

## **Metrics for the Aquatic Resources Program's 5-year Strategic Plan**

The 5-year Strategy for the Aquatic Resources Program is accompanied by metrics to track progress towards achieving the four main goals, the success of implemented strategies, and the need for adjustments. Baseline values and benchmarks for defining success will be established in 2022 and adjusted to allocated funding levels. After the 5-year period, the plan will be assessed in light of changing conditions and needs.

### **Keys to Program Success**

#### ***Metrics***

- Completion of updated policy and handbooks for the Aquatic Resources Program.
- Percent of Aquatic Resources Program positions filled and number of positions added.
- Number of media stories highlighting program actions and accomplishments.

### **Goal 1: Conserve, restore, and connect riparian, fisheries, and water resources.**

#### ***Metrics***

- Percent of BLM-managed streams and rivers meeting desired conditions as measured by the Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) Strategy.
- Development of tools to assess watershed and riverscape condition, prioritize restoration actions, and assess project effectiveness.
- Miles of stream and acres of riparian and wetland areas where natural processes have been mimicked, promoted, or restored.
- Number of fish passage barriers removed to restore connectivity for high priority species.
- Development of categorical exclusion authority for low-tech aquatic restoration projects.

### **Goal 2 Protect water supplies and uses.**

#### ***Metrics***

- Number of water rights claims filed for public land management purposes.
- Percentage of BLM-administered Wild & Scenic Rivers with secured instream flow protections.
- Implement procedures to improve estimates of water availability for existing and proposed land uses and activities.

### **Goal 3: Prevent the establishment and spread of aquatic invasive species.**

#### ***Metrics***

- Percent reduction in the frequency of occurrence of invasive plant species across BLM-managed riparian and wetland systems as measured by AIM.
- Number of partnerships preventing and controlling the spread of aquatic invasive species.
- Number of high use recreation areas with new aquatic invasive species signage or decontamination stations installed.

### **Goal 4: Foster a watershed approach to improve water quality.**

- Tons of salt retained on BLM-managed lands within the Colorado River Basin.
- Percent of BLM-managed streams and rivers with intact biological diversity as indicated by aquatic macroinvertebrates.
- Number of MOUs with state regulatory agencies to monitor and improve water quality.