



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Cole Bedford P.E., Chief Operating Officer
Jackie Daoust, Regional Grant Manager (South Platte, Metro, North Platte)
Lauren Duncan, Regional Grant Manager (Arkansas)
Ashley Garrison, Regional Grant Manager (Colorado, Gunnison,
Yampa/White/Green)
Laura Spann, Regional Grant Manager (Southwest, Rio Grande)

DATE: March 13-14, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 15a-15hh Water Plan Grants

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends Board action on 34 Water Plan Grant applications above \$100,000 as described in the following summary tables.

Introduction

The 2023 Water Projects Bill (SB23-177) appropriated \$25.2M for Water Plan Grant awards available beginning in fiscal year 2024. Water Plan Grant awards are made in two cycles during the fiscal year. The Board awarded \$7.8M of the appropriation to applications submitted during the first review cycle, leaving \$17.4M available for the second review cycle. The due date for the second review cycle of the 2024 fiscal year was December 1, 2023. On that date, CWCB received 70 applications requesting \$25.6M, or \$8.2M more than was available. All applications are available for public viewing online at: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/december-2023-water-plan-grant-applications>

The process of reviewing the applications consisted of soliciting feedback from CWCB regional and technical experts, consultations with other state agencies, dialog with the applicants, and consideration by all CWCB sections. The end result of the review is a portfolio of recommendations representing the strongest individual projects which collectively best advance the Colorado Water Plan. The full \$17.4M available is recommended for awards.

Per CWCB Policy #25, grant recommendations are considered for approval in three separate groups, depending on the amount recommended. Those awards above \$100,000 will be placed on the full agenda for consideration by the Board, those between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and those not recommended for funding will be placed on the consent agenda, and those below \$50,000 are considered by the CWCB Director. This agenda item recommends approval of 34 applications above \$100,000 for a total recommended amount of \$16.5M as shown in Table 1. See attached Data Sheets for additional project details.



Table 1: Award Recommendations above \$100,000

Category	Number of Applications	Recommended
Agriculture	7	\$ 3,878,658.45
Conservation & Land Use	8	\$ 2,367,918.66
Engagement & Innovation	4	\$ 671,034.70
Water Storage & Supply	5	\$ 4,764,360.00
Watershed Health & Recreation	10	\$ 4,786,729.00
Total	34	\$ 16,468,700.81

Project Issues/Additional Needs:

- All funding awards are contingent upon the applicants' ability to secure match funding.
- Grantees should adequately address CWCB staff comments to scopes of work and engineering designs (when applicable). Staff will contact each successful applicant to discuss comments and contracting procedures prior to contracting.
- All grantees should adhere to their organizational procurement policies when hiring contractors and consultants. CWCB recommends that State procurement policies be used as a guide if an organization does not have procurement policies.
- Projects should comply with the CWCB's Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado, when applicable.



Agriculture

	Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
15a	Colorado Open Lands	Charting a New Course for Water Smart Land Conservation in the South Platte River Basin	\$268,788.88	\$268,788.88	\$824,878.90	67.4%	South Platte
15b	Colorado State University	South Platte River Basin Salinity Study	\$464,361.49	\$464,361.49	\$619,151.14	25.0%	Metro; South Platte
15c	Mormon Mesa Ditch Company	Mormon Mesa Ditch Improvement Project	\$272,289.00	\$272,289.00	\$544,579.00	50.0%	Colorado
15d	Trout Unlimited	Intermountain West Alternative Forages Project - Phase II	\$490,818.08	\$490,818.08	\$654,424.11	25.0%	Southwest; Colorado
15e	Colorado Trout Unlimited	Middle Colorado AG Collaborative Phase 3: Elk Creek	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$5,671,703.00	73.6%	Colorado
15f	Western Slope Conservation Center	North Fork Consolidated Diversion Improvements	\$636,663.00	\$636,663.00	\$848,884.00	25.0%	Gunnison
15g	Western Water Partnerships	Las Animas Water Sharing Program	\$245,738.00	\$245,738.00	\$331,201.00	25.8%	Arkansas

\$3,878,658.45



Conservation & Land Use

	Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
15h	Adams County	Master Water Management Plan	\$397,500.00	\$397,500.00	\$530,000.00	25.0%	Metro; South Platte
15i	Mile High Flood District	Denver One Water Plan Implementation Phase 2	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$400,000.00	50.0%	South Platte
15j	Multiplier	Advancing Water Efficiency Solutions in Colorado Communities-Ph 2	\$331,885.00	\$331,885.00	\$442,513.33	25.0%	Statewide
15k	Rocky Mountain Section American Water Works Association	Statewide Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Water Efficiency Program	\$318,625.00	\$318,625.00	\$509,625.00	37.5%	Statewide
15l	Sonoran Institute	Colorado Growing Water Smart	\$446,783.66	\$446,783.66	\$655,384.18	31.8%	Statewide
15m	University of Colorado Boulder	Effects of Landscape Transformations on Urban Heat and Water Quality	\$295,967.00	\$295,967.00	\$420,952.00	29.7%	Metro
15n	Western Resource Advocates	Advancing Water Wise Landscaper Certification	\$152,158.00	\$152,158.00	\$202,876.80	25.0%	Statewide
15o	Westminster, City of	Westminster City Hall Landscape Transformation	\$225,000.00	\$225,000.00	\$999,999.57	77.5%	Metro

\$2,367,918.66



Engagement & Innovation

	Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
15p	Colorado State University	Colorado Water Fellows Program	\$321,887.08	\$306,000.00	\$429,196.39	25.0%	Southwest; South Platte; Metro; Colorado
15q	Groundwork Denver	Advancing Public Knowledge Via Rain Barrel Distribution	\$116,087.00	\$116,087.00	\$198,515.00	41.5%	South Platte
15r	Montezuma Land Conservancy	Place-Based Water Education in SW Colorado	\$112,000.00	\$112,000.00	\$162,400.00	31.0%	Southwest
15s	Roaring Fork Conservancy	Watershed PenPal Program	\$136,947.70	\$136,947.70	\$183,028.60	25.2%	South Platte; Colorado

\$671,034.70



Water Storage & Supply

	Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
15t	Central Colorado Water Conservancy District	Sweet Valley Reservoir Complex Water Storage Project	\$304,919.00	\$304,919.00	\$406,559.00	25.0%	South Platte
15u	Consolidated Mutual Water Company	Welton Reservoir Expansion	\$919,441.00	\$919,441.00	\$2,002,289.00	54.1%	South Platte
15v	Donala Water and Sanitation District	Donala Water and Sanitation District Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Study	\$2,363,500.00	\$290,000.00	\$4,727,000.00	50.0%	Arkansas
15w	City of Gunnison	City of Gunnison Project 1: Raw Water and Infiltration Gallery Infrastructure Improvements	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$4,365,550.00	65.6%	Gunnison
15x	North Poudre Irrigation Company	Park Creek Reservoir Expansion	\$2,960,210.33	\$1,750,000.00	\$10,963,741.96	73.0%	South Platte

\$4,764,360.00



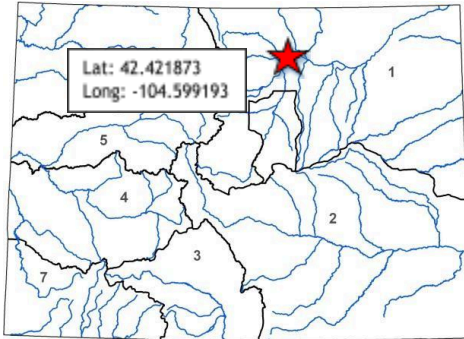
Watershed Health & Recreation

	Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
15y	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	Conejos River Restoration Phase II	\$494,221.00	\$494,221.00	\$988,442.00	50.0%	Rio Grande
15z	Colorado Trout Unlimited	South Boulder Creek- Watershed Restoration PH III	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,600,000.60	37.5%	South Platte
15aa	Learning By Doing, Inc	Implementation of Grand County's Stream Management Plan	\$145,350.00	\$145,350.00	\$214,150.00	32.1%	Colorado
15bb	Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District	Kawuneeche Valley Restoration Collaborative Project Monitoring	\$441,712.39	\$150,177.00	\$591,889.83	25.4%	Colorado
15cc	Purgatoire Watershed Partnership	Purgatoire River Fish & Boat Passage Project	\$1,398,567.00	\$1,390,000.00	\$4,051,382.50	65.5%	Arkansas
15dd	River Network	Capacity & Tech Assistance for Watershed Groups	\$246,382.13	\$246,382.00	\$328,509.50	25.0%	Statewide
15ee	River Network	West Plum Creek Stream Management Plan, Phase II	\$159,771.00	\$159,771.00	\$213,028.00	25.0%	South Platte
15ff	RiversEdge West	Dolores River Riparian Habitat Restoration	\$336,758.40	\$336,758.00	\$674,278.20	50.1%	Southwest
15gg	The Friends of the Yampa	Yampa River Scorecard Project and Yampa River Stewardship Program	\$576,570.00	\$576,570.00	\$976,099.00	40.9%	Yampa/White/Green
15hh	Colorado Trout Unlimited	Middle Colorado AG Collaborative Phase 3: Canyon Creek	\$287,500.00	\$287,500.00	\$711,520.00	59.6%	Colorado

\$4,786,729.00



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Boulder/Broomfield/Larimer Weld/Adams/Morgan Sedgwick/Washington/Logan
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$824,878.90
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$268,788.88
Recommended amount:	\$268,788.88
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding (GOCO, NRCS):	\$556,090.02
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Agricultural
Measurable Result:	Estimated 250 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities; Report investigating novel use of conservation easements paired with water sharing agreements to preserve farming operations

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support Colorado Open Lands in convening a diverse technical team to develop new financial strategies to accelerate opportunities to conserve irrigated farmland in the South Platte River Basin and make it available to young farmers while providing environmental benefits.

The South Platte River basin irrigates 830,000 acres of farmland. High land and water values in this basin give well-capitalized developers a competitive advantage over producers and conservation organizations when farms are put on the market. For the region's agricultural economy to continue, the next generation of producers need opportunities to access these lands and irrigation water to use. This planning effort aligns with the Colorado Water Plan goal to expand the scale of Collaborative Water Sharing Agreements (CWSAs) as an important tool for maintaining agricultural productivity.

COL's team will investigate stacking multiple conservation tools: state and federal conservation easement tax incentives, monetization of outcomes from conservation practices and water leasing opportunities, and interest from beginning farmers. Success of project will include: 1) a "Landscape Plan" identifying potential water-sharing projects in the South Platte River basin, 2) a report summarizing the relative economic efficiency, financial benefits, and conservation outcomes of new financing models, 3) a whitepaper describing challenges and needs that next generation farmers are facing and how the proposed finance tools will address those needs, and 4) a network of young producers in Larimer and Weld Counties interested in accessing conservation easement-encumbered lands.



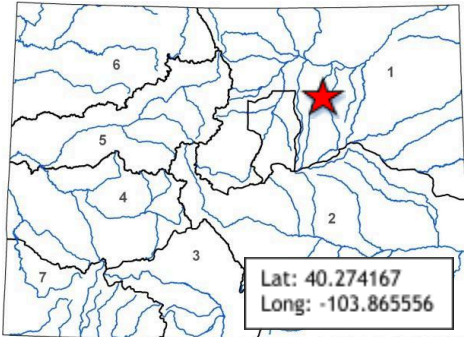
Along with grants from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and NRCS, CWCB would fund technical analysis from partners including COL, Western Water Partnerships, Colorado Water Trust, Poudre Valley Community Farms, Colorado West Land Trust, and other project collaborators.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$268,788.88 to Colorado Open Lands for Charting a New Course for Water Smart Land Conservation in the South Platte River Basin.



