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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM: CA4a-CA4w Water Plan Grants

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends Board action on 9 water plan grant applications between $50,000 and $100,000 and 14 applications not recommended for funding 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 consent agenda item recommends approval of 9 applications between $50,000 and $100,000 for a total recommended amount of $0.6M. It also recommends no funding for 14 applications. These are summarized in Table 1. See attached Data Sheets for additional project details.

Table 1: Award Recommendations between $50,000 and $100,000; and no award recommendations

Category	Number of Applications	Recommended
Agriculture	4	$ 122,279.80
Conservation & Land Use	3	$ 60,000.00
Engagement & Innovation	7	$ 83,026.00
Water Storage & Supply	3	$ 67,236.73
Watershed Health & Recreation	6	$ 272,081.96
Total	23	$ 604,624.49

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
CA4a	Colorado State University	Development of a Market for a Drought Tolerant Fresh Vegetable	$69,673.00	$69,673.00	$92,935.00	25.0%	Colorado; Gunnison
CA4b	Farmers Independent Ditch Company	Farmers Independent Ditch Lining Project Feasibility Study	$37,000.00	$0.00	$49,350.00	25.0%	South Platte
CA4c	Rio Grande Conservation District	Student-Led San Luis Valley Drought Resiliency Crop Trials	$52,606.80	$52,606.80	$118,509.60	55.6%	Rio Grande
CA4d	Thompson Glen Ditch	Thompson Glen Ditch Improvement Project	$64,472.00	$0.00	$128,944.00	50.0%	Colorado
				$122,279.80			

Conservation & Land Use

	Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
CA4e	Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes Association	Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes Association Water Meter Installation	$235,271.00	$0.00	$470,542.00	50.0%	Colorado
CA4f	Colorado Springs Utilities	Landscape Industry Education Plan for Water Conservation	$60,000.00	$60,000.00	$80,000.00	25.0%	Arkansas
CA4g	Deutsch Domestic Water Company, Inc	DDWC Conservation Measures & Renewable Energy Improvements	$550,000.00	$0.00	$1,200,000.00	54.2%	Gunnison
				$60,000.00			

Engagement & Innovation

	Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
CA4h	Blue Elements	AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards	$413,970.00	$0.00	$815,670.00	49.2%	Statewide
CA4i	Conservation Investment Germinator	Habitat Replacement Bank for the Colorado River Salinity Control Program	$83,026.00	$83,026.00	$125,026.00	33.6%	Gunnison
CA4j	Drylands Agroecology Research	Agroecology Incubator Program	$70,000.00	$0.00	$296,000.00	76.4%	South Platte
CA4k	Environmental Learning for Kids	ELK Outdoor and Water Education Programs	$100,000.00	$0.00	$140,000.00	28.6%	Colorado; South Platte; Gunnison
CA4l	Grand County Water Information Network	Upper Colorado River Interactive Data Platform	$82,348.00	$0.00	$109,800.00	25.0%	Colorado
CA4m	Roaring Fork Conservancy	Impact Reporting on Roaring Fork Conservancy's Policy and Science Projects	$118,932.00	$0.00	$158,576.00	25.0%	Colorado
CA4n	South Metro Water Supply Authority	XBAT Pilot Study	$800,000.00	$0.00	$1,561,000.00	48.8%	Metro
				$83,026.00			

Water Storage & Supply

	Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
CA4o	Colorado Springs Utilities	El Paso County Regional Indirect Potable Reuse Project	$250,000.00	$0.00	$350,000.00	28.6%	Arkansas
CA4p	Dixon Canyon Ditch and Reservoir Company	Irrigation Supply Improvements Project	$74,943.00	$0.00	$149,886.00	50.0%	South Platte
CA4q	Julesburg Irrigation District	Julesburg Reservoir Enlargement Feasibility Study	$67,237.00	$67,236.73	$89,649.00	25.0%	South Platte
				$67,236.73			

