

Exhibit A

Statement Of Work	
Prepared Date:	6/30/2023
Name of Grantee:	Custer County Conservation District
Name of Water Project:	Custer County Capacity Building and Resilience Planning
Water Project Overview:	
This project will include three distinct planning and outreach tasks: 1) a forest and watershed health and wildfire threat assessment status review, 2) irrigation infrastructure assessments and 3) a pilot outreach project focused on non-compliant ponds. These tasks will involve a range of Custer County water stakeholders. Information, education and findings from this effort will be shared via one-on-one and group meetings, at presentations, in print and social media, and at field days to highlight projects and issues.	
Project Objectives:	
<p>The Grantee will determine the following information as part of this outreach effort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status and adequacy of existing forest health and wildfire risk assessments, planning efforts and implementation work accomplished to date in Custer County. • Current status of existing watershed and stream management planning and/or implementation work accomplished to date in Custer County. • Opportunities for improvement/replacement of five to ten irrigation infrastructure systems. Opportunities will be summarized in a report for the infrastructure owner(s). Post-assessment meetings will be held with each infrastructure owner that is interested in technical and/or funding assistance for improvements. <p>The Grantee will engage various water stakeholders across Custer County through targeted meetings, forums, workshops, field days, one-on-one meetings. Outreach will provide findings from the review of forest, watershed health and wildfire mitigation planning efforts, and will provide a public forum(s) with the Division of Water Resources (DWR) Division 2 staff to discuss non-compliant ponds and landowner options.</p>	

Tasks
Task 1 – Forest Health, Wildfire and Watershed Management Planning Status Assessment
Description of Task:
<p>To determine whether current and/or legacy actions are sufficient to address forest health concerns, mitigate wildfire risks and address watershed planning and management needs within Custer County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Grantee will complete a review of existing reports, documentation, printed and online information to determine the current status of planning and implementation efforts related to local forest health, watershed health, watershed and stream management planning and associated implementation work in Custer County. • The Grantee will coordinate with local, state and federal, non-profit and business representatives to understand ongoing and planned activities related to wildfire assessment and mitigation, forest health improvement, watershed planning and water infrastructure protection within Custer County. Additional

<p>communications will be initiated with representatives of local and county emergency preparedness entities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information gleaned from this work will be summarized and periodically shared out with stakeholders to inform and gather input. The Custer County Conservation District (the Grantee) will use the information and feedback to determine appropriate next steps regarding these issues. The Grantee is interested in identifying how to significantly reduce forest wildfire risk in the most cost-effective manner. • The Grantee will look at whether current watershed management planning and implementation activities in the Grape Creek valley – if any – are sufficiently addressing local needs.
Method/Procedure:
<p>The Grantee will accomplish the forest health and wildfire risk assessment by completing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of relevant documents available online and at Custer County local library. • Outreach to US Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, Custer County Planning Commission and Emergency Management Planning, US Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), Colorado Parks and Wildlife and US Fish and Wildlife Service and/or other entities as appropriate to gather information about forest planning and/or management activities. • Summary and presentation to the Custer County Conservation District Board (the Board). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Board will consider whether existing efforts around forest management and wildfire risk assessment and mitigation are adequate to address the need. ○ If existing efforts are deemed insufficient, the Board will work with the Custer County Conservation District Coordinator to identify appropriate next steps that the Grantee may take to start working toward addressing identified deficiencies in planning and management.
Deliverable:
<p>The Grantee will provide CWCB with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter report summarizing the status of forest health and wildfire threat assessment planning and mitigation work in Custer County. • Letter report summarizing the status of watershed and stream planning and mitigation work in Custer County. <p>The Grantee will also complete the following deliverable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of summarized findings to the Custer County Conservation District Board and interested members of the public.

