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Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application

Instructions
<p>All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current 2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines.</p> <p>To receive funding from the WSRF, a proposed water activity must be recommended for approval by a Roundtable(s) AND the approved by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for roundtable consideration and recommendation is outlined in the 2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. The CWCB meets bimonthly.</p> <p>If you have questions, please contact the WSRF Grant Program Manager (for all Roundtables) or your Roundtable Liaison:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Ben Wade ben.wade@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3238 (office)</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Sam Stein Sam.stein@state.co.us 303-866-3441 (office)</p> </div> </div>

WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)
<p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> This request was recommended for CWCB approval by the sponsoring roundtable.</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> I have read and understand the 2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines.</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract.¹</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">Application Documents included:</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit A: Statement of Work² (<i>Word – see Template</i>)</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit B: Budget & Schedule² (<i>Excel Spreadsheet – see Template</i>)</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3rd Party Commitments²</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Map²</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Photos/Drawings/Reports</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Letters of Support</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">Contracting Documents³</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Detailed/Itemized Budget³ (<i>Excel Spreadsheet – see Template</i>)</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Insurance⁴ (<i>General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.</i>)</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Good Standing⁽⁴⁾</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> W-9 Form⁴</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Contractor Form⁴ (<i>If applicant is individual, not company/organization</i>)</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form⁴</p>

¹Click "Grant Agreements". For reference only/do not fill out or submit/required for contracting

² Required with application if applicable.

³ Additional documentation providing a Detailed/Itemized Budget maybe required for contracting. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate with the CWCB Project Manager to determine specifics.

⁴ Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.



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Schedule		
CWCB Meeting	Application Submittal Dates	Type of Request
January	October 1	Basin Account
March	December 1	Basin/Statewide Account/Water Plan Grant Match ¹
May	February 1	Basin Account
July	April 1	Basin Account
September	June 1	Basin/Statewide Account
November	August 1	Basin Account

¹ If either the basin or statewide match includes matching funds from a pending Water Plant Grant, both must be submitted by December 1st deadline for March Board meeting review.

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	Montezuma School to Farm Project	
Name of Water Activity	Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap	
Approving Roundtable(s)	Basin Account Request(s) ¹	
Southwest Basin Roundtable	\$25,000.00	
Basin Account Request Subtotal	\$25,000.00	
Basin Account Request Subtotal Approved by Roundtable	\$	
Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾	\$	
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)	\$25,000.00	
Total Project Costs	\$47,000.00	

¹ Please indicate the amount recommended for approval by the Roundtable(s)

Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Montezuma School to Farm Project
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 604 Mancos, CO 81328
FEIN	84-4298006



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Grantee and Applicant Information	
Grantee's Organization Contact¹	Trinette Robichaux-Cichock
Position/Title	Executive Director
Email	director.mstfp@gmail.com
Phone	505-900-5456
Grant Management Contact²	Trinette Robichaux-Cichock
Position/Title	Executive Director
Email	director.mstf@gmail.com
Phone	505-900-5456
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	

¹ Person with signatory authority

² Person responsible for creating reimbursement invoices (Invoice for Services) and corresponding with CWCB staff.

Description of Grantee
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
<p>Montezuma School to Farm Project began in 2009 as a farm field trip. The goal was to encourage environmental stewardship and ignite pride in local agriculture. This effort grew to building and maintaining 7 school gardens and a 2-acre production plot. The educational pieces were integrated into daily curriculum and expanded to all public schools in the county. Currently, MSTFP works with the Mancos, Cortez, and Dolores School Districts on curriculum, providing hands-on experiential education for k-12 students. Programs include lessons on conservation, science, math, art, and literature, summer programming, high school FarmCorps cohorts, and paid internships.</p>

Type of Eligible Entity (check one)
<input type="checkbox"/> Public (Government): municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
<input type="checkbox"/> Public (Districts): authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises
<input type="checkbox"/> Private Incorporated: mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-governmental organizations: broadly, any organization that is not part of the government
<input type="checkbox"/>	Covered Entity: as defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes

Type of Water Activity (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implementation

Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Municipal/Industrial	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Needs Assessment	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education & Outreach	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	Explain:

Location of Water Activity	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	Montezuma County
Latitude	N/A- project will be located at multiple schools in the county
Longitude	N/A- project will be located at multiple schools in the county

Water Activity Overview
Please provide a summary of the proposed water activity (200 words or less). Include a description of the activity and what the WSRF funding will be used for specifically (e.g. studies, permitting, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the activity. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, area of habitat improvements. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain.
The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule.



