



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Local Capacity Grants

Water Project Summary

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| Name of Applicant | Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation |
| Name of Water Project | Rio Grande Basin Capacity to Secure Federal Project Funding |
| Grant Request Amount | \$195,000.00 |
| Project Type | Watershed Health & Recreation |
| Federal Grant Application Deadline | |
| Population 10,000 or less | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| MHI less than 80% | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| MHV less than 100% | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| County 24-month unemployment average | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Applicant Cash Match | \$0.00 |
| Applicant In-Kind Match | \$0.00 |
| Sources of Funding | |
| <i>San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District</i> | \$48,000.00 |
| <i>Rio Grande Water Conservation District</i> | \$15,000.00 |
| <i>Technical Advisory Team Volunteer Time</i> | \$10,800.00 |

Grant Details

Anticipated federal grant program applicant is likely to apply for

Anticipated Federal Programs applicant plans to apply for include:

- BOR WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Program
- BOR WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program
- NRCS Programs including PL-655 Watershed Program, EQIP, etc.

How does the proposed project further Colorado Water Plan or current Basin Implementation Plan goals, objectives, or actions?

Requested grant funding will provide staff capacity to obtain Federal funding needed to implement projects prioritized in the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) and other local planning efforts including Stream Management Plans. Collectively, these multi-purpose project will further BIP and SMP goals and recommendations by enhancing aquatic and riparian habitats, improving agricultural water use efficiency and water administration, improving recreational opportunities and safety, and engaging with community members and stakeholders.

Ultimately, implementation of these multi-purpose projects will further a variety of Colorado Water Plan (CWP) and BIP goals and objectives. Project activities will support at least four of the five Rio Grande BIP Goals. In addition to meeting many of the BIP Goals, the project will support Agriculture and Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation goals listed in Section 10.3 of the CWP.

Does the project advance interstate, regional or watershed-scale water and natural resource management efforts and solutions? Please describe.

By seeking funding for a wide range of projects, this project will have watershed-scale impacts. River restoration projects will build upon past efforts to improve river and watershed health conditions. Projects will also improve the ability of water administrators to effectively administer water rights and efficiently meet the Rio Grande Compact, allowing water managers to maximize river flows, providing benefits for wildlife, water rights holders, and downstream water users in NM.

Does the project advance an innovative approach to water and natural resource management? Please describe.

By bringing diverse stakeholders and community partners together, this project will result in innovative, collaborative, and creative solutions to our Basin water challenges. Increased staff capacity will support each partners as we work together to develop, fund, and implement multi-benefit priority projects across the Basin.

Describe any local community and stakeholder support? Note: Letter of support can be uploaded at the end of the application.

This project has broad local community and stakeholder support. Project partners include the CWCB, CPW, CDWR, NRCS, USFS, SLV Water Conservancy District, Conejos Water Conservancy District, Costilla County Conservancy District, Trout Unlimited, Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, private landowners, ditch shareholders, and more. Diverse participation ensures that both consumptive and non-consumptive needs are being met through each project.

Have relevant Federal, state and local government agencies provided input on the project? Please describe which agencies and any relevant details.

Federal, state, and local government agencies have provided input throughout the development and completion of the SMPs and the BIP. Through these planning efforts, priority projects have been identified to meet the environmental, agricultural, recreational, and community water needs in the Basin. Requested funds will provide staff capacity to build off of these planning efforts to collaborate with relevant agencies to develop priority projects and secure Federal funding for implementation.

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
Mailing Address: 623 4th Street Alamosa CO 81101
FEIN: 753,169,057

Organization Contact: Emma Reesor
Position/Title: Administrative Director
Phone: (719) 589-2230
Email: emma@riograndeheadwaters.org

Agency Information

Agency Type
Current Assessment
Number of Shareholders or Customers
Number of Shares
Number of Taps
Average Monthly Water Bill
Annual Water Delivery (acre-feet)

Other

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

| Location of Water Project | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Latitude | 37.469619 |
| Longitude | -105.866584 |
| Lat Long Flag | Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters |
| Water Source | The project will be basin-wide, providing benefits to the Rio Grande, Conejos River, Saguache Creek, and other streams and tributaries across the Rio Grande Basin. |
| Basins | Rio Grande |
| Counties | Alamosa; Conejos; Costilla; Hinsdale; Saguache; Mineral; Rio Grande |
| Districts | 20-Rio Grande; 21-Alamosa La Jara; 22-Conejos Creek; 24-Culebra Creek; 26-Saguache Creek; 27-Carnero Creek |

| Water Project Overview | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Major Water Use Type | Environmental |
| Type of Water Project | Capacity Building |
| Scheduled Start Date - Design | 6/1/2023 |
| Scheduled Start Date - Construction | |
| Description | <p>Requested Local Capacity grant funding will increase organizational capacity for the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation (CRGRF) through the creation of a new Program Manager position at the CRGRF for 3 years. The new position will work with stakeholders and partners around the Rio Grande Basin to plan for and secure Federal project funding to advance priority water projects that were identified in the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plans (SMP) and Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) and further Colorado Water Plan (CWP) and Basin Goals.</p> <p>The Program Manager will apply for Federal Programs that best fit each priority project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Program - Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program - New Bureau of Reclamation funding for Multi-Benefit Projects to Improve Watershed Health. - Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs including PL-566 Watershed Program, EQIP and other relevant programs - Environmental Protection Agency Grant Programs if applicable <p>In addition, the CRGRF will engage with Federal agency partners and local stakeholders in the Rio Grande Basin to identify opportunities for cooperative agreements and partnerships to secure Federal funding available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act, and other sources, as well as matching funds, to implement priority projects identified in the SMPs and BIP and align with CWP and Basin Goals.</p> |

| Measurable Results |
|---|
| <p>New Storage Created (acre-feet)</p> <p>New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive</p> <p>Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)</p> <p>New Storage Created (acre-feet)</p> <p>Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)</p> <p>Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)</p> <p>Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)</p> <p>Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)</p> |

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

Federal grant applications submitted and Federal funding secured to advance priority projects in the Rio Grande Basin.