

DAM REMOVAL AND WESTERN WATER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

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INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

*Quick Summary**

US Army Corps of Engineers - Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program - \$115M

NOAA - Community Based Restoration Grant Program - \$400M

US Fish & Wildlife Service - National Fish Passage Program - \$200M

US Forest Service - \$10M

FEMA – High Hazard Dams Program - \$75M

Dam Safety

FEMA - National Dam Safety Program federal agency dam safety - \$67M

FEMA - National Dam Safety Program grants to states - \$658M

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act dam safety funding - \$75M

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Investments in dam removal

NOAA - Community Based Restoration Grant Program - \$400 million (p. 928)

- a. For restoring fish passage through NOAA Community Based Restoration Grant Program (Section 117 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (16 U.S.C. 1891a))
- b. 15% set aside for Tribes and Tribal partnerships
- c. Eligibility: institution of higher education, non-profit, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, state or local governments, and Indian Tribes
- d. Non-federal match requirements: no

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Investments in dam removal

US Fish & Wildlife Service - National Fish Passage Program - \$200 million (p. 961)

- a. For restoring fish and wildlife passage by removing in-stream barriers and providing technical assistance under the National Fish Passage Program
- b. This is intended to be used for dam removal (dams are the in-stream barriers)
- c. One half of one percent of the funds to be transferred for oversight of funding
- d. Eligibility: institution of higher education, non-profit, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, state or local governments, Indian Tribes, and individuals
- e. Non-federal match requirements: no (see notes)

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Investments in dam removal

FEMA – High Hazard Dams Program - \$75 million (p. 958)

- a. \$75,000,000 (of the \$585,000,000 for the High Hazard Potential Dams program, (33 U.S.C. 467f-2)) for the removal of dams
- b. Eligibility: states (see notes)
- c. Non-federal match requirements: not less than 35 percent

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Investments in dam removal

US Army Corps of Engineers - Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program - \$115 million (p. 932)

- a. For restoring fish and wildlife passage by removing in-stream barriers and providing technical assistance to non-Federal interests at full Federal expense, notwithstanding the individual project cost limitations of Section 206 (\$10 million in Federal spending)
- b. This is intended to be used for dam removal (dams are the in-stream barriers)
- c. Not to be used for the removal, breach, or otherwise alter the operations of a Federal hydropower dam
- d. Eligibility: Non-federal entities can request Corps assistance under the 206 program and enter into a cooperative agreement. Non-profits can be a non-federal entity if there is no future requirements for OMRR&R. However, the elimination of non-federal match changes the need for a non-federal sponsor.
- e. Non-federal match requirements: no (new)

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Investments in dam removal

- US Forest Service - for removal of non-hydropower Federal dams- \$10 million (p. 981)
- a. \$10,000,000 in equal amounts for each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026 for the removal of non-hydropower Federal dams and for providing dam removal technical assistance
 - b. One half of one percent of the funds to be transferred for oversight of funding
 - c. Funds under this heading may be transferred to USFWS and NMFS for the costs of carrying out their responsibilities under ESA
 - d. Eligibility: Non-profits should be eligible to receive funding to assist the USFS with executing this work (see notes)
 - e. Non-federal match requirement: no

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Investments in dam safety

FEMA - National Dam Safety Program federal agency dam safety - \$67 million (p. 958)

FEMA - National Dam Safety Program grants to states - \$658 million (p. 958)

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act dam safety funding - \$75 million (p. 935)

Eligibility: states

Non-federal match requirements: not less than 35 percent for the High Hazard Potential Dam Program; not less than 50 percent for state assistance grants*

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Investments in culverts and road stream crossings

Forest Service Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program

- a. \$250 million for USFS to restore fish passage by addressing roads, Culverts and removing barriers on USFS or land where the USDA/DOI have a cooperative agreement
- b. Projects must have received public comment for changing the management status to close the road or trail to public access
- c. USDA Secretary establishes program based on criteria established in bill language
- d. Eligibility: Non-profits should be eligible to receive funding to assist the USFS with executing this work
- e. Non-federal match requirement: no

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Investments in culverts and road stream crossings

National Culvert Removal, Replacement and Restoration Grant Program (DOT)

\$1 billion to establish an annual competitive grant program to award grants to eligible entities for projects for the replacement, removal, and repair of culverts or weirs that--

- ``(1) would meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish; and
- ``(2) with respect to weirs, may include--
 - ``(A) infrastructure to facilitate fish passage around or over the weir; and
 - ``(B) weir improvements.

Eligibility: An entity eligible to receive a grant under the program is (1) a State; (2) a unit of local government; or (3) an Indian Tribe.

Non-federal match requirements: no less than 20 percent

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Investments in culverts and road stream crossings

Bridge Investment Program (DOT) (p56-58) - \$3.265B

Establishes a bridge investment program (BIP) to provide financial assistance for eligible projects with the goal of improving the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridges.