Water Plan Grant Program Application

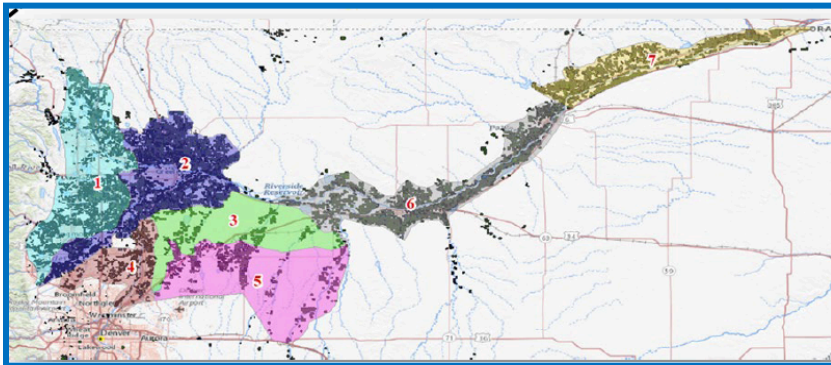


LOCATION	
County/Countries: Larimer, Weld, Morgan, Logan, and Sedgwick	
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$619,151.13
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$464,361.49
Recommended amount:	\$464,361.49
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$77,395.00
Applicant Match:	\$77,395.64
Project Type:	Study
Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result: A study and report about water and land salinization in the South Platte Basin and impacts to beneficial uses	

Colorado State University (The Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System acting by and through the Colorado State University) is requesting funding to study and characterize the salinization of water and land resources across seven regions (see map) in the South Platte River Basin. Water Plan Grant funding will support collecting field data, analysis, and integrating results.

The study will address two questions: 1) How severe and variable is the salinization of water and land resources across the SPRB? and 2) Where and how should further investigation be focused to refine understanding of the problem and to support a search for solutions? Data will be collected and analyzed including groundwater depths and salinity, salt concentrations and loads in streams and canals, and soil salinity. Analytical and statistical methods will be applied to the gathered data to better understand the nature of salinity and its severity in relation to beneficial water uses within representative regions across the South Platte River Basin.



The results of the study will form a baseline reference point for future investigations. Analysis of preliminary field data will provide a clearer picture of the magnitude and composition of salinity in relation to location within the South Platte River Basin, and if and how widespread current salinity problems likely are. Field data will be archived in a GIS database for mapping with

the use of an online dashboard. The website is hosted by the Colorado Water Center at Colorado State University.

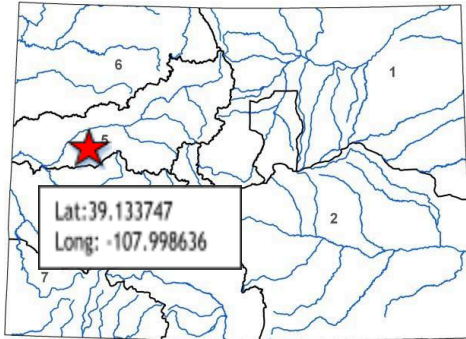
Match funding has been secured through Colorado Corn Council, Northern Water, South Metro Water Supply Authority, Denver Water, and Borland Endowment.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$464,361.49 to Colorado State University for the South Platte Basin Salinity Study.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Mesa
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$544,579.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$272,289.00
Recommended amount:	\$272,289.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$75,000.00
Applicant Match:	\$197,290.00
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	300 ac-ft/yr efficiency savings, 1,400 irrigated acres & habitat preserved

The Mormon Mesa Ditch Company requests grant funding to replace 500 feet of open ditch with 36-inch High-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. The ditch is an open earthen ditch and was built along steep grades along a canyonside. The ditch serves 1,400 irrigated acres. Piping this section of ditch will prevent future slides in this part of the canyon as a result of soil instability and alignment on the slope. Historically, this section of the ditch has lost roughly 10% of ditch water due to leaks. The ditch company has hired JUB Engineers and preliminary design plans are near completion.

The Mormon Mesa Ditch has worked with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program (HPP). The HPP is providing match funding for this project and has previously invested in the irrigated lands which benefit from this ditch because of the multiple conservation values including habitat connectivity and forage for deer, elk and moose that these lands provide.



The HPP is a regional grant program funded through hunting license fees that provides grants for projects that reduce livestock-wildlife conflicts and improve habitat. Each regional HPP committee is made up of local livestock growers, sportspeople, and public land managers. The committees are guided by a distribution management plan and review and recommend funding applications that support management priorities.

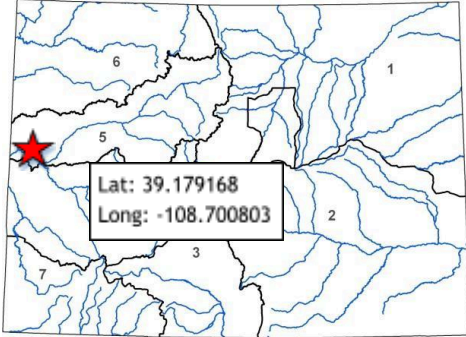
Improving efficiency of water delivery will allow 13 producers to increase forage yields for both livestock and wildlife, and will improve big game distribution throughout the area. These efficiency improvements will allow for better division and usage of water, thereby generating more habitat for livestock and game. This project demonstrates innovative agriculture water uses to benefit multiple interests.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$272,289.00 to the Mormon Mesa Ditch Company for the Mormon Mesa Ditch Improvement Project.



Water Plan Grant Program Application

LOCATION		DETAILS	
		<i>Total Project Cost:</i>	\$654,424.11
Counties: Grand/Mesa/Montezuma		<i>Water Plan Grant Request:</i>	\$490,818.08
Drainage Basin: Colorado/Southwest		<i>Recommended amount:</i>	\$490,818.08
		<i>Other CWCB Funding:</i>	\$0
		<i>Other Funding (River District, New Venture Fund requests):</i>	\$108,406.03
		<i>Applicant Match:</i>	\$55,200.00
		<i>Project Type:</i>	Education
		<i>Project Category:</i>	Agricultural
		<i>Measurable Result:</i>	365 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support Trout Unlimited's (TU's) application on behalf of the Intermountain West Alternative Forages Working Group to continue their investigation of more drought tolerant and potentially less water consumptive forages in the Upper Colorado River basin. Demonstration that alternative forage crops can be profitable while using less water than current forages may lead to their wide adoption. Those agricultural operations that do adopt alternative forage crops may be better prepared for a future with increasingly limited and uncertain water supplies.

Phase I of this project—funded by a March 2022 Water Plan Grant—focused primarily on what sequence of practices are needed to establish sainfoin, silflower, and intermediate wheatgrass on lands formerly used for hay production and grazing in the Upper Colorado Basin. The researchers successfully identified best practices for establishment and pitfalls to avoid. Monitoring and analysis are still underway for Phase I, which TU anticipates completing in October 2024.

TU now seeks funding for Phase II during which the team will test stands of crops established in Phase I for drought resilience by withholding irrigation at different times to simulate drought stress. During these tests, researchers will assess productivity, crop recovery when irrigation resumes, and consumptive use. These drought resilience trials will be conducted at CSU research stations in Fruita and Yellowjacket and at Reeder Creek Ranch in Kremmling. The Working Group will then develop outreach materials, give presentations, hold field days, and seek media coverage to share their findings with agricultural producers, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

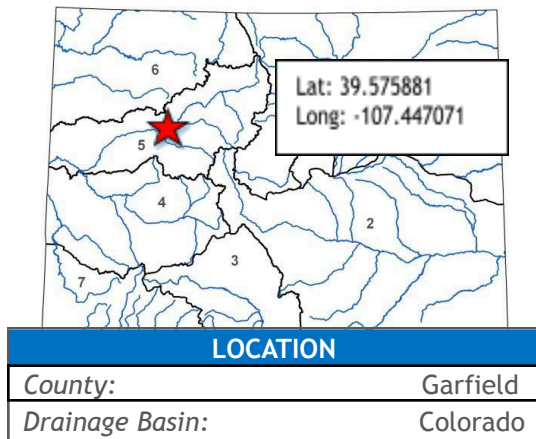
This research effort is led by Colorado State University, The Land Institute, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and American Rivers, all of whom participate in the larger Intermountain West Alternative Forages Working Group with academic representatives from several Upper Basin states. The project includes utilizing tools such as Open ET and USDA Cropscape, creating opportunities for scalable impact.

Supported by the Colorado River Basin Roundtable, this project aims to advance the Colorado Water Plan goal to innovate to sustain irrigated agriculture statewide by informing scalable, long-term learning for agriculture.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$490,818.08 to Trout Unlimited for Phase II of the Intermountain West Alternative Forages Project.

Water Plan Grant Program Application



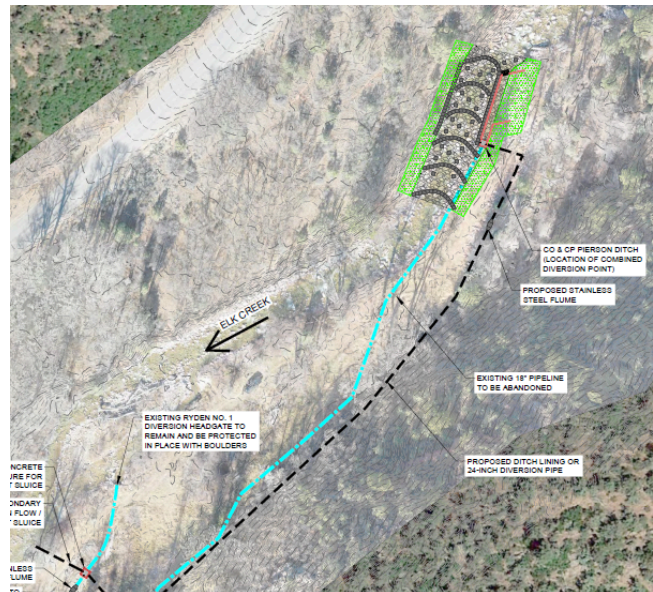
DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$5,671,703.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$1,500,000.00
Recommended amount:	\$1,500,000.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$4,171,703.00
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	Diversion structure improvements benefiting 75 irrigators, 7,920 LF of stream restored for fish spawning and rearing

Colorado Trout Unlimited seeks funding to complete Phase 3: Construction of the Middle Colorado AG Collaborative project at Elk Creek. This project will open over 7 miles of the Elk Creek drainage and adjacent Middle Colorado drainages to spawning fish from the Colorado River mainstem.

The Middle Colorado Watershed Council completed an Integrated Water Management Plan for the Middle Colorado River which identified 25 different irrigation diversions that are fish barriers in the basin. The goal of the Middle Colorado AG Collaborative is to continue opening Elk and Canyon Creeks to spawning and migrating fish from the Colorado River while supporting agricultural use. TU works with agricultural water diverters to make their diversion structures fish friendly.

Phases 1 and 2 (Planning and Design) were supported by CWCB grants. This project will construct improved diversions at four project sites along Elk Creek.

Projects #1 & #2 will combine four points of diversion into two diversion points, supporting new diversion dams that incorporate fish ramps, redesigned headgate structures, telemetry actuated headgates, fish screens, sluiceways and ditch/pipe enlargement to accommodate increased flows. Project #3 will relocate a point of diversion downstream to a pumping station thereby abandoning 1.45 miles of porous ditch and an in-channel push up dam. The relocation will increase flows through a highly productive reach of Elk Creek and enable reductions in future water diversions. Project #4 will retrofit an existing diversion with a rock ramp (fish passage) and reconstruct the headgate/sluiceway system. Modernizing and upgrading these diversions will improve irrigation operations.



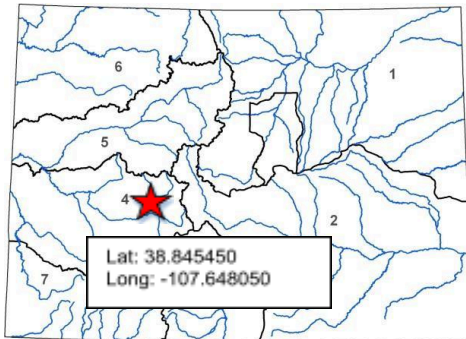
Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends Board approval of \$1,500,000.00 to **Colorado Trout Unlimited** for the Middle Colorado AG Collaborative Phase 3: Elk Creek project.

