

USBR WaterSMART Grant Opportunities

Prepared by Ryan Fulton, P.E.

Larry Walker Associates

May 2023

Outline

- Overview of WaterSMART Grant Opportunities
- Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects Grant Overview
- Board Considerations and Action Item
- Discussion/Questions

USBR WaterSMART Grant Opportunities

- Through WaterSMART Grants, the USBR provides financial assistance to water managers in the western United States.
- Projects are selected for funding annually through a competitive process.
- WaterSMART Programs include:
 - Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
 - Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
 - Water Marketing Strategy Grants
 - Environmental Water Resources Projects
 - **Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects**



WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects for Fiscal Year 2023

- Final Application Deadline: June 1, 2023, with announcements in the late Summer 2023
- Task A Project: Study and Design Projects (may request \$500,000 to \$2,000,000)
- Task B Project: Construction Projects (may request \$3 million to \$20 million)
- Non-Federal Cost Share: At least 35% (state funds can be used to meet cost share requirement)
- Project Completion Date: December 31, 2026 (Task A) or December 31, 2028 (Task B)
- Eligible Applicants: Irrigation/water districts or agencies established under State law for the joint exercise of powers
- Objectives: To improve the health of fisheries, wildlife and/or aquatic habitat, including through habitat restoration and/or improved fish passage via the removal or bypass of barriers
- Ineligible Costs: Water purchases and recharge projects primarily for agricultural or municipal benefits (see NOFO for full list of ineligible costs)
- Estimated Number of Agreements to be Awarded: ~\$30 million available; approximately 5 to 10 projects will be selected
- Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=346822>

Task A: Study and Design Projects

Eligible Project Activities

- Stakeholder outreach and coordination
- Analysis of restoration project design alternatives
- Project site studies and selection
- Site-specific design and engineering of the restoration project to reach a target 60% level of design
- Preparation of project cost estimates and development of project construction plan
- Baseline monitoring and post-project monitoring plan development
- Identification of required permits and environmental review process

Task A Grant Deliverable: A 60% Project Design

Task B: Construction Projects

Eligible Project Activities

- Completion of Final Design for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Construction Project
- Outreach to affected stakeholders
- Restoration Activities and Construction
- Monitoring plan development, baseline assessment, and equipment installation

Scoring Criteria

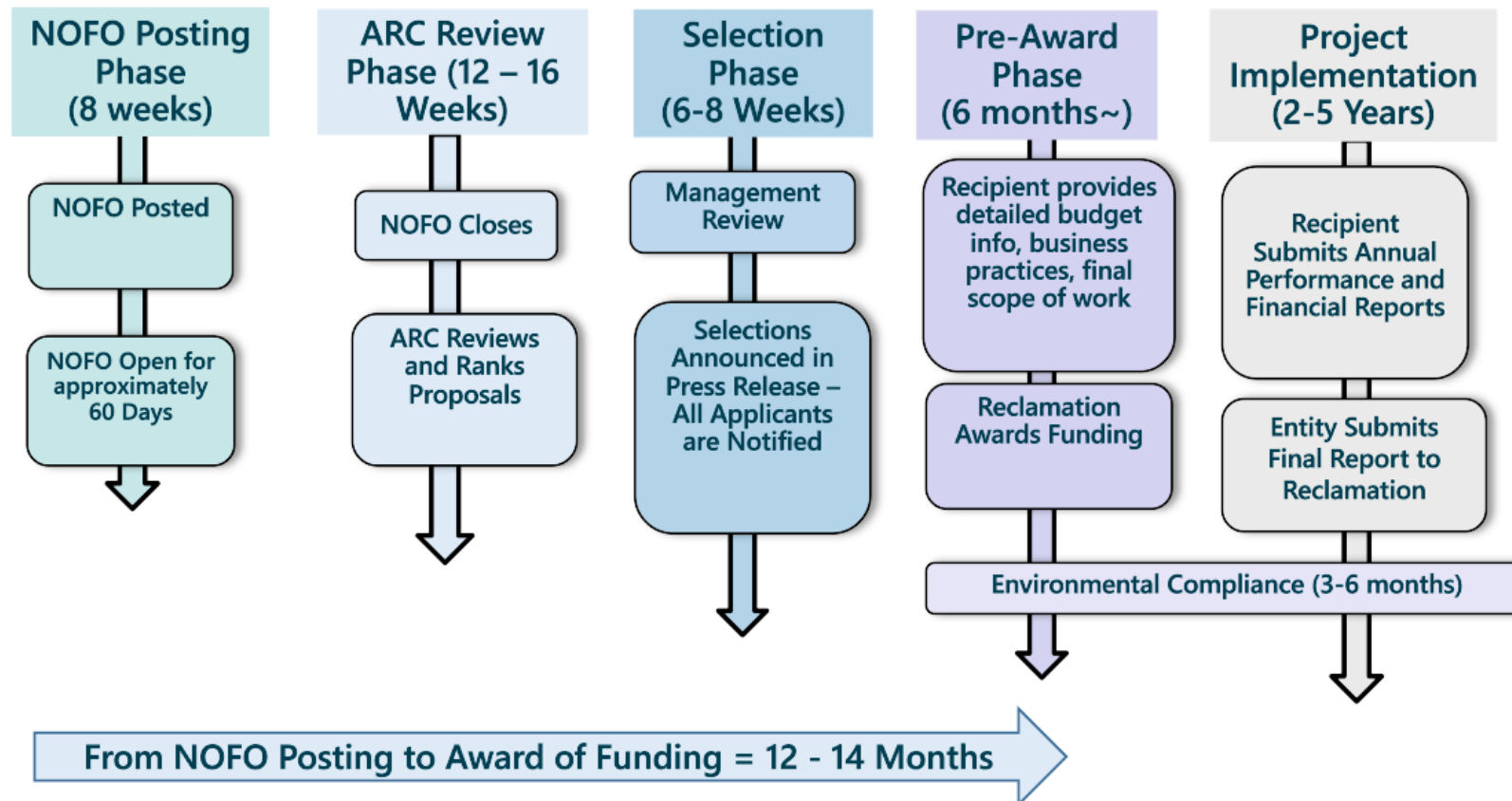
Evaluation Criteria: Scoring Summary	Points
A. Project Benefits	30
B. Prior Restoration Planning and Stakeholder Involvement and Support	40 (Task A: Study and Design) 30 (Task B: Construction)
C. Project Implementation and Readiness to Proceed	15
D. Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation Priorities	15
E. Performance Measures (Task B: Construction ONLY)	10 (Task B: Construction ONLY)
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>

