

Western Water Infrastructure Needs – 2022-2032

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

WaterSMART:

Water conservation and efficiency	\$1.0B
Title XVI	\$0.5B
Cooperative Watershed Management Program	\$0.1B

Ecosystem restoration or compliance: \$1.0B

WIIN Act:

Storage	\$2.82B
Title XVI and Desal	\$1.0B

Major Rehabilitation and Repair (including Safety of Dams):

Aging Infrastructure Account	\$3.2B
Safety of Dams	\$0.6B

Reclamation Water Settlement Fund: \$1.2B

Rural Water: \$1.5B

Water and Related Resources: \$0.5B

RECLAMATION TOTAL ***\$13.52B***

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Construction:

Small Water Storage Projects	\$1.0B
Environmental Infrastructure	\$0.75B

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NRCS:

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention (PL 566)	\$4.0B
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Forest Service:

Forest Treatments and Restoration	\$30B
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STATE IDENTIFIED PROJECTS

State Water Supply Infrastructure Needs See Discussion on Page 4

Explanation and Discussion

Significant investment in water supply infrastructure is urgently needed to secure reliable water supplies for Americans in the western United States as they face climate change, drier conditions, a loss of snowpack, aging infrastructure, continued population growth, and a variety of other factors. The broad-based infrastructure package under discussion presents a critical opportunity to provide much needed funding for new and existing water projects to address western water challenges. With much of the West critically dry and once again facing drought, these dire conditions again remind us why action must be taken immediately to resolve the lack of continued investment in diverse water supply infrastructure. Such investment will address changing hydrological patterns, combat cyclical drought, strengthen western economies, create jobs, and ensure water security for millions of Americans.

The figures presented above and discussed below represent overall spending levels based on identified needs over the next 10 years or less.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (BOR)

WIIN Act

Storage

The **\$2.82 billion** figure is based on the following:

- \$1.79 billion - remaining federal cost share (up to the maximum) of projects are eligible for ongoing WIIN Act storage funding - Friant-Kern Canal, Yakima – Cle Elum, Boise River, Los Vaqueros, B.F. Sisk/San Luis expansion, and Sites. The Shasta Dam raise is not included.
- \$539 million - maximum federal cost share of projects that have received study funds under WIIN - Del Puerto, Delta-Mendota Canal, Sacramento Water Bank, Upper Yakima System Storage. This excludes Temperance Flat which is also in this category.
- \$770 million – General plus up for additional projects that have not yet received WIIN funding but are defined projects that are under preliminary study by BOR or received state level funding.
- Minus \$280 million - the WIIN funds already expended on these projects.

Major Rehabilitation and Repair

Aging Infrastructure

According to BOR, the 5-year estimate for Extraordinary Maintenance (non-reoccurring maintenance) needs for fiscal years 2021-2025 is **\$3.2 billion**. Aging infrastructure funds should be directed to the newly created Aging Infrastructure Account to take advantage of established authority for extended repayment and reporting, and to help with longer-term rehabilitation needs (BOR estimates extraordinary maintenance projects over the next 30 years will cost \$10.4 billion) by directing repaid funds back into the Account for use on additional projects at Reclamation’s discretion. Funds provided to water users from this amount are essentially loans and are required to be repaid over time.

Safety of Dams

In 2020, BOR reported a 5-year estimate of \$380 million for dam safety modifications through its Safety of Dams program. With several large dam safety projects on the horizon, including the B.F. Sisk/San Luis Project, which is now moving forward, it makes sense to increase funding of this program beyond the reported figure. At **\$600 million** would provide sufficient funding for planned projects.

Reclamation Water Settlements Fund

Last Congress, proposals for a 10-year extension of the Reclamation Water Settlements Fund at current funding levels (\$120 million/year) made progress and received broad bipartisan support. The **\$1.2 billion**

figure represents the total Reclamation Fund revenue deposits that would occur from a 10-year extension and is a suitable baseline. This critical funding supports water infrastructure on Tribal lands.

Rural Water: BOR stated in Feb. 2020 that \$1.2 billion was needed to complete outstanding authorized rural water projects. Since then, the 2020 Omnibus added \$61 million for construction on one project and a feasibility study for another. **\$1.5 billion** is estimated to cover all remaining authorized projects with inflation (as accommodated in several of the authorizations). Most of these projects are currently under construction and additional funding would directly equate to additional on-the-ground work and good paying jobs to carry out that work.

Water and Related Resources: Reclamation has over 400 authorized projects across the west primarily funded by the Water and Related Resources Account. Budget constraints often lead to needed projects being deferred during BOR's normal budget formation process. Providing **\$500 million** to undertake ongoing and planned work at authorized Reclamation projects would accelerate completion of important projects that utilize the traditional Reclamation process rather than broader authorized programs.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Construction

H.R. 2 from the 116th Congress included \$10B for Army Corps of Engineers Construction activities. Since development of that bill, another Water Resources Development Act has been enacted and the overall funding in this area likely needs to be increased to \$15 billion or more.