****Applicant change to Colorado Trout Unlimited from National Trout Unlimited.***



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Delta
Drainage Basin:	Gunnison

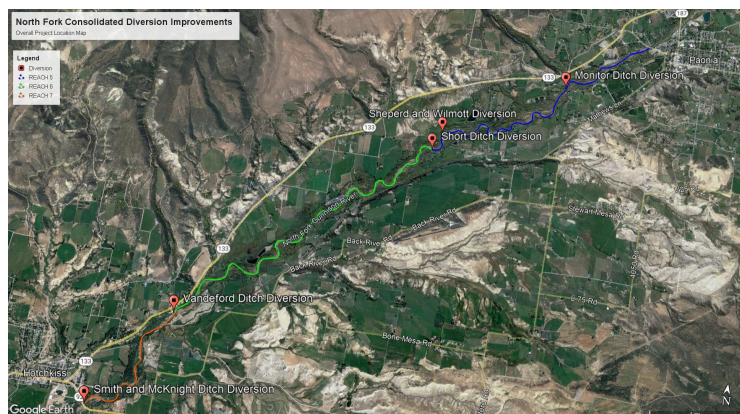
DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$848,884.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$636,663.00
Recommended amount:	\$636,663.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$200,000.00
Applicant Match:	\$12,221.00
Project Type:	Design & Engineering
Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	5 diversion structures modernized, 2,000 LF of stream restored, 3,000 ac-ft/yr efficiency savings

The Western Slope Conservation Center (WSCC) seeks Water Plan Grant funding for planning and design costs to improve five diversion structures on the North Fork of the Gunnison River.

The WSCC has collaborated with the Smith-McKnight, Short, Sheppard-Wilmott, Monitor, and Vandeford ditch companies to develop a comprehensive, watershed-scale plan to modernize their diversions. These updates include water measurement actuators and automated valves designed to measure water at the point of diversion, deliver a full decree to the ditch, and keep the excess in the river for other uses. Two of the ditch companies, the Short and Smith-McKnight, will rebuild their in-stream diversion structures to eliminate annual gravel push-up dams and allow for fish passage, recreational boating, and enhanced riparian habitat.

This project will open the river between Hotchkiss and Paonia for fish passage and recreational boating, reduce existing conflicts between competing ditch companies for water in the river, and will improve relationships among agricultural, environmental and recreational water uses.

The 2017 North Fork of the Gunnison River Irrigation Management Plan identified the near-river infrastructure needs of agricultural users who divert water directly from the North Fork and provided recommendations for moving forward with improvements within the river corridor that have multiple benefits. The diversions included in this project were identified in this plan as High or Medium priority projects, and will impact over 11 miles of the river.

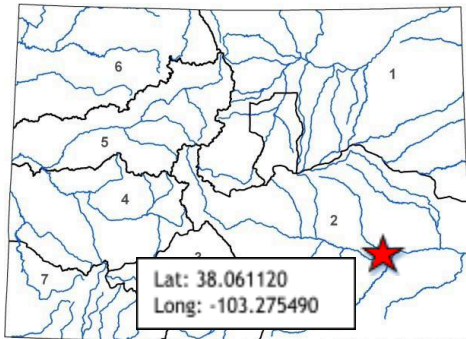


Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$636,663.00 to the Western Slope Conservation Center for North Fork Consolidated Diversion Improvements.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Bent
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$331,201.000
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$245,738.00
Recommended amount:	\$245,738.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$85,463.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	4,000 AF shared through a collaborative water sharing agreement.

Western Water Partnerships is seeking Water Plan Grant funding to support the development of a water-sharing program between the Las Animas Consolidated and Consolidated Extension Canals (LAC), Palmer Land Conservancy, and other municipal, industrial, agricultural, environmental, and recreational interests.

In the 1980's, the Public Service Company of Colorado (Xcel) purchased approximately 75% of the LAC to be used for a proposed coal-fired power plant and changed the use of these rights to include all beneficial uses. Through this change case, approximately 12,500 acre-feet of historical consumptive use water was assigned to the changed water rights, however, Xcel never built the power plant and has since leased the water back to the farmers. Success of the project will be the groundwork necessary to establish a perpetual water-sharing agreement between LAC farmers and a municipal water provider. Having a permanent supply of water will provide the farmers with a renewed capability for long-term planning on their farms. Partnering with a municipality has the added benefit of making the water more affordable for the farmers.

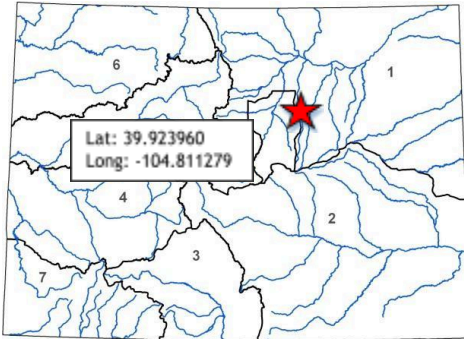
Western Water Partnerships is working with a diverse group of stakeholders to create the LAC Water-Sharing Program. Steering committee members include representation from Xcel, farmers on the LAC, Palmer Land Conservancy, and other municipal, industrial, agricultural, environmental, and recreational interests. This group of stakeholders has developed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding to help guide their efforts and provide consensus on long-term water use.

The specific objective of this Water Plan Grant application is to facilitate the steering committee through critical conversations and answer key legal and technical questions prior to establishing the water-sharing program. This includes the identification of water sources, analysis of internal ditch operations under a water-sharing program, high-level legal information reconnaissance, an infrastructure needs assessment, development of the water-sharing program structure and governance, a conservation easement analysis, and alignment with Bent County 1041 regulations. This application will *not* include water court fees or expenses. Matching funds are being provided by Colorado Spring Utilities and Palmer Land Conservancy.

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends full funding of \$245,738.00 to Western Water Partnerships for the Las Animas Consolidated Water-Sharing Program.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Adams
Drainage Basin:	Metro/South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$530,000
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$397,500
Recommended amount:	\$397,500
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$132,500
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use
Measurable Result:	527,525 Coloradans impacted by incorporating water-saving actions into land use planning

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support Adams County in development of a master water management plan, which builds on its recently completed water baseline assessment. Water Plan Grant Funds will go toward convening stakeholders and drafting the master plan for adoption by the County Commissioners.

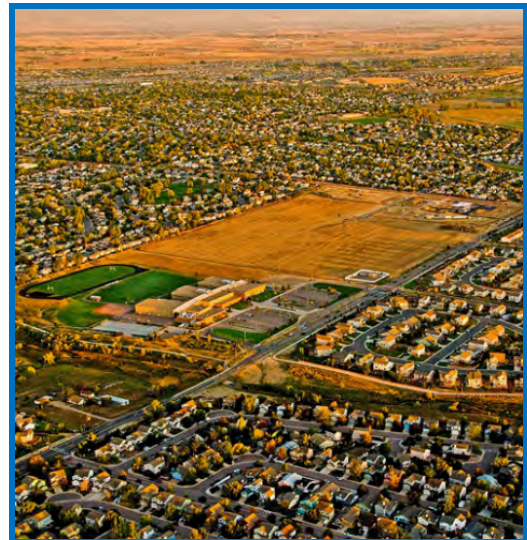
With over 70 water providers, 4,226 water rights, 300 diversion structures, and 14,277 wells, Adams County's water systems are complex and administered by a web of agencies. Over the past 40 years water diversions in Adams County, including groundwater use, have increased by more than 340%. Adams County is home to 527,525 people, which is expected to increase to 800,000 by 2050.

In the coming decades, Adams County anticipates a host of challenges as it seeks to manage climate change, population growth, and other direct and indirect pressures to this complex water system. Water demands are expected to create limitations to growth and exacerbate tension between industrial, agricultural, and municipal water providers as the population grows.

In preparing a Master Water Management Plan, Adams County aims to coordinate water providers, programs, and users to ensure sustainable land use planning and growth, inform landscaping and conservation recommendations for incorporation into county land use code updates, and develop a guiding document for Adams County's water resource management.

Short and long-term implementation of the plan in collaboration with water providers, public and private stakeholders, and departments within Adams County will help the community achieve common goals of water conservation and resiliency.

This planning effort aligns with the Colorado Water Plan's Resilient Planning goals, specifically meeting future water needs through integrated planning, engagement, and education through improved coordination and collaboration across sectors and groups.

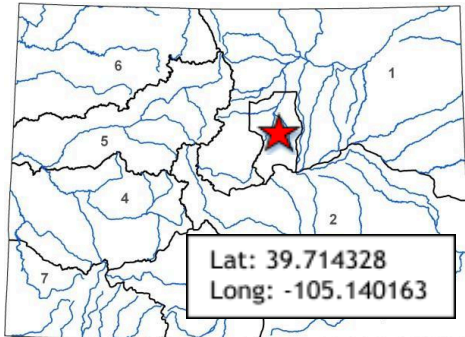


Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$397,500 to Adams County for their Master Water Management Plan.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Denver
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$400,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	200,000.00
Recommended amount:	\$200,000.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$100,000.00
Applicant Match:	\$100,000.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Result: 700,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities and incorporating water-saving actions into land use planning; The South Platte River and Cherry Creek comprise over 22 miles of stream that is protected via the OWP.	

Mile High Flood District (Urban Drainage and Flood Control District) is requesting funding for Phase 2 of the implementation of Denver's One Water Plan (OWP). Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support efforts related to coordination, implementation monitoring and tracking, communications, and outreach.

Initially funded by the CWCB in 2019 and 2021, the OWP established a framework for Denver's various water management agencies to coordinate and collaborate. Creation of the OWP constituted Phase 1 of the effort. Phase 2 consists of implementing the OWP's recommendations through a prioritized work plan by an interagency working group called the One Water Leaders group (OWL Group).

The OWL Group aims to: 1) implement integrated water management solutions; 2) increase resilience and climate change preparedness; 3) implement multi-benefit projects and programs; 4) foster community support; and 5) promote institutional collaboration.

Specifically, funding will support planning and facilitating a One Water Symposium to increase the visibility of the OWP in the metro Denver area, attract and inform potential regional OWP partners beyond the core OWL group, and collaborate with communities and utilities across Colorado to develop and implement their own One Water planning processes.

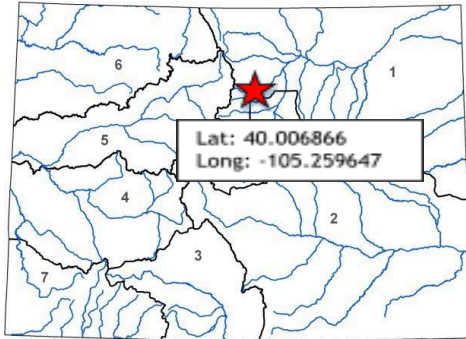
Match funding will be secured through the City and County of Denver and Mile High Flood District.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$200,000 to Mile High Flood District for the Denver One Water Plan Implementation Phase 2 project.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Statewide
Drainage Basin:	Statewide

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$442,513.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$331,885.00
Recommended amount:	\$331,885.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$110,628.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Conservation and Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	This project will help meet Colorado's Water Plan Goal of reducing the projected municipal water supply gap estimate of 740,000 acre feet of water by 2050.

In this second phase of their project, WaterNow and their fiscal sponsor Multiplier, will continue their project to accelerate and fund high-impact water use efficiency projects, specifically those integrating water efficiency with land use planning.

This project includes several unique efforts including:

- 1) WaterNow's Project Accelerator program provides technical assistance to municipal water providers, supporting innovative projects for sustainable water management.
- 2) The Colorado Regional Accelerator program where WaterNow will develop both projects and a cohort of leaders addressing water issues across the State.
- 3) WaterNow's WaterSMART Help Desk, a program which focuses on outreach and support for federal funding in under-served Colorado communities.
- 4) WaterNow aims to extend support to communities applying for Colorado's Drinking Water and Water Pollution Control State Revolving Funds (SRFs).

This project supports WaterNow Alliance's/Multiplier's Water Plan Grant from December 2022. This existing grant includes several of the same accelerator programs, but only included an investigation of how to best connect communities with SRFs whereas this new application supports the next step in connecting communities with SRF funding.

