

Emergency Drought Relief

Emergency Drought Relief projects received \$40.6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to address drought impacts in the West, primarily in California. Projects included installation of groundwater wells and temporary water lines to supply water to wildlife refuges and Tribes and provided water to agricultural contractors to save permanent trees and vines.

Drought relief projects benefitted three wildlife refuges, 13 Tribes and 14 water and irrigation districts and included the installation of temporary pipelines and pumps, drilling and installation of new water wells, well-enhancement projects, and a groundwater monitoring effort.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs assisted Reclamation in identifying Native American projects that assisted in meeting the water supply needs of tribal communities impacted by the drought.

The funds for the Gray Lodge, Pixley and Volta Wildlife Refuges not only assisted in protecting the environment by providing more reliable water sources for the refuges but also reduced the overall water demand on the federal Central Valley Project.

The remaining projects helped preserve permanent crops and associated jobs in an area that experienced a prolonged drought, economic hardship and some of the highest unemployment rates in the United States.

