



**Western Coalition of Arid States  
Water Reuse Association  
Family Farm Alliance  
National Water Resources Association  
Idaho Water Users Association  
National Urban Agriculture Council  
Oregon Water Resources Congress  
Upper Missouri Water Association  
Association of California Water Agencies**

February 4, 2004

***WESTERN WATER USERS SEEK RELIEF IN '05 BUDGET  
Invest in the West Group Calls on President's Proposal to do More***

Water users in the Western states served by the Bureau of Reclamation are renewing calls for the President's fiscal 2005 budget to increase funds for western water infrastructure. Together as the 'Invest in the West' coalition, the group is beginning its fourth year of work on behalf of its members who depend on the Bureau's reservoirs, canals, aqueducts and power plants throughout the West.

This year, Invest in the West will seek an increase to the 2005 budget adding \$150 million to the Bureau's Water and Related Resources (construction) account over the \$856 million appropriated in fiscal 2004. The coalition's goal is to bring the Bureau's budget to \$1 billion annually.

"The populations of the Western states have surged over the past decade, despite an uninterrupted drought," said Invest in the West Coordinator Peter Carlson. "These factors have raised water demand dramatically, and it's clear that we cannot power a growing economy with a flat infrastructure budget."

Bureau of Reclamation programs have served Western communities since 1902, including through periods of recent budget cutbacks during the 1990s. With funding from the construction account, the Bureau operates facilities in 17 Western states that, together with local infrastructure, provide drinking water, hydropower, irrigation water and conservation programs. Drought planning and homeland security are shared Bureau responsibilities that have taken on increased relevance in recent years, and are areas where Invest in the West is seeking to augment Bureau funds.

"We recognize that the President's budget contains some new water initiatives -- \$4 million in challenge grants for water conservation, and \$3 million for water improvement technology," said Carlson. "However, the \$828 million proposal for '05 is not enough. The Bureau's proven success with water infrastructure will mean the difference between water availability and drought. We want the administration to 'catch the vision,' and build on the Bureau's record."

Over the past two fiscal years, funding for projects in Oregon's Klamath River Basin has benefited from double-digit increases. Invest in the West is conveying the message that this type of investment is needed for water infrastructure west-wide.

This month, the federal Drought Monitor (<http://www.drought.unl.edu/risk/us/usimpacts.htm>) still shows that almost every western state (except Washington and Alaska) remains in drought at varying levels of severity. Invest in the West will carry this message forward during 2005 in its campaign to raise the Bureau's budget to \$1 billion. #

### **Fiscal 2005 BuRec Allocations by State**

Water and Related Resources Account

<b>STATE:</b>	<b>AMOUNT:</b>
Arizona	102,694,000
California	188,640,000
Colorado	86,635,000
Idaho	35,173,000
Kansas	5,005,000
Montana	32,006,000
Nebraska	5,280,000
Nevada	19,878,000
New Mexico	25,681,000
North Dakota	23,939,000
Oklahoma	3,123,000
Oregon	34,795,000
South Dakota	62,115,000
Texas	1,552,000
Utah	36,523,000
Washington	34,683,000
Wyoming	19,239,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>828,476,000</b>