BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

FY 2023 WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I

New Watershed Groups

Arizona

Town of Superior, Development of Queen Creek Working Group and Watershed Restoration Plan for the Upper Queen Creek Watershed
Reclamation Funding: $245,308

The Town of Superior will engage with stakeholders to create the Upper Queen Creek Watershed Group to understand the issues and needs related to water quality, quantity, and watershed restoration within the Upper Queen Creek Watershed. Home to one of the largest copper deposits in the world, mineral extraction has impacted water quality. Approximately 36 miles of streams in the watershed are recorded as impaired for copper and lead on the Arizona Clean Water Act 303(d) list. The new watershed group aims to bring together state and local government agencies, including the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, tribes, recreation and tourism groups, local ranchers and landowners, and mining interests to create a watershed restoration plan for the Upper Queen Creek Watershed, develop a baseline assessment of the watershed, create monitoring plans to understand the long-term function of the watershed, and prioritize projects and sites based on the priorities group.

California

AG Innovations Network, Lake Sonoma West Watershed Plan
Reclamation Funding: $299,052

Ag Innovations Network, a non-profit organization located in Sonoma County, will partner with Conservation Biology Institute and Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District to establish the Lake Sonoma West Watershed Group and develop a Lake Sonoma West Watershed Plan. Lake Sonoma is the drinking water supply for over 600,000 users in the Counties of Sonoma and Marin. The new watershed group will establish a technical advisory group, which will include the Sonoma County Water Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, to provide technical support for the planning effort. The watershed and community have been significantly impacted by wildfires in recent years, including the 2017 Tubbs Fire, which have resulted in water quality concerns, including sedimentation of rivers and streams and high levels

of organic carbons, metals, and nitrates. The group's planning efforts will largely focus on addressing impacts of wildfire and reducing the risk of future fires by addressing overstocked forestlands, meadow encroachment, degraded riparian corridors, and invasive vegetation.

Nevada

Walker Basin Conservancy, Cross-Boundary Collaboration: Developing a Watershed Group and Restoration Plan for the Walker River Basin
Reclamation Funding: $299,918

The Walker Basin Conservancy will build on existing relationships to formally establish a new watershed group in the Walker River Basin, which spans from the headwaters in the Sierra Nevada, in California, to Walker Lake, in Nevada. The Walker River Basin faces numerous water challenges, including over-appropriation of water resources, unsustainable groundwater withdrawal, impaired water quality, and the associated strain on ecosystems and wildlife, all of which is exacerbated by climate change and wildfires. The terminus of the watershed, has lost 90 percent of its volume since diversions from the lake began in the late 1800s. This has increased the concentration of total dissolved solids to the point that fish and invertebrates are unable to survive, leading to an ecological collapse. The watershed group will engage federal, state, and local government entities, ranchers and farmers, the Walker River Irrigation District, conservation districts, energy developers, mining companies, recreation focused organizations, tribes, and community members to identify landscape-scale watershed priorities and plan a comprehensive approach to address these priorities through stakeholder engagement and finding multi-benefit solutions that balance ecological and community needs. The group will complete stakeholder engagement, assess socio-economic and environmental conditions, develop the group's bylaws, structure, and longevity plan, and produce a first iteration of an integrated watershed restoration plan.

Washington

County of Chelan, Lake Chelan Watershed Group Diversification and Watershed Restoration Planning Project
Reclamation Funding: $300,000

The Chelan County Natural Resource Department will establish the Lake Chelan Collaborative to address critical water resource concerns in the Lake Chelan Watershed through collaborative planning, broad-based stakeholder engagement, and data collection. Lake Chelan is Washington's largest natural lake. However, recent trends, including water supply limitations, high phosphorous levels, and an increase an algae and aquatic invasive species concentrations, have highlighted the need for a comprehensive planning effort. The Collaborative will develop an organizational structure and use collaborative planning, stakeholder engagement, and data collection to consolidate existing information in the watershed and identify critical data gaps to be used in the development of the Lake Chelan Watershed Restoration Plan. The Collaborative will include landowners, farmers, federal, state and local agencies, tribes, environmental groups, recreation interests, business and development interests, outfitters, and historically under-represented populations through partnerships with community-based organizations.