- a. Eligible projects include “a project to replace or rehabilitate culverts for the purpose of improving flood control and improved habitat connectivity for aquatic species.”
- b. Grants solely for addressing culverts shall be no more than 5 percent of the amount available for each fiscal year for grants made under the BIP
- c. Eligibility: states and local governments (and other political subdivisions), tribal governments, multistate or multijurisdictional groups, federal land management agencies
- d. Non-federal match: varies (federal assistance from other federal programs also appear eligible)

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Investments with potential barrier removal benefits

USDA NRCS Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program (PL-566) - \$500 million

- a. Rehabilitate/remove irrigation infrastructure to provide river benefits and/or watershed restoration (language shared by the Resource Legacy Fund)
- b. Must have at least 20 percent agricultural land benefits

US Army Corps of Engineers - \$1.9 billion (p. 932)

- a. For aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, of which not less than \$1B shall be for multi-purpose projects or multi-purpose programs that include aquatic ecosystem restoration as a purpose.
- b. Eligibility: see slide 7
- c. Match: 50 percent (study phase); 35 percent (design/construction)

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Investments with potential barrier removal benefits

FEMA – \$4.5 billion

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities - \$1,000,000,000

- a. Supports states, local communities, tribes, and territories in undertaking pre- disaster hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. Focus is to shift funding from reactive disaster spending and toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience so that when the next hurricane, flood, or wildfire comes, communities are better prepared.
- b. Eligibility: state, local government, tribe (see notes)
- c. Non-federal match requirements: not less than 25 percent (10 percent for “small impoverished communities”)

Flood Mitigation Assistance Program - \$3,500,000,000

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Regional watershed investments

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY– Environmental programs and management (examples)

- a. \$1B shall be for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative;
- b. \$238,000,000 shall be for Chesapeake Bay;
- c. \$24,000,000 shall be for San Francisco Bay;
- d. \$89,000,000 shall be for Puget Sound;
- e. \$106,000,000 shall be for Long Island Sound;

NOAA – Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery - \$172,000,000

Bureau of Reclamation – Western Water Infrastructure (p688-690)

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Western Water Quick Summary

\$1.15 billion for water storage, groundwater storage, and conveyance

\$3.2 billion for the aging infrastructure

\$1.0 billion for rural water projects

\$1.0 billion for water recycling and reuse projects

\$500 million for Safety of Dams

\$400 million for WaterSMART Grants

\$300 million for Colorado River Drought Contingency Plans

\$100 million for Cooperative Watershed Management*

\$250 million for aquatic ecosystem restoration*

\$100 million for watershed health projects

\$ 50 million for endangered species in Colorado River

**New Program*

Source: usbr.gov

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WaterSMART Grants

- a. Eligible Applicants: States, tribes, districts, local governments, nonprofits, and regional authorities, in the 17 Western States and Territories, AK, HI and PR
- b. Eligible Projects:
 - a. Water Conservation Projects E.g., Canal lining/piping, municipal metering, irrigation flow measurement, and landscape irrigation measures. Renewable Energy Projects Hydropower Solar, wind energy
 - b. Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
 - c. Includes \$100 million for projects that improve natural features
- c. Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater

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Large Scale Water Recycling

- a. Eligible Entity: States, Indian Tribes, municipalities, irrigation districts, wastewater districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority
- b. Eligible Projects: Reclaim and reuse municipal, industrial, domestic, or agricultural wastewater; or impaired groundwater or surface water
- c. Total project cost of \$500 million or more
- d. Located in a Reclamation state
- e. Funding 75% non-Federal cost share required

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Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Grants Program

- a. Eligible Projects: must reclaim and reuse:
 - a. either municipal, industrial, domestic, or agricultural wastewater;
 - b. or impaired groundwater or surface water
- b. Non-Federal Cost Share: 75%, or \$20 million
- c. Funding opportunity expected early in calendar year 2022

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Environmental Water Resources Projects

- a. Eligible Projects
 - a. Water Conservation and Efficiency Projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values
 - b. Water management or infrastructure improvements to mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values
 - c. Watershed management or restoration projects benefitting ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management
- b. Non-Federal Cost Share: 25% to 50%
- c. Funding Level: Up to \$2 million 3 years

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Multi-Benefit Projects to Improve Watershed Health*

- a. Eligible Project Types
 - a. Design, implementation and monitoring
 - b. Habitat restoration projects that improve watershed health
 - c. In basins impacted by a Reclamation project
- b. Funding Non-Federal Cost Share: 25% or 50%
- c. Note: This is a new competitive program currently under development

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Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration and Protection Projects*

- a. Eligible Projects:
- b. Design, study and construct Aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection projects to improve habitat, including restoration, passage, or removal of barriers
- c. Funding Non-Federal Cost Share: 35%
- d. Note: This is a new competitive program currently under development

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Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan

- a. Goal is to reduce the risk of Lake Mead and Lake Powell reaching critically low elevations
- b. Requires additional water savings contributions by Lower Basin States
Allows for flexibility for water storage and recovery to incentivize conservation
- c. Requires Reclamation to implement programs designed to create or conserve additional water in the Lower Basin Provides for Drought Response Operations and Demand Management in the Upper Basin

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USFS Funding – Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