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Water Activity Overview
<p>Montezuma School to Farm Project currently implements robust programming for over 2,100 students in Montezuma County. We seek to expand on our current infrastructure to deliver greater impacts to middle school students in the county centered on water conservation education. The Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap project will implement 6th-8th grade lessons on water conservation, aid staff in developing effective middle school curriculum program procedures, and improve growing spaces where this critical work takes place. This includes expanding our 2-acre production plot to 3 acres utilizing water conserving practices that students learn while in the growing spaces. This project addresses local 6th-8th educational gaps with emphasis on STEM-related core standards that later aid students with water conservation, droughtification, and climate change comprehension. The lessons would also include topics involving the three local southwest sub-basins: the Mancos, the Dolores, and McElmo Creek. The garden sites and foundational education pieces holistically address needs in the county: water conservation awareness, quality STEM education, and useful learning environments that positively impact students' understanding of water conservation principles. WSRF funding will be used to implement 6th-8th grade water conservation programming centered on the CWP and Southwest Basin Implementation Plan and develop water-conserving growing sites on school property that facilitate hands-on water conservation education. While funding from the WSRF would be used for implementing 6th-8th grade curriculum, developing the growing sites would impact all students utilizing that space.</p>

Measurable Results		
To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRF funds please provide any of the following values.		
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)	
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive	
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)	
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)	
763	Other	Explain: 6 th -8 th grade students at Mancos, Dolores, and Cortez Middle Schools
2.4 acres	Other	Explain: amount of land developed into more efficient, water-conserving agricultural sites

Water Activity Justification
<p>Provide a description of how this water activity supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan, the most recent Statewide Water Supply Initiative, and the respective roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan ⁽¹⁾. The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers).</p> <p>For applications that include a request for funds from the Statewide Account, the proposed water activity shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan criteria for state support (CWP,</p>

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Water Activity Justification
<p>Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;) (Also listed pp. 4-5 in 2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines).</p> <p>Section 9.5 Outreach, Education, and Public Engagement of the Colorado Water Plan describes the collaboration with the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education and others to create the Water Education Taskforce. One of their recommendations was to “support a statewide public education initiative.” Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap will bring critical environmental education to the Montezuma County public educational system. Water conservation education at the Dolores Middle School, Mancos Middle School, and Cortez Middle School will center on collaboration with school districts, receive feedback from hired teacher liaisons, and promote deeper public education impacts on water conservation education. Additionally, Section 9.5 of the CWP outlines some BIP long-term goals, including to “[1.] work closely with organizations that specialize in the facilitation of public education and outreach programs in order to leverage existing resources within each basin and increase overall impact and [2.] enhance coordination and financial support that enable watershed groups and other grassroots organizations to effectively engage the public and increase participation.” MSTFP will support these endeavors through our capacity to engage with the public-school system. MSTFP has partnered with the school districts within Montezuma County for more than a decade. We facilitate opportunities for feedback to guarantee our on-school garden sites remain effective and practical. Our robust communication and implementation systems will be used to support Colorado Water Plan objectives and goals, while maintaining adaptable and high-quality education.</p> <p>The Statewide Water Supply Initiative discusses implications of Colorado population growth on water systems. This is a critical priority in Montezuma County. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs projects that Montezuma County’s population will see a 67% increase by 2050 (The Journal, “Water experts prepare for state population boom”). MSTFP curriculum will include these statistics and emphasize the priority of closing the supply and demand gap outlined in the Statewide Water Supply Initiative. MSTFP growing spaces and expanding the 2-acre production plot with minimal strains on the local water system with high-quality water conservation methods will exemplify necessary agricultural practices as populations and droughts increase.</p> <p>MSTFP will also support the objectives set forth by the Southwest Basin Roundtable. A significant part of the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan covers educational and outreach objectives. MSTFP’s Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap will include information pertinent to local watersheds in the southwest region, including specific information on the Dolores River and Mancos River, both of which are critical to the county. Lessons will also cover drought resiliency, which significantly impacts Montezuma County. These efforts also align with the Southwest Basin Roundtable Education Plan. The garden sites and production plot are located in the Southwest Basin and showcase sustainable efforts that utilize water conservation efforts. Not only will these growing sites exist, but they act as the foundation for all water conservation education. If community members experience environmental education in outdoor learning garden classrooms during their formative years, they are more likely to make decisions based on the information. They will also likely share these lessons with their families and others in the community, adding to the overall awareness in the county and the Southwest Basin.</p>

¹ Access Basin Implementation Plans or Education Action Plans from Basin drop down menu.