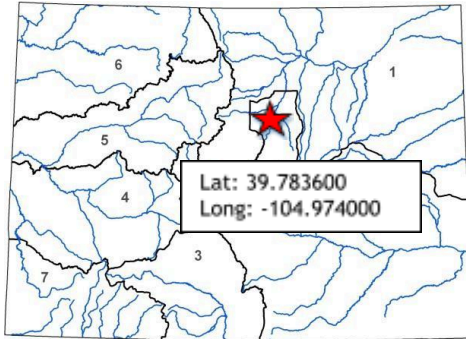
The goals of this project are supported by numerous state and basin plans. This project aims to address the goals within the Vibrant Communities Action Area and Resilient Planning Action Areas of 2023 Water Plan by equitably supporting communities across the state as they work to reduce their municipal supply gaps, connect with available funding resources and proactively work to address conservation and land use needs. Finally, the actions outlined in this grant request support the engagement, education and outreach goals outlined in numerous basins' BIPs and bring numerous basins closer to addressing current and imminent supply gaps.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$331,885.00 to the Multiplier for Advancing Water Efficiency Solutions in Colorado Communities-Phase 2.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Statewide
Drainage Basin:	Statewide

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$509,625.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$318,625.00
Recommended amount:	\$318,625.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$191,000.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	Potential total savings of more than 5,000 AF and over 500,000 CII customers impacted.

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support the Rocky Mountain Section of the American Water Works Association (RMSAWWA) in developing a framework to prioritize Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) water efficiency. This project will draft a guidance document for water providers, conduct a training session for 25 participants, and compile and organize a resource library.

The first task of this project is aimed at the development of a guidance document, designed to be accessible to water providers and consultants of all scales statewide. The document will offer a detailed roadmap from the inception of a CII program to evaluating the sustainability of a program through quantification of water savings and holistic program analysis.

The second task will include a two-day training session for 25 individuals. The focus of the training will be on executing the procedures and methodologies detailed in the guidance document. This training will be hosted by two water providers, one on the East Slope and the other on the West Slope.

The final task of this project is to develop a resource library to contain the guidance document, standardized case study form, input from in-person training, case studies and additional materials developed throughout the process. This resource library will be available to all providers, regardless of their participation in the project, with access to the materials to implement their own programs.

By organizing around the 53 member RMSAWWA Conservation Committee, this project will form a capacity-building hub where these newly developed tools and processes will be shared with CII partners throughout the state.

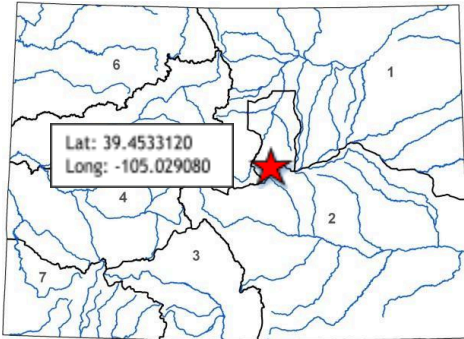
To demonstrate collaboration and widespread project support, RMSAWWA, in partnership with the City of Greeley and the City of Longmont, has secured match funding and support from WaterNow Alliance, Western Resource Advocates, 16 Colorado water providers and three Basin Roundtables across Colorado encompassing both the West and East slopes.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$318,625.00 to the Rocky Mountain Section American Water Works Association for their Statewide Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Water Efficiency Program.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Statewide
Drainage Basin:	Statewide

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$655,384.18
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$446,783.66
Recommended amount:	\$446,783.66
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$208,600.52
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type:	Capacity Building
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use
Measurable Result:	150,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities (includes communities represented in training, project implementation, and monitoring)

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support the Sonoran Institute in expanding Colorado Growing Water Smart, an ongoing program that builds the capacity of local jurisdictions to plan and implement strategies for the integration of land use and water.

Led by the Sonoran Institute and the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, the Colorado Growing Water Smart (CGWS) workshop consists of a two- to three-day intensive workshop at which water planners, land use planners, and elected officials create a customized action plan for integrating water and land use planning. The program provides training, ongoing technical assistance, and other resources that allow communities to understand the range of land use planning tools, align growth and development with forecasted water supplies, and engage their community to build support for needed plans and policies.



Since 2017, CGWS has trained staff and elected officials from communities representing 65 percent of Coloradans (over 3.7 million people). CGWS is highlighted twice in the Colorado Water Plan as a resource to build the capacity of local jurisdictions to plan and implement strategies for the integration of land use and water planning.

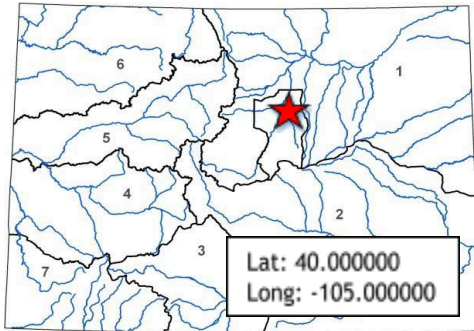
CWCB funding will support: 1) one workshop in Northern Colorado and one on the West Slope for communities to actively incorporate water-saving actions into land-use planning, 2) technical assistance provided directly to past community participants of the CGWS workshops to implement water-wise land use planning activities, 3) ongoing training and engagement through the Sonoran Institute-led peer network, and 4) facilitation and technical assistance to guide two communities to establish metrics to benchmark, target, and track the progress toward and impact of water and land use integration.

Sonoran Institute has pending funding requests before Northern Water, the Colorado River Water Conservation District, and the Southwestern Water Conservation District to support these 2024-2026 efforts.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$446,783.66 to the Sonoran Institute for Colorado Growing Water Smart.

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Denver
Drainage Basin:	Metro

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$420,952.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$295,967.00
Recommended amount:	\$295,967.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$37,500.00
Applicant Match:	\$87,484.92
Project Type:	Study
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Results:	Study outcomes will document the effects on urban heat and water quality from landscape transformations, leading to more informed practices in the landscape transformation space.

The University of Colorado Boulder (Regents of University of Colorado) is requesting funding to study the impact of turf replacement on ambient temperature and water quality in urban settings. Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support research personnel hours to compare the patterns of urban heat and water quality of runoff resulting from replacing turfgrass with turfgrass alternatives.

Ambient temperature in metropolitan Denver is increasing and likely to increase further as a result of climate change. Furthermore, water quality in metropolitan Denver is increasingly regulated by nutrient reductions for storm sewer systems, total maximum daily loads, and basin control regulations. The University of Colorado Boulder proposes to consider both in the context of turf removal in metropolitan Denver. Doing so will inform the development of best practices for continued turf removal and developing guidelines for the treatment changes required for rainwater and stormwater harvesting after landscape transformations in Colorado.

The applicant will hold stakeholder engagement workshops for feedback on the proposed project plan and to create consistency with other related projects occurring in the region. These workshops will also inform the best methods for sharing results and initial deliverables.

Through this research, a geospatial tool of Denver will be developed that shows existing heat, as well as a peer-reviewed journal article. A webinar will also be recorded on the implications for stormwater capture and use.

This project exemplifies broad based involvement and commitment to collaboration through partnering with and support from Denver Water, Mile High Flood District, Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority, City and County of Denver, Resource Central, LRE Water, Barr Milton Watershed Association, Big Dry Creek Watershed Association, City of Boulder, Dominion Water and Sanitation District, Metro Basin Roundtable, The Greenway Foundation, Western Resource Advocates, United States Geological Survey's Geoscience and Environmental Change Science Center, and Metro Water Recovery.

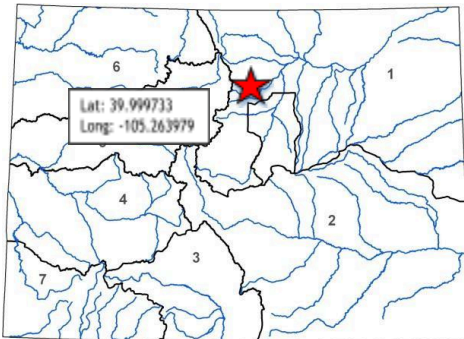
Match funding is secured through the University of Colorado Boulder, Metro Water Recovery, Mile High Flood District, Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority, Denver Water, City and County of Denver, Resource Central, and LRE Water.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$295,967.00 to the University of Colorado Boulder for the Effects of Landscape Transformations on Urban Heat and Water Quality project.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Statewide
Drainage Basin:	Statewide

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$202,876.80
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$152,157.60
Recommended amount:	\$152,157.60
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$50,719.20
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use
Measurable Result:	55,000 AF/year efficiency savings; (help address the outdoor portion (40 -50%) of Colorado's municipal and industrial (M&I) gap of 230,000 to 740,000 acre-feet/year)

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support Western Resource Advocates (WRA) in preparing a recommendations report or “roadmap” to expand landscape and irrigation certification or licensing in Colorado. WRA is partnering with CSU Extension and the Colorado Water Center to complete this report.

For the past three years, WRA has led an initiative to explore policy options for expanding landscape and irrigation professional training and certification in Colorado. WRA has identified that state-required licensing of landscape and irrigation professionals would have the greatest impact on outdoor municipal water conservation and a majority of landscape professionals surveyed support a licensure or certification program.

WRA will: 1) review landscape and/or irrigation professional licensure in the 10 states with existing programs, 2) summarize how certification and training programs currently available in Colorado could be incorporated into a state-level program, and 3) gather input from diverse stakeholders in the landscape and irrigation industry to understand their perspectives on how certification programs and/or a state licensing program would affect their efforts. WRA will synthesize all this research and stakeholder input into a publicly available report or “roadmap” with recommendations for developing a landscaper certification program in Colorado.

The South Platte, Metro and Colorado Basin Roundtables support this project, which furthers the Colorado Water Plan goal to “identify turf replacement options that support transformative landscape change,” specifically the role of landscapers and irrigation professionals to help Colorado achieve 400,000 AF of municipal and industrial water conservation by 2050. Funding partners include the Mighty Arrow Foundation, the Lincoln Institute’s Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, and Colorado State University.



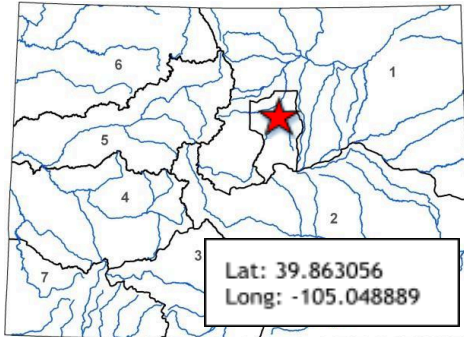
The development of this roadmap will have broad-based involvement from landscape and irrigation technicians and managers, municipal water providers, state agencies, Colorado State University, professional associations, representatives from current landscape certification programs, and others.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$152,157.60 to Western Resource Advocates for Advancing Water Wise Landscaper Certification.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Adams
Drainage Basin:	Metro

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$999,999.57
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$225,000.00
Recommended amount:	\$225,000.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$747,999.57
Project Type:	Construction/Implementation
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Results:	\$10,000/year water efficiency savings; 118,000 Coloradans impacted by incorporating water-saving actions into land use planning

The City of Westminster is requesting funding to improve four acres of Westminster City Hall's north lawn. While the City of Westminster will be replacing turf as well as the irrigation system, Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support replacement of turf only (pictured).

Westminster City Hall's north lawn is currently a highly visible, seldom used, difficult to access, four-acre expanse of non-functional Kentucky bluegrass. Construction will result in a low-water landscape that includes native grasses, regionally appropriate perennial gardens, and trees. Westminster estimates this landscape transformation and irrigation system replacement will save approximately 1.6 million gallons (five acre-feet) of water per year (>50% reduction in use), increasing water efficiency and improving water supply security and drought resilience. The project will improve public accessibility and create a new space for the community to enjoy, where residents can also learn about the benefits of replacing turf with Colorado-appropriate landscaping and other water conservation options. The project will include signage identifying each plant and its water use, provide numerous new walking paths, and offer seating areas throughout. A communications plan will be developed and implemented for ongoing community education.

