

## S 4189

### Water for Conservation and Farming Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Water Resources Development

**Introduced:** Jul 2, 2020

**Current Status:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power. Hearings held. With print

**Latest Action:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 116-375. (Jul 22, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4189>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (1 total)

| Cosponsor                 | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---------------------------|---------------|------|-------------|
| Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR] | D · OR        |      | Jul 2, 2020 |

### Committee Activity

| Committee                              | Chamber | Activity                   | Date         |
|--|---------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Energy and Natural Resources Committee | Senate  | Hearings By (subcommittee) | Jul 22, 2020 |

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Water Resources Development

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## **Water for Conservation and Farming Act**

This bill establishes a funding source for certain water resources development projects in western states. The bill also establishes new water resources development programs, as well as reauthorizes and expands existing ones.

Specifically, the bill establishes a Bureau of Reclamation Infrastructure Fund to fund water-related programs, including water reclamation and reuse projects, dam safety projects, and the WaterSMART program (which provides assistance to eligible government entities to increase water supply). Each year from FY2031-FY2061, the Department of the Interior must deposit \$300 million of revenues into this fund that would otherwise be deposited into the Reclamation Fund (which currently funds irrigation works in western states).

The bill also reauthorizes through FY2025 the WaterSMART program and expands the program, including by expanding the types of entities eligible for assistance.

In addition, the bill reauthorizes through FY2024 the Cooperative Watershed Management Program (which provides assistance to watershed groups to address water management needs) and expands the program to include projects that generate environmental benefits.

The bill also establishes new programs directed at western states to

- provide assistance to agricultural producers to create and maintain waterbird and shorebird habitats,
- award grants to eligible government entities and nonprofit conservation organizations for habitat restoration projects that improve watershed health,
- and provide assistance to eligible government entities and nonprofit organizations for aquatic ecosystem and restoration projects.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jul 22, 2020:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 116-375.
- **Jul 2, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 2, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S4227)