Watershed Health & Recreation

	Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
CA4r	Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited	South Arkansas River Restoration Concept Design	$62,709.00	$62,709.00	$83,611.00	25.0%	Arkansas
CA4s	Colorado Open Lands	Chaffee County Wetland Restoration Project Development	$65,785.00	$65,785.00	$132,285.00	50.3%	Arkansas
CA4t	Groundwork Denver	Riparian Restoration and Monitoring in Lower Bear Creek	$93,587.96	$93,587.96	$194,300.44	51.8%	South Platte; Colorado
CA4u	Mile High Flood District	South Platte River at Reynolds Landing	$500,000.00	$0.00	$14,500,000.00	96.6%	South Platte
CA4v	Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District	Poudre Watershed Source Water Protection Planning	$50,000.00	$50,000.00	$150,000.00	66.7%	South Platte
CA4w	Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Charitable Trust	Yampa River Post-Construction Monitoring Pilot Study	$199,904.00	$0.00	$249,918.00	20.0%	Yampa/White/Green
				$272,081.96			

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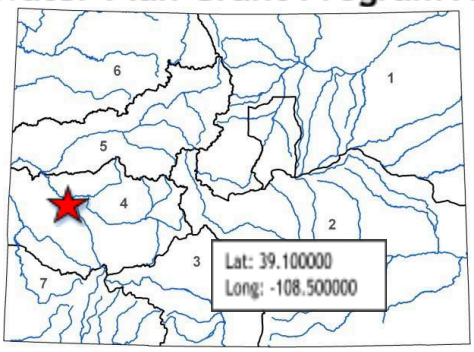
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Development of a Market for a Drought Tolerant Fresh Vegetable
Colorado State University

March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Delta/Mesa/Montrose
Drainage Basin:	Colorado/Gunnison

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$92,935.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$69,673.00
Recommended amount:	**$69,673.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$23,262.000
Project Type:	Study
Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result: 1 study on alternative crop performance in Colorado and 500 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities	

Colorado State University and the Western Colorado Research Center are requesting Water Plan Grant funding for a study to determine consumptive water use savings and consumer taste preference for varieties of Southern Sweet Pea. Southern Sweet Pea will be grown at the Western Colorado Research Center's Grand Valley location and taste preference studies will be conducted at CSU SPUR campus and two western Colorado farmers markets.

Researchers at CSU have completed several field studies of the viability of Southern Sweet Pea (or cowpea) in Colorado. The consumptive water use results will be compared to other common crops in the area including sweet corn, alfalfa, wheat, orchard grass, and field corn. To provide science-based evidence of water savings the study will determine field moisture content at planting and end of season, measure in-season water inputs of irrigation and rainfall, and model the movement of field water back into groundwater. This will demonstrate the potential use of cowpea as an augmentation or alternative to other crops.

A market development plan will facilitate producer adoption of cowpea in the state. The study will include both a field study and consumer sensory studies with cowpea products. Consumer preferences will be surveyed at Farmer's markets in Montrose and Mesa Counties. A detailed sensory study will be completed at CSU Spur's Sensory Evaluation Lab in Denver, CO. Consumer preference will be tested using Central Location Tests (CLT). These tests provide meaningful data on consumer demographics and behaviors, as well as the acceptability of new products in a semi-controlled environment. Conducting two independent CLTs with consumers based in different areas of the State of Colorado will enable a stronger understanding of consumer perceptions of the sensory quality of cowpeas. The Colorado State University SPUR Campus, a recently developed, state-of-the-art campus with a dedicated Food Innovation Center and Sensory Evaluation Lab that supports regional food businesses and researchers, is collaborating on the consumer preference tests and analyzing and reporting results.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $69,673.00 to Colorado State University for Development of a Market for a Drought Tolerant Fresh Vegetable.

