

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF)
Name of Water Project	Arkansas River Basin Water Forum 2023 Education and Outreach Event
Grant Request Amount	\$49,648.00
Primary Category	\$49,648.00
<i>Engagement & Innovation Activities</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$0.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$49,648.00
<i>Arkansas River Basin Water Forum</i>	\$26,810.00
<i>ARBWF Planning Committee</i>	\$22,838.00
Total Project Cost	\$99,296.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF)

Mailing Address: PO Box 2055 Pueblo CO 81004

FEIN: 383,937,559

Organization Contact: Jean Van Pelt

Position/Title: Program manager

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Organization Contact - Alternate: Robert Hamel

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Grant Management Contact: Jean Van Pelt

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Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Robert Hamel

Position/Title: President

Phone: 7193713172

Email: director@raftthebest.com

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Arkansas River Basin Water Forum is a nonprofit 501C which specializes in hosting events and assisting others with water education and outreach within the Arkansas Basin.

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 38.249259
 Longitude -104.671411
 Lat Long Flag Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project
 Water Source
 Basins Arkansas
 Counties Baca; Custer; El Paso; Bent; Costilla; Huerfano; Fremont; Chaffee; Cheyenne; Crowley; Elbert
 Districts

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Education
 Type of Water Project Education
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 12/1/2022
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction
 Description

The annual Arkansas River Basin Water Forum serves as a conduit for information about the Arkansas River Basin in Colorado. The Forum is a friendly, constructive, and educational medium where individuals and organizations can explain their views and engage in open dialogue with other water users in the basin. The Forum has been held each year, generally alternating between the upper and lower basins. Each year a committee of dedicated volunteers comes together to plan, sponsor, and host the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum. Attendance at the Forum varies from 150 to 250 people and attendance at the VIP dinner is estimated to be 150.

The following tasks will be undertaken for a successful outcome of the 2023 Forum.

Task 1 – Conduct a successful and well attended Forum at the DoubleTree by Hilton venue to be held on April 24 – 26, 2023. Contract with the DoubleTree to serve the VIP & the Percolation and Runoff dinners and for morning refreshments and lunches for the Forum.

Task 2 – Contract for audio and visual (AV) equipment and technical support.

Task 3 – Costs associate with tech support, streaming, & hosting both an in-person & virtual event

Task 4 – Cost of program management – planning and implementing necessary work to ensure a positive outcome

Task 5 – Forum expenses including designing/printing of infographic, name tags & signage.

Task 6 - Transportation for multiple water related tours.

Measurable Results

New Storage Created (acre-feet)

New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive

Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)

New Storage Created (acre-feet)

Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)

Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)

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

400 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

No additional measurable results provided

Water Project Justification

2023 Colorado Water Plan

Over many years the ARBWF has supported the goals within the Colorado Water Plan. Our annual forums have offered various sessions on how different projects and programs are working to meet the water supply and demand gaps. We have also included sessions featuring the Kansas/Colorado compact and the Colorado River compact entitlements. We have offered sessions on improving regulatory processes that impact water use in the basin. We have also conducted sessions on finding financial resources for needed water projects by featuring speakers from various funding agencies. In the past and into the future the ARBWF continues to share the goal of valuing Colorado's water. The ARBWF always includes in its programming educational information to ensure that the state's most valuable resource, water, is protected and available for generations to come.

As stated in the draft 2023 Colorado Water Plan on Page 1 – 3; " Collaborative action needs to occur at every level, and the need for action has never been more urgent than now." The ARBWF demonstrates a commitment to collaboration by addressing multiple educational and outreach needs, not only within the basin, but throughout the state and even west wide. The Forum involves multiple partners and represents a broad set of local

stakeholders and local governments that provides meaningful opportunities to learn and to provide input.

As stated on page 1-6: The Water Plan can be used in three primary ways:

1. Use the plan to become more informed about water and the future vision. The State of Colorado encourages citizens to be informed about water issues. but a 2021 Statewide Water Awareness Survey indicated that only 35% of Coloradans are confident they have the knowledge necessary to take action to manage our water use. It creates ripple effects in what we value, how we invest, and how we conserve. It is also foundational to collaborative and inclusive water planning. For many, understanding the complex water challenges Colorado faces, the tools that can be used to find solutions, and Colorado's shared vision will be an important commitment.