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Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests	
Basin (only) Account grant requests require a 25% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the Applicant or 3 rd party and shall be accompanied by a letter of commitment as described in the 2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines (submitted on the contributing entity's letterhead). Attach additional sheet if necessary.	
Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind)
United States Department of Agriculture- School Garden Educator Liaison Stipends	\$10,500.00 cash
United States Department of Agriculture- Education Manager Programming Development Salary	\$5,000.00 cash
Montezuma School to Farm Project- AmeriCorps Growing Space Development Time	\$4,500.00 in-kind
Montezuma School to Farm Project- AmeriCorps Program Implementation Time	\$2,000 in-kind
Total Match	\$22,000.00
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.	

Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests	
Statewide Account grant requests require a 50% match as described in the 2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines . At least of 10% of the required Statewide Account Grant request match shall be cash from Basin Account funds whether that is from one or multiple basins; and the remaining 40% of the required match may be provided from any source, including other grants, cash from the Basin Account, or any combination of cash, in-kind services, or in-kind materials and shall be accompanied by a letter of commitment . Attach additional sheet if necessary.	
Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):
N/A- not a statewide grant request	
Total Match	\$
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).	

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Related Studies

Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

In early 2020, MSTFP conducted its own study on local opinions and priorities related to the county's educational system. Our surveys found that 80.6% of parents, 68.96% of county teachers, 91.93% of community members prioritize teaching conservation and drought resiliency to students. After communication with school districts and increasing school representation on our Board of Directors and Programs Committee, we found that teachers often have too much on their plates to prioritize outside curriculum inside their classrooms. Through this collaboration, MSTFP will be a supportive role in the endeavor to increase conservation awareness within students that live in a water-precarious community. This will relieve the burden on teachers and provide students with important educational resources and career pathways.

Additionally, impacts noted in the school administrators' responses were significant. 100% of school administrators stated they would recommend collaborating with MSTFP, that garden classes aided them in promoted a positive school culture, and that the growing spaces positively impacted their school's infrastructure. The school districts have voiced support for continuing and expanding MSTFP programming at their schools.

MSTFP also found that the garden classes impassion students to be environmental stewards. 90.32% of students said that garden classes increased their interest in agriculture and/or environmental science. 29.03% of students stated that garden classes increased the likelihood of them continuing environmental education in high school and of them planning a future career in the environmental industry. It is important to note that over 50% of students stated that this was not applicable to them since they have not started planning for high school or careers due to their age. This data shows that outdoor learning environments help foster environmental stewardship. With an increase in water conservation programming, it is likely that MSTFP's garden classes and career pathways will further impact students and their professional and educational goals.

Public data also supports the Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap project. The 2019 Colorado Academic Proficiency scores based on the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) indicate that the Cortez, Dolores, and Mancos Middle Schools fall far below Colorado standards with an average of 67% of students failing to meet benchmark requirements in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades in math and science. This directly impacts students' and the community's comprehension of water conservation topics. Without a foundational STEM understanding, students in Montezuma County will find difficulty in grasping critical environmental intricacies. MSTFP's Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap will incorporate STEM topics into water conservation curriculum to not only inform students about Colorado's water needs, but also provide them with tools to facilitate deeper appreciation and understanding.

As for the production plot expansion, MSTFP will utilize native pollinator plants and terraced beds to transform a sloped acre to a water-conserving growing plot. An article published by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board titled, "The Importance of Pollinators to Soil and Water Conservation in Texas," outlines how these practices support water conservation, stating "pollinators are essential for productive agricultural ecosystems, such as row crop production and agro-forestry, and they ensure the production of fruit and seeds in many crops, grasses, and timber. Likewise, pollinators play a significant role in natural rangeland ecosystems by helping to keep plant communities healthy and reproducing, which in turn prevents soil erosion, improves water quality, and provides food and cover for native wildlife." MSTFP will improve local ecosystem while imparting that knowledge to local students so they are versed in these procedures.