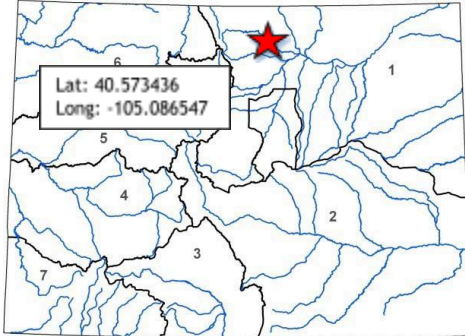
Match funding will be provided by the City of Westminster.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$225,000.00 to the City of Westminster for the Westminster City Hall Landscape Transformation project.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	La Plata/Denver Larimer/Boulder
Drainage Basin:	South Platte/Metro Colorado/Southwest

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$429,196.38
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$321,887.08
Recommended amount:	\$306,000.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding (Co Mesa U):	\$10,000.00
Applicant Match:	\$97,309.30
Project Type:	Education
Project Category:	Engagement & Innovation
Measurable Result:	1,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding is requested to expand the existing Colorado Water Fellows Program from two to six universities across three river basins. Participating institutions include Colorado State University (CSU), University of Colorado, University of Denver, Metro State University, Colorado Mesa University, and Fort Lewis College. Funding would also support coordination of an annual event to convene Water Fellows statewide for networking, professional development, and a career fair.

Aging workforce, talent attraction and retention, and a lack of diverse backgrounds and technical perspectives are all challenges for Colorado's professional water community. Expansion of the Colorado Water Fellows Program and its annual event aim to address these industry needs by contributing to a resilient and skilled water workforce.



Participants in the Water Fellows Program range from first-year undergraduates to Ph.D. candidates from historically marginalized or excluded communities and identities. The current cohort represents 15 distinct degree programs from engineering to sociology. The year-long program provides comprehensive exposure to practical and theoretical facets of water management and sustainability, including conference attendance, field trips, topical monthly educational sessions, and a stipend to support their participation.

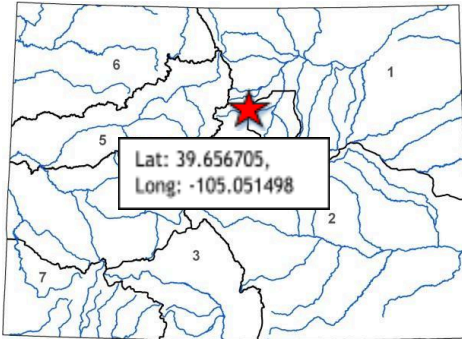
With this approach, the Colorado Water Fellows Program helps Colorado's academic institutions to attract and retain more diverse water students, foster a skilled and collaborative water workforce, and establish clear career pathways in water-related fields for students statewide. This program aligns with the Water Equity Task Force recommendations highlighted in the Colorado Water Plan.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends partial funding of \$306,000 to Colorado State University for the Colorado Water Fellows Program: Water Workforce Development through Education, Training, and Internships. The full request of \$321,887.08 includes the coordination of a standalone Water Fellows event and there may be the opportunity to combine it with the Water Workforce Summit and reduce costs or seek additional support from participating universities.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Denver
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$198,515.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$116,087.00
Recommended amount:	\$116,087.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$82,428.00
Project Type:	Education
Project Category:	Engagement and Innovation
Measurable Result:	1,920 Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Groundwork Denver's Colorado Water Plan Grant request to advance public knowledge via rain barrel distribution will be accomplished through outreach-focused tasks. The applicant will complete water quality education and stewardship outreach to 1,920 Sheridan and Harvey Park South neighborhood residents. Through this effort, residents will be offered no-cost rain barrels and rain gardens, asked to attend rain barrel and xeriscape/rain garden workshops as well as river clean-up volunteer events, and receive educational information on urban water conservation and reuse. Rain barrel and rain garden installations will be performed with matching funds provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Great Outdoors Colorado.

The second project task includes completing Water Conservation Knowledge Surveys with residents who attended rain barrel and rain garden/xeriscape workshops. This effort will determine residents' top water-related concerns, and identify the topics which residents are most interested in for future education and outreach events. Finally, the applicant intends to evaluate the effectiveness of their outreach efforts by completing a program evaluation which will follow Environmental Protection Agency guidelines for evaluating effective outreach in a community watershed.

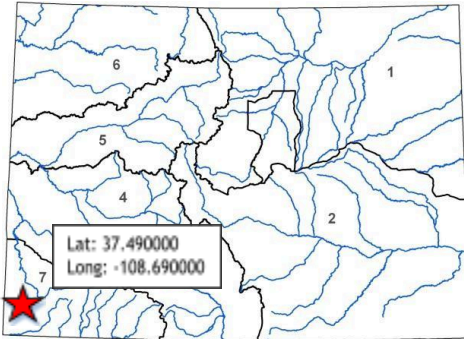
This project aims to advance the Vibrant Communities goal of the Colorado Water Plan by increasing community knowledge and awareness surrounding water quality and conservation. Further, this project aims to provide support to the One Water Ethic, sustainable water use and water conservation through providing education and access to rainwater harvesting tools. This effort may reduce reliance on tap water irrigation and increase recycling water via potable and non-potable reuse. Finally, through supporting equitable access to rain barrels, education and engagement opportunities, this project aims to align with various inclusive engagement goals of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$116,087.00 to Groundwork Denver for their Advancing Public Knowledge Via Rain Barrel Distribution project.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Montezuma
Drainage Basin:	Southwest

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$162,400
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$112,000
Recommended amount:	\$112,000
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding (GOCO, Gates):	\$50,400
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type:	Education
Project Category:	Engagement & Innovation
Measurable Result:	1,620 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Montezuma Land Conservancy (MLC) provides place-based, hands-on water education and training at Fozzie's Farm, an 83-acre irrigated farm and ranch north of Cortez. In partnership with Kwiayagat Community Academy, Battle Rock Charter School, and Southwest Open School, MLC will conduct a series of lessons and field trip experiences about local watersheds, water allocations, and delivery systems. These charter schools serve a diverse student body, including a large percentage of Nuchu'u (Ute) and Dine' (Navajo) youth.

MLC's water education will incorporate diverse cultural perspectives from local indigenous communities. At Kwiayagat Community Academy, for example, MLC will help create a Ute reading activity book about water. At all three schools, students will complete a water stewardship project.

CWCB funding will also support MLC's water education programs for students and adults, such as other K-12 field trips to MLC's Fozzie's Farm and paid summer intensive programs for high school youth.

With this funding request, MLC aims to increase the proportion of local students who can articulate critical water concepts, feel confident to take an active role in water local stewardship, and complete a water stewardship project at Fozzie's Farm or elsewhere in the community.

MLC's efforts align with Colorado Water Plan goals to foster education at all levels, including locally and individually.

The project also reflects Water Equity principles highlighted in the Colorado Water Plan to promote new voices, increase diversity in career pathways, and provide opportunities for rural communities.

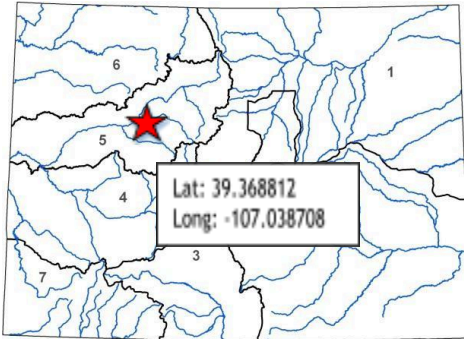


Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$112,000 to the Montezuma Land Conservancy for Place-Based Water Education in SW Colorado.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Eagle; Arapahoe; Garfield; Pitkin
Drainage Basin:	South Platte; Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$183,028.60
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$136,947.70
Recommended amount:	\$136,947.70
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$46,080.90
Project Type:	Education and Outreach
Project Category:	Engagement and Innovation
Measurable Result:	800 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Roaring Fork Conservancy's mission is to bring people together to protect rivers and work hard to keep water in local streams, monitor water quality, and preserve riparian habitat in the Roaring Fork Valley. Since 1996, the Roaring Fork Conservancy has served residents and visitors throughout the Roaring Fork Valley through school and community-based Watershed Education programs and Watershed Science and Policy Projects including regional watershed planning, water resource policy initiatives, stream management, and restoration.

The goal of the Watershed PenPal project is to bridge divides and connect communities reliant on the same water source. Fostering well-informed community discussions through multiple shared experiences facilitates wide-spread water conservation ideas and action. Building positive relationships between water users from the West Slope and Front Range through letter writing and hands-on experiences allow water users to consider each other's needs and water system limitations. This project aims to create well-informed communities that understand Colorado's water challenges and engage in open dialogue with water users both at home and in other basins. This project expands on the original PenPal scope by adding *Meet Your Headwaters* experience in summer 2024. Open to Aurora students and teachers, participants will travel to the Roaring Fork Valley to meet their Basalt-based pen pal and explore their shared headwaters alongside experts in the field while building in-person relationships.



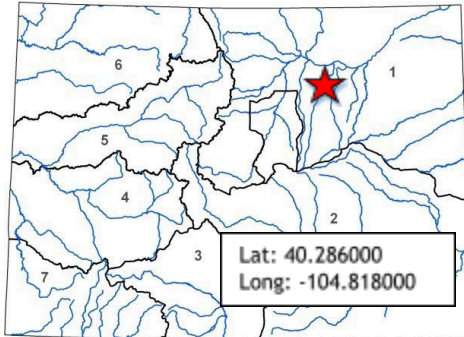
The Watershed PenPal program increases inclusion by connecting people from diverse backgrounds in equitable and inclusive discussions and strengthening relationships and relatability through shared learning experiences that highlight everyone's need for access to clean and healthy water for a number of different uses. Fifth Grade writing and science standards are met by much of the curriculum delivered through this program, making it a good fit for classroom teachers. Through a series of shared classes, presentations, videos and activities, students in both Aurora and the Roaring Fork Valley will learn about where their water comes from, and why it is important to value, conserve, and protect this life-giving resource.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$136,947.70 to Roaring Fork Conservancy for the Watershed PenPal program.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Adams; Weld; Morgan
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$406,559.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$304,919.00
Recommended amount:	\$304,919.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$101,640.00
Project Type:	Design & Engineering
Project Category:	Water Storage & Supply
Measurable Result:	Design has potential to create 4,500 acre-feet of new storage

The Central Colorado Water Conservancy District (Central) is requesting funding assistance to complete an engineering study to design two slurry wall liners for the newly created Heritage Reservoir and Trailblazer Reservoir as well as the inlet/outlet facilities for the Sweet Valley Reservoir Complex. The Project will be developed on land that is owned by Central and will consist of two separate reservoirs that are bisected by the Western Mutual Ditch. Water Plan Grant funding will support Central with the design of the slurry wall liners that are necessary to impound water for storage and design of the inlet/outlet facilities to store and release water stored in Sweet Valley Reservoirs.

The Sweet Valley Reservoir Complex Water Storage project: 1) develops additional new water supplies for agricultural uses; 2) reduces the rate of loss of irrigated farms in northeastern Colorado; 3) more efficiently uses existing water supplies; 4) helps to sustain Colorado's agricultural water supply needs; and 5) is consistent with the 2010 Statewide Water Supply Initiatives, the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan and the Colorado Water Plan.

Though Central's augmentation plans are well-established, they can be improved by adding additional supplies. In recent years, the augmentation plans have operated at anywhere between 35% and 60% pumping allocations. The Sweet Valley Reservoir Complex will allow Central to continue to build their augmentation plans with the goal of achieving sustainable 100% allocations for their members.

Design of the slurry wall liners will commence with project initiation and coordination, field investigations and laboratory testing, and will conclude with the final design of the walls. Upon completion of the final design, a design report and construction drawings will be issued. Design of the inlet and outlet facilities will include project management and quality control, an alternatives analysis to explore different possible facility configurations, and a feasibility analysis.