\$100 million

- Existing program, funding eligible for both new and existing collaboratives
- Focus on National Forest Service lands, public lands
- Multiple active in Colorado include Front Range, Uncompahgre
- Priority for projects addressing high wildfire hazard potential in the wildland-urban interface or public drinking water source area
- Proposals are submitted through Regional Offices (Rocky Mountain)
- Megan Lowell (megan.lowell@usda.gov) is the RM coordinator

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USFS Funding – Collaborative-based landscape scale restoration program to restore water quality/aquatic connectivity

\$80 million

- Solicitation after 180 days (early May)
- 5-year projects on Federal/ adjacent non-Federal lands
- Priority for project proposals that would result “in the most miles of streams being restored for the lowest amount of Federal funding”
- Administered through “Wyden Amendment” authority
- Cooperative agreements with USFS (e.g. NGOs are eligible)
- No mandated match requirement (e.g. 20% non-Fed match standard)
- Administered through Regional Offices (Rocky Mountain Region)

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USFS Funding – Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Program

\$90 million

- Reducing the risk of wildfire, protecting water quality/supply, improve wildlife habitat for at-risk species on a cross-boundary basis (Federal, private, Tribal)
- Eligible activities include planning, outreach, fuels reduction, invasives management, habitat restoration, and monitoring for three year project proposals
- Proposals will be developed through Regional Foresters and State Conservationists (NRCS) in collaboration with Federal, state, and private partners
- Program contacts:
 - Clint Cross, USFS, clintcross@fs.fed.us
 - Matthew Vandersande, NRCS Mathew.vandersande@usds.gov

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USFS and DOI BLM Funding – Ecological Health Restoration Contracts

\$50 million to Interior, \$150 million for U.S. Forest Service

- Restore not fewer than 10,000 acres on Federal land, including Tribal lands
 - Likely implemented under existing “stewardship contracting authority”
 - USFS/BLM can enter into agreements to perform restoration/stewardship with non-Federal partners (typically a mutual interest and benefit requirement)
 - Project scopes can range from specific stream corridors to basin-scale
 - Rocky Mountain Regional Coordinator
- Matt Etzenhouser (metzenhouser@fs.fed.us)

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Ten Strategies for Climate Resilience In the Colorado Basin

www.tenstrategies.net



EXPLORE THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Use the table below to explore the funding opportunities database under the IIJA. The IIJA included additional funding for many existing programs that could support water-related climate resilience strategies in the Colorado River Basin. In addition, the IIJA created some new programs that could similarly be used to support such strategies.

Using the Database:

The table below can be filtered by various criteria via the lefthand panel. Selecting or un-selecting boxes will change the visible programs in the table. Click on a given row to select a program (highlighted in orange), and then click the **Show Program Details** button at the top of the table to open a new browser tab with expanded details regarding a particular program including, eligibility, match requirements, IIJA section references, statutory links, and agency website links. This summary document can be easily saved or printed.

Filters

Eligible Party

- State Parties
- Local Governments
- NGOs
- Tribal Governments

Detailed Spending Plan Timeline

- 60 Days
- 90 Days
- New Program Rule Making Required
- Unknown

Non-Federal Cost Share

- No or Minimal non-federal cost share or match
- Non-Federal cost share or Match

Ten Strategies Nexus

- Forest Management & Restoration
- Natural Distributed Storage

Show Program Details

Funding Table

Show 5 entries

Search:

Program	Implementing Agency	Budget Authority	Short Description
WRDA Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration - Restoration Projects	Army Corps of Engineers	\$1.9 B for aquatic ecosystem restoration projects (\$1 B for multi-purpose projects or multi-purpose programs that include aquatic ecosystem restoration); to remain available until expended.	Funding to carry out major aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection projects that improve the quality of the environment, are in the public interest and are cost-effective.
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program (206)	Army Corps of Engineers	\$115 million; to remain available until expended.	Funding to restore fish and wildlife passage by removing instream barriers and provide technical assistance to non-federal entities carrying out such activities.
BOR Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program (newly)	Bureau of Reclamation	\$250 million for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 (\$50 million	Funding for the design, study and construction of aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection projects, with certain priorities for regional benefits,

HOW CAN AMERICAN RIVERS HELP?

Internal AR ideas being considered

Expand technical capacity of partners -- Create tools and resources for groups interested in applying for funds

- Webinars and/or trainings on various aspects of developing a proposal, challenging aspects of project development, etc.
- Federal funding benefits matrix
- Develop a template for project proposals based on various agency RFPs
- Host virtual “office hours” for folks to call into AR to get help with their project
- Connect potential dam removals with project managers and resource agency staff, providing ongoing training, technical assistance, and other support
- Traveling project managers that can be detailed out to states where we don't have staff

<https://www.usbr.gov/bil/docs/Presentation-Listening-Session-12-10-21.pdf>

<https://www.usbr.gov/bil/docs/Presentation-Listening-Session-12-17-21.pdf>

<https://www.usbr.gov/bil/docs/Presentation-Listening-Session-01-07-22.pdf>

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