Watershed groups receive $3.8 million to collaboratively address water management issues

Western states and U.S. territories receiving funding includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, and U.S. Virgin Islands

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WASHINGTON – The Bureau of Reclamation is providing $3.8 million to 21 groups to create or expand watershed groups. WaterSMART's Cooperative Watershed Management Program brings diverse stakeholders together to develop local solutions for their water management needs.

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Ten groups will share $1.7 million to establish a new watershed group. They are:

- Native Village of Georgetown (Alaska), Development of a Middle and Upper Kuskokwim Watershed Council, $199,995
- Takshanuk Watershed Council (Alaska), Greater Chilkat Watershed Working Group, $178,620
- Tule Basin Land and Water Conservation Trust (California), Formation of the Tule Basin Watershed Coalition, $198,385
- Trout Unlimited (Idaho), Development of the Priest River Watershed Group, $156,109
- Trout Unlimited (Idaho), Establishment of a New Watershed Group in the South Fork of the Boise River Watershed in Southwest Idaho, $199,038
- Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (Idaho), North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition, $198,220
- Santa Cruz Irrigation District (New Mexico), Watershed Group Development and Watershed Restoration Planning for the Rio Santa Cruz Watershed Northern New Mexico, $200,000
- McLean County (North Dakota), Turtle Creek Cooperative Watershed Group Development and Management Plan, $69,148
- The Chickasaw Nation (Oklahoma), Development of the Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association, $199,831

- The University of Texas at Austin (Texas), Establishing the Lower Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Watershed Council and Watershed Restoration Plan, $141,026

Eleven groups will share $2.1 million to expand an existing watershed group. They are:

- Norton Bay Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (Alaska), Norton Bay Watershed Restoration Plan, $182,831
- Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership (Arizona), Planning to Support Sustainable Groundwater Use for the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership Stakeholders, $198,529
- Trout Unlimited (Arizona), Collaborative Black River Landscape Restoration Planning for Apache Trout Climate Resilience, $191,873
- Trout Unlimited (Colorado), Supporting the Upper San Juan Enhancement Partnership Efforts to Implement Watershed Plan, $198,477
- Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (Hawaii), Planning for Community Resilience Through Watershed Restoration on Molokai, $192,086
- Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership (Montana), Watershed Group Development and Restoration Planning for the Lower Clarks Yellowstone River, $147,620
- Gallatin Watershed Council (Montana), Gallatin Water Collaborative Stakeholder Coordination – Community Engagement and Project Development, $200,000
- Nevada Land Trust (Nevada), One Truckee River Vegetation Management and Restoration Planning, $199,998
- Amigos Bravos, Inc. (New Mexico), Improving the Ecological Function of the Rio Fernando Through Hydrology and Streambank Restoration Planning, $198,750
- Deschutes River Conservancy (Oregon), Development of an Upper Deschutes Subbasin Water Management Plan, $199,500
- Coral Bay Community Council, Inc. (U.S. Virgin Islands), Stormwater Management Device Toolkit, $190,289

A watershed group is a self-sustaining, non-regulatory, consensus-based group composed of diverse stakeholders. It comprises but is not limited to private property owners, non-profit organizations, federal, state, or local agencies, and tribes. The group can use the funding to develop bylaws, a mission statement, comprehensive stakeholder outreach, a watershed restoration plan, and a watershed management project design.

To read all 21 project descriptions and learn more about the Cooperative Watershed Management Program, please visit www.usbr.gov/watersmart/cwmp. The Cooperative Watershed Management Program also includes a second phase of funding where groups can apply to receive funding for projects identified through their planning efforts.

Through WaterSMART, Reclamation works cooperatively with states, tribes, and local entities to plan for and implement actions to increase water supply reliability through investments to modernize existing infrastructure and attention to local water conflicts. Visit www.usbr.gov/watersmart to learn more.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Fiscal Year 2022 Cooperative Watershed Management Program

Alaska

Native Village of Georgetown
Development of a Middle and Upper Kuskokwim Watershed Council
Reclamation Funding: $199,995 **Total Project Cost: $199,995**

The Native Village of Georgetown, in partnership with the Native Village of Napaimute, and the Kuskikwim Corporation, located in western Alaska, will establish the Middle and Upper Kuskokwim Watershed Council to engage diverse stakeholders across several watersheds surrounding the Kuskokwim River. The Kuskokwim River is critical to the communities' ways of life as a source of drinking water, a conduit for transit, and the habitat of several fish species with significant cultural importance. To establish the Watershed Council and assess the restoration needs within the watershed, the partners will engage a diverse set of stakeholders across the sparsely populated area, including subsistence users, villages, the City of McGrath, tribes, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act For-Profit Corporations, small and large-scale mining operations, local businesses, and state and federal land management agencies.

Takshanuk Watershed Council
Greater Chilkat Watershed Working Group
Reclamation Funding: $178,620 **Total Project Cost: $270,820**

The Takshanuk Watershed Council located in southeastern Alaska will establish the Greater Chilkat Watershed Working Group. The Greater Chilkat Watershed covers nearly 2,000 square miles and is one of the most productive salmon fisheries on the west coast of Alaska. The watershed is home to all five species of Pacific salmon, which have been an essential cultural, economic, and subsistence resource for the area's residents for centuries. Although local freshwater habitats are relatively intact, they face significant near-term threats, including the unpredictable effects of climate change and pressure from ongoing and proposed industrial development in the watershed. The formation of the working group will address these issues through the development of an ecosystem-based management plan and by supporting stakeholder engagement.

Norton Bay Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
Norton Bay Watershed Restoration Plan
Reclamation Funding: $182,831 **Total Project Cost: $182,831**

The Norton Bay Inter-Tribal Watershed Council will engage with watershed stakeholders to complete a watershed restoration plan for the Norton Bay Watershed, in the Bering Sea area of western Alaska. The Inupiat and Central Yupik communities located within the watershed rely on a subsistence economy. However, in recent years, diminishing sea ice in the Bering Strait and increasing freshwater temperatures resulting from climate change have begun to impact subsistance resources. While the watershed provides important salmon spawning habitat, there have been recent large-scale die-offs of otherwise healthy fish due to increased water temperatures and reduced dissolved oxygen. The Council will collect baseline watershed data on water quality and quantity, complete mapping and technical analysis of watershed data, conduct outreach to watershed stakeholders, and review watershed-specific best management practices established by federal, state, and local governments. The restoration plan will identify and prioritize watershed management projects to address impacts that stress fish communities and result in fish kills. The Council will engage a diverse group of stakeholders, including Tribal entities, federal and state agencies land management agencies, Alaska villages and regional Native corporations, and non-profit organizations.

Arizona

Trout Unlimited
Collaborative Black River Landscape Restoration Planning for Apache Trout Climate Resilience
Reclamation Funding: $191,673 **Total Project Cost: $293,733**

The Four Forest Restoration Initiative, in collaboration with Trout Unlimited, will design and acquire permits for a watershed restoration project on the West Fork of the Black River, located in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in eastern Arizona. The Four Forest Restoration Initiative is a diverse working group dedicated to landscape-scale restoration planning in the area of the Kaibab, Coconino, Apache-Sitgreaves, and Tonto National Forests. Warming temperatures, changing patterns of precipitation, and historic fire suppression have left the Four Forest area especially vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire, which could significantly harm the watershed. The West Fork Black River is a major tributary of the Salt River, a key water source for over 2 million people. The river is also the location of one of the few remaining Apache trout populations. Through this effort, the group will complete plans for a cross-boundary restoration project that will consider current and future climate conditions and how aquatic restoration can be combined with upland forest treatment to build maximum resiliency in a watershed.

Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership
Planning to Support Sustainable Groundwater Use for the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership Stakeholders
Reclamation Funding: $198,529 **Total Project Cost: $217,669**

The Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership in Arizona will complete groundwater modeling, develop an ecosystem services dashboard, and complete water source and demand mapping for the Coconino Plateau area in northern Arizona. The Partnership identified the top critical concerns of the watershed as part the first phase of their Water Related Ecosystem Services Assessment, which they completed through a 2018 WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant. These concerns include understanding the future sustainability of the groundwater system, the potential impacts of future catastrophic wildfires on water quality and quantity, the identification of water delivery infrastructure needs including in areas of the Plateau with no running water, and the need for further assessment of water resuse. The Partnership represents a diverse group of stakeholders including, federal and state agencies, the Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Navajo Nation, municipalities, water providers, and conservation organizations

California

Tule Basin Land and Water Conservation Trust
Formation of the Tule Basin Watershed Coalition
Reclamation Funding: $198,385 **Total Project Cost: $198,385**

The Tule Basin Land and Water Conservation Trust will collaborate with diverse watershed stakeholders to formally establish the Tule Basin Watershed Coalition, building on ongoing watershed coordination efforts. The Tule Basin watershed has experienced significant groundwater level decline, which affects water supply reliability, quality and land subsidence and impacts the area's ecosystems, communities, and agricultural producers. The coalition will formulate a charter, bylaws and standard practices, and develop an understanding of the of the impacts of groundwater decline in the project area. Additionally, they will conduct pre-planning activities such as collecting baseline information on current conditions in the basin to understand watershed related issues and restoration needs. The formation of the Tule Basin Watershed Coalition will enhance the coordination and scale of efforts to address ongoing water concerns.

Colorado

Trout Unlimited
Supporting the Upper San Juan Enhancement Partnership Efforts to Implement Watershed Plan
Reclamation Funding: $198,477 **Total Project Cost: $227,882**

The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership, located in southwestern Colorado, will expand on previous watershed planning and management efforts in partnership with Trout Unlimited. The Partnership is a grassroots, community-based collaborative comprised of diverse stakeholders that is nearing completion of an Integrated Water Management Plan for the Upper San Juan River. Water from the San Juan River is essential for local municipalities, agricultural producers, and ranchers. Additionally, a thriving river-recreation economy relies on dependable instream flows. Water supply and quality in the San Juan River are threatened by historic drought, climate change impacts, and significant regional wildfire risk. The partnership will develop articles of incorporation and bylaws, expand outreach efforts, and complete design and preliminary engineering for priority projects identified through the Partnership's ongoing planning efforts.

Hawaii

Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
Planning for Community Resilience Through Watershed Restoration on Molokai
Reclamation Funding: $192,086 **Total Project Cost: $192,086**

The East Moloka'i Watershed Partnership, in collaboration with the State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, will update their existing watershed management action plan. The Partnership is a collaborative of landowners and land managers, including the Nature Conservancy, the state of Hawai'i, the County of Maui, the Kamehameha Schools, and the Kapualei Ranch, on the east side of the island of Molokai. This effort is part of a larger vision to care for East Moloka'i's remaining native forests. These forests sit atop and help recharge Moloka'i's main aquifers, the source of residential water supplied by the County of Maui. As part of this project, the Partnership will complete design work for a fence to protect the native forests in the Kamalō-Kapualei area from non-native feral pigs, deer, and goats, which roam wild and trample and devour vegetation, and spread weeds. The Partnership will also draft the Pua'ahala watershed management plan for a recently acquired 800-acre property.

Idaho

Trout Unlimited
Development of the Priest River Watershed Group
Reclamation Funding: $156,109 **Total Project Cost: $156,109**

Trout Unlimited will establish the Priest River Watershed Group to support and enhance the native cold-water fishery in the Lower Priest Watershed in the northwest panhandle of Idaho. The Priest River is designated as critical habitat for Bull Trout, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, and a Special Resource Water, meaning it requires intensive protection to preserve outstanding characteristics or to maintain current beneficial uses. Through the project, a broad-base of federal, state, local, Tribal, and non-governmental stakeholders will work collaboratively to exchange information, identify issues, and analyze data. The group will prioritize major watershed concerns, including water temperature, water quality, land-use impacts, and increasing recreational use, in order to identify and prioritize potential restoration projects.

Trout Unlimited
Establishment of a New Watershed Group in the South Fork of the Boise River Watershed in Southwest Idaho
Reclamation Funding: $199,038 **Total Project Cost: $308,753**

Trout Unlimited will establish a new watershed group in the lower section of the South Fork Boise River in southwestern Idaho. The group will focus on three main segments of the South Fork Boise River below Anderson Ranch Dam, a Reclamation facility. The watershed group, comprised of landowners, local governments, recreation and conservation groups, state, federal and Tribal agencies, and other affected stakeholders, will complete organizational development activities and stakeholder outreach, and conduct research and stakeholder interviews to identify watershed needs, and complete an outline for a future restoration plan. A recent population boom in the area has been accompanied by a dramatic increase in outdoor recreation, causing erosion and impacting fish and wildlife habitat along the river corridor. The watershed group will serve as a forum to allow for open dialogue between water users competing for limited water supplies from Anderson Ranch Reservoir and will facilitate the development of collaborative solutions to meet diverse stakeholder needs.