Wyoming

National Forest Foundation, Headwaters of the Colorado: A Bi-State initiative to restore forest and watershed health and function through improved water quality and quantity in the Little Snake and Yampa River headwaters
Reclamation Funding: $300,000

The Headwaters of the Colorado Initiative, in partnership with the National Forest Foundation and Western Landowners Alliance, will establish a new collaborative watershed group for the Little Snake and Yampa Watersheds. A primary headwater of the Colorado River Basin, the watershed is impacted by complex shifts in basin-wide hydrology due to warming temperatures and reduced snowpack, historic fire suppression policies, the potential for large wildfires, and diverse land use values and demands across multiple sectors. The watershed group will develop an outreach plan and conduct outreach to stakeholders, complete an analysis of baseline environmental conditions and create a collaborative watershed restoration plan. The plan will involve private lands, state lands in Wyoming and Colorado, and federal lands in the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and U.S Bureau of Land Management's Little Snake and Rawlins field offices.

Trout Unlimited, Inc., Sustaining a New Watershed Group in the Snake River Headwaters to Amplify Stakeholder Engagement, Coordination, Planning, and Knowledge Exchange
Reclamation Funding: $299,189

Trout Unlimited will establish a new watershed group, Snake River Headwaters Watershed Group, to increase the health and resiliency of the Snake River Headwaters. Over the past decade, water quantity in the Snake Headwaters was not a major concern due to favorable snowpack conditions. However, 2021 and 2022 brought a below average snowpack and dry conditions and climate forecasts predict declining annual snowpack and earlier runoff. In addition, Teton County is one of the fastest-growing regions and substantial development occurs in critical areas like valley bottoms, historic floodplains, and along the snake river and its tributaries. These changes are impacting the water supply outlook in the watershed, as well as water quality and aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitat conditions. Numerous federal, state, and local agencies, private landowners, water users, recreational guides and outfitters, conservation nonprofits, and business leaders are interested in engaging in the new watershed group. The strong partnership will enable the group to address watershed-scale challenges with streamlined projects, reduce misinformation, expand public awareness, and provide elected officials with improved information to make informed decisions. Planning efforts include National Park (Grand Teton and Yellowstone) and National Forest (Bridger-Teton) lands, with a small portion of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (National Elk Refuge) lands, as well as two major storage reservoirs of the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Snake System (Jackson Lake and Palisades Reservoir).

Existing Watershed Groups

Arizona

Aravaipa Watershed Conservation Alliance, Update Cooperative Watershed Management Plan and Develop Implementation Plans for Aravaipa Valley and Canyon
Reclamation Funding: $288,614

The Aravaipa Watershed Conservation Alliance, an established watershed group and will complete group development, update their existing watershed restoration plan, and complete project design. Perennial flows into Aravaipa Creek help maintain perennial flows through dozens of miles of the adjoining San Pedro and Gila Rivers to support downstream communities and water users by reducing erosion and increasing water table elevations. Building on a 2021 Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant, the Alliance will select and design projects that address critical watershed issues of erosion control, water conservation, and conservation of riparian areas and will continue developing support through outreach activities including educational seminars and workshops for watershed issues based on community stakeholder input, interviews, and site visits. The Alliance brings together multiple state and federal agencies, universities, private landowners, recreation interests, and agricultural users.

National Audubon Society, Inc., Lower Gila River Collaborative Strategic Action Plan Implementation - Tools for Project Planning & Community Engagement
Reclamation Funding: $298,014

The Lower Gila River Collaborative, in partnership with the National Audubon Society, will advance the restoration of the lower Gila River sub-watersheds in Maricopa County. Historic land and water management practices, and the hotter and drier climate trends, have contributed to significant changes in the aquatic and riparian ecosystems in the watershed. Native vegetation is now rare and has been replaced by invasive species, including saltcedar. Today, saltcedar occupies approximately 23,000 acres within the 36-mile lower reach of the Gila River, which has resulted in increased wildfire risk, increased flood risk, increased soil salinity, decreased water quality, reduced access for recreation, and an overall decline in riparian ecological health and resilience. Through this effort, the Collaborative will expand outreach to include under- and unrepresented voices, synthesize existing plans, studies, and data to evaluate and prioritize potential projects, engage landowners through outreach and workshops to catalyze projects, and consolidate hydrologic, ecologic, and social data into an interactive online platform. Partners in this effort include state agencies, non-governmental organizations, local tribes, and recreation and agricultural water users.