The ARBWF supports these efforts and shares the vision and the goals of providing citizens with the confidence and the knowledge necessary to make educated decisions and take proper actions to manage our water resources.

2. Use the plan as a platform to become more engaged and take action to advance the vision. The Water Plan is a starting point, and it provides a larger framework for next-level action. If you can do more, whether because you are a water rights holder, a county commissioner, a water utility worker, a city planner, a business, owner, a local leader, or a concerned citizen looking to become more engaged, this is your time. This is where you help Colorado meet the moment. The Water Plan sets a challenge for you to help find and bring collaborative water solutions for Colorado.

The ARBWF strives to provide high quality, balanced, & grassroots water education and outreach efforts that inform Coloradans about the issues so that they may engage in determining Colorado's water future. ARBWF's program goals are specifically designed to achieve these types of outcomes.

3. Use the plan to understand and leverage agency actions that advance the vision. For the State, the Water Plan serves as a call to action, shared leadership, and partnership. The executive, judicial, and legislative branches all have important roles in water discussions. Yet not one of these branches of government, nor the 180 or more state agencies can create the necessary solutions alone. The State's role in the Water Plan is to use its collective resources to set a vision that is backed by funding and support tools to advance solutions.

ARBWF recognizes the importance of communications and collaboration between agencies and encourages their participation at the Forum. Many of our educational programs rely heavily on partner involvement, with a wide variety of partners engaged from state agencies such as Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Colorado State University, Colorado State Forest Services, federal agencies such as the BLM, USBR, USFS, and local partners such as watershed restoration non-profits, water conservation and conservancy districts, & local counties, cities, and towns.

The Colorado Water Plan Action Areas are listed on page 1-8

The Water Plan is organized around four overarching action areas that loosely translate to cities, farms, streams, and people:

1. **VIBRANT COMMUNITIES:** counties, municipalities, utilities, cities, towns, businesses, large industries, large/small urban and rural communities, etc.

2. **ROBUST AGRICULTURE:** established crops and farms, local food, orchards, ranching, ditch companies, acequias, urban agriculture, etc.

3. **THRIVING WATERSHEDS:** environment and recreation, river health, watershed health, forest health, wildfire mitigation, wildlife and aquatic species protection, etc.

4. **RESILIENT PLANNING:** climate adaptation, planning for climate extremes, embracing equity/diversity/inclusivity, education, outreach and engagement, supportive government, etc.

Over many years the ARBWF has supported the Action Areas within the Colorado Water Plan in various ways. Our annual forums have offered sessions on how different projects and programs are working to meet the water supply and demand gaps. We have also included sessions featuring the Kansas/Colorado compact and the Colorado River compact entitlements. We have offered sessions on improving agriculture production and water quality that impact water use in the basin. We have also conducted sessions on finding financial resources for needed water projects by featuring speakers from various funding agencies. Most recently watershed health has

been an important topic for discussion. The ARBWF always includes in its programming educational information to ensure that the state's most valuable resource, water, is protected and available for generations to come. In the past and into the future the ARBWF continues to share the goal of valuing Colorado's water. Challenges and Risks are Identified in Chapter 5 on page 5-3. They include the following:

1. Ag Dry up
2. Environmental concerns
3. Municipal water supply gaps,
4. Climate changes & Climate extremes
5. Water quantity and quality
6. Funding shortfalls
7. Aging infrastructure
8. Regulatory and legal constraints
9. Forest Health
10. Data and research gaps

Each year the diverse planning committee for the annual ARBWF addresses a variety of these important types of topics to present. We understand the importance and the significance of sharing this information and educating others on methodologies to be able to implement these types of programs and projects to fruition.