Previous CWCB Grants

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1)

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Previous CWCB Grants
<p>Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order</p>
<p>Montezuma School to Farm Project received support from CWCB to educate students when MSTFP was a program under the Mancos Conservation District. For context, MSTFP was founded by the Mancos Conservation District in 2009. However, both Cortez and Dolores School Districts voiced that they wanted MSTFP to expand into their jurisdictions. What started as a farm field trip grew into an organization serving thousands of students by providing 30,000+ student hours of programming annually. To increase MSTFP's capacity and reach, it became its own 501(c)3 non-profit with its own Board, staff, and financials.</p> <p>MSTFP currently has an application submitted through CWCB's Colorado Water Plan grant program, which mainly focuses on preK-12th grade curriculum development and career pathways. The WSRF funds would be used to increase middle school education deliverables, since that age group experiences the severest gap as shown by standardized test scores. WSRF funds will also help maintain and develop the water-conserving sites and practices utilized for MSTFP programming. The Water Education: Filling the Middle School Gap would act complimentary to the CWP grant.</p>

Tax Payer Bill of Rights
<p>The Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect the applicant.</p>
<p>TABOR does not affect MSTFP.</p>



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Colorado Water Conservation Board	
Water Supply Reserve Fund	
<u>Exhibit A - Statement of Work</u>	
Date:	10/01/2021-10/01/2022
Water Activity Name:	Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap
Grant Recipient:	Montezuma School to Farm Project
Funding Source:	Water Supply Reserve Fund
Water Activity Overview: (Please provide brief description of the proposed water activity (no more than 200 words). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRF funding will be used for. (PLEASE DEFINE ALL ACRONYMS).)	
<p>Montezuma School to Farm Project currently implements robust programming for over 2,100 students in Montezuma County. We seek to expand on our current infrastructure to deliver greater impacts to middle school students in the county centered on water conservation education. The Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap project will implement 6th-8th grade lessons on water conservation, aid staff in developing effective middle school curriculum program procedures, and develop growing spaces where this critical work takes place. This includes expanding our 2-acre production plot to 3 acres utilizing water conserving practices that students learn while in the growing spaces. This project addresses local 6th-8th educational gaps with emphasis on STEM-related core standards that aid students with water conservation, droughtification, and climate change comprehension. The lessons would also include topics involving the three local southwest sub-basins: the Mancos, the Dolores, and McElmo Creek. The garden sites and foundational education pieces holistically address needs in the county: water conservation awareness, quality STEM education, and useful learning environments that positively impact students' depth of understanding water conservation principles. WSRF funding will be used to implement 6th-8th grade water conservation programming centered on the CWP and Southwest Basin Implementation Plan and develop water-conserving growing sites on school property that facilitate hands-on water conservation education. While funding from the WSRF would be used for implementing 6th-8th grade curriculum, developing the growing sites would impact all students utilizing that space.</p>	
Objectives: (List the objectives of the project. (PLEASE DEFINE ACRONYMS).)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Develop a robust and effective procedure for middle school programming with the Dolores, Mancos, and Cortez School Districts2) Deliver water conservation lessons and programming for 6th-8th grade students in Montezuma County3) Provide students in Montezuma County with on-site outdoor learning sites designed to showcase valuable water conservation outcomes and promote environmental stewardship	

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format: (PLEASE DEFINE ACRONYMS)



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Tasks
<u>Task 1 – Hire School Garden Educator Liaisons</u>
Description of Task: <p>The Garden Educator Liaison will be a contracted position that offers critical support to teachers to ensure that a school can maximize the educational potential of the school garden. The Liaisons will work alongside Montezuma School to Farm Project and collaborate with K-8th grade teachers across Montezuma County to align, create, and teach garden lessons that connect to grade-level standards. The Liaison will also support professional development training for teachers in the process. This position is especially significant for 6th-8th grade programming since the curriculum becomes more complex as middle school students require more experienced support.</p> <p>The Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap project will be a part of the Garden Educator Liaison's role. They will work with MSTFP to implement water conservation education and play a critical work in forming policies and procedure that allow for efficient middle school programming. They will inform MSTFP on aspects relating to individual schools to coincide with curriculum maps, making garden education more focused.</p>
Method/Procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a job description outlining the School Garden Educator Liaisons' roles, responsibilities, and compensation• Establish a hiring committee to begin a holistic overview of the hiring process• Promote the position to the Mancos, Dolores, and Cortez School Districts• Schedule initial interviews for the positions• If necessary, host follow-up interviews• Offer the candidates the School Garden Education Liaison position• On-board the School Garden Education Liaisons
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hire three Garden Educator Liaisons to partake in 6th-8th grade water conservation program planning and implementation
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hire three Garden Educator Liaisons to partake in 6th-8th grade water conservation program planning and implementation with proof of contracts