Watershed Management Group, Inc., A Need for Local Drought Response Planning: Development of a Coordination Blueprint
Reclamation Funding: $299,773

The Santa Cruz Watershed Collaborative, an existing watershed group for the lower Santa Cruz River watershed including lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation, will update their existing Watershed Restoration Plan. The Collaborative represents local, state, and federal

agencies, the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation, public and private water utilities, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations. Warmer winters are leading to less snowmelt to nourish upland springs, provide seasonal creek flows, and replenish aquifers, and short-term extreme seasonal droughts are increasing in frequency. The Collaborative will develop a framework of drought resilience strategies and recommended actions to ensure water reliability during periods of local shortages and droughts. The planning effort will be integrated as an update to the Collaborative's existing Watershed Restoration Plan, developed through a 2018 WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant, and build upon the recent findings of the WaterSMART Lower Santa Cruz River Basin Study.

California

Upper Merced River Watershed Council, Heeding the Call to Action: Launching the Upper Merced River Watershed Council Watershed Work Plan
Reclamation Funding: $299,544

The Upper Merced River Watershed Council will expand current efforts to protect water quality and biodiversity within the Upper Merced River Watershed. The area is significantly impacted by climate change, recreation, agriculture, wetland drainage, and urbanization, which have led to a decrease in meadow acreage and glacier size, an increase in non-native species prevalence and wildfires, and changes to both hydrology and water quality. Building on their four-year Watershed Work Plan developed through a 2021 WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant, the Council will build a strong volunteer base, launch a comprehensive community awareness program, and establish a monitoring plan. The Council will work with the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, federal agencies, Friends of the River, Mariposa Trails, Mariposa County Resource Conservation District, the Merced River Conservation Committee, and Sierra Nevada Alliance improve sustainability of recreation, better water quality monitoring, and increased outreach of the headwaters of the North and South Forks of the Merced River all the way to Lake McClure. The Council will work closely with the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into monitoring practices.

Colorado

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, Comprehensive Upper Arkansas Watershed Protection Planning
Reclamation Funding: $298,612

The Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative is an existing watershed group that will increase watershed planning and monitoring efforts throughout the Upper Arkansas Watershed. The Collaborative will complete more comprehensive watershed management planning focused on addressing water quality and quantity concerns, forest health and wildfire risk, drought impacts, recreation, water rights protection, working agricultural lands, and post-fire recovery. The Arkansas Basin is considered an over-appropriated basin, with the most significant effect on agricultural producers that hold junior water rights for irrigation. Agriculture is an integral part of the economy of the Upper Arkansas River Watershed; approximately 80% of the water in the basin is used for agricultural production. To increase collaboration, the Collaborative will identify

future projects in four counties based on stakeholder evaluation, stream health assessments, and collaborative engagement.

Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, Lower Cache la Poudre Priority Reach 16 80% Design Project
Reclamation Funding: $270,170

The Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed is a nonprofit watershed group working to improve and maintain the ecological health of the Poudre River Watershed through community collaboration. The watershed spans approximately 1,542 square miles from the headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park to its confluence with the South Platte River. The historic floodplain area and its riparian habitat have been lost or badly degraded by grazing and agriculture, gravel-mining, and development. In 2019, the Coalition received a WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant to expand their Lower Poudre Steering Committee, increase lower watershed engagement, and complete approximately 30% design for a priority restoration project. This grant will expand upon their existing engagement and outreach efforts in the lower watershed to complete 80% design for the restoration of Reach 16, located on the Lower Cache la Poudre in the City of Greeley. The Reach 16 design will focus on reconnecting the river to its floodplain, reduce flooding risk, and increasing the opportunity for instream habitat/function improvements.

Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc., Clear Creek Watershed Capacity Building Project
Reclamation Funding: $300,000

The Clear Creek Forest and Health Partnership, located west of Denver plans to strengthen their coalition of diverse stakeholders and develop local solutions to current and future threats facing the Clear Creek Watershed. The Clear Creek Watershed is a drinking water source for more than 400,000 people, and provides water for local irrigation, recreation, and industry. In recent years it has experienced water quality degradation from historic mining operations, wildfires and post-fire impacts, and other water quality and quantity stressors from drought and climate change. The project will further develop partnerships, ensure the organization's long-term sustainability, and increase capacity to implement a prioritized watershed plan to protect and restore the Clear Creek Watershed.

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group, Climate resilience planning and community engagement from the headwaters to the plains.
Reclamation Funding: $299,196

The Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group, located in Boulder County will expand existing watershed management planning within in the St. Vrain Watershed. Climate change has led to decreased and earlier snow melt in the Colorado Rockies, resulting in a shift of peak high flows to earlier in the year and lower stream flows later in the year. In addition to effects on water supplies, climate change is projected to lead to greater fire frequency and intensity, including in areas that have historically had infrequent fire. In 2021, the Marshall Fire started in the grasslands and became an urban house-to-house fire, resulting in over $2 billion in damages with 1,084 structures lost. The group will develop a wildfire risk assessment, lead a watershed scale analysis and identify, prioritize, and develop key river restoration projects that are

complementary to ongoing forest mitigation projects. Stakeholders involved in the group include local, state, and federal agencies, nonprofits, landowners, recreation interests, and agricultural land users.

Mesa Soil Conservation District, Grand Valley Water Committee: Build Capacity and Outreach, Development of Watershed Management Matrix, Locate and Develop Priority Watershed Projects
Reclamation Funding: $300,000

The Grand Valley Water Committee is an existing watershed group working in the downstream portion of the Colorado Headwaters-Plateau Watershed made up of stakeholders from state and federal agencies, environmental nonprofits, municipalities, agricultural producers, recreationists, and concerned citizens. The Grand Valley Watershed is experiencing hotter and drier conditions, population growth and urbanization pressures that threaten the Valley's agricultural heritage and critical habitats, stretch over-allocated water supplies, and increase conflicts over diminishing water resources. The Committee will increase community awareness and engagement, develop a robust Watershed Management Matrix to identify and prioritize projects across existing local plans and initiatives, and complete design work on projects within the watershed.

Hawaii

Big Island Resource Conservation and Development Council, Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance Strategic Landscape-Scale Planning
Reclamation Funding: $300,000

The Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance in partnership with Big Island Resource Conservation and Development Council, will update their Mauna Kea Watershed Management Plan on the Island. The Mauna Kea Watershed holds deep cultural significance for the people of Hawai'i and is the primary water source for the Big Island. The project will create a 5-year action plan with full input from watershed partners and create a Wildfire Protection and Post-Fire Response Plan for all Alliance lands covering more than 416,000 acres. These actions will address resource concerns including impacts from invasive species, fungal infections affecting native trees that comprise the majority of forests on the island, habitat fragmentation, and wildfires, all which present major threats to island resources. The proposed efforts will involve federal and state agencies, private landowners, local communities, indigenous communities, agriculture, and environmental and natural resource nonprofit stakeholders.

Idaho

City of Pocatello, Portneuf Watershed Partnership Planning Project
Reclamation Funding: $300,000

Portneuf Watershed Partnership, in partnership with the City of Pocatello will build on existing watershed plans and stakeholder engagement activities in the Portneuf River Watershed. The Portneuf River flows from its headwaters on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes across non-reservation land before it returns to the Reservation where it

discharges into the Snake River at the Bureau of Reclamation's American Falls Dam. The Partnership will expand outreach efforts, with a specific focus on engaging irrigators and ranchers and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, expand and update their existing watershed restoration plan, and develop a predictive stream flow model representing the watershed. The planning effort will address resource concerns in the watershed, including water supply issues related to drought and overconsumption of surface water, water quality concerns related to agricultural run-off, and ecosystem health threats caused by high summer water temperatures and high sediment levels.