Valley Soil and Water Conservation District
Establishing the North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition
Reclamation Funding: $198,220 **Total Project Cost: $198,220**

The Valley Soil and Water Conservation District will establish the North Fork Payette River Watershed Coalition to address watershed and water quality issues on the North Fork Payette River in west-central Idaho. The North Fork Payette River watershed, critical to local domestic, agricultural, and recreational water use, has been impacted by nutrient loading, contributing to

harmful algae blooms that threaten the health of water users and wildlife. The new watershed group will recruit a diverse set of stakeholders to coordinate various interests in the development of a North Fork Payette River Watershed Restoration Plan. The Coalition will represent public land and resource managers, municipalities, Idaho Power, irrigators, livestock grazing, recreationists, private developers and landowners, and the general public.

Montana

Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership
Watershed Group Development and Restoration Planning for the Lower Clarks Yellowstone River
Reclamation Funding: $147,620 **Total Project Cost: $147,620**

The Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership, located in the southeast corner of Montana, will complete outreach to diversify membership, conduct river assessments, and complete restoration planning for the lower and middle reaches of the river. Human-caused water quality impairments, including nutrient loading and sedimentation, have been recognized and studied within the Lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River watershed for over half a century but limited restoration planning and project implementation has occured. The Partnership will prioritize potential restoration projects previously identified in the Partnership's 2019 River Assessment, will use existing data to develop a preliminary water budget, and develop river health scorecards for the river's lower reaches. The Partnership will also complete initial river assessments to document and understand river conditions in the middle reach.

Gallatin Water Collaborative
Stakeholder Coordination, Community Engagement and Project Development
Reclamation Funding: $200,000 **Total Project Cost: $200,000**

The Gallatin Watershed Council, an established watershed group, headquartered in Bozeman, Montana, serves as a forum for the communication and coordination of activities to address watershed issues in the Gallatin River watershed in southwest Montana. The Gallatin River watershed, which supports irrigation for prime farmland, municipal water use, and recreational tourism, is challenged by a rapid rate of population growth and development contributing to water quality degradation, water supply and availability issues, and declining ecological resilience. Bozeman's rapid urbanization has contributed to non-point sources water quality concerns, with impermeable surfaces mobilizing pollutants into streams after storm events. The Council will increase community awareness of watershed concerns, advance prioritized actions through the development and coordination of task forces, and complete the design and engineering of on-the-ground restoration projects in the lower part of the Gallatin River Watershed.

Nevada

Nevada Land Trust
One Truckee River Vegetation Management and Restoration Planning
Reclamation Funding: $199,998 **Total Project Cost: $221,498**

Nevada Land Trust will facilitate the further development of the One Truckee River Partnership, a diverse watershed coalition including 24 actives partners and 130 stakeholder entities, to expand efforts to support sustainable management within the urban stretch of the Truckee River in the Reno-Sparks area of Nevada. The Partnership identified the project area of importance due to increased human activity resulting in the loss of native vegetation which stabilizes the river banks, leading to concern for public safety and degradation of water quality. The project partners will synthesize river condition data and prioritize watershed restoration projects. This project will leverage the Partnership's Framework Plan and the collaboration of the Partnership's Vegetation Management Technical Working Group, funded through a previous WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant, to build momentum to complete the site-specific project planning.

New Mexico

Amigos Bravos
Improving the Ecological Function of the Rio Fernando Through Hydrology and Streambank Restoration Planning
Reclamation Funding: $178,750 **Total Project Cost: $178,750**

The Amigos Bravos, located near Taos, New Mexico, will expand the Rio Fernando de Taos Revitalization Collaborative and investigate restoration alternatives. The watershed is vital to the health of the Taos Community, supplying an important water resource to the residents and the aquatic ecosystem. The Collaborative has identified this segment of the Rio Fernando and Los Pandos Road as a critical area needing restoration due to the seasonal loss of continual flow. When the river moves underground, the aquatic and terrestrial species are negatively impacted, and irrigators cannot receive their allocated supply. As part of this project, the collaborative will conduct a hydrology analysis of the river and water table to understand why the water moves underground and explore restoration options.

Santa Cruz Irrigation District
Watershed Group Development and Watershed Restoration Planning for the Rio Santa Cruz Watershed Northern New Mexico
Reclamation Funding: $200,000 **Total Project Cost: $200,000**

The Santa Cruz Irrigation District, based in Santa Cruz, New Mexico, will establish a watershed group to address key issues in the Rio Santa Cruz watershed in northern New Mexico. The Rio Santa Cruz watershed serves several disadvantaged communities, provides water to two pueblos, and is essential for irrigating agriculture. Improving the watershed's health has been

identified as a critical issue, particularly the need for a plan to mitigate the effects of post-catastrophic fire debris flows and runoff on streams and the Santa Cruz Reservoir. The watershed group will complete sedimentation modeling and post-fire debris flow analysis to identify critical areas for watershed thinning and habitat improvement projects. The new watershed group will recruit a diverse set of stakeholders, including tribal interests, state and federal agencies, and water users to determine critical watershed needs and develop a holistic watershed restoration and management plan to maintain stream flows, increase water quality and water supply reliability for all users within the Rio Santa Cruz watershed.

North Dakota

McLean County Water Resources Board
Turtle Creek Cooperative Watershed Group Development and Management Plan
Reclamation Funding: $69,148 **Total Project Cost: $69,148**

The McLean County Water Resource Board, located in central North Dakota, will establish a new watershed group and prepare a watershed management plan to guide water management in the Turtle Creek watershed. Turtle Creek is a rural watershed comprised of prairie, livestock production, irrigated agriculture, and waterfowl habitat. The McClusky Canal, a major water conveyance, crosses east-west in the upper watershed and can release water into Turtle Creek at several locations. However, watershed stakeholders have limited stream flow data and lack the ability to control water releases from McClusky Canal into Turtle Creek. Currently, the canal releases flows into Turtle Creek during already high flows, while no water is released from the canal during periods of drought when water releases are most important for fish and wildlife habitat . As part of this project, the group will install a stream gage to provide information on streamflow rates throughout the year to inform management decisions for the McClusky Canal. The development of this watershed group will also improve communication between stakeholders and assist in the development of remediation plans for impaired waters within the watershed.

Oklahoma

The Chickasaw Nation
Development of the Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association
Reclamation Funding: $199,831 **Total Project Cost: $253,264**

The Chickasaw Nation, located in Ada, Oklahoma, will establish the Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association to address water quantity and quality concerns in the lake and Upper Red River Basin that spans parts of New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Water quality impairments in Lake Texoma Watershed present water supply vulnerability for users and overall economic development in this rapidly growing region. Lake sedimentation and excessive algal growth threaten lake water quality and quantity; these impacts are especially evident in the Washita River arm of the lake in Oklahoma. Lake Texoma is a vital water supply essential to the

region's current and projected economic growth. The Association will establish a board, develop mission and vision statements, and develop the Lake Texoma Watershed management Plan, which will prioritize and phase strategies focused on implementing soil health practices and related measures to improve and protect the watershed and lake.

Oregon

Deschutes River Conservancy
Development of an Upper Deschutes Subbasin Water Management Plan
Reclamation Funding: $199,500 **Total Project Cost: $199,500**

The Deschutes River Conservancy, located in Bend, Oregon, will support the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative, an existing watershed group representing more than 40 groups, in developing the Upper Deschutes Sub-Basin Water Management Plan to guide the implementation of watershed management projects to meet the needs for rivers, agriculture, and growing communities. Recent studies by the Collaborative have identified shortages for instream and out-of-stream water demands of up to 400,000 acre-feet. These shortages affect river function, water quality, and habitat for native fish species and Oregon spotted frog, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Shortages also affect the viability of irrigated agriculture and growing communities. Through this project, the Collaborative will develop a plan that will provide a roadmap to meet long-term needs in the Upper Deschutes and give the basin a powerful platform to ensure implementation outcomes maximize benefits for the resource and communities.

Texas

The University of Texas at Austin
Establishing the Lower Rio Grande/Río Bravo Watershed Council and Watershed Restoration Plan
Reclamation Funding: $141,026 **Total Project Cost: $154,326**

The University of Texas at Austin will establish a watershed council that will serve as a permanent, binational forum for information exchange and collaboration among stakeholders of the Lower Rio Grande below Falcon International Reservoir. The new group will include water managres, agencies, cities, agricultural organizations, and non-profit organizations in both the U.S. and Mexico. This stretch of The Rio Grande provides critical irrigation and drinking water supply to nearby population centers but has historically had difficulties attaining compliance with Texas water quality criteria. Current water quality issues include low dissolved oxygen and elevated nutrients, ammonia, and fecal coliform. The development of this watershed group will establish a mechanism to sustain the impaired watershed by engaging stakeholders, providing technical services such as data analysis and modeling, and developing a binational watershed-based plan to restore and protect water quality.

United States Virgin Islands

The Coral Bay Community Council
Stormwater Management Device Toolkit
Reclamation Funding: $190,289 **Total Project Cost: $208,047**

The Coral Bay Community Council, located on the island of St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands, will create and implement a stormwater management device toolkit to assist neighborhoods in identifying, maintaining, and improving stormwater management devices. The island's rapid development led to increased flooding and erosion concerns due to road development and a lack of stormwater runoff controls, slope stabilization, natural resource protections, and solid waste management. The island's torrential rains regularly wash out roads and carry excess surface runoff from hillside developments, impacting the sensitive marine ecosystem. The Council will implement a management strategy identified in the Coral Bay Watershed Management Plan, a plan created under a previous Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant, building community resiliency and protecting the health of the Coral Bay Watershed.

Reclamation awards $2.6 million for Western communities to establish or expand watershed groups

Communities in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Washington and Wyoming will receive funding

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WASHINGTON - The Bureau of Reclamation is awarding $2.6 million to 27 communities in the Western United States to establish or expand existing watershed management groups through WaterSMART's Cooperative Watershed Management Program. Each group is eligible for up to $50,000 a year for two years with no federal cost-share required.

"This program encourages cooperation among diverse stakeholders to develop local solutions for their water management needs," said Chief Engineer David Raff. "Local groups working together is the only way where we can develop sustainable water management solutions for Western communities."

A watershed group is a self-sustaining, non-regulatory, consensus-based group composed of a diverse array of stakeholders. It comprises but is not limited to private property owners, non-profit organizations, federal, state, or local agencies, and tribes. The group can use the funding to develop bylaws, a mission statement, complete stakeholder outreach, develop a watershed restoration plan, and watershed management project design.

Four communities in Alaska and Hawaii will receive funding to establish or expand an existing watershed management group. These two states became eligible to receive funding in 2019.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

FY 2021 Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I

New Watershed Groups

Alaska

Chugach Regional Resource Commission, Kachemak Bay Watershed Collaborative Establishment

Reclamation Funding: $99,985 **Total Project Cost: $99,985**

The Chugach Regional Resources Commission, a tribal consortium, will establish the Kachemak Bay Watershed Collaborative in Kachemak Bay on the Kenai Peninsula of southcentral Alaska. The Collaborative will complete outreach activities to build a diverse stakeholder membership, gather information on current conditions of the watershed through literature research and partnerships with Federal agencies, and outline a restoration plan. Planning activities will focus on strategies for creating green corridors along 20 interjurisdictional anadromous streams, many of which originate in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, and on the impacts of habitat connectivity and climate change on salmon habitat. Watershed concerns include extreme drought, elevated stream temperatures, reduced snowpack, and poor land management practices. The Collaborative will include tribal entities, including the Seldovia Village Tribe, Nanwalek IRA Council, and Native Village of Port Graham, state and Federal agencies, livestock grazing interests, individual citizens, and conservation organizations, including the Cook Inletkeeper.

Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, A Watershed Restoration Plan for the Metlakatla Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $99,978 **Total Project Cost: $99,978**

The Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition and Metlakatla Indian Community Department of Fish and Wildlife will establish the Metlakatla Watershed Advisory Group for Annette Island in Southeast Alaska. They will complete stakeholder outreach and engagement; develop a restoration plan for the Metlakatla watershed, including mapping existing geospatial data, hydrologic modelling to understand impacts of climate change on streamflow and temperature, and completion of a stream habitat assessment; and complete design plans for restoration of Lower Nadzaheen Creek. Past timber harvesting, road building, and development in the watershed have left degraded salmon habitat and riparian areas that negatively impact commercial and subsistence harvest of salmon. Further, climate change threatens the availability of water for hydropower production, domestic water, and salmon hatchery operations on the Annette Islands Reserve. The Metlakatla Watershed Advisory Group will directly engage stakeholders, community members, tribal leaders, fishermen, agencies, and others in the development of a collaborative watershed restoration plan.

Arizona

Aravaipa Watershed Conservation Alliance, Cooperative Watershed Organizational and Management Plan

Reclamation Funding: $89,938 **Total Project Cost: $89,938**

The Aravaipa Watershed Conservation Alliance will expand their capacity and diversity and develop a watershed restoration plan for Aravaipa Canyon in southeastern Arizona. Aravaipa Creek is a tributary to the San Pedro River and in turn, the Gila River. The Aravaipa Creek's 20-mile perennial-flow stretch has some of the best remaining habitat for desert fishes in Arizona, with seven native species, including the endangered spikedace and loach minnow. The Alliance will build participation by interested landowners, including cattle ranchers and other private landowners, through stakeholder outreach and partner meetings. The Alliance will also begin developing a restoration plan using data and research gathered through a decision support tool developed through Reclamation's internal Applied Science Program. Through the planning process, the Alliance will identify and prioritize projects for erosion and flood control, mitigation of land fragmentation, and other range improvements, including water storage and delivery to support improved distribution of livestock for better rangeland health.

California

El Dorado County Water Agency, Upper American River Watershed Management Program

Reclamation Funding: $99,800 **Total Project Cost: $113,082**

El Dorado County Water Agency will establish a new watershed group in the Upper American River watershed, located in northern California approximately 20 miles northeast of Sacramento. The Upper American River watershed provides water to Folsom Reservoir, a critical piece of the Reclamation's Central Valley Project. Municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users in the greater Sacramento region and throughout California rely on the Upper American River Watershed for water supplies and hydroelectricity, as well as abundant wilderness and recreation opportunities. Variables such as population growth, climate change, and reduced snowpack threaten the reliable water supplies to support human consumption and environmental needs. Recent devastating wildfires with increasing frequency and severity, exposed the weaknesses of current passive forest management and overall headwater management that are critical to public safety and climate resiliency. The group will bring together diverse stakeholders, including local land-use authorities, water purveyors, resource conservation districts, non-governmental organizations, tribal governments, and Federal agencies, to develop a watershed approach to address threats to the watershed. Activities conducted under this grant will include forming a new watershed group, assessing baseline watershed conditions, and identifying and prioritizing watershed management projects.

Sonoma Resource Conservation District, Development of the Gualala River Watershed and Associated Tributaries Coalition

Reclamation Funding: $97,844 **Total Project Cost: $97,844**

Sonoma Resource Conservation District will facilitate the formation of a collaborative watershed group for the Gualala River watershed and associated coastal tributaries on the northern California Coast. The Gualala River watershed has a long history of industrial use compared to most north coast watersheds in California. Historic logging practices and road development have negatively impacted water quality in the watershed, which was listed on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies 303(d) list of impaired water bodies for excessive sediment loads and temperature in 2001. The group will bring together a diverse set of stakeholders, including state and county parks departments, private industrial timber companies, non-industrial private forest landowners, agricultural producers, the Kashia Pomo tribe, and scientific and environmental advocacy groups. The project will develop the watershed group, create a watershed management plan, and develop an action plan that identifies and ranks priority restoration projects.

Kansas

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 3, Creation of a Watershed Management Group to Address Concerns in the Upper Arkansas River Basin

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District Number 3 in western Kansas, will establish a local watershed group in the Kansas portion of the Middle Arkansas-Lake McKinney watershed. The watershed group boundary will encompass a portion of the Arkansas River basin that has diminished and degraded flows and impaired water quality. High saline levels and surface water shortages have forced irrigators to rely heavily on the Ogallala Aquifer to meet water demands and mitigate water quality. However, ground water levels are declining, and the Ogallala Aquifer has previously been contaminated by impaired surface water recharge. The District will facilitate stakeholder outreach and coalition building, gather information on watershed health and outline a watershed restoration plan.

Oregon

Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District, Indian Ford Watershed Group Development and Restoration Planning

Reclamation Funding: $56,813 **Total Project Cost: $59,377**

Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District, located in central Oregon, will establish the Indian Ford Watershed Group to promote the sustainable use of water resources within the Indian Ford Watershed. Indian Ford Creek historically provided critical habitat for steelhead, beavers, and other wildlife. Wildlife is experiencing the impacts of the changing system through an increase in water temperatures, diminished riparian vegetation and shade, invasion of noxious weeds, reduced water quality, and diminished summer flows. The project will develop a new watershed group and specific restoration planning activities along the creek. This project will also conduct a baseline assessment for the stream within U.S. Forest Service land and develop a geographic and biological assessment that will include restoration recommendations for future implementation for private land along Indian Ford Creek. The watershed group will collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service, Deschutes Land Trust, Black Butte Ranch, and private landowners.

Texas

Devils River Conservancy, Lower Devils River Watershed Restoration and Conservation Planning

Reclamation Funding: $99,805 **Total Project Cost: $99,805**

The Devils River Conservancy, located in southwest Texas near the U.S.-Mexico border, will establish a new watershed group comprised of stakeholders in the Lower Devils River Watershed. The Conservancy will recruit stakeholders, develop goals, gather data to create a watershed inventory, identify and prioritize data gaps and needs and develop a GIS database cumulating in a Restoration and Conservation Management Plan. The Devils River's baseflows are entirely supported by groundwater and provide critical freshwater flows to Amistad Reservoir and the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Unregulated groundwater pumping, climate change effects, and drought threaten water supplies for people, agriculture, and fish and wildlife dependent on the Devils River. The Conservancy will bring stakeholders together to resolve longstanding disagreement, strengthen relationships, build trust and a unified vision amongst the community, and develop strategies to ensure the sustainability of the region's water supply. Stakeholders in the watershed include the International Boundary and Water Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the agriculture and ranching community, energy transportation and production, universities, and environmental entities.

Washington

Lincoln County Conservation District, Establishment of the Columbia Basin Sustainable Groundwater Coalition

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Lincoln County Conservation District, located in eastern Washington, will formally establish the Columbia Basin Sustainable Water Coalition. The Coalition will unite a diverse set of stakeholders and promote sustainable water use in the Mid-Columbia Basin, an area in eastern Washington that has experienced significant groundwater level declines over the past several decades. The Coalition is currently a loosely organized partnership that includes local conservation districts, counties, municipalities, utility districts, irrigators, state and Federal agency staff, and elected officials. The project will allow the Coalition to formalize its organizational charter and bylaws, hold and facilitate regular planning meetings, and generate a watershed management plan.

Wyoming

Trout Unlimited, Establishment of a New Watershed Group in the Salt River Watershed in Northwest Wyoming and Southeast Idaho

Reclamation Funding: $98,132 **Total Project Cost: $112,287**

Trout Unlimited will establish the Salt River Watershed Group in northwest Wyoming and southeast Idaho. The watershed includes Star Valley, the fastest-growing area in Wyoming. In recent years, the valley has experienced rapid growth, rapidly increasing development pressure, and changing land use as a desirable location for retirees and workers commuting to nearby Jackson, Wyoming. Trout Unlimited will engage a diverse group of stakeholders to participate in the newly established group, including Federal and state land managers; fish and wildlife, and water management agencies; conservation districts; local governments; irrigation districts; mining companies; nonprofit organizations; utilities, and community groups and members. The watershed group will identify and prioritize major watershed concerns, including degraded water quality; impacts of development; aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitat degradation and loss; loss of stream function; bank and channel instability; and water quantity, dewatering, and lowered water tables. The project will support organizational development, stakeholder and community outreach, background research, and pre-planning for a future stakeholder-driven watershed restoration plan.

Existing Watershed Groups

Alaska

Kenai Watershed Forum, Kenai River Water Quality Action Framework Development

Reclamation Funding: $99,172 **Total Project Cost: $99,172**

Kenai Watershed Forum, located on the Kenai Peninsula of southcentral Alaska, will identify ongoing and emerging critical water quality issues, determine high-priority challenges at the community level, and provide a roadmap for future management solutions. The Kenai watershed is uniquely productive of multiple salmon species, arctic lamprey, dolly varden, and hooligan or eulachon. The watershed supports commercial, recreational, personal use, and subsistence fisheries. Much of the watershed is federally managed, and oil and gas extraction occurs within the watershed. Watershed health and resilience concerns include development in the riparian zone, climate change impacts, aquatic invasive species, and intensive recreational use. The Forum has identified decline in return of adult salmon to the watershed for spawning; decline in mean body size of adult salmon; and increased levels of zinc, copper, fecal coliform, and petroleum-associated compounds in the watershed. The Forum will analyze a 20-year baseline water quality dataset and develop a plan to mitigate water quality concerns in the watershed.

Arizona

Friends of the Verde River, Developing a Collaborative Water Quality Monitoring Program

Reclamation Funding: $97,227 **Total Project Cost: $97,227**

Friends of the Verde River and the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition, located in central Arizona, will address water quality concerns in the Verde River watershed. Friends and the Coalition will assess current water quality monitoring in the watershed and develop a collaborative water quality monitoring plan with the goal of attaining state clean water standards for healthy fish and wildlife and sustainable recreation. Addressing water quality monitoring and concerns are included as a conservation objective within the Coalitions' 2019 strategic plan. The watershed contains multiple 303(d) impaired reaches and less than 10% of all stream reaches in the watershed had adequate water quality sampling in the last five years to be considered scorable by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Index. The Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition includes 23 public and private stakeholder organizations, including local community governments, and over 235 private landowners. The Yavapai-Apache Nation is a member of the Coalition and Friends will reach out to other indigenous groups within the project area to expand their involvement.

Sonora Institute, Assessment, Prioritization, and Design of Riparian Restoration Opportunities in the Middle Santa Cruz River

Reclamation Funding: $98,792 **Total Project Cost: $98,792**

Sonoran Institute and the Santa Cruz Watershed Collaborative, near Tucson Arizona, will identify, design, and plan for restoration opportunities in the middle basin of the Santa Cruz River watershed. The project will include a conservation opportunity assessment within the watershed, focusing on identifying areas of the river corridor where restoration is possible, then narrowing the scope through a prioritization evaluation. The project will also create a water budgets and conceptual designs for a prioritized subset of restoration projects identified. Although frequently intermittent, the middle Santa Cruz River historically flowed seasonally and supported a large mesquite forest. Due to climate change, development pressures, and decline in groundwater levels, flows in the middle Santa Cruz River have decreased and the mesquite forests have disappeared. The Sonoran Institute and Collaborative's goal is to restore flows in the middle Santa Cruz River and restore riparian areas to improve riparian habitat and increase aquifer recharge. The middle basin of the Santa Cruz River watershed encompasses a complex mix of urban communities, agricultural lands, native nations, and Federal, state, and local public lands.

California

Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District, Coordination of Planning through the Arroyo Grande Creek Memorandum of Understanding Group

Reclamation Funding: $99,927 **Total Project Cost: $134,171**

The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District in southern California will strengthen the coordination of land and water planning in the Arroyo Grande Creek watershed by revitalizing the Arroyo Grande Creek Memorandum of Understanding Group. The Arroyo Grande Creek watershed, a coastal watershed that ultimately drains into the Pacific Ocean, is highly impacted by agricultural and urban modifications, including flood control infrastructure and water diversions. The District will engage a diverse group of stakeholders including the newly forming Arroyo Grande Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Surfrider Blue Water Task Force, Meadow Creek Restoration Project Science Panel, and the U.S. Forest Service. The group will update watershed goals, inventory watershed information resources, and update an existing watershed management plan. The effort will increase coordination and planning between local stakeholder groups, resulting in more sustainable and comprehensive water and land planning in the Arroyo Grande Creek watershed.