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Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format: (PLEASE DEFINE ACRONYMS)
Task 2 – Develop Garden Spaces and Expand the Production Plot
Description of Task: <p>Currently, our growing system produces over 4,000 pounds of produce annually using a 1.5" "lay flat" mainline connected to 5/8" drip tape, putting out roughly 0.25 GPM on 25' long beds, crop rotations and cover crop regiments to increase the organic matter and water holding capacity in our soil, and solar energy to conduct our work. Expanding the current production plot by one acre and further developing the garden sites to promote middle school water conservation education would increase the impacts of our growing spaces. The 1-acre of open space is currently grass with poor horticulture. We would develop practices that improve the soil quality, water holding capacity, and potential of the plot. MSTFP could host more programming for larger audiences, grow more produce, and instruct students on a holistic and sustainable agricultural development centered on water conservation. Additionally, smaller renovations and updates at the other middle schools will help promote these growing sites as effective teaching laboratories.</p> <p>One such renovation includes a 300' x 30' downward sloping space. The slope provides the opportunity to create terraces and garden beds focused on utilizing runoff water and prevent further hillside erosion. We will create three main zones within the selected area, two being terraced areas of cover crops and self-seeding annuals such as Sunflowers, Calendula and Poppy's. The middle third will be developed into smaller garden beds showcasing native plants and beneficial perennials. We will prioritize funds to purchase more pollinator friendly plants, improve irrigation infrastructure, and material to terrace the slope of the area. Our end goal is to enhance under-utilized areas that provide additional growing spaces, conserve water effectively, and educate students on these sustainable practices.</p>
Method/Procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicate and collaborate with the Cortez Middle School leadership to efficiently transform 1 acre of grass to a production area• Procure supplies and materials, including soil, seeds, irrigation materials, and miscellaneous tools• Transform 1-acre of grass to high-quality, water-conserving rows for growing produce• Develop garden spaces with updates for middle school water conservation education, including establishing a greenspace with native wildflowers that decreases weed pressure, increases water collection, and reduces further erosion
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand the production plot by an acre• Improve garden sites to better teach students water conservation topics and better serve 6th-8th grade students
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand the production plot by an acre; provide photographs and explanations of these developments• Improve garden sites to better teach students water conservation topics and better serve 6th-8th grade students; provide photographs and explanations of these developments

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Tasks

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format: (PLEASE DEFINE ACRONYMS)
<u>Task 3 – Collaborate with Partners to Create, Schedule, and Implement 6th-8th Grade Programming</u>
Description of Task:
<p>School District Leaders, teachers, and community members voice a need for MSTFP to expand its programming to serve middle school students. Middle school is often the most neglected of the secondary years, with more attention paid to high school curriculum. Therefore, MSTFP seeks to dedicate this water conservation educational initiative to serve students in grades 6th-8th and provide them with more focused attention. Currently, MSTFP's summer career pathway programs provide a wonderful professional opportunity for older students to experience water conservation in a practical setting. However, these programs predominantly reach high school students, while monthly garden classes predominantly reach preK-5th grade students. The Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap is designed to solidify pathway development in middle school students, improve STEM outcomes, and promote water conservation knowledge. MSTFP will develop, along side with middle school teachers, lessons for electives. These lessons will include topics such as water conservation and drought, watershed geography, ancient history pertaining to water and drought, and CWP/BIP topics and projections. MSTFP will coordinate with middle school teachers in the Mancos, Dolores, and Cortez School Districts. This will ensure that water conservation lessons coincide with in-class concepts. MSTFP staff will consistently communicate with middle school teachers to schedule garden classes.</p>
Method/Procedure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create 6th-8th grade curriculum for science electives pertaining to water conservation to be held at the outdoor growing sites • Contact the Mancos, Dolores, and Cortez Middle School teachers to begin the scheduling process • Implement water conservation programming to middle school students in Montezuma County
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a comprehensive unit of instruction for water conservation for 6th-8th grade classes • Schedule elective water conservation programming in collaborating with the School Garden Educator Liaisons and Montezuma County Middle School teachers • Deliver water conservation programming to middle school students in the county • Show that 70% of students who complete the water conservation elective course will show mastery of water conservation knowledge and skills
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)



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Tasks

- Create a comprehensive unit of instruction water conservation for 6th-8th grade classes and provide documentation
- Provide data on 6th-8th grade student involvement and improvement with the water conservation curriculum

Tasks

Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format: (PLEASE DEFINE ACRONYMS)

Task 4 – WSRF Reporting and Administration

Description of Task:

Montezuma School to Farm Project will submit timely and comprehensive progress reports to the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Southwest Basin Roundtable in accordance with grant guidelines. Additionally, MSTFP will provide staff time for oversight and administration of WSRF programming. This will include tracking, reporting, and organizational needs that will develop as MSTFP implements the grant. We will also provide pictures and other documentation to verify work completed.

