



# EQIP Watersmart

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FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION  
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

# What is EQIP-Watersmart?

NRCS's EQIP Watersmart Initiative (WSI) is a collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Watersmart (<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>) to coordinate investments in priority areas for improving water conservation and drought resilience.

BOR makes their Watersmart programs available across the Western US to help states, tribes, and local entities plan for and implement projects that increase water supply by providing funds to modernize existing infrastructure and otherwise build drought resilience.

NRCS uses EQIP WSI funds to complement BOR Watersmart funded projects by helping eligible farmers and ranchers make improvements that align with the paired BOR Watersmart project.

Eligible farmers and ranchers with operations in a selected EQIP WSI priority area will be automatically ranked in the EQIP-WSI targeted fund pool when they apply for EQIP funding.

# How can my Conservation District or Tribe get a EQIP Watersmart Project area in WA?

- Each year NRCS announces new project proposals to be submitted to WA State Office for review.

 United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

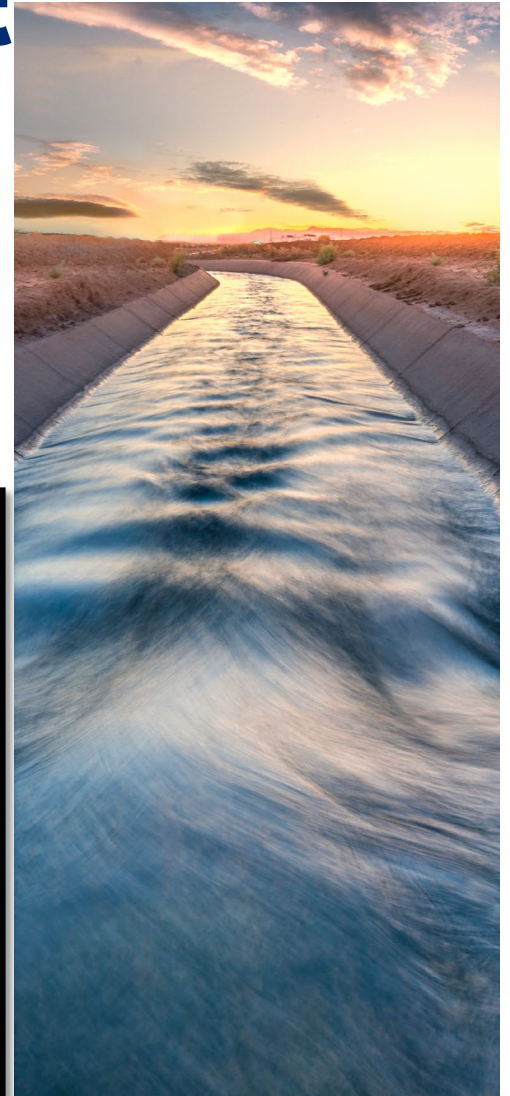
State Bulletin: 300-25-04

Date: 03-10-2025

PGM – Fiscal Year 2026 Environmental Quality  
Subject: Incentives Program – WaterSMART Initiative  
(EQIP-WSI) Proposal Submission

**Purpose:** To provide District Conservationists (DCs) and Area Conservationists (ACs) with requirements for submitting proposals in FY 2026 for new EQIP-WSI priority areas to the State Conservationist (STC).

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2025



# What's required for the EQIP Watersmart proposal?

The submitted EQIP-WSI packet from the DC must include:

- A completed EQIP-WSI Priority Area Proposal
- GIS shapefile(s) of project area and completed Reclamation WaterSMART project(s) tied to EQIP-WSI proposal. (This is where partners come into play.)
- Map(s) of project area and completed BOR WaterSMART project(s) tied to the WSI proposal. (This is where partners come into play.)
- Digital copy (.pdf) of the BOR water plan you propose to complement. *Example: Yakima River Basin Study Resource Management Plan, or 2011 WaterSMART Water & Energy Efficiency Grant – Whitestone Reclamation District – Piping, Pumping, Pivots and Power: Improving Water and Energy Efficiency.* (This is where partners come into play.)



