

Bureau of Reclamation's Wildland Fire Management Programs

New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute

November 5, 2024

Santa Fe, New Mexico



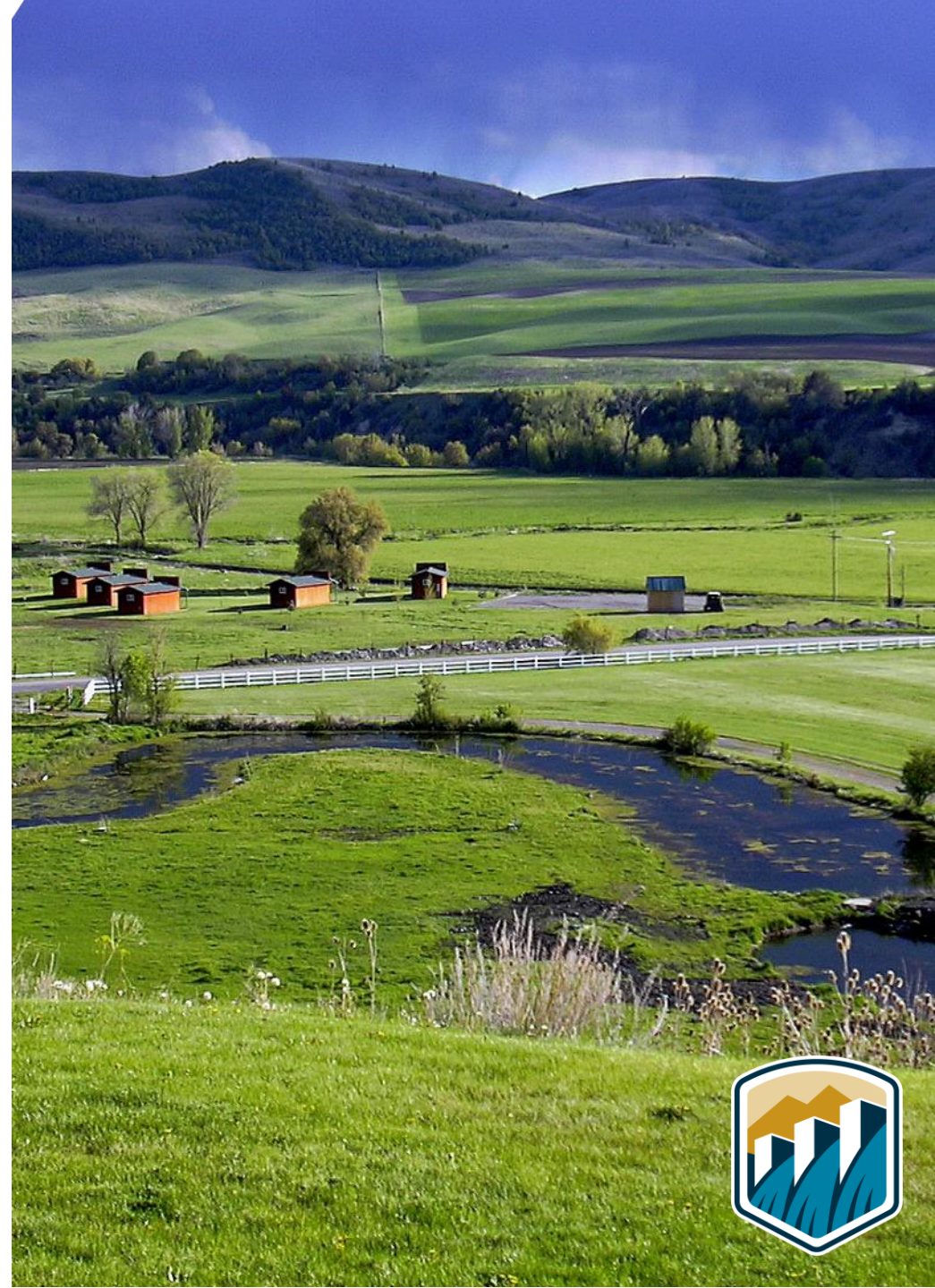
Overview of Presentation

- **Background on Reclamation's Mission Statement**
- **WaterSMART Programs and Example Projects**
- **Wildland Fire & Watershed Health Program and Example Projects**
- **Other Federal Wildfire Programs**
- **Open Notices of Funding Announcements**
- **National Wildland Fire References**