Note: Projects may be prioritized to ensure balance among the program task areas and to ensure that the projects address this NOFO's goals and objectives.

Source: Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00106

WaterSMART Selection Process

Sample schedule



Tucker, Katherine AM

Source: USBR Webinar on April 18, 2023



Board Considerations and Action Items

- Discuss and consider pursuing USBR WaterSMART opportunities to supplement state funds, as necessary.
- Authorize LWA, in coordination with partners and staff, to prepare an application for the WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects Grant Opportunity and for staff to submit by the June 1, 2023, deadline.
- Moving forward, consider applying for additional grants through USBR, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and others to increase likelihood of being awarded funds.
- CDFW is currently accepting concept proposals, on a rolling basis, for multi-benefit ecosystem restoration and protection projects. Water costs are eligible for reimbursement.

Discussion/Questions??

Recharge Site Selection and Design Consideration

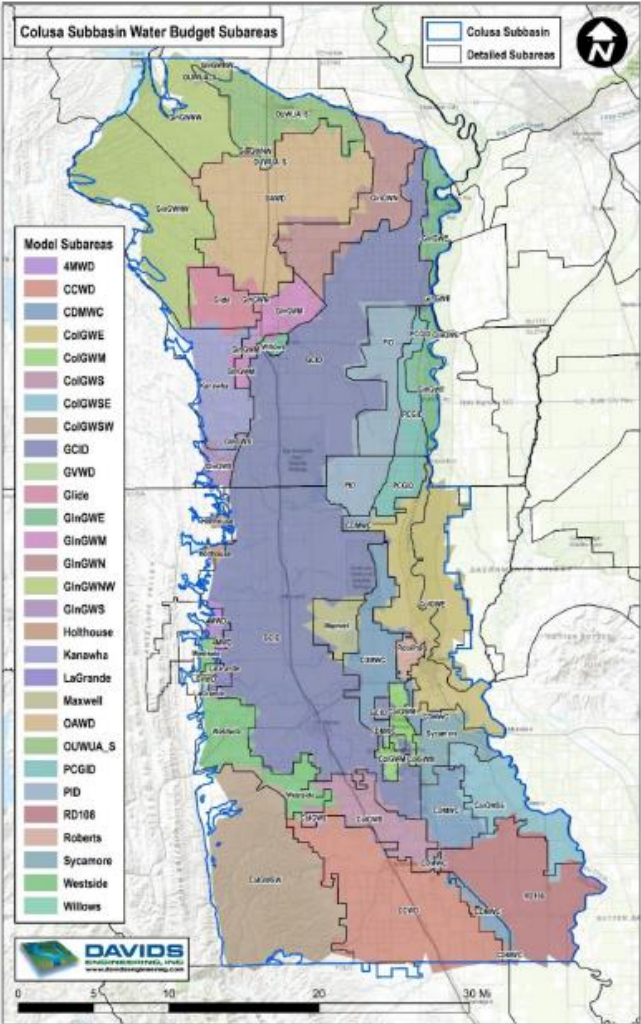


Figure 2. Water Budget Subareas.¹

Source: Appendix 3F of Colusa Subbasin GSP.

Table 7. Average Annual Net Recharge for all Subareas, 1990-2015.

Subarea Name	Average Annual Net Recharge (a+b-c), 1990-2015		Average Volume, 1990-2015 (acre-feet, rounded)		
	(acre-feet, rounded)	(acre-feet/acre)	Percolation ¹ (a)	Seepage ² (b)	GW Pumping (c)
4MWD	300	0.14	1,300	0	1,000
CCWD	-10,430	-0.21	48,820	0	59,250
CDMWC	-25,870	-0.84	9,480	4,440	39,790
ColGWE	-54,400	-1.28	10,880	1,870	67,150
ColGWM	-630	-0.12	2,850	2,340	5,820
ColGWS	-19,430	-1.21	12,880	0	32,310
ColGWE	-22,010	-1.24	3,520	240	25,770
ColGWSW	19,150	0.37	21,890	0	2,740
GCID - Colusa	105,730	1.01	63,780	49,200	7,250
GCID - Glenn	79,530	1.09	51,650	35,470	7,590
Glide	-950	-0.09	4,170	0	5,120
GlnGWE	-15,890	-1.19	8,080	0	23,970
GlnGWM	-11,250	-1.15	8,840	0	20,090
GlnGWN	-35,120	-1.42	23,220	0	58,340
GlnGWNW	-4,480	-0.07	18,910	0	23,390
GlnGWS	-660	-0.19	1,050	0	1,710
