project purposes*
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies*

1.18: Upgrade Dayton wastewater treatment plant

*potentially others depending on breadth of the Corps use of original authorization
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<td>Fish and Wildlife Program</td>
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Bonneville Power Administration: Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program
Background

- BPA funding is granted through NFWF
- Walla Walla funding allocation under BPA/Umatilla Tribal accord
- Funding only available to Qualified Local Entities
Project Purposes

- Voluntary, marked-based water transactions
- Maintain and restore flow for anadromous and resident fish
Project Types

- Temporary water right acquisitions
- Permanent water right acquisitions
- Other incentive-based approaches to restoring instream flow
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

1.03: Direct additional winter flow down the Little Walla Walla
1.04: Water rights acquisitions to restore streamflow
1.08: Decrease surface water diversions or substitute for basalt wells
Bonneville Power Administration: Fish & Wildlife Program
Background

• BPA seeks to mitigate impacts of the Federal Columbia River Power System on fish and wildlife
• BPA works with states, tribes and watershed groups to implement program
• Walla Walla funding allocation under BPA/Umatilla Tribal accord
Project Purposes

• Protect, mitigate, and enhance spawning and rearing habitat
• Provide near-term and long-term benefits to anadromous and resident fish species
• Provide a buffer against the effects of climate change
Project Types

- Restore natural stream channels and riparian conditions
- Enhance flow volume and timing
- Expand cold water refuges
- Open and improve access to habitat
Potentially Relevant Tier 1 Strategies

1.01: Reconnect floodplain and restore channel complexity
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