Reclamation's Mission Statement

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

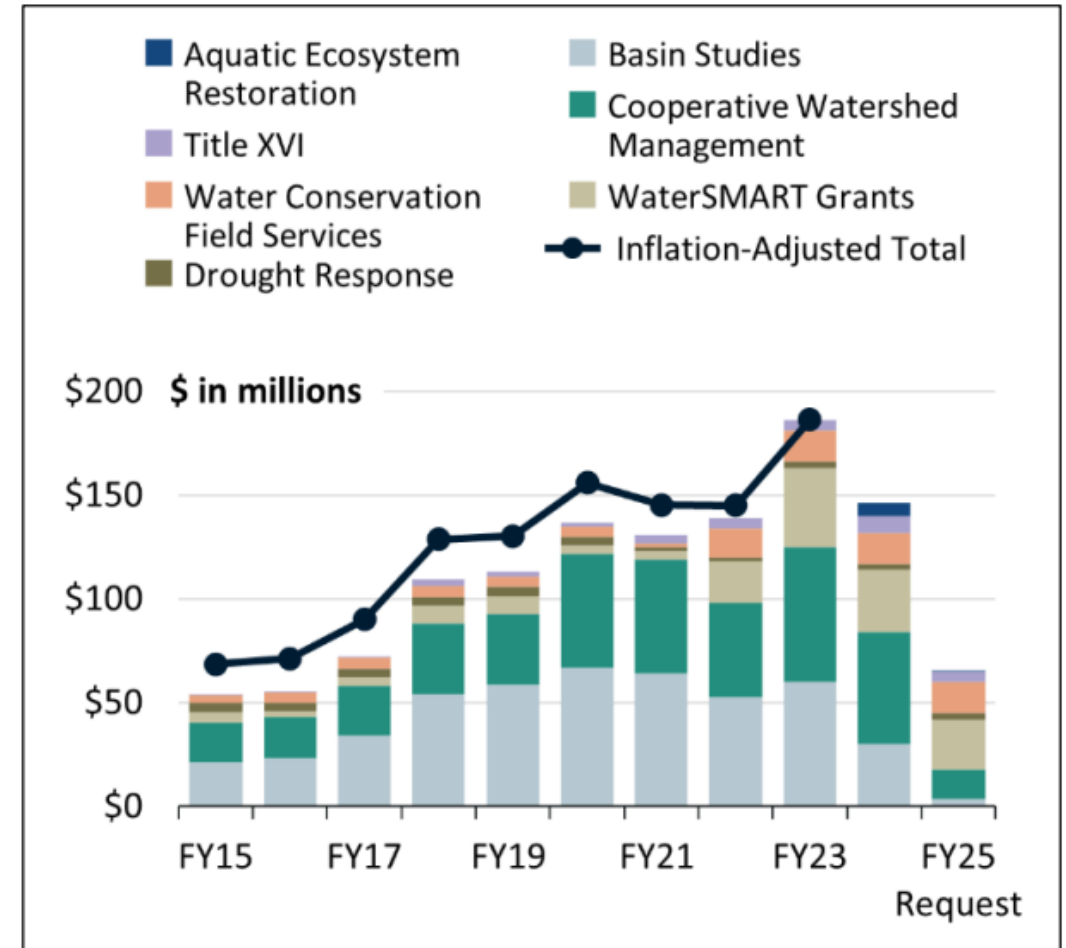


WaterSMART Program

Through WaterSMART Grants*, Reclamation provides financial assistance for projects to:

- Conserve and use water more efficiently,
- Implement renewable energy,
- Investigate and develop water-marketing strategies,
- Mitigate conflict in areas at a high risk of future water conflict,
- And accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the western US.

* There are generally significant BIL plus-ups to the grant programs over what has been requested by Reclamation.



<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>



WaterSMART Program Grants

Planning

Drought Contingency Plans
Cooperative Watershed Management Program
Water Strategy and Project Design Grants
Basin Studies
Water Recycling and Desalination Planning
Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Projects