Tasks
Task 2 – Irrigation Infrastructure Assessments
Description of Task:
<p>To continue advancing agricultural irrigation efficiency across Custer County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Grantee will offer no-cost irrigation infrastructure assessments using the established team of the Custer County Conservation District Project Coordinator (the Coordinator) along with experts from Cattlemen's Association's (CCA) Ag Water NetWORK and the USDA-NRCS field office. • The Coordinator will complete outreach with irrigators on voluntary infrastructure assessment opportunities. • The Coordinator will schedule and perform on-site irrigation infrastructure assessments in cooperation with the other assessment team members from the CCA Ag Water NetWORK and USDA-NRCS. • The Coordinator will prepare draft assessment reports for review by the other assessment team members, and finalize and distribute the reports to individual water rights holders.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coordinator will work with irrigators that want to proceed with making one or more identified improvements to their irrigation infrastructure system, and help identify and in some cases pursue funding for the implementation of improvements. • The Coordinator will lead/help lead the preparation of two (2) Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF), USDA EQIP cost-share, Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) grants and/or other types of grant proposals to help fund identified irrigation infrastructure needs within Custer County.
Method / Procedure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coordinator will assist irrigators as needed in filling out the voluntary irrigation infrastructure assessment application, and research background information about the involved water right(s), including WDID, date(s) of adjudication, quantity, location of diversion and land application acreage. • The Coordinator and the other team members from CCA's Ag Water NetWORK and USDA-NRCS will meet with individual landowners and perform the assessments. • The Coordinator will compile and summarize field notes and photographs from each assessment and compile that information into a report that will be reviewed and edited by the other two team members, then finalized and provided to individual irrigators. • The Coordinator will follow up and lead or help lead preparation of two (2) grant proposals to address irrigation infrastructure improvement needs identified through the assessment process. The type of grant(s) that will likely be pursued are expected to include the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) and possibly other types of grants. • It is also expected that the NRCS assessment team member will advise the Coordinator and irrigation infrastructure owners when the project may qualify for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding, and provide assistance through the NRCS.
Deliverables:
<p>The Grantee will complete the following deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 to 10 irrigation infrastructure on-site assessments. • 5 to 10 irrigation infrastructure assessment reports completed and provided to water rights holders. • Post-assessment follow up with irrigation water right holders that wish to implement one or more identified improvements, with corresponding assistance in scoping and finding funding for projects. • 2 grant proposals to help fund identified irrigation infrastructure improvement needs. <p>These efforts will be summarized in the Grantees final report to CWCB.</p>

Tasks
Task 3 – Pilot Outreach Project focused on non-compliant Ponds in Custer County:
Description of Task:
<p>To educate pond owners in Custer County on the DWR Division II requirements for non-compliant ponds that lack supporting water rights (“illegal ponds”) the Grantee will initiate a pilot project leading outreach efforts.</p> <p>This effort in Custer County will serve as a pilot project and example for other Conservation Districts in the Arkansas River Basin – all of which have non-compliant ponds. It is anticipated that the Coordinator will present the project elements and ongoing progress at other conservation district meetings in the basin, as well as to the Basin Roundtable board, and the Arkansas Basin Forum.</p>
Method/Procedure:

To accomplish this pilot project:

- The Coordinator will facilitate meetings with pond owners and the DWR Division 2 Engineer's office staff to provide a forum for questions and answers.
- The Coordinator will also meet with and provide pre-approved information to individual pond owners as requested about options available.
- The Coordinator will direct specific questions to the appropriate contact at the DWR.
- The Coordinator will work with the DWR and potentially NRCS and/or other experts to direct landowners to sources of assistance where site specific designs are needed.
- The Coordinator will also seek to identify funding for pond filling or tile drain installation or other approved solutions.
- Depending on stakeholder interests, the Grantee may also lead an exploratory effort to identify sources and costs related to developing an augmentation plan to cover ponds.

Deliverables:

The Grantee will complete:

- 5 or more public meetings or field events
- Outreach notices/updates on the District's website and social media accounts
- 1 or more article published in the local newspapers
- 5 or more presentations about the pilot project and non-compliant ponds
- 10 or more on-site meetings with pond owners to discuss requirements and DWR allowed options for complying

These efforts will be summarized in the Grantees final report to CWCB.

Budget and Schedule

This Budget and Schedule reflects the tasks identified in the Statement of Work.

Task No.	Task Description	Estimated Task Start Date	Estimated Task End Date	Grant Funding	Match Funding	Total
1	Project Implementation-Forest Health and Watershed Status Review	1/1/2024	1/1/2029	\$17,280.00	\$13,000.00	\$30,280.00
2	Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment	1/1/2024	1/1/2029	\$24,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$28,500.00
3	Non-compliant Pond Outreach	1/1/2024	1/1/2029	\$25,120.00	\$5,000.00	\$30,120.00
4	Project Expenses - Meetings, field demos, other	1/1/2024	1/1/2029	\$2,000.00	\$800.00	\$2,800.00
Total				\$68,400.00	\$23,300.00	\$91,700.00

Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports: The grantee shall provide the CWCB a progress report every six months, beginning from the date of issuance of the grant agreement. 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.

Final Report: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report on the applicant'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.

The CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the 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 grant agreement will be closed without any further payment.

Payment

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and must include invoices for all work completed. 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.

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this grant agreement are not reimbursable. The last 10% of the entire grant will be paid out when the final deliverable has been received. All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant agreement must be provided to the CWCB as part of the project documentation.

Performance Measures

Performance measures for this grant agreement 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. Per grant guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the 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 grant agreement will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per 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 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.