



# No-Cost, Hands-On Assistance to Apply for the WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program

The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program (AERP) funds the study, design, and construction of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, for the purpose of improving the health of fisheries, wildlife and/or aquatic habitat. A wide variety of activities are eligible under the broad umbrella of Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration.

## Eligible Projects Include:

- Study and Design activities which develop an aquatic ecosystem restoration project, resulting in a study and design package which can be used to apply for additional funding
- Construction Projects that are collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and are for the purpose of improving of the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat through restoration and improved fish passage.

## Who's Eligible to Apply?

WaterSMART grants are open to states, Tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery in the Western US. Nonprofit conservation organizations acting in partnership with one of the above eligible organizations are also eligible to apply.

## Federal Funding Amount:

- Between \$500,000 and \$2M for Study and Design Projects, or between \$3M and \$20M for Construction Projects.
- Applicants must be able to supply at least 35% of total project cost as non-Federal cost share.

WaterNow provides **free support to Colorado** entities applying for WaterSMART grants, including:

- 1-on-1 call to discuss grant opportunities and to strategize next steps
  - Targeted research tasks related to your application
  - Guidance on USBR grant submission processes
  - Application and budget templates
  - Detailed review of your application
- \*Please note that WaterNow is not able to write/draft WaterSMART applications*
- And more! We'll work with you to determine what types of application of support would be most useful for your organization

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our **WaterSMART Grant Application Support & Help Desk!**

**Ready for assistance with your application? Complete [this Google Form](#) and we'll be in touch!**

*WaterNow Alliance is an independent, non-profit that receives philanthropic funding to support Colorado water providers to apply for WaterSMART funding. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation implements the WaterSMART program, and makes all final grant decisions. We are not affiliated with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in any way.*