GVWD	-1,240	-1.39	330	0	1,570
Holthouse	410	0.29	550	0	140
Kanawha	3,740	0.22	8,340	0	4,600
LaGrande	340	0.27	820	0	480
Maxwell	-230	-0.03	1,070	2,720	4,020
OAWD	-6,870	-0.15	52,700	0	59,570
OAWD_S	35,600	1.89	30,370	9,150	3,920
PCGID - Colusa	16,200	2.58	3,670	12,990	460
PCGID - Glenn	27,400	3.53	11,490	17,020	1,110
PID - Colusa	-3,470	-0.39	4,140	1,560	9,170
PID - Glenn	-8,840	-0.50	9,000	30	17,870
RD108	4,720	0.14	9,100	280	4,660
Roberts	-2,460	-0.88	610	110	3,180
Sycamore	-380	-0.05	1,240	1,560	3,180
Westside	9,320	0.52	12,670	0	3,350
Willows	-1,020	-0.83	190	0	1,210
Total	76,810	0.11	437,610	138,980	499,780

¹ Percolation from the land surface within the subarea. Does not include simulated percolation from upslope small watersheds originating from outside the subarea.

² Seepage from canals and drains within the subarea. Does not include seepage from rivers and streams.

- GGA previous grant applications have focused recharge projects near Orland and Artois.
- Consider recharge projects along the Sacramento River in the groundwater only area (shown on map as 'GlnGWE').
- Net recharge is -16 TAF.
- As part of site selection and design process, sites will be prioritized and selected based on expected benefits.

Example Project along the Sacramento River

- River Partners Willow Bend Ponding Basin Project
- River Partners’ staff realized that juvenile fish that entered the basin during the floods thrive in the food-rich environment of the small pond but become trapped and cannot return to the river once it drops.
- Project goal: to construct a gate structure to automatically drop the water level in the pond by releasing a small flow from the pond continuously and consistently.



Figure 1. Willow bend ponding basin with preliminary grading plan

Source: https://www.uscid.org/_files/ugd/43071b_3e35d5b22b7a4976a31ba104a25fda83.pdf
 Stony Creek Watershed: <https://sacriver.org/explore-watersheds/westside-subregion/stony-creek-watershed/#:~:text=Fish%20species%20common%20to%20the%20streams%20and%20reservoirs,popular%20sport%20fishery%20for%20bass%2C%20catfish%2C%20and%20crappie.>