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, South Lassen Watersheds Group Collaborative Restoration Planning

Reclamation Funding: $99,894 **Total Project Cost: $99,894**

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment will further develop the South Lassen Watersheds Group and finalize a strategic plan for the Upper Feather River, Upper Mill, Upper Battle, and Upper Deer Creek watersheds. These watersheds are classified as the highest priority for protection and restoration due to their ability to support anadromous fish populations during periods of unfavorable climatic conditions. The group represents a diversity of interests including landowners, industrial timber companies, state and Federal agencies, and community based and environmental groups, which are interested in pursuing high-priority, large-scale, multi-jurisdictional projects to improve forest and watershed health, reduce wildfire risk, protect habitat, and support local industry and communities. The group will advance stakeholder engagement, coordinate adaptive restoration planning efforts, and complete site-specific restoration design.

South Yuba River Citizens League, Yuba River Watershed Outreach, Partnership Development, and Restoration Project Prioritization

Reclamation Funding: $99,852 **Total Project Cost: $99,852**

The South Yuba River Citizens League, located on the west side of Tahoe National Forest in California, will initiate stakeholder outreach and partnership building and update the 2011 Yuba River Watershed Assessment. The updated watershed assessment will include a prioritization matrix of restoration projects and a critical review of the existing river monitoring program for the Yuba River. The resilience of the Yuba River watershed has been impacted by land use practices, including historic gold mining, diversion of water, timber extraction, grazing, fire suppression, and the introduction of invasive plant species. The League works closely with the Yuba County Water Agency, Nevada Irrigation District, state and Federal agencies, and tribal partners. As part of this project the League will further develop partnerships with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land Management and focus on establishing trust with farmers and irrigators in the community. The project will result in a set of near and long-term restoration priorities to enhance watershed health, climate resiliency, adaptation, and prevent conflicts between water users.

The Watershed Research and Training Center, Upper Trinity River Watershed Planning

Reclamation Funding: $99,685 **Total Project Cost: $99,685**

The Watershed Research and Training Center, in partnership with the Trinity River Watershed Council, will conduct landscape-scale watershed restoration planning in the upper Trinity River watershed, upstream of the Trinity and Lewiston Dams, in northwestern California. The group will prioritize and design watershed restoration projects that will improve forest heath and protect the quality and reliability of water supplies across private and Federal forest lands. The Council and Center will facilitate local community involvement and foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders to help identify critical watershed needs, potential solutions and prioritize watershed restoration projects relating to water resources. This project will contribute significantly toward meeting established watershed goals expressed in multiple local, regional, and statewide plans. This group will utilize current science and technology, such as LiDAR datasets, to identify and prioritize watershed restoration needs, and develop site-specific watershed restoration projects to meet water supply and natural resource objectives.

Upper Merced River Watershed Council, Developing the Upper Merced River Watershed Council and Facilitating a Restoration Plan for the Upper Merced Wild and Scenic River

Reclamation Funding: $71,500 **Total Project Cost: $289,947**

The Upper Merced River Watershed Council in central California will engage stakeholders to rejuvenate and reconfigure the organization, which struggled to recover after a fire destroyed the Council's office in 2012. The Council will position itself as a convener and coordinator of restoration activities in support of the Wild and Scenic Merced River. The Council will engage a diverse array of stakeholders, including Yosemite National Park, Sierra and Stanislaus National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, local groups like the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, Sierra Foothill Conservancy, Mariposa Trails, University of California Merced, Mariposa Biomass, and state agencies like CalFire, to articulate a cohesive vision, identify common goals, and specify restoration and management actions. Forest health has been negatively impacted by pine bark beetle infestation and repeated catastrophic wildfires and associated erosion and sedimentation. These conditions have stressed habitat for several key species, including chinook salmon, American beaver, and endemic limestone salamander. The Council will produce a strategic work plan for implementing prioritized projects that will alleviate adverse watershed conditions identified by the collaborative watershed group.

Colorado

Blue River Watershed Group, Watershed Group Development, and Watershed Restoration Planning for the Blue River Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $90,231 **Total Project Cost: $294,978**

The Blue River Watershed Group, located in Summit County, Colorado, will complete their Integrated Water Management Plan for the Blue River Watershed. The watershed has been impacted by historic mining practices, the mountain pine beetle epidemic and wildfire risk, sedimentation loading from roads, invasive and nuisance aquatic species, and diversion of water to Front Range communities. In 2016, a 19-mile stretch of the Blue River lost its Gold Medal fishery designation due to increasing temperatures and reduced trout growth. The group will focus on gathering and analyzing additional data that will better inform recommendations for solutions to some of the larger issues of concern such as the declining the trout fishery in the Blue River. The Plan will provide a comprehensive picture of the health of the watershed and provide a detailed roadmap for future restoration projects. The group represents a diverse set of stakeholders, including real estate development, recreation, water resource managers, municipal water users, trans basin diverters, and environmental and conservation organizations.

Friends of the Yampa, Yampa River Scorecard Project, and Middle and Lower Yampa River Watershed Management

Reclamation Funding: $97,827 **Total Project Cost: $97,827**

Friends of the Yampa (FOTY), an existing watershed group, will increase stakeholder engagement and expand planning efforts in the middle and lower segments of the Yampa River Basin in Northwest Colorado. The group will develop a River Health Scorecard, combining planning and data collection to provide a comprehensive report on overall river health to guide the direction of future river projects. FOTY will engage additional stakeholders in the lower and middle segments of the Yampa River, adding their diverse group of existing stakeholders, including representatives across sectors, including power generation, agriculture, environmental, municipal, state and Federal governments, and landowners. The Yampa River is an important watershed in the greater Colorado River Basin and it has been relatively untouched by major water diversions or impoundments. However, negative effects from cumulative and small-scale river management and diversions include impacts to water temperature, nutrient loading, sediment deposition, and noxious plants. FOTY will lead stakeholders in collaborative planning to identify challenges and opportunities to help the Yampa River continue to function as a healthy river.

Hawaii

State of Hawaii DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Planning for the Protection of Watershed Forests in West Maui

Reclamation Funding: $99,895 **Total Project Cost: $99,895**

The State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Muana Kahalawai Watershed Partnership will develop a detailed native forest protection plan focused on fencing across approximately 20,000 acres on the eastern half of the West Maui Mountains, located on the island of Maui, Hawaii. The water from the eastern slopes of the mountain provides a majority of the municipal water supply for the island of Maui; however, multiple trends indicate that the aquifer is being depleted, including lowering water levels in wells, increasing chloride contents, and reduced streamflow. Studies indicate that native forests in Hawaii significantly increase water recharge compared to non-native vegetation; the complex forest canopy structure enables the forest to capture fog. Maui's forests are threatened by non-native feral pigs, deer, and goats, which roam wild and trample and devour vegetation, and spread weeds. The detailed fencing plan will prioritize which tracts of forest are most important to protect from these animals, determine the exact location and feasibility of fence alignments, and gain landowner approval compliance to prepare these fences for eventual implementation. This project will benefit from the existing long-standing relationships across multiple landowners, agencies, and the Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership.

Montana

Big Hole Watershed Committee, Elkhorn Creek Restoration Planning in a Degraded Headwater Stream

Reclamation Funding: $99,991 **Total Project Cost: $114,991**

The Big Hole Watershed Committee, an existing watershed group located in Divide, Montana, will design watershed management activities that will restore the abandoned Elkhorn Mine and Mill site and mitigate downstream contamination. The mine has a documented history of being a point and non-point source for pollution that is an ongoing risk to the aquatic ecosystem and downstream public drinking water supplies. The Committee is currently composed of a 22-member governing board that represents diverse interests including: ranching, utilities, local government, sportsmen, conservationists, tourism, and outfitters. Federal and state agencies participate in an advisory role. The watershed group works in the entire Big Hole watershed and this project will focus on Elkhorn Creek, a headwater tributary entirely within the National Forest. The group will focus on stakeholder coordination, cultural resource assessments, water and soil contamination characterization studies, and preliminary engineering designs for water resource restoration through the removal of contamination.

Granite Conservation District, Building Capacity for Community Engagement in Watershed Restoration Planning in the Flint-Rock Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $99,985 **Total Project Cost: $99,985**

Granite Conservation District and the Granite Headwaters Watershed Group, located in western Montana, will complete watershed restoration planning and project design in the Flint Rock watershed. Many of the diversion structures and associated water delivery infrastructure in the watershed are outdated. High demand for water combined with inefficient water withdrawals causes periods of dewatering portions of the watershed. These events negatively impact agricultural producers and create conflict between water users and fisheries. The group will foster community engagement in efforts to find local solutions to water quantity, water quality, and fisheries issues in the Flint Rock watershed. They will engage a diverse network of stakeholders, improve upon existing watershed plans, and, in partnership with Trout Unlimited, develop priority projects necessary to improve the health of the watershed. The group will advance local solutions to critical watershed issues by identifying community-supported project priorities. With technical expertise from Trout Unlimited, they will develop these multi-benefit priority projects into shovel-ready projects for implementation.

New Mexico

National Audubon Society, Isleta Reach Stewardship Association, and Plan Development for the Middle Rio Grande

Reclamation Funding: $99,964 **Total Project Cost: $99,964**

Audubon Southwest, a regional office of the National Audubon Society, will build on a previous Phase I project to further develop the recently created Isleta Reach Stewardship Association. The Association is focused on improving the watershed health and habitat within the Isleta reach of the Middle Rio Grande River, a 48-mile span of the Rio Grande River in north central New Mexico. Irrigation diversions, groundwater pumping and flood control efforts within and around the Isleta reach, as well as extreme drought events, have resulted in channelization, changes to the magnitude and duration of high and low flow events, and fragmentation of ecosystems within the Isleta reach. The Association will develop approaches to address these issues by creating a formal steering committee and drafting an operating plan for the committee, holding resource subject matter meetings to build on their initial restoration planning efforts, and identifying potential restoration projects and developing the design for those projects. The Association includes representation by community members, irrigation and water districts, Federal and state agencies, multiple non-profit conservation organizations, and Pueblo of Isleta.

Oregon

Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Upper Chewaucan Watershed Assessment

Reclamation Funding: $99,626 **Total Project Cost: $118,066**

The Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, located in south-central Oregon, will work with the Upper Chewaucan Strategic Implementation Area Partnership to update the watershed assessment for the Upper Chewaucan Watershed. The watershed is experiencing water quality concerns from an increase in sediment, higher water temperatures, and declining health of the riparian vegetation due to timber management, wildfires, and livestock. An updated watershed assessment will provide the information necessary to understand the current watershed conditions, document completed restoration projects, and help better identify restoration opportunities. Focused efforts regarding the Upper Chewaucan Watershed Assessment opportunities, will be placed on landowner outreach and engagement. The Council and Partnership members represent the Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District, Lake County Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fremont-Winema National Forest, and private landowners.

Texas

Llano River Watershed Alliance, Catchment-Based Landowner Restoration Planning for the Llano River Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $99,911 **Total Project Cost: $99,911**

The Llano River Watershed Alliance, located in central Texas, will develop catchment-based landowner restoration plans with input from local resource agencies such as U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Texas Wildlife Association. The Alliance includes ranchers, irrigators, fishing guides, conservation groups, elected officials, journalists, real-estate land developers, restaurant and B&B owners, and landowners across the watershed. Historically, effective implementation of full-scale watershed management plans has been challenging in west-central Texas, given the vast expanse of individual watersheds and the large percentage of private land ownership. This project will use a GIS database with online interaction to develop watershed management plans at the local catchment level (HUC-14). The project will increase resiliencies to droughts and floods resulting and affect positive changes to water supply, water quality, aquatic habitat, and recreation in the Llano River Watershed.

Washington

Grant County Conservation District, Council Development and Restoration Planning for the Moses Lake Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $150,000**

The Grant County Conservation District and the Moses Lake Watershed Council, located in central, Washington, will expand its efforts to include the interconnectedness between surface and groundwater quality and quantity and restoration efforts more holistically to address the primary objectives of improving water quality in Moses Lake. Persistent harmful algal blooms from agricultural and urban phosphorous pollution impair the public's use of Moses Lake and pose a risk to public health. The project will conduct outreach to new stakeholders, identify water quality concerns and opportunities, set water quality objectives, and develop a watershed restoration plan.

Reclamation provides $2.8 million for watershed group development and restoration planning

Watershed groups in Alaska and Hawaii receive their first funding, joining other groups in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Wyoming

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WASHINGTON - The Bureau of Reclamation has selected 29 projects to receive $2.8 million to complete watershed group development, watershed restoration planning and watershed management project design. The funding is shared with groups across 12 states, including groups in Alaska and Hawaii, who are receiving funding for the first time through this program.