Trout Unlimited, Inc., Using Collaboration, Trust, Outreach, Planning, and Coordination to Develop a Restoration Plan and Project Designs for the South Fork of the Boise River Watershed in Southwest Idaho
Reclamation Funding: $299,319

The South Fork Boise Watershed Collaborative, in collaboration with Trout Unlimited, will continue its coordination of watershed restoration planning in the lower South Fork Boise Watershed. The Collaborative represents a diverse group of interests, including landowners, local government entities, recreation and conservation groups, water use interests, federal land and water management agencies, state agencies and other affected stakeholders. The South Fork of the Boise River has seen an increase in recreation, changes in water management, and a rapidly changing climate in recent years, causing concerns for the water supplies, aquatic and riparian ecosystems, and the people who recreate there. The project will support stakeholder and community outreach, research on feasibility of proposed projects and production of a stakeholder-driven watershed restoration plan that can be used to help prioritize and implement future projects in the watershed.

Montana

Big Hole Watershed Committee, Cooperative Watershed Management: Holding Back Snowpack in the Big Hole
Reclamation Funding: $297,830

The Big Hole Watershed Committee will update their watershed restoration plan centered on enhancing the hydrologic resilience and improving water quality within the Big Hole Watershed. The Big Hole Watershed, which is impacted by drought and wide variability in water quantity, is a stronghold for the last fluvial population of arctic grayling in the Lower 48. Through this project, the Committee will digitize and consolidate existing water data, analyze and map the watershed to characterize potential watershed restoration projects by type and anticipated benefits, and engage with stakeholders to write a final updated watershed restoration plan. The restoration plan will provide a list of projects to promote watershed resiliency. The Committee represents ranching, sportsmen, conservation groups, recreation interests, outfitters, local governments and utilities, local businesses, and landowners.

Bitter Root Water Forum, Co-Developing a Prioritized Restoration Action Plan for the Bitterroot Subbasin to Increase Socio-Ecological Resilience
Reclamation Funding: $298,300

The Bitterroot Water Partnership, working in Bitterroot Subbasin in western Montana, will complete project planning and prioritization efforts to develop a comprehensive Prioritized Restoration Action Plan emphasizing four distinct geographies within the watershed. The Bitterroot Subbasin relies heavily on snowmelt run-off for irrigation, aquifer recharge, and streamflow, making it extremely vulnerable to climate change and seasonal water resource challenges. By working with private landowners, the U.S. Forest Service, water resource managers, water quality specialists, and Trout Unlimited, the Partnership will expand their data collection, develop practical solutions to address critical watershed needs in coordination with local partners, and finalize actionable strategies for future restoration efforts, prioritizing areas of stakeholder interest.

Jefferson River Watershed Council, Upper Jefferson River Watershed Restoration Plan Development Project
Reclamation Funding: $300,000

The Jefferson River Watershed Council aims to improve water quality and quantity of the Jefferson River Watershed. The Jefferson River Basin is one of three primary tributaries in the upper watershed of the Missouri River Basin and has experienced water quality and aquatic ecosystem degradation due to human-induced low flows and contamination from mining, agriculture, and other activities. Working with Montana Trout Unlimited, the Council will complete a watershed restoration plan for the upper Jefferson River and key tributaries, with an emphasis on stakeholder involvement and project prioritization, design low-tech, process-based restoration projects adjacent to the most flow-limited sections of the Jefferson River and Lower Boulder River, and complete a riparian and littoral habitat assessment. The Council is comprised of state and federal agencies, local residents, private landowners, agricultural producers, and industry.

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group, Project Planning for Water Quality and Aquatic Resiliency in the Lower Clark Fork Watershed
Reclamation Funding: $299,158

The Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group will continue collaborating with stakeholders to address issues related to water quality and temperature in the Lower Clark Fork Watershed. Decades of resource extraction, damming, infrastructure development, and warming stream temperatures have had severe impacts on water quality and local riparian species. The group will engage stakeholders to reduce road impacts to the Thompson River and design "shovel-ready" projects focusing on revegetation and connectivity to address sediment, temperature, and fish passage issues. These projects will be developed in coordination with two National Forests, state resource agencies, county government, private landowners, and two hydropower providers, Avista Corporation and Northwestern Energy.