Method/Procedure:

- Report on grant implementation
- Organize and tabulate programming materials and reports
- Track program financials and expenditures
- Consistently communicate with partners on reporting, deliverables, and program updates

Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)

- Submit a progress report six months into the grant cycle
- Provide a final report for the 12-month WSRF grant cycle on Water Education: Filing the Middle School Gap programming and implementation with a chart of STEM scores based on the CMAS

CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)

- Submit a progress report six months into the grant cycle
- Provide a final report for the 12-month WSRF grant cycle on Water Education: Filing the Middle School Gap programming and implementation with a chart of STEM scores based on the CMAS

Budget and Schedule

Exhibit B - Budget and Schedule: This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined [Budget and Schedule](#) that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in [excel format](#). A separate [excel formatted](#) Budget is required for engineering costs to include rate and unit costs.

Last Update: March 17, 2020

<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/>

Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports: The grantee shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues. The CWCB may withhold reimbursement until satisfactory progress reports have been submitted.

Final Report: At completion of the project, the grantee shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the grantee's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

Payments

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures, must include invoices for all work completed and must be on grantee's letterhead. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by task, an estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire Project in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues, and proposed or implemented corrective actions.

The CWCB will pay the last 10% of the entire water activity budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the water activity and purchase order or contract will be closed without any further payment. Any entity that fails to complete a satisfactory Final Report and submit to CWCB within 90 days of the expiration of a purchase order or contract may be denied consideration for future funding of any type from CWCB.

Performance Requirements

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

(a) Performance standards and evaluation: Grantee will produce detailed deliverables for each task as specified. Grantee shall maintain receipts for all project expenses and documentation of the minimum in-kind contributions (if applicable) per the budget in Exhibit B. Per Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the final deliverable is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the final deliverable has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per the Grant Guidelines full documentation of project progress must be submitted with each invoice for reimbursement. Grantee must confirm that all grant conditions have been complied with on each invoice. In addition, per the Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

(c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each Progress Report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary.

(d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the Grant Agreement.



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

WSRF- Exhibit A Budget and Schedule

Date: 12/1/20

Name of Applicant: Montezuma School to Farm Project

Name of Water Project: Montezuma CWP Education Initiative

Task No.	Task Description	Start Date ⁽¹⁾	End Date	Water Project Funding Category	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	Hire School Garden Educator Liaisons	10/1/2021	12/1/2021	Engagement	\$2,000	\$10,500	\$12,500
2	Maintain Garden Spaces and Expand Production Plot	10/1/2021	10/1/2022	Engagement	\$11,000	\$4,500	\$15,500
3	Collaborate with Partners to Develop, Schedule, and Implement 6th-8th Grade Programming	10/1/2021	2/1/2022	Engagement	\$12,000	\$6,500	\$18,500
4	WSRF Reporting and Administration	10/1/2021	10/1/2022	Engagement	\$0	\$500	\$500
Total					\$25,000	\$22,000	\$47,000

(1) Start Date for funding under \$100K, minimum 45 Days from Board Approval; Start Date for funding over \$100K, minimum 90 Days from Board Approval.

·Round values up to the nearest hundred dollars.

·Reimbursement eligibility commences upon the grantee's receipt of a Notice to Proceed (NTP)

·NTP will not be accepted as a start date. Project activities may commence as soon as grantee enters contract and receives formal NTP if prior to the listed "Start Date".

·The applicant shall provide a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of contract execution.

·CWCB will withhold disbursement of the last 10% of the total grant amount until a Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff (2017 CWP Grant Guidelines).

SOUTHWEST BASINS ROUNDTABLE

C/O La Plata Archuleta Water District

PO Box 1377

Ignacio, Colorado 81137

March 26, 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Supply Planning Section

WSRF Application

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718

Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: Montezuma School to Farm Project
WSRF Grant Request

The Southwest Basins Roundtable approved funding of \$25,000 from the Southwest Basins Roundtable account for the Montezuma School to Farm Project. This application was considered fully and approved unanimously by the Southwest Basins Roundtable at the March 25, 2021 meeting. There was a quorum of members present at the meeting.