Page 5 – 7 explains the Inclusive Public Engagement Risks associated with important issues such as climate change, potential future water shortages, and natural hazards require that Coloradans be educated and ready to act on water-related challenges. Coloradans must collaborate on adaptive planning and ensure education and outreach efforts are inclusive. This will provide Coloradans the opportunity to understand what is at stake and participate in equitable, diverse, and inclusive solutions.

In the future, Colorado will need to find ways to balance risk and maximize benefits by focusing on collaborative efforts, projects, and strategies that consider the needs of multiple users. This will be especially pertinent as demands increase and as already-scarce supplies are more fully used. Building resilience, or the ability to quickly recover from a disruptive event or disturbance without loss of services, is crucial for reducing risks in an uncertain future.

The ARBWF serves as a conduit for information about the Arkansas River Basin and issues related to water allocation and management. Through our annual Forums, a broader understanding of water issues has evolved and along with the opportunity to find common ground.

Page 5-10 features the PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION section which states:

The State of Colorado and water stakeholders recognize the importance of public outreach and education. An educated public is necessary for developing sustainable grassroots solutions and gaining public and political support for implementing water solutions. Outreach creates public awareness of policies and processes, and education promotes a deeper understanding of these topics. Both are prerequisites to public engagement. Outreach, education, and public engagement help Coloradans access accurate information and empower them to participate in stakeholder decision-making processes. The CWCB plays an important role in outreach, education, and engagement in several ways including promoting wise water use, supporting local and regional water groups, promoting all of the tools and action areas in the Water Plan, and using the Water Plan itself as an educational tool. Additionally, CWCB directly funds outreach for many projects through grants including supporting the IBCC and basin roundtable PEPO liaisons across the. In the future, CWCB will continue to aid in research, coordinate efforts, and provide funding and guidance for water education, outreach, and participation in projects statewide.

The ARBWF will continue to support CWCB's important role in outreach, education, and engagement in several ways including promoting wise water use, supporting local and regional water groups, promoting all the tools and action areas in the Water Plan, and using the Water Plan itself as an educational tool.

Page 5-13 features the COLLABORATION GROUPS section. Which states:

Collaboration through inter-agency and interdisciplinary approaches that define clear roles and responsibilities can help in prioritizing water issues from planning to implementation. The Water Plan identifies the need to

address risks to water supply and watershed health with coordinated planning across boundaries. Regional and local, place-based collaborative groups are a vital component to successfully approaching these multi-scale efforts. While there is significant diversity in the forms and functions of Colorado collaboratives, they are generally comprised of people representing government agencies, nonprofits, businesses, or independently working together to decide how to use and manage natural resources such as land and water. There is also a need to expand access to collaborative groups and encourage new membership that better represents the demographic of Colorado communities. Collaboration often means partners pool their resources and create shared goals, processes, and structures to support their new, joint work. Collaborative groups explore, prioritize, deliberate on, and implement the solutions they have developed together. Collaboration can be particularly useful for addressing problems that:

- Have too high of a cost for one entity to carry alone
- Cross ownership or management boundaries
- Have high levels of uncertainty, missing information, or are viewed differently by participating stakeholders
- Involve tradeoffs and balancing the needs of different water users
- Fail to be resolved with other approaches, like litigation

The CWCB recognizes the need to strengthen institutional connections to achieve identified actions that are outside of CWCB's direct control. Formal collaboration with other organizations and agencies will help reconcile management strategies and identify mutually beneficial policies and practices.

In 1995 in Pueblo, the first ARBWF was developed to bring together the diverse water interests to explain their views and engage in open dialogue about water issues in the basin. Through this dialogue, the Forum seeks to create a greater understanding of Colorado water law, water use, and water management. We provide communications and networking opportunities for others to contemplate and/or contribute to these types of collaborative efforts.