Science and Tools

Applied Science Tools
Drought Resiliency Projects
Basin Studies

On-the-Ground Projects

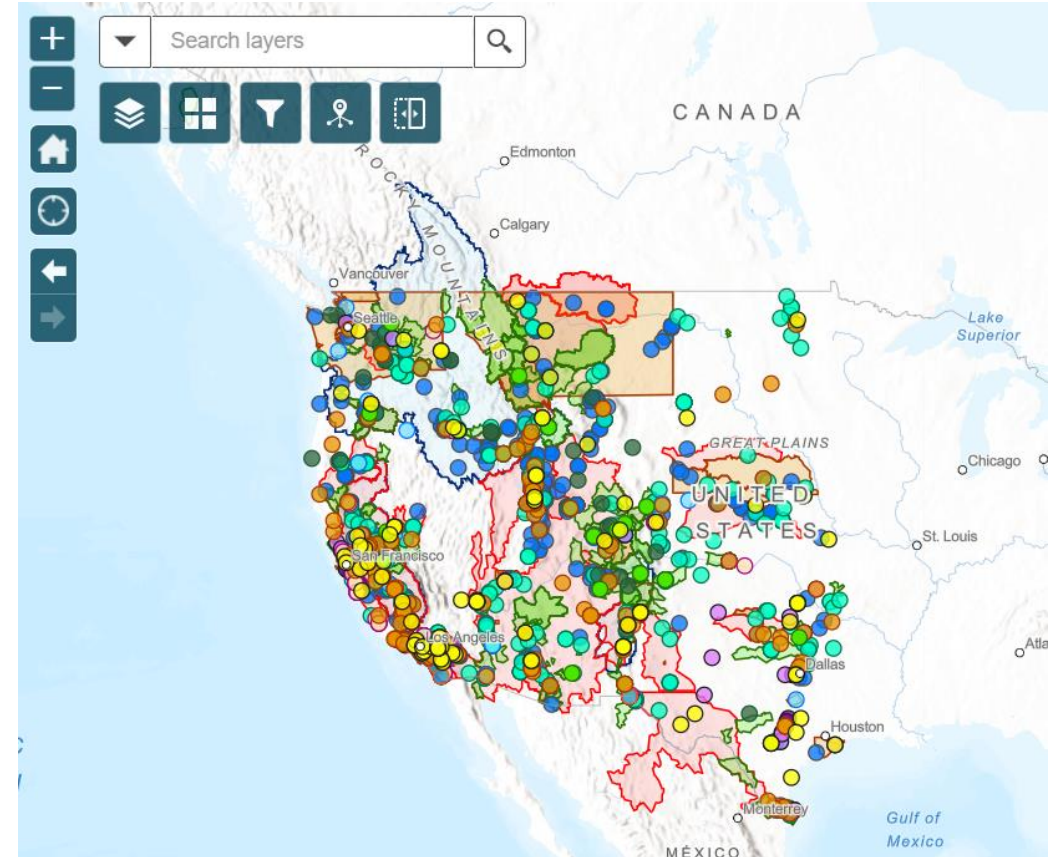
Drought Resiliency Projects
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
Environmental Water Resources Projects
Title XVI-WIIN Act Recycling and Reuse
Large Scale Water Recycling
Water Desalination
Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Projects



Key WaterSMART Websites



- **WaterSMART Website:**
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/index.html>
- **WaterSMART Calendar:**
https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/docs/WaterSMART_Schedule.pdf
- **Program Data Portal:**
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/bf5c5357e7044e0c80d5a55788d1db34/page/Home/>
- **Data Visualization Tool:**
<https://usbr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=043fe91887ac4ddc92a4c0f427e38ab0>



WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool interface

Environmental Water Resources Projects

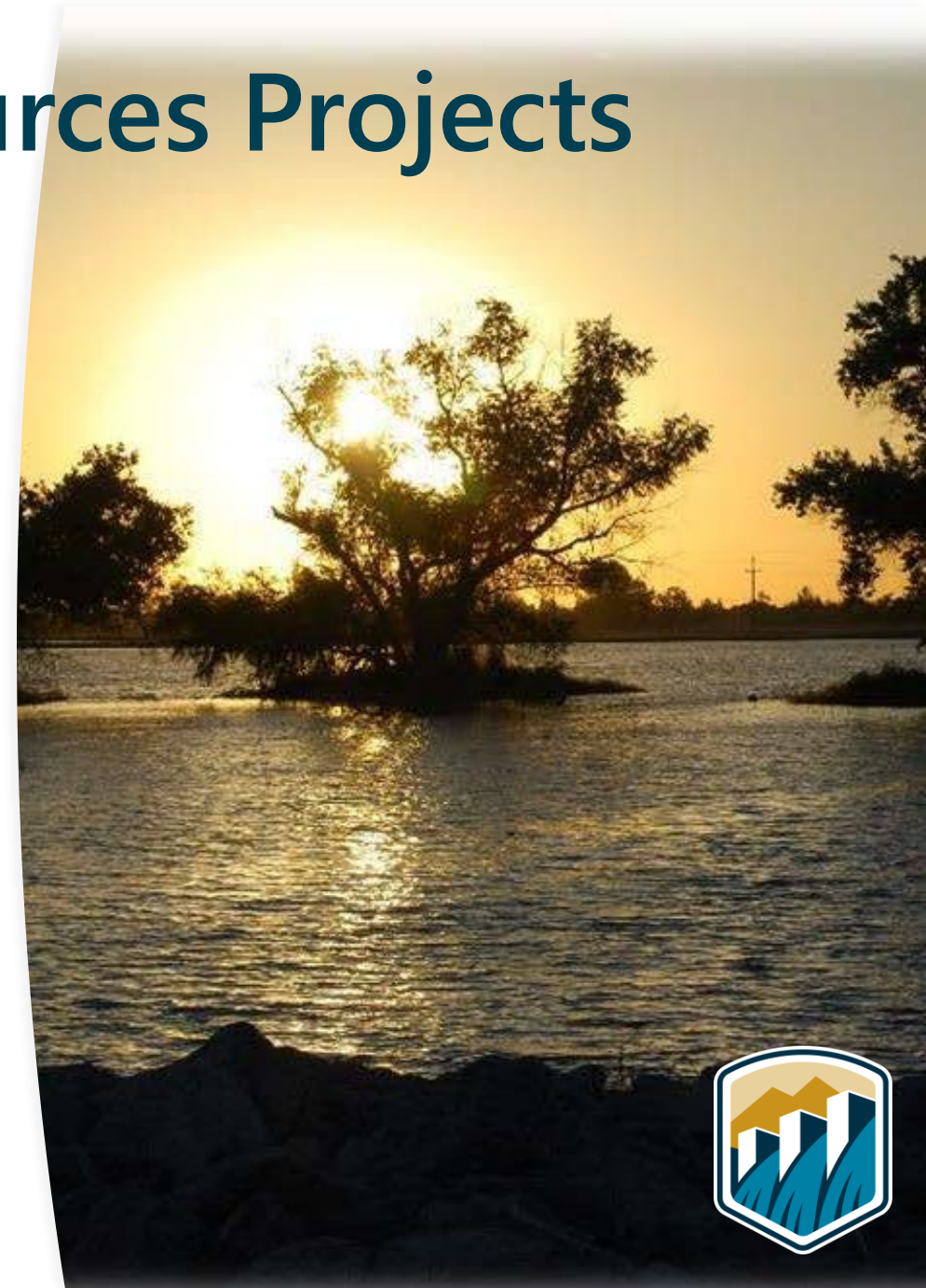
Eligible Project Types

- Water conservation and efficiency projects that increase reliability for ecological values or watershed health
- Water management and Infrastructure Improvements to benefit ecological values and watershed health
- Watershed management or restoration projects benefitting ecological values or watershed health
- Projects to improve the condition of a natural feature or nature-based feature

Funding

- Non-Federal Cost Share: 25% to 50%
- Funding Level: Up to \$3 million 3 years

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/index.html>



Chama Peak Land Alliance Environmental Water Resources Project Grant

Increasing Resiliency in the San Juan-Chama Project Headwaters

- Environmental Water Resources Project Funding awarded to the Chama Peak Land Alliance
- Ecological forest thinning of 2,150 acres to protect the Rio Chama and Rio Brazos Headwaters from the impacts of future wildfires
- \$3 million federal and \$1 million non-federal
- Project ends January 2027



Rio Brazos with proposed treatment are on the right side of photo-Dolecek Enterprises Inc.

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/docs/2023/EWRP-12_ChamaPeakLandAlliance_508.pdf