Inlet facilities will be designed to deliver a maximum of 150 cfs to both Heritage and Trailblazer Reservoirs. At this rate of fill, Central will be able to completely fill the storage capacity in 15 days. Outlet facilities are anticipated to release between 3 and 10 cfs from each reservoir for a maximum of 20 cfs. Released water will be piped back to the South Platte River via an augmentation pipeline that is slated for construction in 2024.

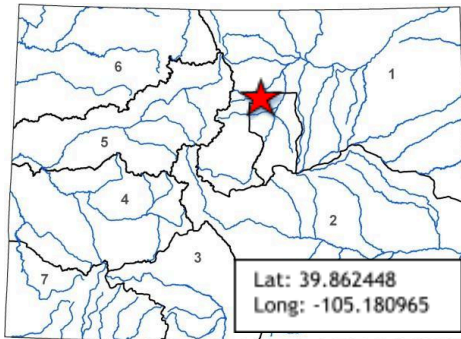
Match funding will be secured through Central Colorado Water Conservancy District.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$304,919.00 to Central Colorado Water Conservancy District for the Sweet Valley Reservoir Complex Water Storage project.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Jefferson
Drainage Basin:	Metro

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$2,002,289.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$919,441.00
Recommended amount:	\$919,441.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$1,082,848.00
Project Type:	Design & Construction
Project Category:	Water Storage & Supply
Measurable Result:	400 acre-feet new storage created; 225,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity

Consolidated Mutual Water Company (CMWC) is requesting funding for final design and construction costs of an expansion to Welton Reservoir. CMWC is a private, non profit water utility serving communities in the western suburbs of the Denver Metro area. Prior studies have indicated that this expansion project is feasible, and the planning and design processes are currently underway. Expanding Welton Reservoir will increase drought storage and the ability to store owned water rights.

In 2019, a water availability study was performed for CMWC's Maple Grove system which includes Welton Reservoir. The study indicated that to account for dry year conditions through the planning horizon of 2050, CMWC may need up to an additional 2,500 AF of storage. Subsequently in 2021, a hydrological analysis and a spillway alternatives analysis were performed, providing a preliminary indication that modifications to the dam and spillway could result in an additional 400 AF of storage at the reservoir.

This project will raise the normal pool elevation in Welton Reservoir by 2.3 feet without significant modifications to Fortune Dam, which impounds the reservoir. Modifications will include raising the low areas of the dam crest in locations protected by a parapet wall and modifying the spillway to accommodate a higher normal pool elevation.

This expansion coincides with the Colorado Water Plan by addressing the water storage gap and also helps CMWC secure additional storage for drought protection and storage of water rights that are native to the South Platte Basin.

The Welton Reservoir expansion is supported by regional partners and beneficiaries that CMWC serves, such as the City of Arvada, the Agricultural Ditch and Reservoir Company, and Metro West Housing Solutions.®

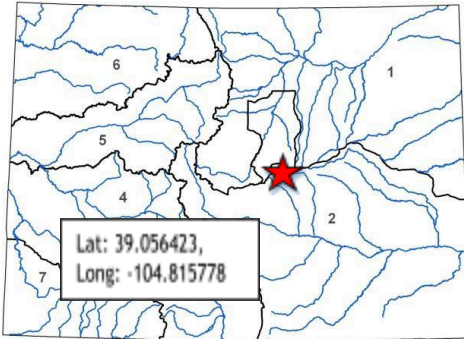
This project aims to advance the Colorado Water Plan goals by supporting the Vibrant Communities and Resilient Planning Partner Actions through developing a thoughtful storage expansion project that meets multiple needs, optimizes investments in infrastructure and increases efficiency. This project also supports the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan's targets concerning storage and municipal and industrial goals.

Match funding will be provided by CMWC.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$919,441.00 to Consolidated Mutual Water Company for the Welton Reservoir Expansion project.

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	El Paso
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$4,727,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$2,363,500.00
Recommended amount:	\$290,000.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$2,363,500.00
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Water Storage and Supply
Measurable Result:	800 AF New Storage Created, \$1,000/year in efficiency savings for Donala and 8,200 Coloradoans Impacted.

Donala Water and Sanitation District (Donala) is located in Northern El Paso County and has historically relied significantly on its non-renewable Denver Basin groundwater to meet demands. Donala intends to transition from non-renewable groundwater supplies to renewable surface water supplies to ensure future supply sustainability. However, in order to use the renewable surface water supplies Donala already owns, they must develop long-term storage solutions; Donala has identified aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) as a critical piece of this plan. ASR enables Donala to bridge the gap between its supplies and demands at various points throughout the year and capture their surplus surface water supplies for storage.

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support the retrofit, operation and monitoring of Donala's Denver Basin Well 9A. This retrofitted well will be utilized for ASR by Donala to demonstrate the feasibility of storing water that has been treated and delivered by Colorado Springs Utilities in the Arapahoe aquifer. This pilot project plans to demonstrate the feasibility of ASR for Donala at present; however, a main goal of this project is to similarly demonstrate the opportunity for regional collaboration through the sharing of existing infrastructure and resource pooling. This would not only address the need for storage but build a broader community around the possibility of shared resources rather than framing the water rights landscape as one of strict competition in El Paso County.

This project aims to advance the Colorado Water Plan goals by supporting the Vibrant Communities and Resilient Planning action areas through developing a strategically located storage project that meets multiple needs, optimizes investments in infrastructure and increases efficiency and conservation, while also providing flexible storage that is protected from wildfire. This project also supports the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan's targets concerning storage and municipal and industrial goals.

Funding Recommendation:

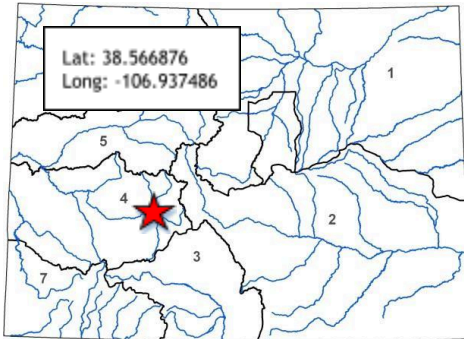
Staff recommends partial funding of \$290,000.00 to Donala Water and Sanitation District for the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Study. Colorado Water Conservation Board staff has worked with the applicant to refine their scope of work to focus on final design of the pilot facility and the permitting process. This effort has resulted in a reduced total project cost of \$580,000.00 that does not include estimated construction costs. This revised total will be reflected in contracting documents. Focusing on these specific design and engineering efforts will aid the applicant in preparing their refined construction plan, construction timeline and cost estimate and plan of operations.



Project 1: Raw Water and Infiltration Gallery Infrastructure Improvements City of Gunnison

March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Gunnison
Drainage Basin:	Gunnison

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$4,365,550.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$1,500,000.00
Recommended amount:	\$1,500,000.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$2,350,000.00
Applicant Match:	\$515,550.00
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Water Storage and Supply
Measurable Result:	Up to 3,360 AF new annual water supply developed, 6,695 Coloradans Impacte

The City of Gunnison is seeking Water Plan Grant funding for the construction of an infiltration gallery, three new groundwater wells and a surface water diversion structure on the Gunnison River for a new city water treatment plant. Project 1 encompasses the raw water components of the Water Treatment Plan project.

The City of Gunnison is upgrading to a central water treatment plant to address its growing needs and transition to a more flexible and resilient water system. The current system relies on a network of shallow wells that connect directly to the distribution system. These wells are vulnerable to contamination and could eventually be overdrawn. This project will allow the City to utilize their water rights for 15 CFS of water from the Gunnison River and expand the City's water supply capacity up to 3,360 AF.



To prepare for this large capital project, the City has:

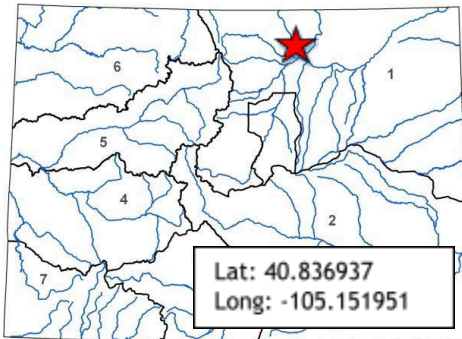
- Identified the risks through the Source Water Protection Plan.
- Identified the need through the updated 2021 Water Master Plan.
- Purchased the site where the plant will be located. The site protects the alluvial aquifer, provides access to the river, and limits development surrounding the town.
- Increased rates by 25% in the first year of a three-year phased 75% increase in preparation for the project.
- Hired a Design Engineer to design the new Water Treatment Plant.
- Identified diverse funding sources including State Revolving Funds funds and Department of Local Affairs grants to leverage City dollars.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$1,500,000.00 to the City of Gunnison for Project 1: Raw Water and Infiltration Gallery Infrastructure Improvements.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Larimer
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$10,963,741.96
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$2,960,210.33
Recommended amount:	\$1,750,000.00
Other CWCB Funding (loan):	\$6,554,800.00
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$1,458,731.63
Project Type:	Construction/Implementation
Project Category:	Water Storage & Supply
Measurable Result:	3,010 acre-feet new storage created; 7,605 existing storage preserved or enhanced;

North Poudre Irrigation Company (NPIC) owns and operates Park Creek Reservoir as an irrigation water storage reservoir for the benefit of the shareholders. The reservoir is northwest of Wellington, Colorado and has a storage of 7,605 acre-feet. NPIC is requesting funding for the Park Creek Reservoir dam rehabilitation and expansion. Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support construction of a dam crest wall, concrete spillway structure, monitoring instrumentation, gate house modification, downstream chimney filter/drain, toe drain, and stability berm.

The proposed Park Creek Reservoir and dam rehabilitation and expansion will raise the normal water storage level ten feet, providing approximately 3,010 acre-feet (af) of additional water storage for a total of 10,615 af. Increased storage at Park Creek Reservoir provides several advantages including improved water management for agricultural use and increased water storage capacity when water is physically available. Construction designs are completed. The Park Creek Reservoir expansion is economically feasible with a cost per acre foot of \$4,050.

This project exemplifies broad-based involvement and commitment to collaboration through partnering with and support from North Poudre Irrigation Company shareholders, Larimer County Underground Water Users Association, the Town of Wellington, and Five Rivers Cattle Feeding.

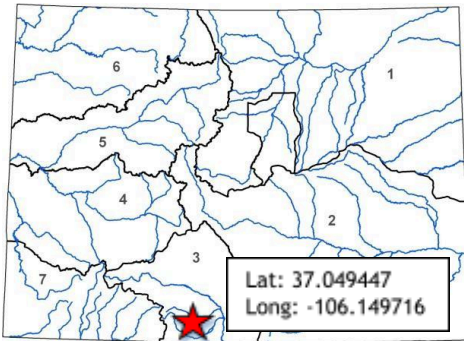
Match funding will be secured through NPIC and the CWCB Water Project Loan Program.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends partial funding of \$1,750,000.00 to the North Poudre Irrigation Company for the Park Creek Reservoir Expansion project. The review committee recommended partial funding of \$1,750,000.00 for this project because NPIC's Water Plan Grant request was too large for the available Water Plan Grant funds in a highly competitive application cycle.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Conejos
Drainage Basin:	Rio Grande

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$988,442
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$494,221
Recommended amount:	\$494,221
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$494,221
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type:	Construction & Implementation
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	5,100 feet of stream restored; 7 acres of habitat restored; 25 water users and 400 irrigated acres supported through irrigation infrastructure restoration

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support Phase II of the Conejos River Restoration Project, which aims to improve streambank stability, floodplain connectivity, irrigation water delivery, and fish and wildlife habitat along 3.8 miles of the Conejos River west of Antonito. The reach provides habitat for Southwest Willow Flycatcher (federally endangered), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (federally threatened), and beaver. Instream habitat will also be improved for wild Brown Trout.