Page 5-15 describes the INNOVATION section which states:

Creative, collaborative, and innovative solutions will be needed to lower our future water supply risks as our population grows and the climate warms. Strong investments in research can lead to breakthrough advancements in efficient water use. Advancing innovation is not always easy. Challenges to fostering innovation can include the inability to create open dialogues with the business community, legal or regulatory barriers to innovation, or lack of support for research and development. Identifying how state agencies like CWCB can better support innovation, start-ups, and a wide variety of partnerships to help develop new technologies and pilot new ideas will be key to advancing watersavings technologies and innovative ideas. The CWCB plays a key role in advancing innovation, and the Water Plan includes actions that foster innovative concepts.

The ARBWF prides itself on featuring sessions on new and innovative technologies, especially technologies that hold solutions that will be needed to reduce our future water supply risks. Our college scholarship program awards 2-4 scholarships each year to students and working professionals in support of their education and research in water resources, watershed studies, hydrology, natural resources management, and others. The recipients are given a chance to share and present their research at forum. We have gotten very positive feedback from our audience regarding these presentations. The recipients are also given the opportunity to attend the two-day event at no cost.

Pg 6-3 through 6-5 states that The Water Plan is organized around four action areas. The areas help functionally organize topics, but these areas are interconnected and interdependent. For each action area, Chapter 6 describes:

- Colorado Vision: The vision for how Colorado can achieve greater resilience in each of the four actions areas by 2050.
- Partner Actions: Partner actions identify examples of opportunities for individuals and communities to help achieve the vision. These are actions that the CWCB cannot do alone and will require effective engagement at different scales.

The ARBWF has the ability to utilize and use our educational program sessions, tours, and VIP dinners to focus on the partner actions for each of the four action areas to foresee the vision of each of these areas.

Chapter 6 explains the Agency Actions in detail. A total of thirty-one (31) of the agency action includes public outreach and education as a tool necessary to implement these actions. They include the following:

- Vibrant Communities = 5 public outreach and education actions
- Robust Agricultures = 7 public outreach and education actions
- Thriving Watersheds = 6 public outreach and education actions
- Resilient Planning = 9 public outreach and education actions
- General Water Plan actions = 4 public outreach and education actions

The Forum demonstrates sustainability by educating stakeholders and the public on best practices related to conservation, environmental and recreational interests, ways to mitigate or enhance water quantity and quality, and demonstrates techniques to avoid economic and social impacts on agricultural and rural communities. These thirty-one actions provide a perfect platform for the ARBWF to use in conveying the importance of the actions and to educate others on these significant methods that will make a difference in all Coloradans lives.

2023 Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan (BIP)

Page 8 Arkansas Basin Round Table (ABRT) BIP states in Section 2 of Volume 1:

The Basin Challenges: The Arkansas Basin faces several challenges pertaining to consumptive water needs of agriculture and growing communities and the nonconsumptive water needs to maintain flows in rivers. Colorado is unique in that it recognizes tributary groundwater and surface water together in its water allocation system, which poses unique challenges in a water-short basin. Other challenges include operating under the unique constraints of the Compact and the challenges inherent in the extremes of hydrologic conditions from year to year.

The ARBWF planning committee strives to include the defined BIP challenges in our program sessions and tours. These are the types of topics that are of interest and of benefit to our audience.

Page 4-11 - BIP Goals:

Through a collaborative process, the Arkansas Basin Roundtable identified its goals and their associated actions. Goals are organized into the following five categories: Storage, Municipal and Industrial, Agriculture, Environmental and Recreational, and Watershed Health.

