

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Crawford Clipper Ditch Company
Name of Water Project	CCDC Upper West Lateral Pipeline and Water Optimization Project
Grant Request Amount	\$242,620.00
Primary Category	\$242,620.00
<i>Agricultural Projects</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$100,000.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$75,000.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$25,000.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$556,960.00
<i>USDA_Naturl Resource Conservation Service</i>	\$406,960.00
<i>Colorado River Water Conservancy District</i>	\$150,000.00
Total Project Cost	\$899,580.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Crawford Clipper Ditch Company
Mailing Address: PO Box 263 Crawford CO 81415
FEIN: 840,450,305

Organization Contact: Mark LeValley
Position/Title: Board President Email: levalleyranch59@gmail.com
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Grant Management Contact: Mark LeValley
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Engineering Contact: Calvin Harward
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Description of Grantee/Applicant

The Crawford Clipper Ditch Company (CCDC) is a privately owned, non-profit mutually funded irrigation company that has been operating in Delta County since 1885. CCDC has several decreed water rights totaling 163.4 cubic feet per second (CFS) appropriated between 1884 and 1930. They also maintain a 10 cfs stock water right for use during the non-irrigation season.

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
- ☐ Public (District)
- ☐ Public (Municipality)
- ☒ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☐ Non-governmental Organization
- ☐ Covered Entity
- ☐ Other

Category of Water Project

- ☒ Agricultural Projects
Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- ☐ Conservation & Land Use Planning
Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- ☐ Engagement & Innovation Activities
Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- ☐ Watershed Restoration & Recreation
Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- ☐ Water Storage & Supply
Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude 38.421500
 Longitude -107.365600
 Lat Long Flag
 Water Source Smith Fork. Gunnison Basin, headwaters of the Colorado River.
 Basins Gunnison
 Counties Delta
 Districts 40-North Fork/Tribs.

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Agricultural
 Type of Water Project Construction
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 6/1/2022
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction 1/1/2023
 Description
 Install approximately 4,900' of existing open earthen ditch into primarily 42" pipe with some 30", 20" and 15". Create a 6 ac-ft irrigation regulating pond and expand the existing sediment basin to create cleaner water in an area that is flat in elevation. This project will connect to the larger BOR funded Salinity project enclosing the entire Clipper West Lateral and create greater water flexibility for on farm users in irrigation water management. Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) water monitoring portion will seek to finish the good work that

was begun under RCPP funding by continuing the implementation of water measurement devices and automated flow gates with remote data collection on the Upper West Lateral. This project implementation will create cleaner water, less erosion, better water management and more flexibility for the ditch company and the on-farm agricultural water users with potential for more efficient on-farm irrigation systems in the future.

Measurable Results

6	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
6	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
4,900	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
\$14,040	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
220	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
3200	water shares

Water Project Justification

The Clipper Canal Piping Efficiency Project conforms to meet the measurable objectives set forth in the Colorado Water Plan (chapter 6) including: help with the agriculture economy, reducing water shortages, improve agricultural efficiencies, increase and maintain irrigated acres.

1). Agriculture has been and remains the economic backbone of the county. Delta County contains more than 250,000 acres of farmland. It is one of the top fruit-producing counties in the state, and ranks high in sales of vegetables, potatoes, milk, poultry, eggs, and sheep products. In 2017, the county ranked second among all Colorado counties in sales of fruits, tree nuts, and berries, as the county's 2,500 acres of orchards produced over \$10 million in sales and ranked third in sheep, goats and wool products. The CCDC supplies 3,480 acres of primarily hay land and pasture land with irrigation water. By endorsing these water projects we ensure agriculture remains viable into the future.

2). Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Project Support – The BIP's primary goal is to "Protect the existing water uses in the Gunnison Basin and reduce agricultural water shortages in the Gunnison Basin." This application will create a 6 ac-ft irrigation regulating pond and expand the existing sediment basin to 4 ac-ft creating cleaner water in an area that is flat in elevation. The reservoir will decrease seasonal and daily water fluctuations saving ditch labor by having to re-set the gates, as well as on-farm water user labor savings in setting water time. Storing extra water in flash events and spring time run-off and utilizing it later in drier conditions.

3). The Clipper Canal and Ditch Company is implementing 4,900 LF of open ditch into a closed conduit and implementing a remote water monitoring and sensing meters installation and corresponds with the Colorado Water Plan section 6.2 adaptive innovation and supporting high conservation strategies to minimize the potential loss of irrigated acres.

4). This project seeks to mitigate the impact of climate change by addressing ongoing drought in the Lower Gunnison Basin by utilizing existing resources efficiently and making available additional water previously lost to seepage.

In addition, the Clipper Ditch and Canal Company Upper West Pipeline and Water Optimization Project supports the objectives of the most recent Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) by: Meeting Agricultural Demands

(page 7), Optimizing Existing and Future Water Supplies (page 7), Providing Operational Flexibility and Coordinated Infrastructure, Complying with all Applicable Laws and Regulations and Identifies and utilizes existing and new funding opportunities to assist in implementing projects and methods to meet Colorado's consumptive and non-consumptive water supply needs" (page 8) in that it combines funding from federal, state, and local sources to meet natural resource goals of the basin.

Related Studies

The Federal Selenium Management Program (SMP) in the Gunnison Basin has had significant success implementing BMPs that have measurably reduced selenium loading through targeted off-farm selenium control projects (40% load reduction in the Gunnison Basin at Whitewater since 1986, USGS Selenium Trend Study, 2018).

Salinity Control Program: This project will result in measurable water-quality and quantity improvement including the elimination of 256 tons of salt load (USDA-NRCS calculation) and the conservation of up to 220 acre-feet of additional annual water supply due to elimination of seepage loss.

Lower Gunnison Project: The proposed project is well aligned with, and coordinated with several overlapping complementary piping and irrigation water management control efforts in the area. Cooperators in the Smith Fork were brought together under the LGP RCPP with the express purpose of facilitating communication, optimizing the system, and leveraging resources. Community objectives related to water quality and quantity improvement are directly aligned with the purposes of the proposed project priorities.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

NA