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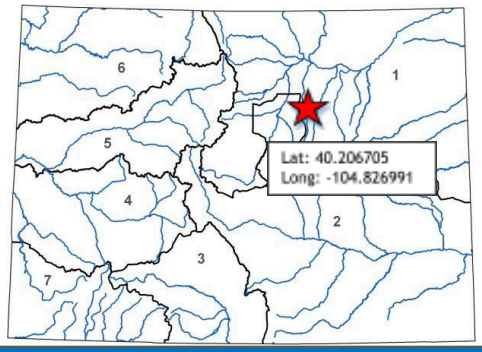
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Ditch Lining Project Feasibility Study
Farmers Independent Ditch Company
March 2024 Board Meeting

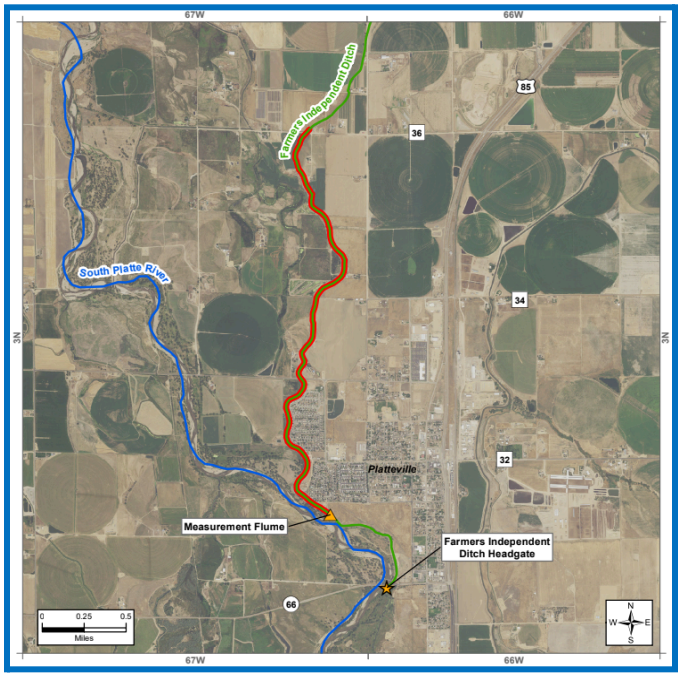
Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Weld
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$49,350
Water Plan Grant Request:	$37,000
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$12,350
Project Type:	Design & Engineering
Project Category:	Agricultural Projects
Measurable Result:	Estimated 1,800 AF/year of water efficiency savings

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding is requested to conduct a feasibility study to explore options for lining three miles of the Farmers Independent Ditch that flows north from Platteville. The Farmers Independent Ditch Company has 50 shareholders that irrigate 7,000 acres of corn, alfalfa, sugar beets, and vegetables.



Shareholders anticipate that a ditch lining project would increase the volume of diverted water that is delivered to end users by reducing losses through a leaky, sandy section of the ditch. Seepage losses in this three-mile reach are estimated at 10 percent and current available water does not meet user demands.

The feasibility study would include technical data concerning ditch channel characteristics, options for constructing the lining of ditch, cross-sectional profiles at four locations on the Farmers Independent Ditch within the study reach, a summary of soil and geologic conditions below the Farmers Independent Ditch within the study reach, and a summary of measured and calculated flow conditions at several ditch locations.

The Farmers Independent Ditch Company would provide in-kind and cash match to complete the study. Should the study identify a feasible and beneficial ditch lining option along the three-mile reach, stockholders are prepared to contribute to construction costs.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to the Farmers Independent Ditch Company for the Farmers Independent Ditch Lining Project Feasibility Study. The project did not score competitively against other applications in the category. The project did not demonstrate an innovative and/or scalable solution, collaborative involvement beyond the ditch users, or multiple benefits.

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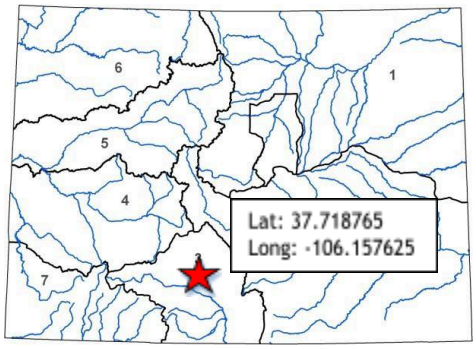
Student-Led SLV Drought Resiliency Crop Trials
Rio Grande Conservation District
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Saguache
Drainage Basin:	Rio Grande

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$118,509.60
Water Plan Grant Request:	$52,606.80
Recommended amount:	**$52,606.80**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding (Adams State):	$62,412.80
Applicant Match:	$3,490.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Agricultural
Measurable Result:	125 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

This Colorado Water Plan Grant will fund a research partnership between the Rio Grande Conservation District, Center Conservation District, Adams State University faculty and students, and the Colorado State University San Luis Valley Research Center. They will collaborate on drought resilience crop trials to determine potential agricultural water management plans to reduce water use without sacrificing soil health and profitability.