1. **STORAGE GOALS** Continue to develop storage opportunities to support Arkansas Basin needs. Develop alluvial and designated basin aquifer storage in gap areas. Promote multiple uses at existing and new storage facilities.
2. **MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL GOALS** Meet the projected municipal supply gap in each Arkansas Basin subregion. Support regional efforts for cost-effective solutions to local water supply gaps. Reduce municipal users' groundwater dependence on unsustainable aquifers. Develop collaborative solutions among municipal, agricultural, and E&R users of water, particularly in drought conditions.
3. **AGRICULTURE GOALS** Support projects within and outside the Arkansas Basin that will help meet the basin's agriculture water supply gap, maintain existing supplies, better manage vulnerable supplies, and maximize use of water users' entitlements. Sustain a productive agricultural economy in the Arkansas Basin that sustains viable rural, agricultural-based communities. Provide augmentation water as needed to support increased farm efficiencies. Support the development of viable alternate transfer methods (ATM)/ water-sharing projects between agriculture and municipal interests to mitigate the impacts of drought, provide risk management for agriculture and municipal interests, and facilitate responsible and sustainable water sharing arrangements. Sustain recreational and environmental activities that depend on habitat and open space associated with farm and ranch land.
4. **ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION GOALS** Support projects and programs within and outside the Arkansas Basin that protect E&R water supply needs and collaborate with municipal and ag users to enhance E&R values. Maintain or improve native fish populations, restore habitat for fish species, and maintain or improve recreational fishing opportunities. Maintain or improve boating opportunities, including rafting, kayaking, and other non-motorized and motorized boating. Maintain or improve aquatic, riparian, and avian habitat (including wetlands) that would support environmental features and recreational opportunities.

5. WATERSHED HEALTH GOALS Maintain, improve, or restore critical water supply watersheds that could affect Arkansas Basin water uses and E&R values Improve water quality as it relates to the environment and/or recreation.

The ABRT BIP goals are exactly the type of program sessions and tours that the ARBWF features at our annual forums. We emphasize ways to sustainably work toward attaining and maintaining these goals as listed below and on page 14 of the BIP.

Page 4-12 - Strategic Vision for the Future

The Arkansas BRT developed a strategic vision for the future to provide an overview of strategies for how basin needs will be met in the future. These strategies, listed below, can be viewed as major categories of activities that align with basin goals and the projects needed to make progress toward meeting future water shortages:

- Support project implementation
- Support collaboration and partnerships
- Target funding to meet basin goals
- Maximize economic impact of basin dollars spent
- Perform vulnerability assessments to identify need

The ARBWF supports this vision for the future by focusing programming on ways to support project implementation, collaboration and partnerships throughout the basin. Annually we feature examples of various projects/programs that support this strategic vision.

Page 37 - Strategy 2 SUPPORT COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to providing funding to support projects, the Arkansas BRT has recognized the interdependence of basin water use and has the unique opportunity to support and facilitate collaboration among stakeholders. This collaboration includes education, garnering basin wide support for projects, and facilitating partnerships for funding and multipurpose projects.

The ARBWF is one of the important arms of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable educational and outreach efforts. The Arkansas Basin Roundtable and the ARBWF has a long history of supporting each other's educational efforts. The ARBWF is a strong proponent of the Roundtable's educational efforts and vice versa. The Forum's current program manager is a former PEPO liaison for the Roundtable and five of the ARBWF board of directors are also members of the Roundtable. Thus, educational efforts are therefore aligned to maximize the benefit of water education throughout the Basin.

Page 40 - 4 MAXIMIZE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BASIN DOLLARS SPENT

While the Arkansas BRT's ability to award WSRF funding to implement projects is integral to meeting the Arkansas Basin's funding need, the overall need for financial support is greater than the WSRF and Colorado Water Plan funding can bear alone. The Arkansas BRT's ability to bring new partners to the table can be used to maximize the economic impact of WSRF dollars spent. Project proponents are encouraged to seek additional funding opportunities and, when possible, expand the benefits of the project (i.e., multi-use projects) to leverage cost-sharing opportunities. Many of the high-profile projects that were successfully implemented since the last BIP (see Section 3) were funded through partnerships with other entities.

The ARBWF has supported and provided communication and networking opportunities for these types of collaborative conversations to take place. The ARBWF is a non-profit that serves as a conduit for information about the Arkansas River Basin and issues related to water allocation and management. Through our annual Forums, a broader understanding of water issues has evolved and along with the opportunity to find common ground. The objective of the Forum is to promote open dialogue among water users and the general public.

Through this dialogue, the Forum seeks to find common ground between the primary water users in the basin. The Forum targets agricultural, municipal, industrial, environmental, recreational, and governmental interests in the basin. The Forum is a friendly, constructive medium where individuals and organizations can explain their views and engage in open dialogue with other water users in the basin

Through past Forums, a broader understanding of water issues has evolved. We hope the enhanced knowledge contributes toward management decisions that serve the common good for all who call the Arkansas River Basin

their home.