"Locally driven, consensus-based solutions are some of the best ways to solve the many complex water issues that impact the West today," said Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman. "The Cooperative Watershed Management Program encourages diverse stakeholders to work together to improve water reliability and management within their communities."

Projects are divided into two groups: establishment of new watershed groups and further development of existing watershed groups. Reclamation will provide approximately $900,000 for nine groups to form a new watershed group and $1.9 million to 20 groups to further develop a watershed group.

A complete description of the selected projects can be found at: https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/cwmp.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Cooperative Watershed Management Program Project Descriptions, Phase 1

Alaska

Cook Inletkeeper, Community-Based Watershed Planning

Reclamation Funding: $83,558 **Total Project Cost: $83,558**

The Cook Inletkeeper will collaboratively develop a new State of the Inlet watershed restoration plan in the Cook Inlet Watershed in southern Alaska. The group will engage communities, local recreation and tourist businesses, and state and Federal agencies, including the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. The watershed is generally in good health, but recent droughts have led to large forest fires, drinking water shortages, and increased temperatures in cold-water fisheries. The watershed also faces water quality concerns related to septic tank and industrial contamination. The group will research existing and emerging threats to water resources on the Kenai Peninsula, survey stakeholders to understand community-specific concerns about threats, facilitate community conversations to generate project ideas for addressing threats, and produce a new State of the Inlet watershed restoration plan.

California

Bard Water District, Watershed Group Development and Watershed Restoration Planning

Reclamation Funding: $99,999 **Total Project Cost: $99,999**

The Bard Water District will establish a watershed group within the Bureau of Reclamation's Yuma Project boundary, in southeastern California and southwestern Arizona, and draft a watershed restoration plan. The District will engage farmers and irrigators, tourist and recreation groups, industry, environmental organizations such as the Audubon Society, local and state government, Federal agencies including Reclamation's Yuma Area Office, a military installation, and the Quechan Indian Tribe. The primary issues the area faces include water quantity limitations exacerbated by drought, water quality concerns, endangered and threatened species, and invasive plant species. The District will facilitate development of a watershed group by preparing an outreach plan, conducting outreach and developing a mission statement and goals for the watershed group. The District will also facilitate the identification and prioritization of projects within the watershed and prepare a draft watershed restoration management plan.

Western Riverside Council of Governments, Formation of a Santa Margarita Watershed Council: Supporting Grassroots Cooperation to Protect and Restore the Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $112,000**

The Western Riverside Council of Governments will establish a new watershed group for the Santa Margarita River Watershed. The Santa Margarita Watershed lies within a fast-developing region of southwest Riverside County and northern San Diego County, and faces threats to water supply, water quality, and ecosystem function from historic and ongoing agricultural activity and recent urban development. The river also provides habitat for seven federally or state-listed endangered species. The Council of Governments will engage diverse stakeholders across the watershed, including municipalities, tribes, agricultural interests, utilities, businesses, homeowners, and environmental agencies to participate in watershed restoration. The watershed group will develop a collaborative stakeholder group, a centralized database to identify areas of need, and identify potential restoration projects.

Colorado

Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, Building Continued Capacity and Long-Term Benefit for the Big Thompson Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $62,762 **Total Project Cost: $62,762**

The Big Thompson Watershed Coalition will expand stakeholder participation, conduct restoration planning, and identify potential watershed management projects for the Big Thompson Watershed in northern Colorado. The Coalition formed in 2013 in response to severe flooding has since expanded to address watershed health and resilience. The watershed is at risk of large-scale, high-intensity forest fires, competing demands for water, and fish passage barriers contribute to habitat degradation. The Coalition includes representatives from a diverse set of entities including The Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Flycasters – Trout Unlimited Chapter, City of Loveland, Big Thompson Watershed Forum, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Larimer County Office of Emergency Management, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, and local landowners. The Coalition will expand stakeholder participation throughout the watershed; compile forest health and related watershed data; identify data gaps and potential projects; and obtain stakeholder input on potential actions and projects.

Bostwick Park Water Conservancy District, Cimarron Watershed Planning Program

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $102,920**

The Bostwick Park Water Conservancy District, partnering with the Cimarron Canal and Reservoir Company, will sponsor the formation of a watershed group in the Cimarron Watershed in western Colorado. The watershed has mixed landownership, including private range and crop lands interspersed with land managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service. The Silver Jack Reservoir, part of the Reclamation's Bostwick Park Project maintained by the District, is a main feature of the watershed. The group will engage all land management agencies, property owners, state agencies, local municipal, county governments, environmental organizations, and other water rights holders. The group will also engage domestic and agricultural water users who divert water for use outside the watershed and hold senior water rights. The District and Company will conduct stakeholder outreach and develop a watershed

restoration plan to characterize watershed conditions and prioritize management measures to stretch water supplies and improve water quality and riparian habitat.

Chama Peak Land Alliance, Enhancing the Capacity of the San Juan - Chama Watershed Partnership

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Chama Peak Land Alliance will further develop the San Juan-Chama Watershed Partnership. The Partnership is a community-based group of diverse public and private stakeholders in the Rio Chama Watershed in southwestern Colorado and a portion of the San Juan watershed in northern New Mexico. The watershed has several challenges including water supply, water quality, forest health and wildfire risk, and competing water demands. The Partnership will strategically expand membership and outreach activities, engaging with adjacent partners and initiatives, and incorporate as a legal entity.

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group, St. Vrain Basin Watershed Restoration Plan

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $220,000**

The Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group, in northern Colorado, will expand the geographic scope of the Group to include the St. Vrain Creek Watershed and the Boulder Creek Watershed. The Group, which has worked in the Lefthand Creek Watershed since 2005, voted to expand in 2019. The Group will reach out to local, state, Federal governmental entities, environmental groups, including Trout Unlimited, Northern Water, and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Several issues pose challenges in the watershed, including water quality concerns, forest health and wildfire risk, and flood risk. The Group will conduct stakeholder outreach in this new watershed area, develop a Watershed Health and Restoration Plan for the St. Vrain Creek and Boulder Creek Watersheds, and identify priority projects and complete concept designs for two to four key projects.

San Isabel Land Protection Trust, Collaborative Watershed Planning for Colorado's Wet Mountain Valley Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $99,923 **Total Project Cost: $133,003**

The San Isabel Land Protection Trust will sponsor the establishment of the Sustainable Sangres Watershed Alliance, a new watershed group in the headwaters of the Arkansas River in southern Colorado. The goal of the Alliance is to invite all interested parties in the Grape and Texas Creek Watersheds to use a science-informed process to create a shared 100-year vision for watershed health. The Trust will engage local, state, and Federal government entities; industry, including mining and timber; the Navajo Nation; environmental groups; and private landowners, including farmers and ranchers. Custer Counter, where the Alliance will be based, experienced thirty-eight percent population growth between 2000 and 2017. Coupled with this growth, drought has caused water availability concerns. The watershed also has several water quality impairments, including for arsenic and *E. coli*, and is at high-risk for wildfires. The Trust will complete targeted stakeholder outreach, compile and analyze watershed health data, and facilitate the collaborative development of a 100-year vision, which will prioritize conservation and mitigation actions.

Hawaii

O'ahu Economic Development Board, A Holistic Watershed Management Plan for Waikīkī's Ala Wai Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $200,000**

The Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration, in collaboration with the O'ahu Economic Development Board, will develop a holistic watershed management plan to address critical water issues and vulnerabilities for the Ala Wai Watershed. The Collaborative represents a diverse group of interests, including landowners, business, schools and institutes of higher education, Native Hawaiian cultural institutions, environmental organizations, tourism, and state and county governments, and has identified six main areas of concern: stormwater flood risk, storm surges and sea level rise, hurricane and disaster resilience, improvements of open spaces, restoration of cultural sites, and ecological restoration and protection. The Collaborative will develop watershed management project concepts in their watershed management plan that will function as a roadmap for project implementation.

The Kohala Center, Inc., The Kohala Watershed Partnership Community-Based Ecosystem Assessment Project

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Kohala Center and the Kohala Watershed Partnership, located in Kamuela on the north side of the island of Hawaii, will evaluate the impact of watershed conservation efforts over the past 12 years to update the 2007 Kohala Watershed Management Plan. The Kohala Center administers the Kohala Watershed Partnership, a group of 11 partners including, ranchers, farmers, irrigators, recreation groups, environmental and educational organizations, Hawaiian cultural non-profits, and county and state government agencies. The proposed update will assess the impact of past watershed practices, evaluate and expand on project designs developed in 2007, and capture input from stakeholders who were under-represented in the initial planning process. The watershed planning area includes a rare cloud forest ecosystem that has been degraded by invasive plants and animals. The watershed has been identified as a high priority for cost-effective watershed management due to the high potential for recharge benefits to the Kohala Aquifer, which provides water to 26,000 people in the Kohala District and supports 100,000 acres of agriculture.

Idaho

Friends of Teton River, Inc., Collaborative Research, Analysis, and Design to Meet Water Supply and Natural Resource Needs

Reclamation Funding: $99,931 **Total Project Cost: $107,487**

Friends of the Teton River, Inc. will work collaboratively with irrigators and other stakeholders in Canyon Creek Watershed, a sub-basin of the Teton Watershed in eastern Idaho and western Wyoming, to plan irrigation infrastructure improvements and projects to maximize water supplies for irrigators and improve instream flows for fish and wildlife. The Canyon Creek drainage comprises nearly a quarter of the Teton Watershed and is one of the few remaining spawning streams for native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, which are in significant decline. This project is supported by a group of Canyon Creek irrigators who have committed to working with Friends of the Teton River to allow access to lands for fisheries and hydrologic data collection, work on project design, to support implementation of projects designed through this planning effort. Friends of the

Teton River is an existing watershed group, established in 2000 by a diverse group of stakeholders, including farmers, anglers, scientists, local agencies, and environmental interests.

Nez Perce Tribe, Little Salmon River Watershed Advisory Group

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Nez Perce Tribe, in northwestern Idaho, will establish the Little Salmon River Watershed Advisory Group and develop a restoration plan. The Tribe will engage a diverse group of stakeholders including landowners, the cities of New Meadows and Riggins, Adams and Idaho Counties, DF Development Inc., Payette Land Trust, Adams Soils and Water Conservation District, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, state agencies, Idaho Conservation League, and other affected stakeholders. Heavy livestock grazing, highway encroachment, wastewater treatment plant point source pollution, and timber harvesting have resulted in riparian degradation and water quality impairments. The Little Salmon River is an important habitat for several different fish species, including Chinook salmon, which is of significant cultural importance to the Tribe and is impacted by excess sediment, fish passage barriers, low summer flows, and high-water temperatures. The Tribe will facilitate the development of the collaborative watershed group, including the development of mission and vision statements and a prioritized restoration plan.

Montana

Big Hole Watershed Committee, Planning and Stakeholder Engagement for Water Quantity Planning in Lower Big Hole River Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $99,999 **Total Project Cost: $114,999**

The Big Hole Watershed Committee, established in 1995, is a local watershed group dedicated to the conservation of the Big Hole River, a tributary to the Missouri River, in southwest Montana. The group will engage with irrigators, recreationists, landowners and the guide fishing community to update the Lower Big Hole Project Watershed Restoration Plan, and to prioritize and design watershed restoration projects. Stakeholder identified priorities include improving late-season water availability and decreasing conifer encroachment, which is a key source of water depletions in the area. The Big Hole Watershed Committee has a 22-member board of directors representing a diverse range of stakeholders in the area and will engage additional stakeholders as part of this planning process.

Bitter Root Water Forum Inc., Building Trust, Reducing Conflict, and Developing Projects to Address Water Scarcity, Water Quality, and Fish Passage in the Bitterroot Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $99,893 **Total Project Cost: $99,893**

The Bitter Root Water Forum, in western Montana, is partnering with Trout Unlimited to engage with stakeholders in the Bitterroot Watershed to identify approaches to improve water delivery for irrigation while benefitting water quality and fisheries. The Bitterroot Watershed includes a complex water delivery system, with 30 irrigation districts and ditch companies, 26 back-country dams, and thousands of individual diversions and ditches. This watershed is also home to world-renown fisheries and provides habitat for the Endangered Species Act-listed Bull Trout. The Forum, an existing watershed group in operation for 25 years, will partner with Trout Unlimited to add technical capacity in irrigation infrastructure and water rights, and will form a working group of

irrigators and natural resource professionals to identify opportunities to improve water management. The Forum will build on this outreach to develop "shovel-ready" projects to improve water quality, quantity and fish passage in priority streams.

Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Cooperative Watershed-Based Management Approaches to Agriculture Resource Use of Water in the Two Medicine Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $99,959 **Total Project Cost: $99,959**

The Blackfeet Tribe, located in northwestern Montana, will establish a new watershed group in the Blackfeet Two Medicine Watershed and conduct watershed restoration planning. The Tribe will engage the Native Science Field Center, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Blackfeet Irrigation Project (Native and Non-Native Users), the National Park Service, Native and non-Native farmers, ranchers, and residents. The watershed is the critical headwaters system along the continental divide and the first transition of the headwaters into a populated area within the Blackfeet Nation, the Rocky Mountain steppe, and the arid plains. Recent environmental changes, including shorter winters and earlier snowmelt, are reducing the amount of water available to meet demands for irrigation and habitat. The watershed group will identify best management practices for land use planning, complete GIS analyses, develop a water quality monitoring plan, and prioritize watershed restoration projects.

Clearwater Resource Council, Clearwater Watershed Restoration Plan

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Clearwater Resource Council, established in 2003, will develop a watershed restoration plan for the Clearwater Watershed in Missoula County, Montana. This watershed forms the southernmost portion of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem and is known as the "Crown of the Continent" for its globally recognized high conservation value, and its high cultural value to area tribes. The watershed includes a string of glacial lakes with high nutrient levels, algae blooms, and invasive species issues that threaten drinking water supplies, the environment, and endangered Bull Trout habitat. The group will conduct outreach to recruit under-represented stakeholder groups, conduct pre-planning to identify and address research and modeling needs, and undertake a collaborative process to develop a watershed restoration plan.

Greater Gallatin Watershed Council, Watershed Restoration Project Prioritization and Water Supply Planning in the Lower Gallatin Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Greater Gallatin Watershed Council, based in Bozeman, Montana, will expand on prior planning efforts to plan future restoration activities in the Lower Gallatin Watershed in, located in southwest Montana. The Council will focus on the lower reach of the Gallatin River, known as the Lower Gallatin Watershed, where the Council has been active in creating an inventory of completed restoration projects and is developing a platform to share information about those projects. The Council will evaluate the information compiled and prioritize future restoration work, working closely with stakeholders, and coordinating with other restoration partners, such as the National Resource Conservation Service and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Petroleum County Conservation District, Growth of the Musselshell Watershed Coalition through Improving the Musselshell Watershed Plan.

Reclamation Funding: $87,835 **Total Project Cost: $101,585**

The Musselshell Watershed Coalition will expand on past watershed planning efforts to adapt to environmental changes within the Musselshell River Watershed in central Montana. This watershed is dominated by privately owned agricultural land. The landowners, along with water user associations, conservation districts, county and city governments, and state and Federal land management agencies, are actively involved in the Coalition. The Coalition will build on past planning efforts, including the amendments to the 2015 Musselshell Watershed Plan completed through a 2016 WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I project, to develop a new watershed restoration plan. Environmental conditions continue to change due to extreme flooding and drought induced fires. The Coalition will characterize the conditions of the watershed using existing data and studies and will coordinate with a diverse group of affected stakeholders to identify and prioritize restoration projects. The resulting restoration plan will provide a vision and restoration priorities for the next ten years.

Sun River Watershed, Muddy Creek Resource Restoration Design Project

Reclamation Funding: $99,084 **Total Project Cost: $99,084**

Sun River Watershed is a grassroots watershed group comprised of irrigation and conservation districts, fish and wildlife agencies, private landowners and businesses and local, state and federal agencies that work to address resource concerns across the Sun River Watershed, located south of Glacier National Park in Montana. The group will address water quality and erosion issues in Muddy Creek, a principal tributary of Sun River. Heavy irrigation in the Muddy Creek Watershed has led to flows over 20 times normal baseflows which, coupled with loss of native vegetation, has resulted in erosion rates of up to 600,000 tons per year. Significant erosion threatens local agricultural infrastructure and severely impacts water quality and ecologic resiliency in Muddy Creek and downstream areas. Working closely with local stakeholders, Sun River Watershed will build on the Sun River Strategic Plan, developed under a previous WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant, to identify best management practices and projects for 3 to 5 locations along the creek to reduce sediment and nutrient inputs, and in-stream velocity and erosion.

Nevada

Nevada Land Trust, Diversifying and Engaging One Truckee River Partners to Address Vegetation Management in Truckee Meadows Urban Core

Reclamation Funding: $99,989 **Total Project Cost: $107,089**

The One Truckee River Partnership, an existing watershed group comprised of 22 active partners and 130 stakeholders, will establish a vegetation management and riparian restoration working group for urban stretches of the Truckee River in the Reno-Sparks area. Flowing 121 miles northeast from Lake Tahoe, California, to Pyramid Lake, Nevada, the Truckee River is one of the most heavily litigated and managed river systems in the United States. Historical mining, grazing and logging, urban runoff, and agricultural activities have degraded water quality, diminished native vegetation and promoted growth of invasive weeds, impacting Pyramid Lake endangered and threatened fish species that spawn in the Truckee River. The Partnership will engage new and existing partners and create a Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan to guide sustainable river practices. A new Technical Working Group will draw on past work to identify and prioritize scientifically-defensible

best management practices to reduce invasive plant species, promote native plant growth, reduce nutrient and sediment loading to the river, and promote temperature, turbidity, and flow regimes conducive to spawning of threatened and endangered Pyramid Lake fish species.

New Mexico

Jornada Resource Conservation & Development Council, Furthering Watershed Restoration Planning

Reclamation Funding: $99,982 **Total Project Cost: $99,982**

The south-central New Mexico Stormwater Management Coalition, an existing group, will assemble a technical and stakeholder task force to develop a comprehensive watershed plan for Hatch and Mesilla Valleys in southern New Mexico, within the Rio Grande River Basin. The Coalition was established in 2010 to support cross-agency collaboration on stormwater management, and is comprised of flood commissions, soil and water conservation districts, counties, the Elephant Butte Irrigation District, and multiple municipalities. Loss of vegetation in upland watersheds and more significant flood events are transporting sediment downstream, clogging agricultural infrastructure, and overwhelming downstream flood control infrastructure. The Coalition will build on its existing group to complete its organizational development, increase outreach and collaboration, assemble a watershed planning taskforce, develop a watershed plan, and develop priority project designs. Projects will focus on reducing sediment transport, preventing flooding, increasing upland vegetation productivity, and increasing water supplies through shallow aquifer recharge.

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, Employing Establishing Baseline Water Quality Conditions in the Wild and Scenic Reach of the Rio Chama

Reclamation Funding: $99,852 **Total Project Cost: $110,227**

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, a partnership led by New Mexico Wild that includes Rio Grande Restoration, scientists from the University of New Mexico and the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Rio Chama Flow Project, will use a citizen science approach to collect data to assess water quality and ecological resiliency in the Rio Chama River in New Mexico. The project will focus on the area below Reclamation's El Vado Dam, within the Rio Chama Wild and Scenic River area, co-managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. The Alliance will establish baseline water quality conditions for this reach of the Chama in advance of a Safety of Dams Corrective Action at El Vado Dam. During the corrective action, while storage is reduced and hydropower production is temporarily halted, the group will monitor changes to water quality to compare the two sets of data. The results from this analysis can be used to inform how management of future flow releases could improve water quality. This project is supported by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

Santa Fe Watershed Association, Linking Shareholder Priorities with Water Management and Adaption Strategies in the Santa Fe River Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Santa Fe Watershed Association will work with diverse stakeholders to develop a watershed plan for the Santa Fe River Watershed, a sub-basin of the Rio Grande River located within Santa Fe County, New Mexico. The unifying issue affecting the Santa Fe River Watershed is the concern over sustainability and reliability of surface water supplies. The Association will build on the WaterSMART Santa Fe Basin Study, completed in 2015, to explore implementation of the

adaptation strategies identified in the Basin Study, and to integrate stakeholder priorities and concerns to ensure alignment with the proposed adaptation. The Association will synthesize information from the Basin Study and other existing plans, working with stakeholders to understand and document the watershed management priorities, and prioritize issues and potential solutions.

Oklahoma

Advocates for Blue River Foundation, Watershed Planning for the Blue River

Reclamation Funding: $99,959 **Total Project Cost: $99,959**

The Blue River Foundation, in southeast Oklahoma, will complete stakeholder outreach on best management practices and develop area-specific conservation plans in cooperation with individual landowners. The Blue River, in southeast Oklahoma, flows 140 miles to the southeast across the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations' territories and private lands to its confluence with the Red River. Primary issues of concern are water quantity and water quality impairments in the lower reaches of the river, including sedimentation and the spread of invasive Cedar trees, which negatively impact water quality and aquifer recharge. The Foundation includes private landowners, agricultural interests, municipalities, business interests, state and Federal agencies, recreational interests, and educational and conservation organizations. The Foundation will seek broad landowner participation through training workshops to promote best management practices, co-hosted with local organizations and in cooperation with Noble Research Institute. Once the Foundation has identified priority locations and interested landowners, conservation plans will be developed in cooperation with individual landowners.

City of Norman, Collaboratively Improving the Water Quality in the Lake Thunderbird Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $85,500 **Total Project Cost: $85,500**

The City of Norman, in central Oklahoma, will establish the Lake Thunderbird Watershed Partnership to address impaired water quality in Lake Thunderbird reservoir. The City will engage individual landowners, Reclamation's Oklahoma-Texas Area Office, Oklahoma State Parks, Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), Oklahoma Water Survey, other municipalities, recreational groups, and developers. Lake Thunderbird is owned by Reclamation and operated by the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District to provide water to Midwest City, Del City, and Norman. In 2010, the ODEQ listed Lake Thunderbird as an impaired water body due to elevated nutrient levels in the lake. The ODEQ established a total maximum daily load in 2013 for nutrients and sediment from urban stormwater runoff, which has led to algal blooms resulting in low dissolved oxygen levels in the lake. The Lake Thunderbird Watershed Partnership will develop a Unified Public Education and Outreach Plan to engage with regional stakeholders and conduct planning activities to develop an Integrated Watershed Management Program to improve the water quality of Lake Thunderbird.

Texas

Rio Grande International Study Center, Watershed Restoration Planning for Laredo and Upstream Affected Stakeholders

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $103,939**

The Rio Grande International Study Center in Laredo, Texas, will develop a Rio Grande-Rio Bravo watershed management plan in the San Ambrosia-Santa Isabel Watershed along the U.S. - Mexico border. The Center will develop a new watershed group that represents diverse group of stakeholders within the region, including Federal agencies, academic institutions, municipal and county governments, international institutions, commercial and industrial interests, and small business and public interests. The Center will develop an adaptive management plan to address critical watershed issues including, water availability, water quality and wildlife habitat, by evaluating available research, conducting relevant data and geospatial analysis, and hosting collaborative planning meetings.

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, Arroyo Colorado/Llano Grande Lake Restoration Planning

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension service will sponsor the further development of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership and complete restoration planning in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed in southern Texas. The Partnership is a diverse stakeholder group including representatives from state and Federal agencies, local city and county governments, water utilities, irrigation districts, universities, and environmental groups. The Arroyo Colorado flows 90 miles through the Lower Rio Grande Valley to the Lower Laguna Madre, one of only six hypersaline lagoons in the world. The river provides flood protection and recreation to Lower Rio Grande communities, as well as wildlife habitat and a navigable channel to the Port of Harlingen. Restoration of Llano Grande Lake, a water body in the lower reaches of the Arroyo Colorado that acts as a natural silt trap, has been identified as a critical measure to meet water quality objectives for the river. The Partnership will collect sediment data and investigate the best option for sediment removal necessary to restore Llano Grande Lake.

Utah

The Nature Conservancy, Lower Bear River Watershed: Collaborating for the Future

Reclamation Funding: $94,188 **Total Project Cost: $94,188**

The Utah Chapter of The Nature Conservancy will sponsor the further development of a collaborative watershed group in the Lower Bear River Watershed in northern Utah. The Nature Conservancy has led this collaborative group, which includes hydropower interests, state and Federal agencies, other environmental groups, and water districts, in conservation planning in the watershed for over ten years. The watershed faces a variety of threats to water quality, water quantity, and restoration needs, including urban development, non-point source pollutants from agriculture, loss of floodplain connectivity, and invasive species concerns. The group will complete an analysis of the watershed restoration activities completed in the watershed in the last ten years in order to identify gaps, assess current conditions, and identify needs moving forward.