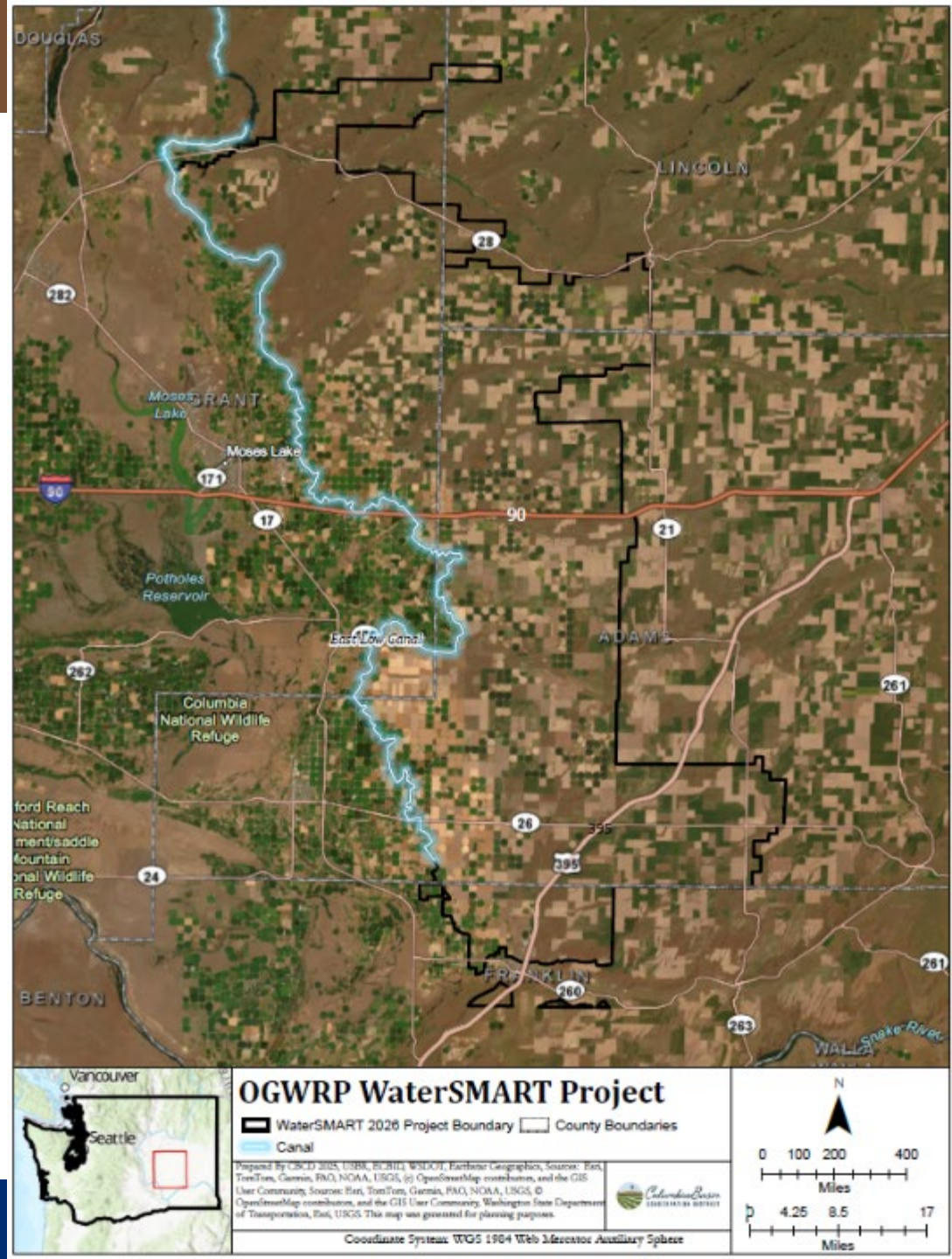


# Where are the FY26 proposed WA Watersmart project areas?

## Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District

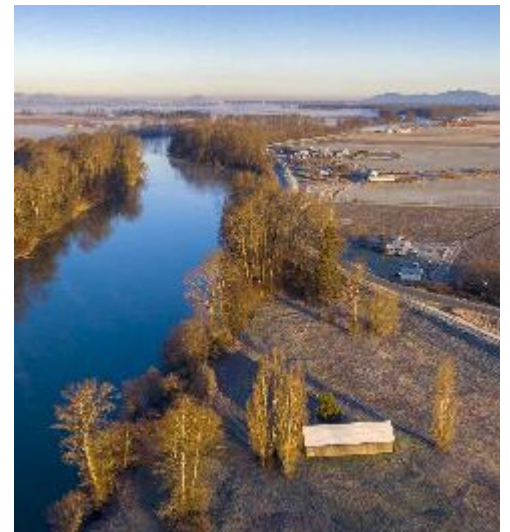


# Where are the FY26 proposed WA Watersmart project areas?



# What should I do if I'm interested in a new EQIP-WSI project area?

- Contact your local District Conservationist.
- Take this years application and use as a template for next year.
- Estimated announcement for FY27 proposals in March 2026.



# QUESTIONS?