The Rio Grande River basin faces variable snowpack, a depleted aquifer, and economic impacts from a reduction in irrigated acres. This project furthers the Colorado Water Plan Partner Action for Robust Agriculture by exploring lower water use cropping while maintaining economic output.

Adams State University students, with guidance from faculty, will design and implement drought trials for three years to find sustainable avenues for reducing total field water usage. They will experiment with a cover crop, a drought-resilient test crop, and a traditional cash crop. Students will track data such as water usage, weather, soil health, crop quality, and yield to determine the effectiveness of the drought resiliency trial and explain its relevance for local water concerns and agricultural production.

Finally, the students will present their findings to the Rio Grande and Center Conservation Districts, the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, and local producers at a student-hosted workshop. After the workshop, producers will be asked to participate in a survey to gauge their interest in implementing student recommendations and solicit suggestions for future research.

Match funding comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's NextGen grant awarded to Adams State University, along with in-kind support from the Rio Grande Conservation District. CWCB grant funds will be used for seed, rental equipment, irrigation, and support RGCD staff time on the project.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $52,606.80 to the Rio Grande Conservation District for the Student-Led San Luis Valley Drought Resiliency Crop Trials.

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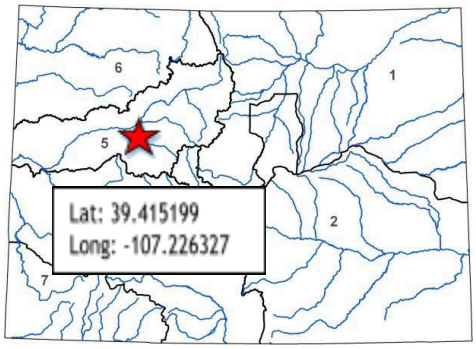
Thompson Glen Ditch Improvement Project
Thompson Glen Ditch Company
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Garfield
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$128,944.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$64,472.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$64,472.00
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	500 ac-ft/yr efficiency savings, 1,250 irrigated acres preserved

Thompson Glen Ditch Company is requesting Water Plan Grant funding to replace an existing 400-foot steel culvert with 400 feet of High-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. Currently, an outlet pipe drains stormwater around the culvert, causing the ground to heave and push part of the culvert upwards. This project will remove the steel culvert and replace it with material (HDPE) that can tolerate shifts with the soil and not break or heave. A new outlet pipe will also be installed so that the current outflow will not impact the new culvert.

The Thompson Glen Ditch participated in the Middle Colorado Conservation District's ditch inventory which investigated the issues affecting ditches in the area and provided assessments that can be used by individual ditch companies to apply for funding. According to the ditch inventory completed by the Middle Colorado Stream Management Plan, this ditch irrigated approximately 1,250 acres of grass pasture. The ditch inventory identified significant transit losses (50%) throughout the ditch system and suggested that portions of the ditch would benefit from being piped and lined, including sections where pipe has failed. This project will reduce losses, improve efficiency, and allow the ditch company to deliver water to all users again.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to the Thompson Glen Ditch Company for the Thompson Glen Ditch Improvement Project. The project did not score competitively against other applications in the category. The applicant did not demonstrate an innovative and/or scalable solution, collaborative involvement beyond the ditch users, or multiple benefits.