Phase I planning and engineering is now complete and was funded in part by a December 2022 Water Plan Grant. Phase II launches the first round of implementation of about half of the restoration opportunities designed by Southwest River Engineering. In Phase II, the partners will rehabilitate the La Vega diversion, one of the two main irrigation diversion structures within the reach. CWCB dollars will go towards streambank stabilization (which includes riparian habitat restoration and floodplain reconnection), channel morphology reconstruction (to achieve resilient channel dimensions and maintain key habitat components), backwater and wetland restoration, and irrigation infrastructure replacement.



This project exemplifies broad based involvement, with private landowners committing \$34,704 toward its completion. Other funding partners include the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Wetlands Program, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, Colorado State Land Board, Conejos Water Conservancy District, American Rivers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies.

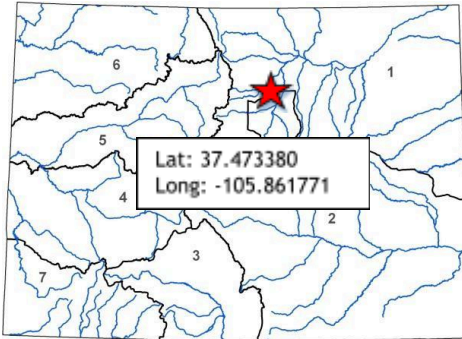
This project aligns with Colorado Water Plan Partner Actions for Thriving Watersheds and Robust Agriculture, has the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable's support, and advances work identified in the Conejos River Stream Management Plan.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$494,221 to the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation for Phase II of the Conejos River Restoration Project.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Boulder
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$1,600,000.60
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$1,000,000.00
Recommended amount:	\$1,000,000.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$600,000.60
Project Type:	Design & Engineering
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	36,600 LF of Stream Restored

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will build upon previous phases of this project to support final design and permitting for multiple in-stream diversion structures in South Boulder Creek, below Gross Reservoir, in Boulder, Colorado.

To build on South Boulder Creek Watershed Restoration Phase II accomplishments, Phase III will progress two structures through the permitting process required for construction; progress three structures from concept (one structure) and preliminary design (two structures) to construction ready designs and permitting; and advance bypass and measurement modifications at two structures. This project will also broaden stakeholder communications and education to gain project support from the local community.

The improvement of the diversion structures included in this project was recommended in the South Boulder Creek Stream Management Plan in September 2022. The primary goal of the improvements is to support the operation of an environmental pool created as part of the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project. The improvements will also reconnect up to seven miles of Boulder Creek, improve habitat, and improve ditch operations. Project partners include: City of Boulder, City of Lafayette, Denver Water, City of Louisville, Boulder County, and the five targeted diversion structures comprising 13 ditch company owners/users.

By supporting streamflow enhancement, improving fish passage and habitat, and protecting stream and lake levels for environmental needs, this project supports the Thriving Watersheds and numerous partner actions identified in the Colorado Water Plan. Further, by focusing on progressing engineering designs and permitting for aquatic species passage and ditch automation, this project will progress multiple environmental, collaboration, and water resource goals of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan.

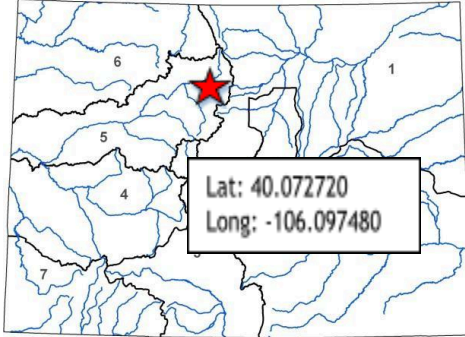
Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$1,000,000.00 to Colorado Trout Unlimited for South Boulder Creek-Watershed Restoration PH III.



Implementation of Grand County's Stream Management Plan Learning By Doing, Inc March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Grand
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$214,150.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$145,350.00
Recommended amount:	\$145,350.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$40,000.00
Applicant Match:	\$28,800.00
Project Type:	Capacity Building
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	Develop 3 stream restoration projects, manage coordinated water operations, updated Grand County SMP

Grand County Learning By Doing (LBD) is requesting Water Plan Grant funding to retain one or more consultants to provide professional coordination and operations assistance for the next three years to implement the Grand County Stream Management Plan.

Grand County Learning By Doing is a collaborative effort of local, state, federal, and nonprofit water stakeholders with the mission to preserve and improve the aquatic environment at the headwaters of the Colorado River in the face of transmountain diversions, drought, and climate change. LBD is a partnership of East and West Slope water stakeholders restoring and protecting ecological processes in the collaborative effort area, which includes the Fraser, Williams Fork, and Colorado River basins to the confluence with the Blue River in Grand County.

LBD will implement the Stream Management Plan (SMP) in the collaborative effort area by: Collecting data necessary to evaluate the health of the aquatic environment, including stream temperature, sediment transport, macroinvertebrate surveys, fish surveys; Using the data collected to develop in-depth assessments of aquatic habitat health and identify the sources of any detected declines; Conducting weekly operation calls (mid-April to September) with operators of major water diversions and reservoirs to coordinate operations of their systems to minimize impacts to aquatic life within the cooperative effort area; Implementing projects to improve stream health and aquatic habitat; Public communications regarding stream and aquatic habitat conditions and LBD activities; Maintaining the updated Grand County Stream Management Plan.

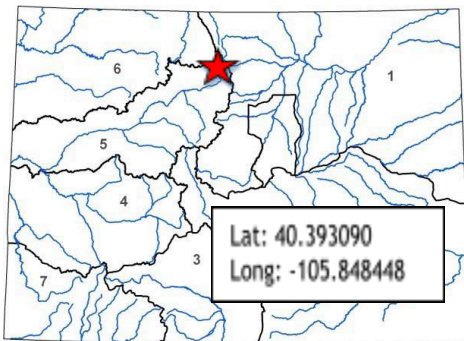
LBD accomplishes its work through a contracted Executive Director and Management Committee that includes representatives of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado River Water Conservation District, Denver Water, Grand County, Middle Park Water Conservancy District, Northern Colorado Water Conservation District, and Trout Unlimited.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$145,350.00 to Grand County Learning By Doing for the Implementation of Grand County's Stream Management Plan.



Water Plan Grant Program Application

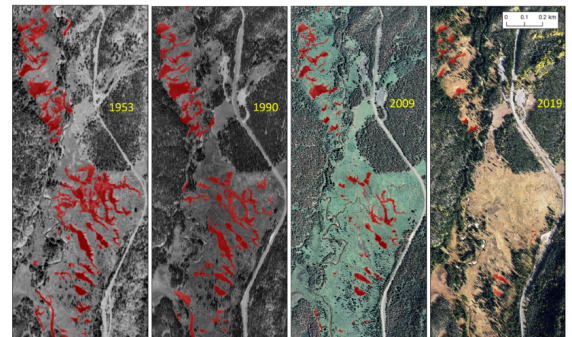


LOCATION	
County:	Grand
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$591,889.83
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$441,712.39
Recommended amount:	\$150,177.44
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$87,137.44
Applicant Match:	\$63,040.00
Project Type:	Monitoring
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	12,000 ft stream restored, 206 acres restored

Northern Water is requesting Water Plan Grant funding to monitor restoration projects at up to four project sites in the Kawuneeche Valley in Grand County on the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park. Northern Water is part of the Kawuneeche Valley Restoration Collaborative (KVRC).

The KVRC formed in early 2020 to facilitate an effective approach to restoration in the Kawuneeche Valley, pictured to the right showing habitat degradation over the last 70 years. The KVRC organizations share the goal of a healthy and resilient watershed, occupied by a mix of public and private landowners, which serves diverse ecological, recreational, and economic interests. The benefits of KVRC restoration efforts include improving water quality; accommodating healthier aquatic life and habitat surrounding the river; creating natural wildfire resistant areas; overbank flooding; strengthening the valley's overall resiliency to climate change and enhancing aesthetics and recreational value.



KVRC identified four potential sites suitable for ecosystem restoration based on the sites' degraded ecological status, and the likely success and cost-effectiveness of restoration activities. These sites include Beaver, Baker, Bowen, and Onahu Creeks, located within Rocky Mountain National Park. KVRC will continue to assess areas within the valley for restoration feasibility, working with public and private landowners. Baseline data will be used to design future restoration and will be the basis for understanding whether the restoration was effective in meeting project objectives. Post-restoration data will be compared to baseline to determine if additional restoration or adaptive management actions are needed.

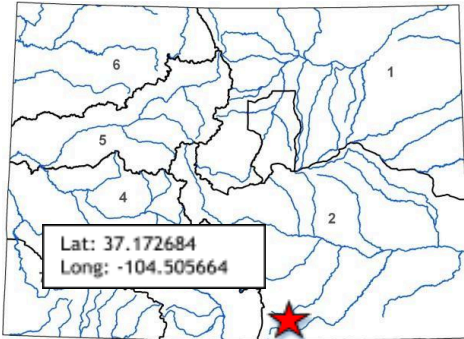
The collaborative initiated the pilot restoration project along Beaver Creek in Fall 2023. This funding supports the initial project planning tasks of assessing current conditions and identification of restoration opportunities. Project design, compliance, and implementation for Upper Baker, Lower Baker, and Onahu Creeks will follow.

Funding Recommendation:

Monitoring project results related to project implementation is considered part of project implementation and requires a 50:50 match. Staff recommends funding of \$150,177.44 to Northern Water for Kawuneeche Valley Restoration Collaborative (KVRC) Project Monitoring.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Las Animas
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$4,051,382.50
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$1,398,567.00
Recommended amount:	\$1,390,000.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$65,662.00
Other Funding Amount:	\$2,422,378.50
Applicant Match:	\$164,775.00
Project Type:	Design & Construction
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	8 acres restored, 1,900 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support final design, construction, and associated outreach and education efforts for fish and boat passage at the Baca-Picketwire diversion dam, located in Trinidad, Colorado.

The Purgatoire River Fish & Boat Passage Project is a collaborative project addressing multiple water user needs through installing fish passage and boater passage into the Baca-Picketwire diversion dam on the Purgatoire River. This low head diversion dam serves as important agricultural infrastructure for local farmers and ranchers, but is also located at the center of community river recreation activities in downtown Trinidad. For many years, this dam has blocked fish access to critical upstream aquatic habitat important for fish population survival in the face of drought and fluctuating river flows.

This project will restore ecological aquatic connectivity, enhance fish population survival and resilience, improve recreational boater experience and safety, address sediment issues, and enhance overall river recreation opportunities in downtown Trinidad for community members and visitors - all while ensuring agricultural water rights and infrastructure operations are maintained.

This project serves as Phase 2 of the Baca-Picketwire Diversion Dam Multi-Use Restoration Project. The applicant received \$696,077.00 in September 2021 in Water Plan Grant funding to support the first phase of this project. The remaining \$65,662.00 of that 2021 grant is being used as match for this application. The applicant has also received Water Supply Reserve Fund support for the Concrete Lining of the Baca-Picketwire Ditch for \$497,134.00, approved in July 2023.

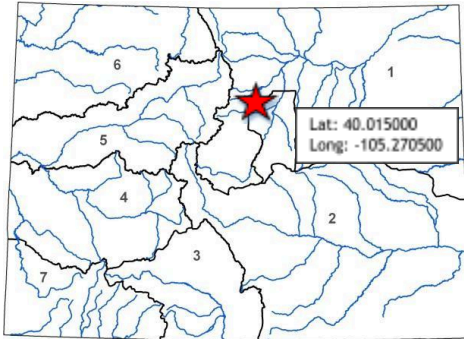
By supporting fish passage, improving boater safety, providing educational opportunities and supporting agricultural and municipal uses, this project directly addresses the four interconnected action areas of the Colorado Water Plan - vibrant communities, robust agriculture, thriving watersheds, and resilient planning. Initially identified on the Arkansas River Basin's IPP, this project supports the municipal, agricultural, environmental and recreational goals of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan.

The Purgatoire River Fish and Boat Passage project will be completed in collaboration between local ditch companies, the Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, and the Purgatoire River Run Company.

Funding Recommendation:

Based on available funding, staff recommends partial funding of \$1,390,000.00 to the Purgatoire Watershed Partnership for the Purgatoire River Fish & Boat Passage Project.

