



NRCS Complementing WaterSMART Programs

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NRCS Complementing WaterSMART Programs

- I. Review of On-Farm Criteria in Grants**
- II. What's new in NRCS's EQIP
WaterSMART Initiative?**
- III. Example Projects**



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I. Review of On-Farm Criteria in WaterSMART Grants

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About the Collaboration

- The purpose of the partnership is to maximize the benefits of the water conservation & efficiency programs of both agencies through collaboration
- Reclamation provides funding through WaterSMART Grants to irrigation and water districts for improvements to delivery systems that conserve water (lining or piping a canal).
- NRCS works with producers within the delivery system area or district to increase on-farm efficiencies and introduce conservation practices such as drip irrigation, center pivots, and cover crops.

Reclamation Funded Project



NRCS Funded Project

Water Delivery System(off-farm) project eligible for funding under this FOA

Example: Piping of Canal

- 50% cost-share required for *this* project.
- Funded by Reclamation and FOA applicant
- 2 year projects

Water Delivery Systems

Facilitates on-farm improvement projects, which may be funded separately by NRCS

Future on-farm improvements eligible for NRCS funding

Example: Pressurized irrigation system

- On-farm improvements *not* funded under this FOA.
- Eligible for NRCS funding separately

ON-FARM



II: What's in NRCS's EQIP WaterSMART Initiative?

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A process to document EQIP's Water Smart Initiative complementary funding.

Title 440 – National Instruction

Part 307 – Instructions for Implementing National Program and Landscape Conservation Initiatives

Subpart A – Purpose and Background

307.0 Purpose

This instruction provides State Conservationists (STCs) and Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas Directors, with guidance for administering national program and landscape conservation initiatives funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) where authorized. Guidance for administering the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) under these initiatives is issued under a separate directive.

307.1 Background and Policy References

A. To support efficient delivery of these focused opportunities to eligible producers, this instruction consolidates guidance for certain national program and landscape conservation initiatives to be offered through EQIP and AMA. State Conservationists (STC) are to use this instruction and exhibits to prepare to offer these opportunities in a timely manner when program funding is allocated each year.

B. This instruction establishes routine actions to be completed by STCs to support program initiatives. Delivery and management of these initiatives are subject to all agency program rules and policies including—

- (1) Title 440, Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Part 512, "Conservation Program Contracting"
- (2) 440-CPM, Part 515, "Environmental Quality Incentives Program"
- (3) 440-CPM, Part 521, "Agricultural Management Assistance"

307.35 WaterSMART Initiative (WSI)

Initiative Name and Acronym: WaterSMART Initiative (WSI)

Initiative Description: The purpose of WSI is to assist producers and landowners in implementing voluntary conservation that is complimentary to the water conservation assistance provided through the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow (WaterSMART) program. Where Reclamation supports water conservation planning and improvement projects by States, tribes, local governments, irrigation water companies, and other organizations, NRCS targets assistance to agricultural producers to improve water conservation and irrigation water use efficiency on their operation. Priorities for the joint effort are—

- Improving irrigation water use efficiency
- Preventing groundwater depletion
- Preventing surface water depletion
- Optimal use of naturally available moisture and prevention of drought stress

Program Contact Information:

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WSI Coordinator:
Dan Dostie, (202) 720-6558, daniel.dostie@usda.gov

Approved States and Priority Areas: States and NRCS administrative areas where Reclamation offers its WaterSMART Programs may participate in WSI. These are: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pacific Islands Area, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

The process for submitting priority areas proposed by State Conservationists (STCs) for WSI is provided in an annual national bulletin. Priority areas are selected from the proposals according to national evaluation criteria.



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... requires BOR WaterSMART projects ..

Fiscal Year Selected	WaterSMART Grant Category	Name of Applicant/Entity	WaterSMART Project Title
2016	Drought Resiliency Project Grant	Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District	Socorro Main Canal South Distribution Hub
2017	Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects	Guadalupe Soil and Water Conservation District	Acequia Restoration & Conservation Project
2017	Cooperative Watershed Management Program	Animas Watershed Partnership	Animas Water Quality and Resilience Improvement Project
2010	WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant	Arch Hurley Conservancy District	Application of Sodium Bentonite to Decrease Water Loss from Seepage



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.requires NRCS to determine scope and # of applicants within the proposal.