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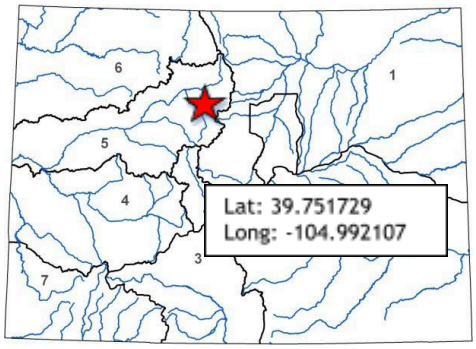
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

BVRLA Water Meter Installation
Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes Association
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Summit
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$470,542.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$235,271.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$235,271.00
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	115 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes Association (BRVRLA) is requesting Water Plan Grant funding for installation of 46 water service line meter pits, water meters, and curb stops. Blue River Valley Ranch Lakes' community water system does not currently have individual service line meters.

The community water system was originally installed in 1962 and designed for 46 small cabins with temporary seasonal in-home water usage. The subdivision is now 60% full time residential occupancy. Based on a recent sanitary survey, the water system has not been updated to accommodate the new makeup of the neighborhood or to meet the current drinking water system regulations. An engineering assessment identified potential system upgrades including: adequate treated water storage, increases in emergency water supply, improvements to the existing antiquated well facility, and improvements to the distribution system, including new fire hydrants.

BRVRLA is working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to secure a Drinking Water Revolving Fund loan to upgrade their water system.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to the Blue River Valley Ranch Lake Association for the Blue River Valley Lakes Association Water Meter Installation Project. The project does not competitively meet the Water Plan Grant Program's priorities of multiple benefits, multiple purposes, and multiple stakeholders. The project also does not competitively meet the Conservation and Land Use category's priorities of reducing overall future water needs.

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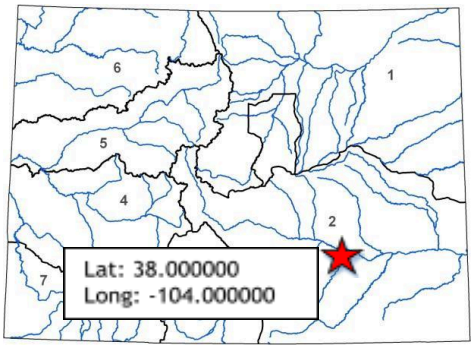
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Landscape Industry Education Plan for Water Conservation
Colorado Springs Utilities
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Counties:	El Paso
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$80,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$60,000.00
Recommended amount:	**$60,000.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$20,000.00
Project Type:	Capacity Building
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	100 stakeholders impacted

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will be used to assemble stakeholders to identify shared objectives for a landscape industry education program for water conservation practices that can be implemented in urban areas. Project funds will be used for stakeholder outreach and engagement, identification of resources and needs, creating a statement of work and sharing results.

This project is intended to lay the foundation for a landscape education program across the state. This will be accomplished through assembling cross-professional stakeholders from throughout the state to identify common objectives for water conservation in urban landscapes. This effort will include developing smaller, subject matter expert project teams to identify the skills and knowledge needed in the landscape industry for landscape design, installation, renovation, and maintenance techniques that ensure measurable water savings.

From this initial outreach and education effort, the applicant will create a statement of work to develop a curriculum that will build the skills and knowledge needed for an effective landscape industry education program focused on water conservation. The support and execution of this subsequent educational program is planned as a follow-on water plan grant effort. Finally, the applicant intends to share the results of this planning effort with engaged stakeholders, potential patterns and interested organizations at statewide conferences and an in-person workshop.

This project aims to identify a holistic approach to landscape water management, including landscape design, installation, renovation, and maintenance techniques that ensure measurable water savings. Further, this educational program will support the Vibrant Communities action category by identifying conservation and efficiency innovation in landscaping, planning for low-water-use landscapes, and ultimately developing a list of important skills and knowledge needed to holistically build and maintain urban landscapes.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $60,000.00 to Colorado Springs Utilities for their Colorado Landscape Industry Education Plan for Water Conservation project.