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Statewide
Drainage Basin:	Statewide

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$328,509.50
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$246,382.13
Recommended amount:	\$246,382.13
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding (Walton FF):	\$41,063.69
Applicant Match (In-Kind):	\$41,063.68
Project Type:	Capacity Building
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	100 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

River Network aims to increase the number of watershed plans in Colorado and related project implementation by providing training, resources, leadership, and in some cases, on-the-ground capacity for local watershed planning efforts.

Since 2017, River Network's efforts have aligned closely with CWCB on its Colorado Water Plan Agency Action to "create a framework for prioritizing stream health with local stakeholders" by giving them tools to foster project planning and implementation. River Network has also penned several recent CWCB-funded reports on watershed planning efforts, the most recent of which identified opportunities to scale up Colorado's multi-benefit projects to leverage available state and federal funding resources.

With this additional funding, River Network will act on the report findings by offering statewide peer learning opportunities; creating a watershed planning roadmap; strengthening regionally-based networks of watershed groups and partners through coordination, mentoring, training, and information sharing; and providing leadership among NGO and funding partners to work together to scale up capacity for multi-benefit project implementation.

For their pilot in direct assistance, River Network will also supply the fledgling Animas River watershed planning group with capacity, resources, technical planning, project implementation assistance, and coordination.

This project exemplifies broad-based involvement through its statewide Peer Learning Network, which includes more than 160 river health leaders representing all nine of Colorado's major river basins.

Funding Recommendation:

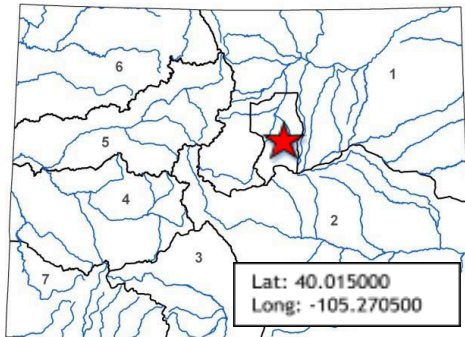
Staff recommends full funding of \$246,382.13 to the River Network for Capacity & Tech Assistance for Watershed Groups.



West Plum Creek Stream Management Plan Phase II River Network

March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Douglas
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$213,028.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$159,771.00
Recommended amount:	\$159,771.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$53,257.00
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	100 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

River Network is requesting funding to complete the West Plum Creek Stream Management Plan (SMP). Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support land and water user engagement, completion of the SMP, and project coordination.

River Network, alongside partners including Colorado Parks and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Douglas County's Division of Open Space and Natural Resources, Chatfield Watershed Authority, and others, embarked on an SMP in 2021 to assess native fish habitat, improve water quality, and better understand hydrology and opportunities for water management with the water users. A Water Plan grant funded Phase I of the West Plum Creek SMP. Phase I focused on stream condition assessment and characterization, development of objectives to reduce risk to native fish populations, identification of priority projects for fish passage, and landowner engagement.

Phase II will build on the Phase I effort to further develop and complete the SMP that identifies and prioritizes projects to address threats to the persistence of state-listed species in the watershed. Of primary importance is documenting, identifying, and prioritizing potential projects on private lands and developing designs for a handful of demonstration projects. Phase II will identify and prioritize opportunities in water management, water quality, and river/riparian restoration alongside landowners and water users. River Network anticipates submitting a subsequent Water Plan Grant application to fund a third phase that will include design and construction of demonstration projects.

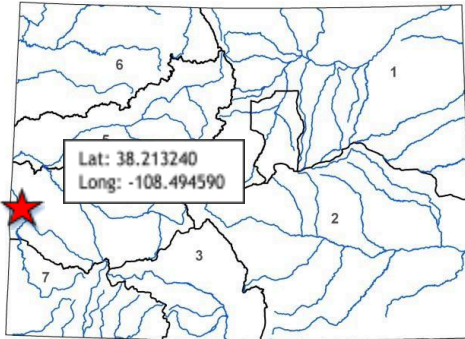
Match funding will be secured through Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Chatfield Watershed Authority, Douglas County, and Douglas County Conservation District.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$159,771.00 to River Network for the West Plum Creek Stream Management Plan Phase II project.



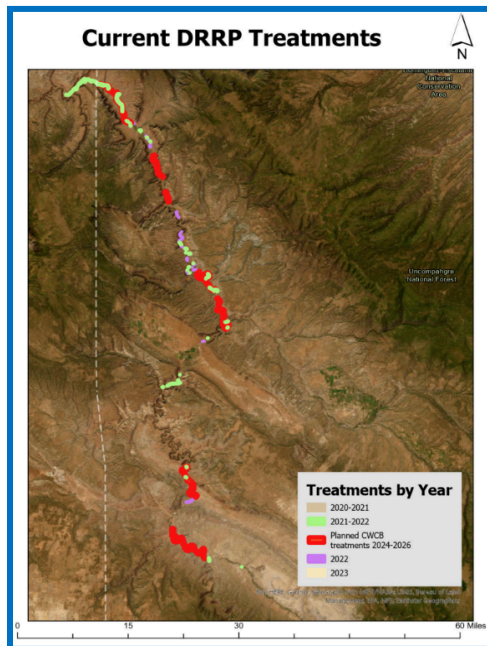
Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Montrose/San Miguel Dolores/Mesa
Drainage Basin:	Southwest

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$674,278.20
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$336,758.40
Recommended amount:	\$336,758.40
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$336,519.80
Applicant Match:	\$1,000
Project Type:	Implementation
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	26,400 feet of stream restored; 83 acres of restored habitat; 60 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support the Dolores River Restoration Partnership's (DRRP) efforts to improve five non-contiguous miles of riparian corridor on the Dolores River. Most of the work consists of invasive tamarisk removal, the growth of which displaces native plant communities, impairs fish and wildlife habitat, negatively impacts wetlands, contributes to river channelization, impedes recreational access, and increases wildfire risk.



As the map shows, restoration work will take place from McPhee Reservoir to the Utah border. Restoration activities will include removing remaining tamarisk infestations, along with treating tamarisk re-sprouts, managing secondary weeds, restoring and protecting native vegetation to ensure the success of DRRP's past tamarisk removal efforts. DRRP will monitor treatment success through avian surveys, train youth in natural resource management, and engage volunteers in stewardship activities.

RiversEdge West has secured cash and in-kind commitments from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Western Colorado Conservation Corps, Southwest Conservation Corps, and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado. This project advances Colorado Water Plan goals by enhancing habitat and expanding river-based recreation. The Southwest Basin Roundtable also supports this effort, which furthers implementation of the 2010 Dolores River Riparian Action Plan.

Co-coordinated by RiversEdge West and Conservation Legacy's Southwest Conservation Corps since 2009, the

DRRP has engaged a diverse set of stakeholders including federal agencies, county representatives, nonprofit organizations, private landowners, and community volunteers in their efforts.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$336,758.40 to RiversEdge West for Dolores River Riparian Habitat Restoration.



March 2024 Board Meeting

Lat: 40.486875
Long: -106.833641

LOCATION	
<i>Counties:</i>	Routt; Moffat
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	Yampa

DETAILS	
<i>Total Project Cost:</i>	\$976,099.00
<i>Water Plan Grant Request:</i>	\$576,570.00
<i>Recommended amount:</i>	\$576,570.00
<i>Other CWCB Funding:</i>	\$0
<i>Other Funding Amount:</i>	\$116,500.00
<i>Applicant Match:</i>	\$283,029.00
<i>Project Category:</i>	Watershed Health & Recreation
<i>Project Type:</i>	Planning
<i>Measurable Result:</i>	151,000 LF stream restored, 750 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

[illegible]

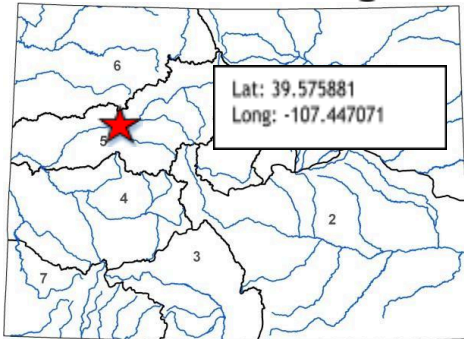
Based on data collected by the YRSP, YStew and the Collaborative will develop desired future conditions (DFCs) for that segment of river, assess current conditions as compared to those DFCs, develop strategies and best management practices to achieve those DFCs, design and distribute guidance materials, and host trainings for practitioners and landowners on how to implement those strategies. Strategies may include invasive species management, riparian planting, floodplain restoration, grazing management, and more. Pairing YRSP results with YStew strategically identifies and prioritizes projects to improve river health and to build capacity in landowners and practitioners to implement those projects.

Water Plan Grant Program - Data Sheet



**Middle Colorado AG Collaborative Phase 3:
Canyon Creek
Colorado Trout Unlimited**
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



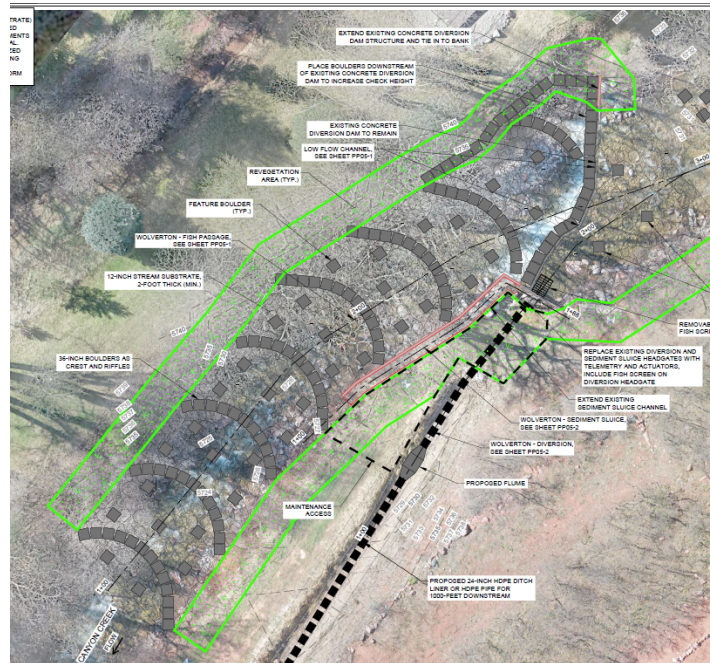
LOCATION	
County:	Garfield
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$711,520.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$287,500.00
Recommended amount:	\$287,500.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$424,020.00
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	1.5 mi of stream opened for fish spawning and rearing, 45 irrigators improved diversion infrastructure

Colorado Trout Unlimited seeks Water Plan Grant funding to complete Phase 3: Construction of the Middle Colorado AG Collaborative project at Canyon Creek on the J-Wolverton ditch (partial design pictured below). This project will open 1.5 miles of river corridor above the 2021 Canyon Creek Fish Passage project to spawning fish from the Colorado River mainstem by retrofitting an existing diversion with a rock ramp (fish passage) and reconstructing the headgate/sluiceway system.

The Middle Colorado Watershed Council completed an Integrated Water Management Plan for the Middle Colorado River which identified 25 different irrigation diversions that are fish barriers in the basin. The goal of the Middle Colorado AG Collaborative is to continue addressing these identified barriers by opening Elk and Canyon Creeks to spawning and migrating fish from the Colorado River while supporting agricultural use on five diversions in the Elk Creek and Canyon Creek basins. Colorado Trout Unlimited works with agricultural water diverters to make their diversion structures fish friendly.

The Middle Colorado AG Collaboration project Phases 1 and 2 (Planning and Design) were supported by CWCB grants. Phase 1 (\$20,000) funded landowner outreach, concept plans and partner agreements for the five projects. Phase 2 (\$375,000) funded engineering designs and permitting for the five projects.



Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends Board approval of \$287,500.00 to **Colorado Trout Unlimited** for the Middle Colorado AG Collaborative Phase 3: Canyon Creek project.

**Applicant change to Colorado Trout Unlimited from National Trout Unlimited.*