Small Water Storage Projects/Environmental Infrastructure

While some of the projects funded under the general construction budget are important for western water users, these estimates represent a nationwide total. More specifically, the West needs a plus-up in funding directed to programs that could benefit priority projects for the West, including **\$1 billion** for the new Small Water Storage Program and **\$750 million** for Environmental Infrastructure that would benefit habitat restoration priorities in the West, along with rural water supply and wastewater.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NRCS

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention (PL 566)

PL-566 aids local government sponsors with a broad range of locally led watershed projects, including to address flood prevention, rural water supply, and fish and wildlife and habitat restoration issues. Currently, approximately \$100 million per year is provided for PL-566, of which half is mandatory and half is discretionary. The demand for this program is much higher, and Western water interests requested \$200 million per year in the last farm bill discussions. For example, in Oregon alone, there are \$2 billion worth of PL-566 projects that could be developed over the next 4-5 years. We believe **\$4 billion** over this time period for the West is a reasonable funding request.

Forest Service

Forest Restoration, Treatments and Thinning

During testimony last year, the U.S. Forest Service indicated that they would need \$2-3 billion per year to treat the number of acres required to increase the pace and scale of forest management and get ahead of fuel load levels exacerbating wildfire across the National Forest System. Investing **\$30 billion** to restore this critical natural infrastructure would protect water and air resources, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, allowing it to work in partnership with new and existing traditional infrastructure. In addition to restoration needs, roughly \$180 million per year is needed for reforestation work on National Forests that have been damaged by catastrophic wildfire in recent years.

STATE IDENTIFIED PROJECTS

In addition to the funding needs for specific federal programs that have been assembled using public statements, reports and other data from federal agencies, western water users and state officials have also developed an inventory of water supply projects in need of federal assistance. To date, the total costs (not considering federal v. non-federal cost share) are nearly **\$60 billion**. Some of these projects may be eligible to compete for funding from some of the programs discussed above, while others do not fit as cleanly within those programs or need additional authority or planning before being ready to pursue available funding. Regardless, this state-specific data clearly demonstrates that the real need for water infrastructure assistance on-the-ground outstrips the “official” numbers in many categories.

A summary of the responses from state officials and western water users are outlined below and illustrate the variety of needs across the West.

Arizona - **\$297 million** in projects have been identified including large portions to repair, upgrade or modernize aging infrastructure, and groundwater storage projects and drought relief infrastructure.

California - **\$7.34 billion** for a variety of storage, conveyance and other projects were identified as being needed in the next 10 years in the 2018 Update to the California Water Plan. Additionally, over **\$1 billion** is needed to repair six dams to address public safety and water security concerns.

Colorado - **\$3.6 billion** to carry out the Colorado Water Plan, including new storage, restoration and upgrade of existing infrastructures, and conveyance (including Arkansas Valley Conduit).

Idaho - **\$304 million** for storage, conveyance, system modernization and conservation and rehabilitation in aging infrastructure.

Kansas - **\$6.7 billion** for needs identified by water managers including water conveyance, storage, rural water, water reuse, water quality needs, and activities identified in the Kansas Water Vision.

Montana: **\$479 million** for rural water infrastructure development and rehabilitation of aging infrastructure.

Nebraska - **\$500 million** to continue to supply a reliable water supply for Nebraska cities and towns, agriculture industry and the business sector.

Nevada: **\$112 million** estimated ten year need for major rehabilitation, replacement and extraordinary maintenance activities identified in the most recent Reclamation Asset Management Report.

New Mexico - **\$437 million** for groundwater desalination and storage, conveyance upgrades and modernization, ecosystem, habitat and watershed restoration and aging infrastructure.

Oregon - **\$2.49 billion** in system modernization and efficiency alone have been identified, with **hundreds of millions** of additional fish screen, renewable energy installation and new storage projects also needed.

Texas - **\$27.5 billion** in identified water infrastructure needs by 2030 as estimated in the draft 2022 Texas State Water Plan.

Utah - **\$6.2 billion** in water infrastructure needs by 2030 is recognized in Utah's Statewide Water Infrastructure Plan for repair and replacement of aging infrastructure, water conservation, and new infrastructure.

Washington - **\$1.75 billion** in projects including surface and groundwater storage, system modernization and conservation, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, and aging infrastructure upgrades and repairs.

Wyoming - **\$724 million** in projects have been identified by the Wyoming Governor's office, the majority of which is for new water storage. The remaining is for rehabilitation of existing systems, modernization and other supply and delivery related projects.