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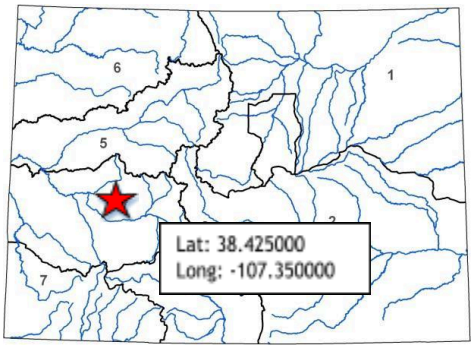
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

DDWC Conservation Measures & Renewable Energy Improvements Deutsch Domestic Water Company, Inc

March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Counties:	Delta
Drainage Basin:	Gunnison

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$1,200,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$550,000.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$550,000.00
Applicant Match:	$100,000.00
Project Type:	Design & Construction
Project Category:	Conservation and Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	525 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

The Deutsch Domestic Water Company (DDWC) is proposing a comprehensive water conservation project that builds off its current Storage Project to add 240,000 gal additional storage and reduces future water supply needs.

The Deutsch Domestic Water Company is a Special Purpose Water Carrier Company serving the rural area southeast of the Town of Crawford, in Delta and Montrose Counties, Colorado.

The proposed conservation measures for water savings are:

1. Piping Unlined Irrigation Channel (Young Ditch)
2. Integrating Irrigation Flow Measurement (Young Ditch)
3. Replacing-Upgrading Municipal Water Meters (AMI & SCADA)
4. Turf Replacement Incentive Program
5. Smart Irrigation Devices Incentive Program
6. High-Efficiency Indoor Appliances & Fixtures Incentive Program
7. Installing PV Solar to Reduce Energy Costs & Climate Change Impacts

DDWC has received a US Bureau of Reclamation Conservation Measures & Renewable Improvements grant for this project.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to the Deutsch Domestic Water Company, Inc. for the DDWC Conservation Measures and Renewable Energy Improvements Project. The application scope of work does not align with the Conservation and Land Use category requirements.

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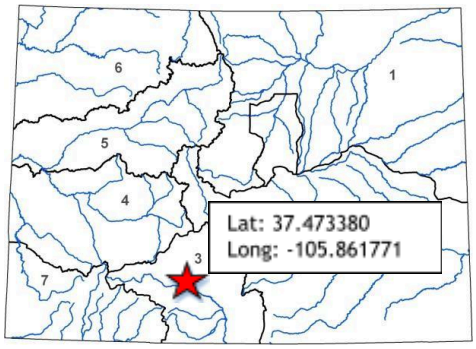
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Blue Elements

March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION
Counties: Fremont; Chaffee; Lake; Larimer; Gunnison
Drainage Basins: Arkansas; South Platte; Gunnison

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$815,670.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$413,970.00
Recommended amount:	**$0.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$401,700.00
Project Type:	Education
Project Category:	Education and Innovation
Measurable Result: 30 AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards recruited, trained and retained by the end of 2026.	

Blue Elements has requested Colorado Water Plan Grant funding to support the recruiting, training, and retention of at least 30 AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards by the end of 2026 across multiple Colorado basins. These AmeriCorps members would serve with water-focused organizations to provide additional, affordable capacity to local water projects. This Water Plan Grant would work in concert with a previously secured grant that Blue Elements received from Serve Colorado/AmeriCorps to implement the Watersheds Stewards Program (WSP) beginning in January of 2024 and running through 2026. The specific goals of WSP are: foster a skilled and diverse incoming water workforce, facilitate inclusive community water education and engagement opportunities, and monitor water quality for PFAS and other contaminants.

Though the goals of the Watershed Stewards Program will benefit numerous stakeholders and project areas across the State, staffing the program can be particularly difficult because of the low wages provided for Americorps members. This staffing challenge is exacerbated in the mountain communities due to high costs of living. The funding request included in this application seeks to bridge the gap for recruiting, training and retaining Americorps members in these particularly costly communities.