Montana Freshwater Partners, Inc., Park County Water Initiative: Partner Collaboration and Coordination, Community Engagement and Project Development
Reclamation Funding: $299,533

The Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group and Shields Valley Watershed Group, in collaboration with Montana Freshwater Partners, will formalize their existing coordination to form the Park County Water Initiative. The Initiative will cover the entire Shields River Watershed and 1,200 square miles of the Upper Yellowstone Watershed, which includes the areas covered by two existing watershed groups, plus additional areas within Park County not currently represented by a watershed group. Challenges within the watersheds include climate change, decline of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, and land use changes from rural agricultural and recreation uses to urban development. The Initiative will develop a mission and goals; build a website; identify, rank, and develop implementation plans for aquatic restoration projects; and conduct planning and design activities for top-ranked projects. The group will be a collaboration of the recreation and tourism industry, local government entities, conservation focused non-profits, public land and resource managers, local business owners, residents, landowners, and agricultural producers.

Sun River Watershed, Expanding Collaborative Programs and Projects in the Sun River Watershed
Reclamation Funding: $297,366

The Sun River Watershed Group, in central Montana, will expand existing water management planning through stakeholder input and identify projects that benefit natural resources and communities within the Sun River Watershed. Watershed sites currently monitored by the group were selected 20 years ago, based on which tributaries were likely contributing the most contaminants to the Sun River at that time. Over time, additional monitoring needs have been identified based on chronic dewatering, thermal stress, and sediment loading. The watershed is approximately 2,200 square miles, spanning Lewis and Clark, Teton, and Cascade Counties and includes the Sun River and several tributaries. The group will work with local conservation and irrigation districts, municipalities, federal, state, and local agencies, and landowners to host workshops focused on watershed health, and complete watershed restoration planning focused on improving water quality and ensuring adequate stream flows. The group will also complete preliminary design and engineering for the Willow Creek/Floweree Canal Water Management and Habitat Project, which aims to remove or alter the push-up dam on the Floweree Canal, so it no longer inhibits fish passage.

The Blackfoot Challenge, Building Social-Ecological Resilience in the Blackfoot through Watershed Restoration Planning and Project Design
Reclamation Funding: $300,000

The Blackfoot Challenge is a nonprofit watershed group working within the Blackfoot River Watershed. In 1992, the Blackfoot River was listed as one of the 10 most endangered rivers in the United States due to a century of unsustainable land-use practices including mining, over grazing, and timber harvest. Development increased recreational use, and the spread of noxious weeds were also beginning to impact the overall health of the river. From ranchers to fishing outfitters, the diverse stakeholders who share a stake in the watershed are working to balance their water needs with each other. The group will update their existing watershed-wide restoration plan and complete design work on several high priority restoration projects that will improve habitat conditions for culturally important, imperiled native fish while increasing the sustainability of agricultural economies. The group represents ranchers, conservation

organizations, state, and federal natural resource agencies, community leaders, Tribal representatives, recreation interests, and other diverse stakeholders.

University of Montana, Watershed Group Development and Restoration Planning for the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed
Reclamation Funding: $213,015

Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Group, in partnership with the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West at the University of Montana, will tackle emerging threats to the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed located in Missoula County. This includes the management of aging wilderness dams, increasing stream temperatures affecting the endangered bull trout population, and the encroachment of non-native grasses threatening native habitats. Through this project, the group will further develop to be a central hub of ecological and cultural information, enhance outreach to residents and visitors about the watershed's challenges, unite various stakeholders to prioritize needs and conduct essential research for restoration planning. This collaborative effort involves local, federal, Tribal, and non-profit entities.

