

Addressing Western Drought, Improving Climate Resilience

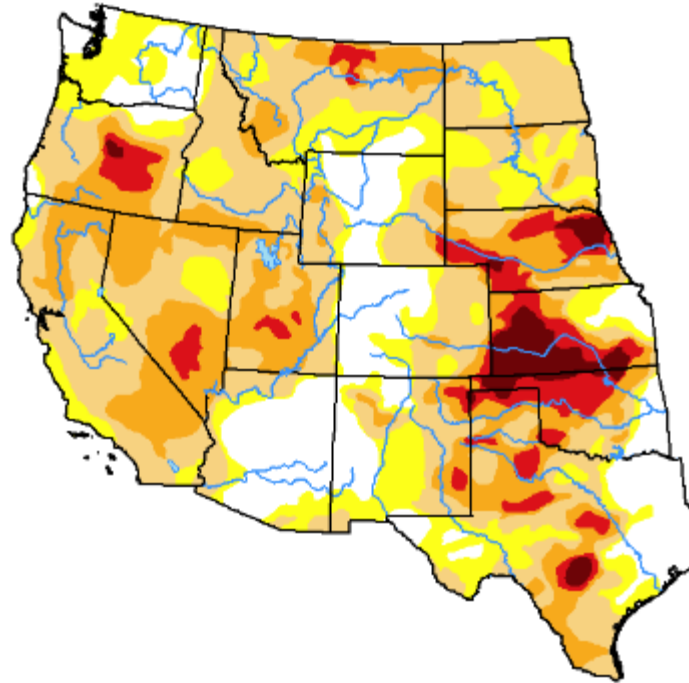
Gary Gold

Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science

U.S. Department of the Interior

Drought conditions continue to exist throughout much of the West.

U.S. Drought Monitor Bureau of Reclamation



February 21, 2023

(Released Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	17.42	82.58	63.48	29.14	8.95	2.68
Last Week 02-14-2023	17.45	82.55	62.50	29.66	8.96	2.77
3 Months Ago 11-22-2022	5.77	94.23	73.03	47.76	22.23	4.79
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023	12.21	87.79	64.96	40.27	15.94	3.03
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	5.09	94.91	73.72	46.57	20.12	4.14
One Year Ago 02-22-2022	6.06	93.92	83.64	56.01	19.46	2.02

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

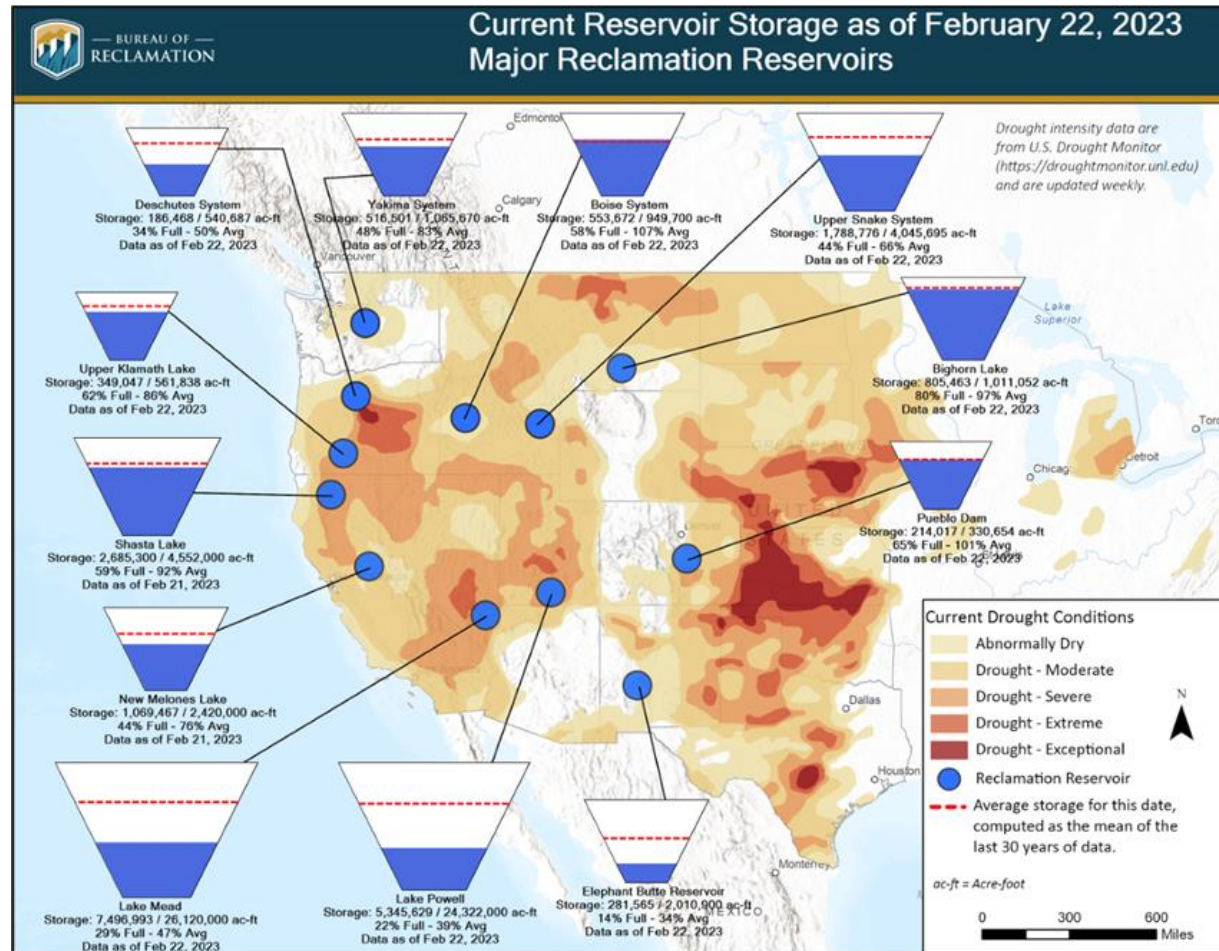
Author:

Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA

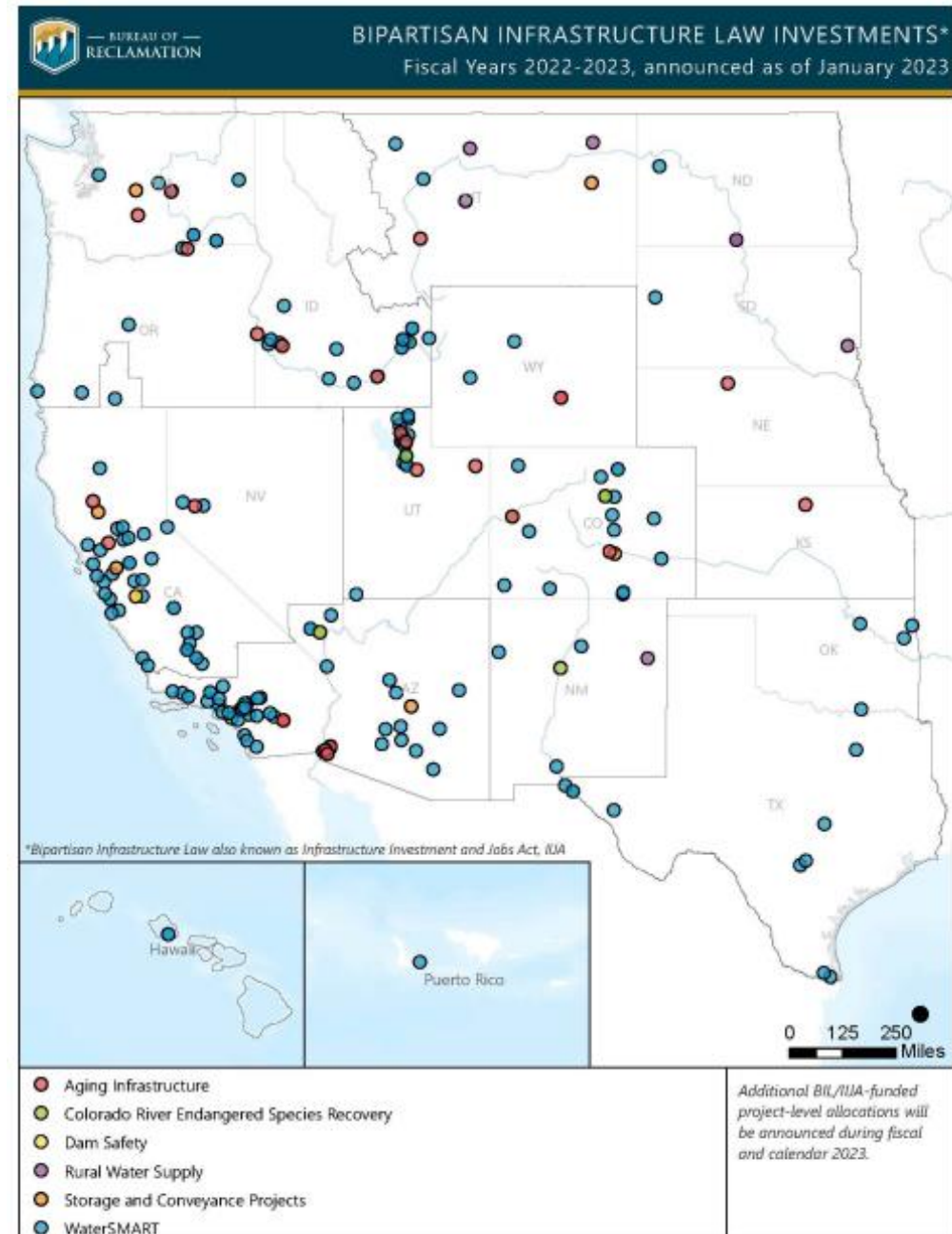


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Storage in many Reclamation reservoirs is still below average for this time of year.



The Department of the Interior and Reclamation have funded over 250 projects in 17 States (+ Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico) through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



**On February 13, the
Department and
Reclamation allocated \$325
million in Additional Funding
for ongoing work on drought
resilience projects across the
country.**



IN REPLY REFER TO:
94-30000
1.3.11

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

February 10, 2023

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On December 29, 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, Public Law 117-328 was enacted providing appropriations for Fiscal Year 2023. The Act included funds totaling \$325,255,000 for the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) that is not specified for particular programs, projects, or activities. In Division D of the Joint Explanatory Statement, which accompanied Public Law 117-328, Congress requested Reclamation to provide to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a report delineating how these funds are to be distributed, within 45 days of enactment.

Enclosed please find the report detailing how these funds will be allocated within Reclamation for FY 2023, consistent with Division D of the Joint Explanatory Statement. Additional funding provided for water storage will be allocated according to the process set out in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, Public Law 114-322.

Reclamation based its decisions on a balanced approach that considered projects and programs on the basis of mission priorities, relevance to strategic goals, program objectives, and the directions contained in the Explanatory Statement. Reclamation is pleased to be able to provide the enclosed report.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Robert Wolf, Director, Program & Budget at (202) 513-0642.

Sincerely,

TANYA
TRUJILLO

Digitally signed by TANYA
TRUJILLO
Date: 2023.02.10
13:29:10 -05'00'

Tanya Trujillo
Assistant Secretary
For Water and Science

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

The Department and Reclamation recently made a \$84.7 million investment from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help 36 communities throughout the West prepare and respond to the challenges of drought.

WaterSMART Drought Response Program Framework



**Construction is underway for
the Safety of Dams Project at
B.F. Sisk Dam.**



The Department and Reclamation have invested over \$368 million in four storage projects — Sites, Los Vaqueros Expansion, San Luis Expansion, and Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir — of which \$137 million was recently announced as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