Wyoming

Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District, A Collaborative Effort to Address Sediment Contributions to the Shoshone River

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation District will further develop a watershed group and develop a watershed restoration plan to address negative sedimentation impacts in the Shoshone Watershed in northwest Wyoming. The group has participation from diverse stakeholders including local agricultural producers, conservation and irrigation districts, state and Federal agencies, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service. The Shoshone River and its tributaries within the Willwood Watershed are cool water fisheries that support several trout species, and the state has designated this reach of the Shoshone River as a blue-ribbon trout stream. Stakeholders are concerned about sedimentation impacts to the health of the fisheries and accompanying ecosystems. Several activities contribute to the sediment load, including reservoir operations, irrigation return flows, overgrazing, erosion of roads and trails, mining, urban development, and invasive plant species. The group will complete stakeholder outreach, site visits, develop a sediment sampling and analysis plan, and develop a watershed restoration plan to prioritize projects to address sedimentation.

Bureau of Reclamation provides 27 projects $2.6 million in WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grants

Funding supports the establishment or further development of watershed groups to address water quantity and quality issues in the West

For Release: July 10, 2018

WASHINGTON - Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman announced that 27 entities were selected to receive a total of $2.6 million to establish or further develop watershed groups in order to address water quantity or quality through Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grants. Of the 27 entities selected, 19 are existing watershed groups, including one from the Virgin Islands, and 8 are establishing a new watershed group.

"Reducing conflict over water is an important goal," Commissioner Burman said. "Working collaboratively with locally-led groups is the best path forward to reduce conflict and develop solutions that will lead to the long-term viability of watersheds."

Selected entities may use their funding to develop bylaws, a mission statement, complete stakeholder outreach, develop a watershed restoration plan, and to conduct watershed management project design.

A complete list of the selected projects is available at https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/cwmp.

The Save Our Bosque Task Force in Socorro, New Mexico, is one of the groups selected to receive funding. It will receive $100,000 to update their 2004 conceptual restoration plan on the Rio Grande floodplain through Socorro County where flooding can devastate farms, infrastructure and small communities. Recent drought conditions have limited available surface water supplies in the watershed, increasing wildfire risk and reliance on groundwater, which also strains aquifers. The task force will work with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, New Mexico State Forestry and numerous other local, state and federal agencies to complete outreach to stakeholders.

The Coral Bay Community Council on the island of St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands will receive $99,155 to complete a five-year update to its watershed management plan and develop a visioning document for the Coral Bay Watershed. The group has spent a significant amount of time characterizing source pollution into Coral Bay, including unmanaged stormwater, sediment

transport and an inadequate solid waste system. In addition, back-to-back hurricanes in 2017 have increased the need for updated planning efforts. The council will hold stakeholder meetings to help inform the public of the importance of watershed planning and to incorporate diverse perspectives in the updated plan and visioning document.

Through WaterSMART, Reclamation works cooperatively with States, Tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply through investments to modernize existing infrastructure and attention to local water conflicts. Visit https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart for additional information about the program.

FY 2018 Cooperative Watershed Management Program Project Selections

New Watershed Groups

Arizona

Industrial Development Authority of Gila County, Cobre Valley Watershed Partnership
Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Industrial Development Authority of Gila County, Arizona, will establish the Cobre Valley Watershed Partnership (Partnership). The Cobre Valley Watershed has water supply and quality concerns due to urban development and population growth. The Partnership will facilitate cooperation within a watershed with a diverse set interests. For example, the Resolution Copper Company and the San Carlos Apache Tribe, which opposes Resolution's mine, both support the Partnership. In addition, thirteen entities, including municipalities, state and Federal agencies, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, community organizations, and non-profit and industry groups, are already engaged with the Partnership. The Partnership will identify and engage additional affected stakeholders; develop a collaborative process to identify water resource issues and needs; develop a consensus-based process to prioritize needs and issues; identify near-term and long-term watershed management solutions; and prepare a written action plan to address prioritized needs and associated solutions.

Watershed Management Group, Inc., Forming a Tucson Basin-Santa Cruz Watershed Collaborative and Restoration Plan
Reclamation Funding: $99,847 **Total Project Cost: $167,521**

The Watershed Management Group, Inc. will establish a Santa Cruz River watershed group in the Tucson Basin and develop a watershed restoration plan. The watershed, located near Tucson, Arizona, encompasses a complex mix of urban communities, agricultural lands, tribal, Federal and local public lands. Water supplies consist primarily of diversions from the Colorado River delivered by the Bureau of Reclamation's Central Arizona Project Canal and groundwater pumping. Drought and land use changes are significant threats to the current municipal water supply and local springs that support riparian habitat. The new group will establish stakeholder working groups, develop a community meeting training plan, organize community meetings, and develop a comprehensive watershed restoration plan. The restoration plan will address complex water management issues in the watershed including, drought, the need for long term sustainable water supplies, and restoration of streams and associated riparian habitat.

California

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, South Lassen Watersheds Group Collaborative Development Project

Reclamation Funding: $99,669 **Total Project Cost: $124,669**

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment will develop the South Lassen Watershed Group, which will work within the Upper North Fork of the Feather River, Upper Mill Creek, and Upper Deer Creek watersheds, a critical headwaters region for the California State Water Project. The group will focus on water quality and quantity concerns, forest health, reduction in catastrophic wildfires, and building cooperative partnerships across the watershed. The group will develop a diverse membership, gather baseline water quality and quality data, and develop a watershed restoration plan. Development of the plan will include mapping, technical analysis and the creation of fire models. Planning efforts will focus on upstream land management to protect the watersheds.

Sonoma Resource Conservation District, Petaluma River Watershed Consortium

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Sonoma Resource Conservation District located in Santa Rosa, California, will establish a collaborative watershed group for the Petaluma River Watershed. The Petaluma River Watershed Consortium will bring together state agencies, local municipalities, recreation managers, recreational user groups, agricultural groups, domestic water supply entities, and land developers. The stakeholders will collaboratively create a mission, vision, and develop goals to address natural resource issues through a watershed enhancement plan. This plan will determine priority projects to address water quality concerns, water quantity, saltwater intrusion, and land development.

Colorado

Tamarisk Coalition, Development of the White River Partnership

Reclamation Funding: $87,257 **Total Project Cost: $126,265**

The Tamarisk Coalition in Grand Junction, Colorado, will establish the White River Partnership (Partnership) for the lower White River Watershed. Invasive Tamarisk and Russian Olive have established along much of the river in the watershed, which has negatively impacted the function and dynamics of the aquatic, riparian, and wetland areas. The Partnership will develop outreach materials, encourage collaboration between stakeholders, develop governance structure for the Partnership, and undertake initial watershed restoration planning focused on restoration in areas invaded by Tamarisk and Russian Olive.

New Mexico

Isleta Reach Watershed Restoration Group, Middle Rio Grande Basin Watershed Group Development and Restoration Plan

Reclamation Funding: $99,964 **Total Project Cost: $99,964**

The National Audubon Society, Inc., will establish a new watershed group for the Isleta Reach of the Middle Rio Grande River in New Mexico. The Isleta Reach of the Middle Rio Grande River has been significantly modified by surface water diversions, groundwater pumping, flood control, channelization, and land use changes, which has impacted native fish and wildlife populations, water quality, and recreation. The new watershed group will recruit stakeholders and develop a watershed restoration plan, taking advantage of the extensive stakeholder experience with restoration in the watershed.

Northern Arizona University, Developing a Watershed Restoration Strategy for the Eastern Jemez

Reclamation Funding: $97,673 **Total Project Cost: $97,673**

Northern Arizona University and the New Mexico Chapter of the Nature Conservancy will establish the East Jemez Watersheds Group in New Mexico. The eastern Jemez Mountains have been impacted by severe fires, floods, debris flows, and drought over the last twenty years. These past events have resulted in closures of public lands to the public due to safety concerns. This group will bring together Native American Pueblos, Federal agencies, state agencies, and private landowners to develop a landscape scale watershed restoration plan that will allow historic access of public lands to continue. Restoration planning efforts will focus on increasing biodiversity, increasing water holding capacity of the soil, and decreasing erosion.

Oklahoma

Grand River Dam Authority, Development of a Stakeholder Group to Protect and Restore the Lake O' the Cherokees Sub-Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $112,000**

The Grand River Dam Authority in Vinita, Oklahoma, will facilitate a Lake O' the Cherokees Watershed Group and development of the Grand Lake Watershed Restoration Plan. The Lake O' the Cherokees encompasses land within four states, nine tribal jurisdictions, and contains Grand Lake, a terminal reservoir that receives runoff from eight sub-watersheds that comprise the Grand Lake Watershed. Sedimentation is a primary concern for Grant Lake; therefore, the Group will work collaboratively with stakeholders upstream of Grand Lake in efforts to reduce sedimentation. Lake O' the Cherokees Watershed also has impairments for dissolved oxygen, fecal bacteria, and heavy metals. This project will establish the watershed group, build collaborative relationships, and develop a Grand Lake watershed restoration plan. The restoration plan will include a process for identifying, prioritizing, and planning watershed management projects designed to improve water quality within the watershed.

Existing Watershed Groups

Arizona

Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, Collaborative Watershed Restoration Plan for the Altar Valley Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $254,285**

Altar Valley Conservation Alliance (Alliance), which represents a diverse group of stakeholders, including ranchers, Federal, state, and local government agencies, environmental groups, and universities, will develop a restoration plan for the Altar Valley Watershed in Pima County, Arizona. The restoration plan will focus on developing general project plans for 15-20 high priority projects that address channel incision and erosion, which are two of the largest concerns in the watershed. By addressing these concerns, the Alliance hopes to increase groundwater infiltration, reducing sediment transfer, and enhancing ecological site condition. The Alliance works closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, which is located in the southern portion of the watershed, and the restoration plan will complement Refuge initiatives.

Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership, Growth of the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership

Reclamation Funding: $98,668 **Total Project Cost: $98,668**

The Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership (Partnership) will complete stakeholder outreach and restoration planning activities to assist in meeting the water needs of the Coconino Plateau in northern Arizona. The Partnership, which represents a diverse group of stakeholders including, Federal and state agencies, tribes, municipalities, water providers, and conservation organizations, has identified sustainable water management and reducing conflict as critical needs in the watershed. To help address those needs, the Partnership will provide key information to regional decision makers through modeling the groundwater aquifer, building on an existing ecosystems services assessment, updating water source and demand maps, and conducting workshops to gain input and support from stakeholders. The Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, and Navajo Nation participate in the Partnership.

Friends of the Rio de Flag, Advancing Watershed Planning for the Rio de Flag

Reclamation Funding: $99,565 **Total Project Cost: $99,565**

Friends of the Rio de Flag will further develop and complete a watershed restoration plan for the Rio de Flag Watershed near Flagstaff, Arizona. Urban development has resulted in water supply concerns, stream channelization, erosion, and degradation of the riparian ecosystem, which have increased the risk of flooding and caused water quality concerns. The group will facilitate conversations between a diverse group of stakeholders to inform the watershed planning process. The group will also seek to engage the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation as the Rio de Flag Watershed is of cultural significance to both tribes.

California

Alpine Watershed Group, Upper Carson River Watershed Planning and Partnership Development

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $170,000**

The Alpine Watershed Group will conduct community outreach and partnership development, information gathering and data collection, and restoration planning focused on the Upper Carson River Watershed at the headwaters of the Carson River in Alpine County, California. The group is comprised of local landowners, conservation groups, recreation groups, Federal, state, and local agencies, ranchers, and local businesses, and works closely with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Over the past 150 years the watershed has experienced degradation due to extensive mining, grazing, timber harvesting, and road building; more recent stressors include, recreation, invasive species, and urban development. The group will complete stakeholder outreach and partnership building and gather data to inform a comprehensive watershed plan for the Upper Carson Watershed, which will lay the groundwork for determining priority restoration projects.