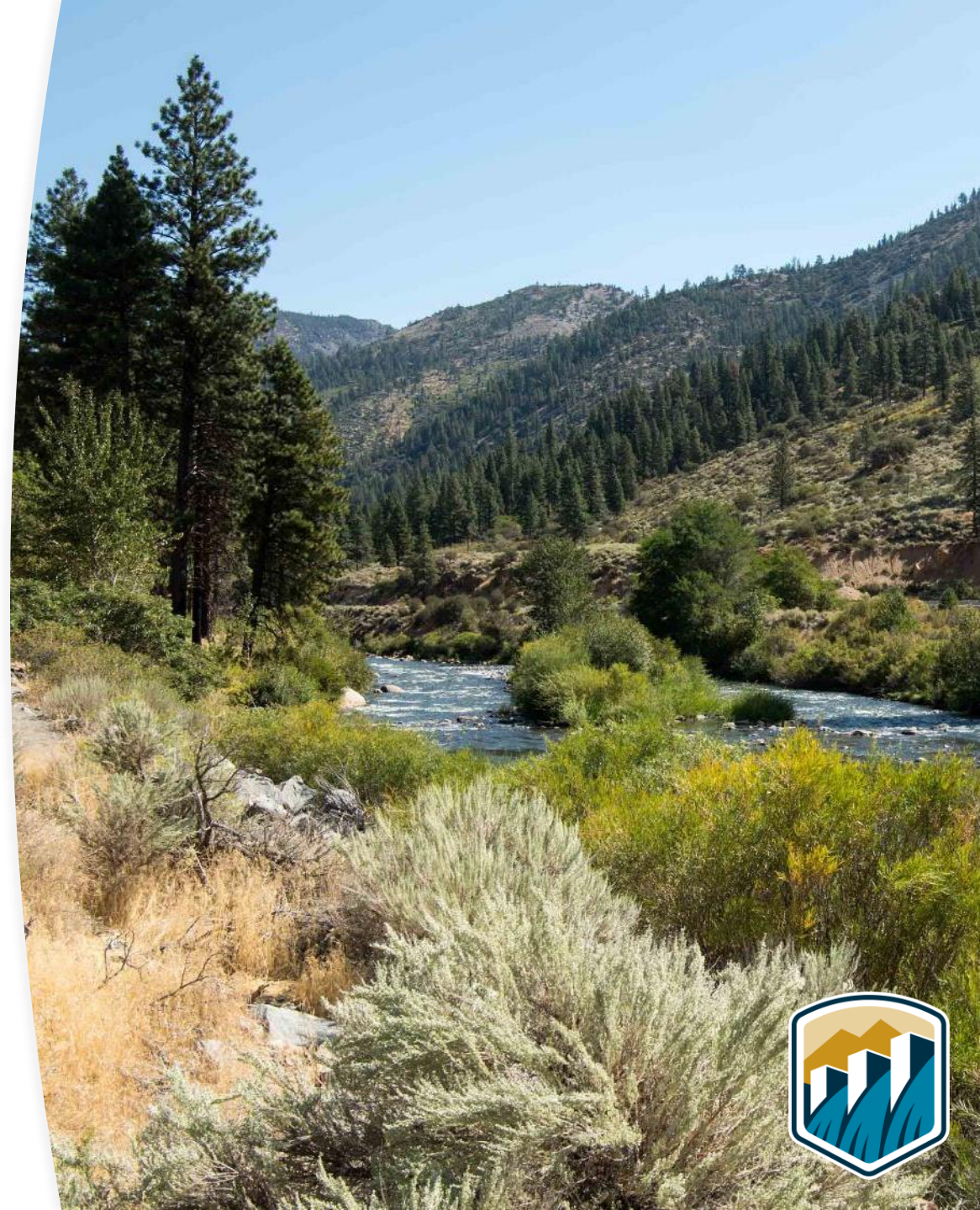
Cooperative Watershed Management Program

Eligible Project Activities

- Watershed group development
- Conducting outreach activities
- Gathering data about the watershed
- Watershed restoration plans
- Watershed management project design

Funding

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



Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance Cooperative Watershed Management Grant



Post Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Expansion Project

- Cooperative Watershed Management grant Awarded to the Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance
- Upper Gallinas Watershed, Sapello Watershed, Lower Mora River Watershed, Tecolote Watershed and Upper Mora Watershed
- Watershed Restoration Planning
- Watershed Management Project Design
- \$300k federal funding – no non-federal cost share
- Grant concludes in March 2027



HERMIT'S PEAK
WATERSHED ALLIANCE

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/cwmp/docs/2023/CWMP-03_HermitsPeakWatershedAlliance_508.pdf

Reclamation's Wildland Fire & Watershed Health Program

- Reclamation has approximately 6.5 million acres of land and water, a significant portion of which is considered burnable.
- Reclamation's Wildland Fire Management Program's goals:
 - Minimize fire impacts to protect Reclamation's infrastructure, assets, and lands;
 - Protect water and related resources, reservoir storage, and hydropower production from post-fire impacts;
 - All while supporting safety measures for stakeholders, customers, managing partners, employees, public at large, and at-risk communities.
- **WFM activities: fuels management, prescribed burning, emergency stabilization, post-fire**