Practice Name	Practice Code	Estimated Instances	Map Unit Type	Estimated Map Units	Priority Water Quantity and Related Resource Concerns								
					Land Use	Crop	Pasture	Associated Ag Land	Farmstead	Water			
Crop (example)					Extent (example)	(10,000 acres)	(5,000 acres)	(1500 acres)	(25 acres)	(3 miles or 35 acres)			
Irrigation Water Management	449	33	Acre	21,120		Priority Water RC #1 (example)	(Irrigation Water Use Inefficiency)	(Drought Susceptibility)	(Groundwater Depletion)	(Surface Water Depletion)			
Pumping Plant	533	33	Number	33			Priority Water RC #2	(Nutrients transported to groundwater)			(Nutrients transported to surface water)		
Irrigation Pipeline	430	33	Feet	40,000				Priority Water RC #3					
Nutrient Management	590	33	Acre	21,120					Priority Related RC #4	(Plant productivity and health)	(Plant productivity and health)		(Bank Erosion)
Pasture (example)					Priority Related RC #5								(Water Temperature)
Brush Management	314	5	Acre	250		Water (example)							
Water Well	642	1	Number	1		Streambank and Shoreline Protection	580			3	Feet	999	
Water (example)						Tree/Shrub Establishment	612	3		Acre	2.3	Associated Ag Land (example)	
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	580	3	Feet	999			Wetland Restoration	657	1	Acre	4.3		
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612	3	Acre	2.3	Tree/Shrub Establishment			612	1	Acre	1.2		
Associated Ag Land (example)								Farmstead (example)					
Wetland Restoration	657	1	Acre	4.3				Watering Facility	614	1	Number		1
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612	1	Acre	1.2		Tree/Shrub Establishment		612	1	Acre	0.5		
Farmstead (example)													
Watering Facility	614	1	Number	1									
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612	1	Acre	0.5									

Multi-year Annual EQIP Financial Assistance (FA) Funding Requests

Record in the table below how many new contracts, contract acres, and how much EQIP FA funds is estimated to be delivered annually in the priority area for up to five future years:

Future Year	New Contracts	New Contract Acres	EQIP FA Funds
One			
Two			
Three			
Four			
Five			

. . .requires an internal NRCS proposal . . .



National Bulletins
Title 300 - Land Treatment Programs

**NB 300-20-43 LTP – EQIP WaterSMART Landscape Conservation Initiative Priority Area Solicitation
FY 2021**

National Bulletin: 300-20-43

Date: June 23,
2020

Subject: LTP – EQIP WaterSMART Landscape Conservation Initiative
Priority Area Solicitation FY 2021

Action Required By: July 31, 2020

Purpose. To provide State conservationists (STCs) in the 17 western States where the EQIP WaterSMART Initiative is available with requirements for submitting proposals for new or continuing EQIP WaterSMART priority areas.

This bulletin applies to Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2020

Background. NRCS's EQIP WaterSMART Landscape Conservation Initiative (WaterSMART LCI) is a collaborative effort to target EQIP funds that is complimentary to the US Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) WaterSMART projects. This collaboration is a priority highlighted in the [National Drought Resilience Partnership \(NDRP\)](#), a federal partnership to enhance the Nation's drought resilience. Reclamation operates in 17 western States and through WaterSMART works collaboratively with States, tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply through investments to modernize existing infrastructure and otherwise build drought resilience. NRCS provides EQIP assistance to help farmers and ranchers voluntarily address water quantity resource concerns and agricultural drought stress. Aligning the agencies' investments can improve their cumulative impact on water conservation.