PEPO Education Action Plan

PEPO Education Action Plan CWP Page 4-5

The PEPO workgroup members update with information from basins' PEPO liaisons - the basin-specific person, people, and/ or contractor which some basins have developed to support local engagement. The PEPO workgroup also helps support and inform larger conversations with basin PEPO liaisons and other members of the water education community. Roundtables that have developed education and outreach committees work with PEPO liaisons to develop annual plans for outreach, education, and engagement in their basins.

Arkansas River Basin Water Forum's goal is to provide the best possible outreach to citizens of the Arkansas Basin. The PEPO Workgroup has partnered with the ARBWF, which has been serving the educational needs of the Arkansas Basin for 27 years, through an annual water forum that is held in a different Arkansas Basin location each year.

The Arkansas Basin Roundtable PEPO and the ARBWF has a long history of supporting each other's educational efforts. The Arkansas Basin's Implementation Plan and PEPO's Education Action Plan states that public outreach across all stakeholders in the community should be achieved in a variety of outreach mediums. The Forum has and will continue to address the identified water gap included in the ArkBIP through implementation of PEPO's Education to Action program. The Forum demonstrates sustainability by educating stakeholders and the public on best practices related to conservation, environmental and recreational interests, ways to mitigate or enhance water quality, and demonstrates techniques to avoid economic and social impacts on agricultural and rural communities.

Page 43 – CWP Section 8. Education and Outreach

This section describes PEPO activities and the PEPO Workgroup created through the Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act. The PEPO Workgroup is responsible for:

- Creating a process to inform, involve, and educate the public on water resource issues
- Educating Arkansas BRT members about water issues. The Arkansas Basin PEPO Workgroup members are roundtable volunteers representing agriculture, municipalities, recreation, environment, and education. The PEPO coordinator manages the PEPO Workgroup, which is a committee under the direction of the Arkansas BRT.

The ARBWF is a proud member of the PEPO Workgroup and works very closely with the PEPO Coordinator and the Roundtable on ways to increase outreach and educational opportunities and ways to determine important topics for these efforts.

The ARBWF's and PEPO's purpose is to promote education and outreach to citizens in the Arkansas Basin with the primary goals being to inform, engage, and educate citizens about local water resources topics and to provide a platform for water-related dialogue. This important partnership provides education and outreach on behalf of all water use categories, including municipal supply, irrigated agriculture, recreation, and the environment.

The Arkansas Basin PEPO Workgroup has been awarded several grants from the CWCB to provide education and outreach activities, in which the ARBWF served as the fiscal agent for these grants for many years.

Statewide Water Education Action Plan. In addition to working on basin projects and outreach, the Arkansas Basin PEPO Workgroup and the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum also supports the Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP). SWEAP is the first-of-its-kind water education guide that organizations and individual educators can use to realize the outreach, education and public education goals set forth in the Colorado Water Plan. The framework features 10 key outcomes, related strategies, and examples of actions local entities can take to reach their unique audiences. Developed with the assistance of more than 40 water educators statewide, SWEAP will empower Coloradans to take an active role in their communities and make informed decisions about critical water issues.

Related Studies

The successful Arkansas River Basin Water Forum and inclusive Planning Committee has been in existence since February 1995 and is complementary to the implementation of the ArkBIP and CWP. Our goal is to increase the public's knowledge of water issues facing us today and into the future. A second goal of the program is to assist Colorado's citizens to understand and get involved in water issues. The ARBWF utilizes outreach, education, and public engagement efforts to ensure that multi-faceted audiences have access to accurate information and are empowered to participate in stakeholder decision-making processes. With the development of an updated ArkBIP and CWP it is imperative that ARBWF sustains its momentum for outreach and educational activities and funding for these activities are provided as the ArkBIP and CWP identified programs/projects are planned for and implemented.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

ARBWF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is not affected by TABOR.