Clear Creek Community Services District's Water Treatment Plant at Whiskeytown Dam, California-Great Basin Region

<https://www.usbr.gov/assetmanagement/wildlandfire/index.html>



Fire Planning in the San Juan–Chama Project Headwaters



- **Cooperative Agreement with The Nature Conservancy**
- **Total federal funding: \$340k**
- **Comprehensive fire-planning effort for the San Juan–Chama Project with areas of focus:**
 1. Pre-fire risk-mitigation planning
 2. Immediate fire-response planning
 3. Post-fire rehabilitation planning
- **Other key partners include the Chama Peak Land Alliance, SJCP Contractors Association, and the Forest Stewards Guild.**



Image courtesy of KOB

Caballo Reservoir – Post Black and Silver Fires Mitigation Planning



- Sediment and debris resulting from Caballo watershed wildfires in the Black Range of Gila National Forest pose a threat to Caballo Reservoir and Reclamation's mission.
- This project includes modeling of potential sediment and debris flows into Caballo Reservoir and a stretch of Rio Grande between Elephant Butte Reservoir and Caballo Reservoir.
- The end product will be a technical report and recommendations.

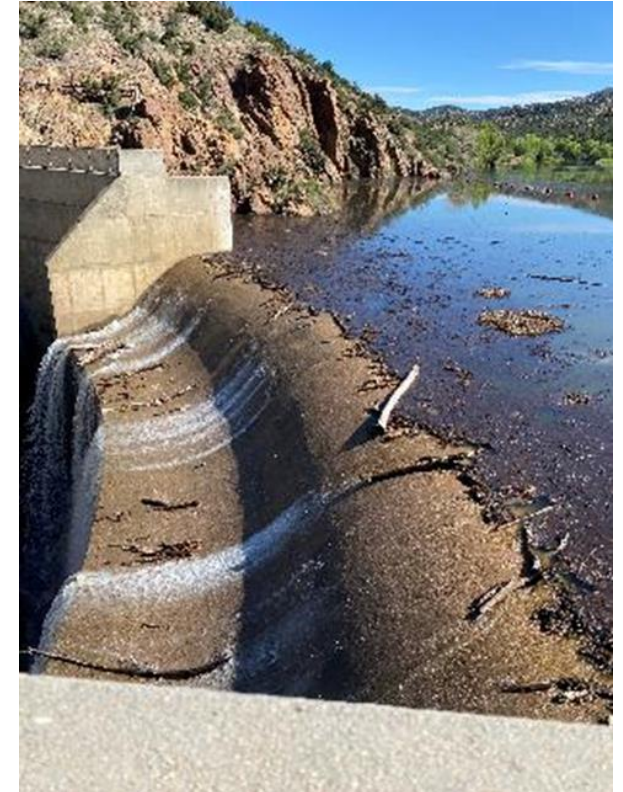


Caballo Reservoir intake structure, 2024

Other Federal Wildland Fire Management Programs



- Environmental Justice Technical Assistance Webinar Series – TCTAC's
[South Central Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center](#)
- Bureau of Land Management – Wildland fire management
[Fire Program | Bureau of Land Management \(blm.gov\)](#)
- NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Programs
[Emergency Watershed Protection | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
- Forest Service – Clean water, wildfire reduction, forest protection
[Wildland Fire | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#)



National Wildland Fire References

- **Wildfire Learning Portal Learning**

An online management system that enables the national wildland fire community to better meet their education and training needs. Links to national training centers and programs.

- **National Wildfire Coordinating Group**

National interagency wildland fire operations standards, wildland fire position standards/qualifications, establish information technology capability requirements for wildland fire, and other coordinated national interagency wildland fire activities.

- **National Interagency Fire Center**

The nation's support center for wildland firefighting. It is home to the national fire management programs for multiple agencies.

- **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)**

U.S. Fire Administration links include a variety of resources including, but not limited to, fire-adapted community, outreach materials, and research.

- **Fire Research and Management Exchange System**

A one stop shop for information on national wildland fire research.



Upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunities and Key Websites

- FY24 Water and Energy Efficiency Grants funding opportunity
Applications are due November 13, 2024.
- FY24/25 Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects funding opportunity
Applications are due January 14, 2025.
- FY24 Environmental Water Resources Projects funding opportunity
Applications are due March 11, 2025.





Questions?

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