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BoR and NRCS Working Together



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F001

**WaterSMART Grants:
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
for Fiscal Year 2021**



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[National Drought Resilience Partnership](#)

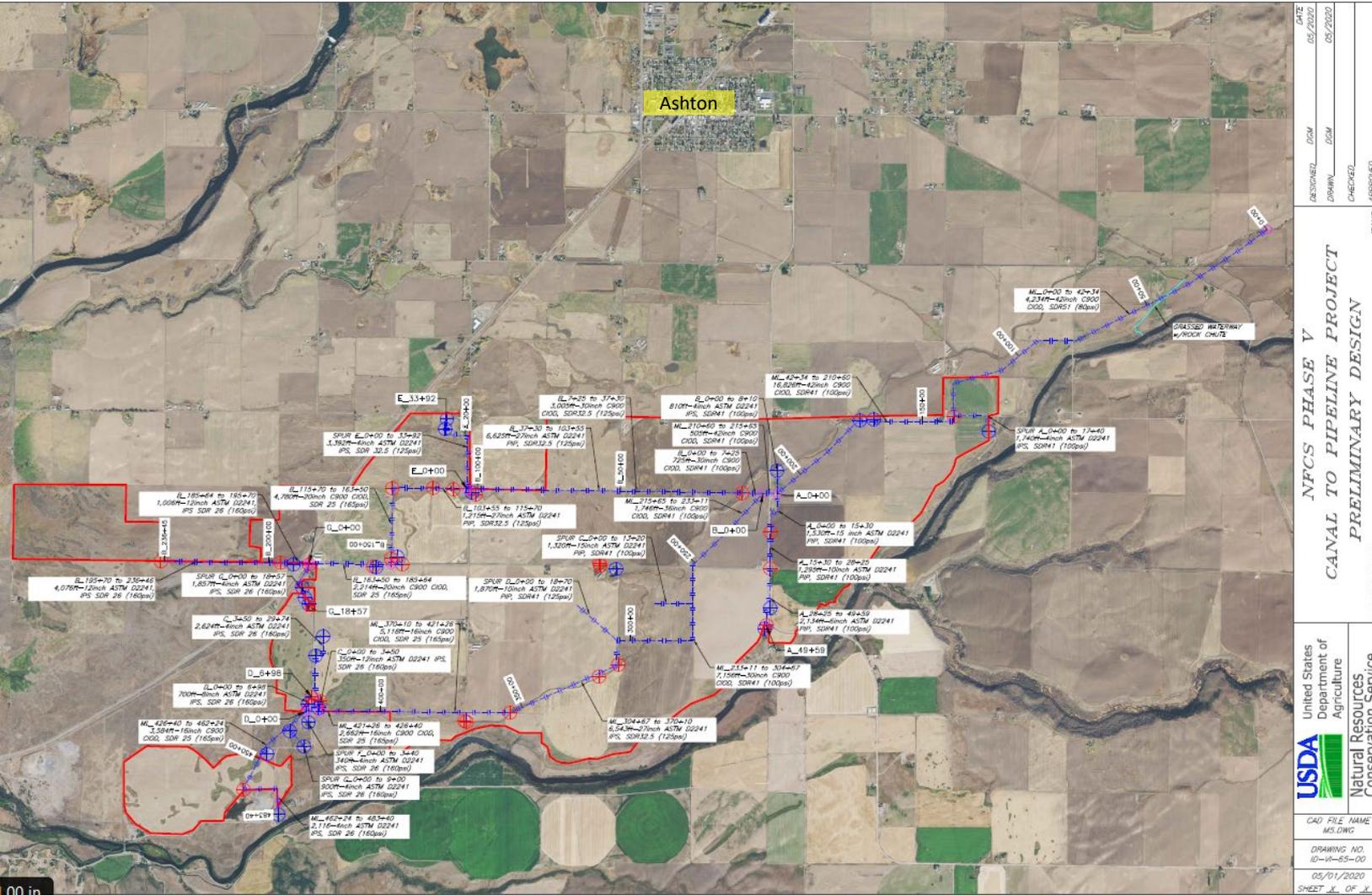


III: Example Project

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Example Ongoing Project: Idaho



DATE	05/2020
DESIGNED	DSM
DRAWN	DSM
CHECKED	
APPROVED	
NFCS PHASE V CANAL TO PIPELINE PROJECT PRELIMINARY DESIGN	
FREMONT COUNTY	
 United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service	<p>00 in</p> <p>CAD FILE NAME MS.DWG</p> <p>DRAWING NO. 10-18-55-00</p> <p>05/01/2020</p> <p>SHEET X OF X</p>

North Fremont Canal Piping Project

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QUESTIONS?

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