Construction is underway to restore capacity in the Friant Kern Canal.



Build America, Buy America Act

- Included in the PL 117-58, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law).
- Requires that “none of the funds made available for a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure...may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.”
- Importantly, Buy America requirements apply to Federal financial assistance programs for infrastructure, whether or not those programs received funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- On April 18, 2022, OMB released Initial Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure.

Reclamation Programs subject to Buy America

- Title XVI Projects
- Desalination Construction Projects
- Large-Scale Recycling
- Drought Resiliency Projects
- Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
- Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects
- Environmental Water Resources Projects
- Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration
- Aging Infrastructure/XM
- Rural Water
- Other programs that include funding for infrastructure

Buy America – Waiver Authority

- Pursuant to Section 70914(c) of the Act, the head of a Federal agency may waive the application of a Buy America preference under an infrastructure program in any case in which the head of the Federal agency finds that—
 - (1) applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest (a “public interest waiver”);
 - (2) types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality (a “nonavailability waiver”);
 - or (3) the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent (an “unreasonable cost waiver”).

Buy America – Waiver Principles

- Time-limited
 - Waivers should identify a short, definite time frame (e.g., no more than one to two years) designed to ensure that, as domestic supply becomes available, domestic producers will have prompt access to the market created by the program.
- Targeted
 - Waivers should apply only to the item(s), product(s), or material(s) or category(ies) of item(s), product(s), or material(s) necessary.
- Conditional
 - Waivers should support the policies of the Build America, Buy America Act and Executive Order 14005, Ensuring the Future Is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers.

Buy America – Approved Waivers

- The Department of the Interior 6-month adjustment period waiver expired on January 12, 2023.
- Approved Program Waivers
 - Small Financial Assistance Agreements (< \$250,000)
 - De Minimis Purchases (< 5% of total applicable project costs)
- Approved Project Waivers
 - Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – AMI
 - City of Rialto – AMI
- More information is available at doi.gov/grants/buyamerica