The proposed project, by providing an easy to access platform for information about the Roundtable and the Basin Implementation Plan, meets the Colorado Water Plan's goal 9-5 to educate the public on specific water related issues, it also supports the Southwest Basins Roundtable's Education Action Plan priority to provide water education for constituents in the region as well as Measurable Goals or Outcomes of the Southwest Basins BIP A4) promote dialogue, foster cooperation and resolve conflict among water interest.

The completed Grant Application will be forwarded directly to you by the applicant. Please contact the applicant directly or me at 970-563-0320, etolen@laplawd.org, if you have questions or wish to discuss this application in more detail.

Sincerely,



Edward Tolen

Southwest Basins Roundtable Chair



Hayley Kwasniewski <hayley.kwasniew@gmail.com>

Fwd: Review Package for Proposal 2020-08604 Submitted to USDA\NIFA

1 message

Trinette Robichaux-Cichock <director.mstfp@gmail.com>
To: Hayley Kwasniewski <hayley.kwasniew@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 10:08 AM

Trinette Robichaux-Cichock, Executive Director
Montezuma School to Farm Project
Office: 970-533-7317
Cell: 505-900-5456
montezumaschooltofarm.org



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gretchen Rank** <executivedirector.mcd@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 22, 2020 at 8:40 AM
Subject: Fwd: Review Package for Proposal 2020-08604 Submitted to USDA\NIFA
To: Gretchen Rank <director.mstfp@gmail.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <carlos.ortiz@usda.gov>
Date: Mon, Dec 21, 2020 at 4:36 PM
Subject: Review Package for Proposal 2020-08604 Submitted to USDA\NIFA
To: <karouselkid@gmail.com>
Cc: <executivedirector.mcd@gmail.com>

December 21, 2020
Program: Professional Development for Agricultural Literacy
Proposal Number: 2020-08604
Project Director: Karen Lindner
Proposal Title: Teacher Professional Development for Ag Education in Montezuma County, Colorado

Karen Lindner
Montezuma School to Farm Project
100 South Walnut Street
Mancos, CO 81328-9287

Dear Karen Lindner,

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), it is my pleasure to inform you that your proposal listed above has been recommended for funding by NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Professional Development for Agricultural Literacy (PDAL) Priority Area Program. I tried to reach you at your office, but I may have called at a bad time or, like us, you are working away from the office. If you would like to chat about your reviews and project goals, please send me a few times and dates when we could talk; it would be my pleasure

to hear from you. In the meantime, please take the time to go over this email in its entirety as it contains key information for the successful execution of your award.

We ask that you, your Department, University (applies to that of the Co-PDs as well) and/or Organization refrain from making any media announcement of your project award. This communications embargo is to remain in place until a formal public announcement is made by the Secretary of Agriculture and/or NIFA. I will inform you when such time comes, and the embargo is lifted.

This letter contains information to ensure smooth administration of your award. Please find below your peer-review panel summary, and individual panelist's review comments. We hope the information will provide you with sufficient feedback of your application. WITHIN the next 5 business days, please provide a response and mode of resolution to the negative/weak aspects of your proposal. The response should be sent to us via an emailed, in a letterhead PDF document and must be signed by the Project Director and AOR. Ms Donna Hiatt, Program Specialist, will be working with you to obtain any required documents missing as well as your responses to reviews.

Provided that all required documents are in place, NIFA will start processing your award as soon as possible and your project will have a start date of January 1st, 2021. Therefore, we ask that you please provide any requested information as soon as possible. Once we receive them, and the award process is complete, NIFA Awards Management Division (AMD) will send the official award notification directly to your Institution's Office of Sponsored Program. The award notification will contain information concerning the award administration, such as Terms and Conditions. Please contact your institution's Sponsored Program Office for award administration related questions.

NIFA AFRI Competitive Grant Program requires the following from grant awardees:

1. Project Initiation forms must be submitted through REEport before the award can be processed. Please submit the forms AS SOON AS you receive an email notification from REEport@usda.gov with "New Project in NIFA REEport: GRANTxxxxxxx" in the "Subject" line. Additional information and step-by-step guides on how to use REEport can be found at <https://nifa.usda.gov/tool/reeport>
2. It is critical for the success of NIFA programs to properly acknowledge the public funding in all published articles, manuscripts, dissertations, posters, presentations, inventions, patents, and press releases. As your project progresses, please use the following language to acknowledge NIFA support in such publications, as appropriate where xxxxx-xxxx is your award number:

"This work is/was supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, AFRI Professional Development for Agricultural Literacy Priority Area, award #2021-xxxxx-xxxxx."