Watershed Restoration Coalition of the Upper Clark Fork, Inc., Upper Clark Fork River Streamflow Group Development and Planning
Reclamation Funding: $300,000

The Upper Clark Fork River Streamflow Group, in partnership with the Watershed Restoration Coalition, will address water use challenges in the Upper Clark Fork River Watershed. The group will collaboratively identify priorities for flow restoration and solutions to chronic dewatering by expanding group engagement, creating a matrix of proposed flow restoration priorities, and drafting a five-year strategic plan for the group. Due to an increase in frequency, severity, and intensity of drought and over-appropriation of water rights, the Upper Clark Fork is the site of frequent fish kills due to poor water quality and chronic stream dewatering. The group's planning efforts will focus on direct threats to aquatic resources, livelihoods, community well-being, and tribal interests. Participants include private agricultural producers and irrigators in the Deer Lodge Valley, the Watershed Restoration Coalition, Clark Fork Coalition, Trout Unlimited, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Montana state agencies, the University of Montana, Montana Tech., and the Atlantic Richfield Corporation.

New Mexico

Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance, Post Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Expansion Project
Reclamation Funding: $299,835

The Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance, located in Sapello, New Mexico, is an established watershed group working in the Upper Gallinas River, Lower Mora River, Sapella River and Wolf Creek Watersheds. The watersheds, which have been impacted by agricultural, commercial, and residential use, have been severely affected by the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fires of 2022 which has impacted water quality through runoff of ash and debris. The Alliance, in collaboration with the New Mexico Environmental Department, the Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge, the U.S. Forest Service, the Tierra y Montes Soil and Water Conservation District, the County of San Miguel, and private landowners, will complete the project planning and design of six new

watershed projects to enhance the recovery of native vegetation, restore river degraded river channels and reduce flood risk, and improve water quality.

Oregon

Deschutes River Conservancy, Crooked River Water Quality Partnership - Strengthening Watershed Collaboration for Effective Planning and Project Development

Reclamation Funding: $299,973

The Crooked River Water Quality Partnership, in collaboration with the Deschutes River Conservancy, will formalize the Partnership, identify priority projects, and develop project designs to reduce nutrient pollution in the Lower Crooked River Watershed. The Lower Crooked River is a major tributary of the Deschutes River and provides water for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, threatened riparian species, and irrigation districts. The project will support facilitation and technical services for development of a Water Quality Strategic Action Plan to reduce nutrient loading and meet long-term water quality needs in the Lower Crooked River. The Partnership consists of the Crook County Soil and Water District, Crooked River Watershed Council, Ochoco Irrigation District, Deschutes River Conservancy, Crook County, City of Prineville, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, Trout Unlimited, Portland General Electric, and state and federal agencies.

Utah

Castleland Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., Castleland Resource Conservation & Development, Inc. on behalf of Grand Conservation Districts Moab Area Watershed Partnership's Watershed Management Plan Revision

Reclamation Funding: $183,340

The Moab Area Watershed Partnership located in eastern Utah, will revise their existing watershed management plan to improve the water quality and quantity in the Mill Creek and Castle Creek Watersheds, both located in Grand County. Planning efforts will focus on mitigating *E. coli* contamination in three creeks within the watershed area, Mill, Pack, and Castle Creek, completing pre-project surveying, and planning and design work for several channel stabilization project to improve habitat and protect infrastructure. The Partnership represents a diverse group of stakeholders, including county governments, Utah state agencies, special services districts, the Moab Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, non-profit conservation organizations conservation districts, Utah State University, and others.

Wyoming

Trout Unlimited, Inc., Collaborative Restoration Planning, Community Engagement, and Project Development for the Salt River Watershed in NW Wyoming and SW Idaho
Reclamation Funding: $199,045

The Salt River Watershed Group, in collaboration with Trout Unlimited, will coordinate the development of a restoration plan for the Salt River Watershed located in Wyoming and Idaho. The mainstem Salt River aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitat is degraded from historic channel modifications and land use practices, along with ongoing development and agricultural activities. The group will meet with landowners, visiting prospective project locations, conducting habitat surveys, water quality monitoring, and developing a project list. Developing the watershed restoration plan will build on work completed under a 2021 WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant by conducting targeted outreach to landowners, agricultural operators, recreation entities, residents, developers, and realtors to expand engagement and project support. The plan will allow partners to prioritize and develop large-scale projects that will have a watershed-scale beneficial impact on habitat, stream function, water quality, and fisheries.