

Water Optimization Funding Criteria

Water Optimization: reduce consumptive water use, while maintaining or even improving agriculture production and profitability, while providing increased operational flexibility for agriculture water users moving forward.

Water Quantification: accurate real time measurement of diverted water will be an essential component in project ranking.

General information:

- Project is limited to \$250,000: special consideration may be given for projects which are located within development areas, or provide exceptional optimization benefits.
- 20% of the funding will be withheld until final inspection and report is reviewed and project deemed complete by onsite inspection and in accordance with grant requirements
- Inspection and completion report required within 30 days of project completion. Report will include if project was implemented as planned, if not, why, and the list of changes made and how they could affect the project's water optimization.
- Spot checks are allowed for life of the project. Grantee will be given prior notice before a spot check.
- Incomplete applications will not be evaluated or ranked.

Water Optimization project requirements:

- 1) Explanation of how the project furthers the goals of water optimization, which include: quantification of agriculture water, methods, systems, technologies to maintain or increase agriculture production while reducing agriculture water diversion and consumption, measure water gains on a basin level, evaluate variety of agriculture crops or products, opportunities to improve water practices and local needs, optimize water use, and protect water quality.¹
- 2) Scalability: can the project be replicated? If so, at what scale, basin level, or state wide level?
- 3) Number and type of beneficiaries: producer, adjacent producers, producers within the watershed, recreational users, environmental users, and other.
- 4) Project description and design
- 5) Who designed project (example, PE, NRCS, UDAF planner, etc.)
- 6) Cost of project
- 7) Amount of funding requested
- 8) Estimated completion date
- 9) List of other funding sources and their contribution to the project
- 10) Water optimization or savings per irrigation season, per watering, per crop, either in CFS or acre foot.

¹ H.B. 381 Agriculture Water Optimization, 73-10g-203(1)(b)(c), (3)(b)(c)(g)

- 11) Cost per acre, CFS and/or acre foot
- 12) Past crop production records: tons per acre, bushel per acre, and/or other, depending on crop type.
- 13) Detailed description and data of pre-project water use/measurement.
- 14) Detailed description and type of water measurement equipment to be installed, including how often data is recorded, where data will be stored, and duration of data storage.
- 15) Map of project area, including acres covered, and location within the State of Utah.
- 16) County, watershed 12-digit HUC, and water right unit the project is located in.
- 17) Producer performance: provide other project(s) participated in, include contact information
- 18) Water quality benefit
 - Cultural Resource review is required on all projects that are funded and a report included with a signed contract or project will not be funded.

Annual reporting requirements:

- Annual report(s) shall be part of the contract and required for 3 years after project completion to verify the project is functioning as planned and optimization goals are being met, report shall include:
 - Water diverted; in CFS or acre foot, for irrigation season, per irrigation watering, number of watering per crop, and per season.
 - Irrigation season
 - Acres irrigated
 - Crop(s) irrigated
 - Production record: tons per acre, bushel per acre, and/or other, depending on crop type.
 - Annual reports will be shared with the Division of Water Resources and the Division of Water Rights.
 - Reserves the right to request other information required by state agencies.