More information regarding acknowledgments can be found at: <https://nifa.usda.gov/acknowledgment-usda-support-nifa>

Throughout your project and even after the project's Final Report is filed, it is imperative to keep me/National Program Leader informed on a regular basis as well as send me/NIFA a copy of your publications, if at all possible.

3. The program as well as NIFA Communication Office appreciate receiving copies of public relations material related to your project, including newspaper articles, brochures, notices, activities, etc. High quality photographs (hard copy or electronic version) that depict your research or other activities are always welcome. NIFA uses information you send to publicize interesting project results we supported. NIFA may also use the public relations material for a press release or on the NIFA website. Please send any materials directly to me and impactstories@usda.gov.

4. Project Directors (PDs) are required to participate in one Project Directors workshop/ conference during the life of the award. Please be sure to keep travel budget for this PD meeting. More details about this meeting will be shared with you when available.

5. PDs are also required to submit an annual progress and financial reports through REEport, reflecting progress and products stemming from the project. Please ensure you add the number of students supported by your project. PDs are encouraged to provide information regarding publications to the program leader on an ongoing basis as details regarding publications become known.

Best wishes for the successful completion of your project.

With kind regards,

Carlos Ortiz, Ph.D.
National Program Leader
Institute of Youth, Family, and Community
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

**Water Supply Reserve Fund
Water Activity Summary Sheet
May 19-20, 2021
Consent Agenda Item 2(a)**

Applicant & Grantee: Montezuma School to Farm Project

Water Activity Name: Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap

Water Activity Purpose: Education & Outreach - Implementation

County: Montezuma

Drainage Basin: Mancos & Dolores

Water Source: Dolores River, Mancos River, McElmo Creek

Amount Requested: \$25,000 Southwest Basin Account
\$25,000 Total Request

Matching Funds: **Basin Account Match** = \$22,000 (\$15,500 cash & \$6,500 in-kind)

- 46.8% of Total Project Cost (meets 10% min)

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Southwest Basin Account to help fund the project: Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap

Water Activity Summary: Montezuma School to Farm Project states they currently implement robust programming for over 2,100 students in Montezuma County. The applicant is seeking WSRF funds to expand their program to deliver greater impacts to over 760 middle school students in the county centered on water conservation education. This proposal is a compliment to the applicants recently approved Water Plan Engagement & Innovation grant.

The "*Water Education: Addressing the Middle School Gap*" project will implement 6th-8th grade lessons on water conservation, aid staff in developing effective middle school curriculum program procedures, and improve growing spaces where this work would take place. This includes expanding the applicant's 2-acre production plot to 3 acres utilizing water conserving practices that students learn while in the growing spaces. This project addresses local 6th-8th educational gaps with emphasis on STEM-related core standards that later aid students with water conservation, "droughtification", and climate change comprehension.

The lessons would also include topics involving the three local southwest sub-basins: the Mancos, the Dolores, and McElmo Creek. The garden sites and foundational education pieces holistically address needs in the county: water conservation awareness, quality STEM education, and useful learning environments that positively impact students' understanding of water conservation principles. WSRF funding will be used to implement 6th-8th grade water conservation programming centered on the CWP and Southwest Basin Implementation Plan and develop water-conserving growing sites on school property that facilitate hands-on water conservation education. While funding from the WSRF would be used for implementing 6th-8th grade curriculum, developing the growing sites would impact all students utilizing the space.

Discussion: This proposal is consistent with the Southwest Basin Roundtable's Basin Implementation Plan measurable goals or outcomes, in particular, to promote dialogue, foster cooperation and resolve conflict among water interests. The project also aligns with the Basin's Education Action Plan and helps advance the Colorado Water Plan's goal to educate the public on water related issues.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components.

Evaluation Criteria: Staff has determined this activity satisfies the Evaluation Criteria.

Funding Sources/Match	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Status
US Department of Agriculture	\$15,500	\$0	\$15,000	Secured
Montezuma School to Farm Project	\$0	\$6,500	\$6,500	Secured
Sub-Total Matching Funds	\$15,500	\$6,500	\$22,000	
WSRF Southwest Basin Account	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	Secured
Total Project Costs	\$40,500	\$6,500	\$47,000	

CWCB Project Manager: Ben Wade

SOUTHWEST BASINS ROUNDTABLE

C/O La Plata Archuleta Water District

PO Box 1377

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March 26, 2021

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