Colorado

Animas Watershed Partnership, Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment

Reclamation Funding: $79,000 **Total Project Cost: $79,000**

The Animas Watershed Partnership (Partnership) located in Durango, Colorado, will engage new stakeholders in the Florida River Watershed, a sub-basin of the Animas Watershed, and develop the Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment. The Partnership includes private landowners, environmental groups, local, state, and Federal agencies, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, and works across the Colorado-New Mexico state boundary and tribal boundaries. The Florida River Watershed, which encompasses the Source Water Protection Area for seven public water suppliers, is impacted by nutrient and bacterial contamination; declining ecological resilience due to changes in flow regime, riparian vegetation, and channel stability; and water supply concerns due to aging infrastructure and drought. The Partnership will analyze the Florida River and tributaries below Lemon Reservoir to identify and prioritize reaches where projects will most benefit water quality, habitat, channel stability and Russian Olive and Tamarisk control.

Blue River Watershed Group, Watershed Group Development and Watershed Restoration Planning for the Blue River Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $107,000**

The Blue River Watershed Group located in Frisco, Colorado, will complete organizational development, stakeholder outreach, and restoration planning in the headwaters of the Colorado River, west of the continental divide in Colorado. The group includes a diverse group of stakeholders, including private landowners, Federal, state and local government agencies, tourism and recreation groups, the mining industry, real estate development, farmers and ranchers, hydropower production, environmental groups, emergency services, and the transportation sector. The watershed suffers from water quality concerns due to historic mining activities and roads, degraded ecosystem health due to the mountain pine beetle epidemic

and invasive species, and water supply concerns due to pressure from transmountain diversions to Colorado's rapidly growing cities. The group will build new relationships among stakeholders; reassess the critical issues in the watershed; develop a matrix of priority projects; and begin preliminary project concept planning for restoration projects that will address water quality and quantity concerns and ecosystems health in the watershed.

Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, River Resiliency Master Plan Lower Cache La Poudre - Phase 2

Reclamation Funding: $99,707 **Total Project Cost: $99,707**

The Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (Coalition) located in Fort Collins, Colorado, will continue to develop their presence in the Cache la Poudre River watershed by expanding stakeholder engagement and competing restoration planning in the lower portion of the watershed. The Poudre River watershed has been heavily impacted by fire and damaging floods as well as declining ecological resilience, degraded riparian habitat, and water quality concerns. The Coalition brings together local agencies, natural resources nonprofits, academia, local business owners, and natural resource management. As part of this project, the Coalition will recruit and engage diverse interests in the lower watershed, work collaboratively with local stakeholders to prioritize critical river reaches, and identify specific projects aimed at improving resiliency. The outreach, planning, and design process will foster communication and collaboration among stakeholders, including water users that rely on Reclamation's Colorado-Big Thompson Project, while improving riparian habitat and restoring river resiliency.

Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plan

Reclamation Funding: $35,000 **Total Project Cost: $273,030**

The Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation located in Alamosa, Colorado, will expand upon larger Rio Grande Basin planning to create three stream management plans for the high priority Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek watersheds. The watersheds have experienced prolonged drought, forest fires, extensive beetle kill, aging water infrastructure, endangered species, and degraded habitat. The plans will result in identified goals that will further the efforts of communities in the San Luis Valley to improve flows and physical conditions for environmental, recreational, and community benefits.

Dolores Water Conservancy District, Planning and Development to Further the Dolores Watershed and Resilient Forest Collaborative

Reclamation Funding: $99,530 **Total Project Cost: $109,759**

The Dolores Water Conservancy District will further develop the Dolores Watershed and Resilient Forest Collaborative (Collaborative) in Dolores and Montezuma Counties in southwestern Colorado. The Collaborative will complete source water protection planning in the Dolores Watershed from the headwaters in the San Juan National Forest to the Dove Creek pump station. The watershed is at risk of large fires and subsequent water quality concerns due to low snowpack and drought. The Collaborative will further develop their organizational structure, collect missing baseline data to inform planning, incorporate critical source-water protection issues to reduce risk that are identified in the watershed wildfire protection plan, including GIS support and a risk-based vulnerability assessment, and develop a monitoring plan. The

Dolores Watershed encompasses Reclamation's Dolores Project, which provides water to Ute Mountain Ute tribal water users. Source water protection in the Dolores Watershed will protect the McPhee Reservoir, a primary storage feature of the Dolores Project, from water quality contamination.

Purgatoire Watershed Partnership, Inc., Restoring the Ecology and Channel Processes of the Purgatoire River along the Trinidad River Walk through Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

Reclamation Funding: $92,080 **Total Project Cost: $246,380**

The Purgatoire Watershed Partnership, Inc. (Partnership) located in Trinidad, Colorado, will conduct watershed management project design focused on restoring a 4.5 mile stretch of the Purgatoire River as it flows from the Trinidad Dam through the City of Trinidad. This stretch of the Purgatoire River currently suffers from flooding, declining ecological resilience due to invasive species encroachment, and lack of fishery habitat and recreation access. The Partnership was established and developed an initial watershed restoration plan through a 2012 Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant and previously convened a group of diverse stakeholders to determine management priorities for a the 4.5 mile stretch of the Purgatoire River. The Partnership will complete an analysis to prioritize watershed management projects and identify specific project locations; complete site-specific project design and engineering; and develop project timelines and milestones. Design work will include completion of a hydrology assessment to determine how to best manage controlled releases of storm water from Trinidad Reservoir with the goal of preparing for the potential maximum release of 5,000 cfs as is required under the Arkansas River Compact; to determine how to best manage winter flows to create a self-sustaining fishery; and to develop a protocol for a collaborative flow management program. The project area is immediately downstream from Reclamation's Trinidad Dam.

San Miguel Watershed Coalition, Expansion of the San Miguel Watershed Coalition

Reclamation Funding: $99,303 **Total Project Cost: $130,828**

The San Miguel Watershed Coalition (Coalition) in Telluride, Colorado, will conduct stakeholder outreach, organizational development, and restoration planning in the San Miguel watershed in southwest Colorado. The San Miguel Watershed is impacted by mining-related water quality concerns and low instream flows in the San Miguel River, which pose a threat to native fisheries, during periods of high irrigation demand. The Coalition will broaden its membership through targeted outreach and build on its history of stakeholder engagement to address watershed issues among a diverse partnership including Federal, state, and local government agencies, local conservation groups, and agricultural, mining, and recreational interests. In working toward a watershed restoration plan, the Coalition will monitor water quality throughout the watershed, engage with stakeholders to identify water quality and quantity concerns, and facilitate discussion among the varied interests in the watershed. The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, which are active participants in the Coalition, are the largest landowners in the watershed.

Idaho

Trout Unlimited, The Wood River Water Collaborative

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $107,906**

The Wood River Water Collaborative (Collaborative) in Hailey, Idaho, will work to create a long-term water management framework to balance the needs of water users both now and in the future. Due to a decrease in snowpack and spring runoff and an increase in consumptive use, ground and surface water supplies in the watershed are in decline. This has caused tension in the watershed and could ultimately lead to curtailments, which could negatively impact economies in areas with more junior water rights. In addition, historical alterations to the river channel and floodplains have resulted in degraded habitat. The Collaborative will partner with Trout Unlimited, the Wood River Land Trust, and The Nature Conservancy to lead a group of state, local, and private stakeholders in creating an open forum to share information and solutions, complete restoration planning, and prioritize restoration projects.

Montana

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group, Watershed Restoration Planning and Project Development in the Lower Clark Fork Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group located in northwest Montana will complete a watershed restoration plan and priority project scoping for the Lower Clark Fork Watershed in western Montana. The mainstem of the Lower Clark Fork River and many of its tributaries exceed Total Maximum Daily Loads for many impairments, the most prevalent of which is sediment. In addition, the watershed has declining ecological resilience and the federally endangered Bull Trout and Montana state endangered Cutthroat Trout are in decline due to habitat fragmentation and degradation. The group has previously coordinated on-the-ground restoration projects and successfully facilitated watershed management planning conversations between the private citizens, state and Federal agencies, county governments, and local non-profits. The watershed group plans to complete a watershed restoration plan for the Lower Clark Fork Watershed, with an emphasis on project prioritization; feasibility and scoping activities on already identified priority projects; a survey and engineered design of restoration projects to improve priority Bull Trout spawning habitat.

New Mexico

Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc., Restoration Planning for Improved Water Quality and Quantity in the Cimarron Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $99,994 **Total Project Cost: $150,634**

The Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc. (Alliance), located in Colfax County, New Mexico, will expand the focus of the existing Cimarron Watershed Management Plan. The Cimarron Watershed is experiencing increased variability in surface water supply and an increased threat of high intensity wildfires due to drought. In addition, the watershed has water quality impairments and habitat degradation due to legacy land use activities. The Alliance will increase outreach to stakeholders across the watershed, with an

emphasis on the southern portion of the watershed where there has been less participation in the past. In addition, they will expand upon the existing Cimarron Watershed Management Plan, which currently focuses on water quality impairments, to include water supply reliability, drought resilience, and habitat restoration and to work with landowners to identify and prioritize watershed projects.

San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District, San Juan Watershed Group Outreach Expansion Project

Reclamation Funding: $96,573 **Total Project Cost: $133,911**

The San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District will sponsor the expansion of the San Juan Watershed Group, which will connect stakeholder interests across the Middle San Juan, Animas, and Upper San Juan watersheds and complete restoration planning. The group will expand and diversify its membership, focusing on the Middle and Upper San Juan Watersheds, and identifying stakeholder concerns regarding water quality and quantity. The group will also draft an outreach plan and outline a restoration plan. The Navajo Nation's Diné College has extended a letter in support of the group's development efforts, and has shown an interest in greater involvement with both future water quality projects and outreach activities. In addition, the development of the group will also benefit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.

Save Our Bosque Task Force, Updating and Expanding the Restoration Plan for New Mexico's Middle Rio Grande through Socorro County

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Save Our Bosque Task Force (Task Force) located in Socorro County, New Mexico, will update its 2004 Conceptual Restoration Plan. The Task Force will focus planning efforts on the Rio Grande floodplain through Socorro County, where flooding can devastate the farms, infrastructure, and small communities in the historic floodplain. Recent drought conditions have limited available surface water supplies in the watershed, increasing reliance on groundwater, straining aquifers, and increasing wildfire risk. The Task Force will work with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, New Mexico State Forestry, and numerous other local, state, and Federal agencies to complete outreach to stakeholders, complete an analysis of current conditions in the watershed, and create a prioritized restoration plan.

Oregon

Santiam Water Control District, North Santiam Watershed Management Program

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Santiam Water Control District (District) will complete stakeholder outreach to increase stakeholder participation and engagement and complete watershed restoration planning in the North Santiam Watershed, located on the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains in Eastern Oregon. Waterways in the Santiam Watershed exceed summer temperatures for salmonid survival, and much of the high-quality fish habitat is located above major fish passage barriers. The District will work with municipalities, irrigation districts, Federal, state, and county natural resources agencies, tribes, industry, and local communities to prioritize restoration projects, such as instream habitat enhancement and fish passage barrier removal. The

District will engage stakeholder groups through one-on-one meetings and small group presentations, and planning efforts will build on their existing WaterSMART Drought Contingency Plan.

U.S. Virgin Islands

Coral Bay Community Council, Coral Bay Watershed Management Plan

Reclamation Funding: $99,155 **Total Project Cost: $99,155**

The Coral Bay Community Council (Council), on the island of St. John in the US Virgin Islands, will complete a 5-year update to their watershed management and develop a visioning document for the Coral Bay Watershed. This group has spent a significant amount of time characterizing source pollution into Coral Bay, which is largely a result of unmanaged stormwater, sediment transport, and an inadequate solid waste system. In addition, damages caused by back-to-back hurricanes in 2017 has increased the need for updated planning efforts. Over half of the land on the island is a National Park; however, outside the park the majority of the land is privately owned. To reach out to the private landowners, including business leaders, residents, and seasonal vacationers, the Council will hold stakeholder meetings to help inform the public of the importance of watershed planning and to incorporate diverse perspectives into their updated plan and visioning document.

Washington

Nisqually River Foundation, Revitalizing Sustainability and Stewardship Planning in the Nisqually Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $79,940 **Total Project Cost: $144,290**

Nisqually River Foundation (Foundation) located in Olympia, Washington, will develop an extensive baseline assessment to update the projects in their watershed management plan. The Nisqually River Watershed stretches from Mt. Rainier National Park to the Puget Sound and supports hydropower, municipal, tribal, agriculture, and forestry users, as well as providing habitat for federally threatened Nisqually Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Population growth and urban development and forestry practices have stressed water supplies, resulted in water quality concerns, and contributed to the need to recover a threatened fishery. The Foundation will use the updated watershed management plan to identify and prioritize new restoration projects.