This application supports the Watersheds Stewards Program which supports Colorado Water Plan Partner Actions by empowering residents to participate in citizen science and community stewardship events, and engage with local watershed groups, thereby fostering collaboration across sectors and communities. The WSP supports goals outlined in the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan, including environment and recreation objectives around maintaining or improving habitat, watershed health goals around water quality, and supports the roundtable's Public Education, Participation, and Outreach mission to "inform, engage, and educate citizens about local water resources." Through its various components, WSP provides opportunities for individuals to explore water career paths and will provide opportunities for community members to actively participate in educational programs, aligning with the overarching goal of enhancing Colorado's water communication, outreach, and public engagement efforts.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff is not recommending funding to Blue Elements for the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project. The application's scope of work did not articulate the specific projects that AmeriCorps members would be engaged in, so they could not be adequately weighted against competing applications.

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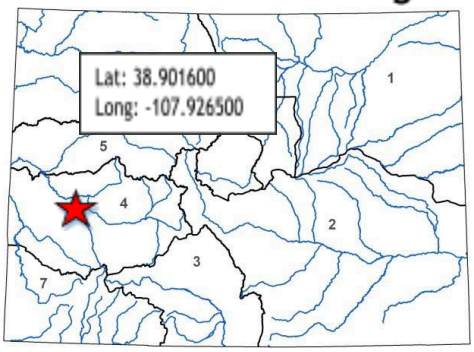
Department of Natural Resources

Habitat Replacement Bank for the Colorado River Salinity Control Program Conservation Investment Germinator

March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Montrose; Delta; Mesa; Gunnison
Drainage Basin:	Gunnison

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$125,026.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$83,026.00
Recommended amount:	**$83,026.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$30,000.00
Applicant Match:	$12,000.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Engagement & Innovation Activities
Measurable Result:	Framework for Salinity Control habitat banking projects and a 30-acre pilot habitat bank for salinity control

Conservation Investment Germinator (CIG) is requesting Water Plan Grant funding to design a pilot for a habitat replacement bank for the Colorado River Salinity Control Program. Water Plan Grant funding will support development of a habitat replacement plan, an analysis of expectations by landowners and ditch companies, and planning for pilot projects.

The Colorado River Salinity Control Program (Program) is managed by the US Bureau of Reclamation. The Program aims to reduce the salt load in the Colorado River by providing grants to ditch companies in the Colorado and Gunnison River Basins to line or pipe their ditches. To receive Program funding, ditch companies need to mitigate the loss of riparian habitat due to the reduction in water leakage. Recipients need to secure land, design a habitat replacement project, implement the restoration, and maintain the project for 50 years. This requirement prevents many ditch companies from applying. CIG proposes to make the Program more accessible by providing an option for ditch companies to buy habitat replacement credits from a pre-approved property.

A habitat banking project has been discussed in the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Workgroup and is identified as a highlighted project in the Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan. The project is supported by, and has been developed in coordination with, the US Bureau of Reclamation, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Colorado Department of Agriculture and Colorado West Land Trust. This project would create an entirely new environmental market in Colorado. If successful, it is expected that other organizations and entrepreneurs would start their own habitat replacement banks. This project sets an example for entrepreneurial approaches in nature conservation and for innovative public-private partnerships.

CIG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to conservation finance innovation. In collaboration with public agencies, tribes, and local communities, they design, test, and launch new environmental markets and nature-based business models. The proposed habitat bank will deliver a cost-efficient solution to ditch companies to meet habitat replacement requirements, resulting in more ditches from small producers and ditch companies being lined or piped.

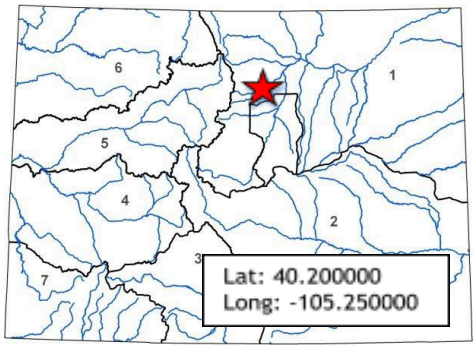
Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of $83,026.00 to the Conservation Investment Germinator for Habitat Replacement Bank for the Colorado River Salinity Control Program.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Agroecology Incubator Program
Drylands Agroecology Research
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Counties:	Boulder
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$296,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$70,000.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$10,000.00
Applicant Match:	$216,000.00
Project Type:	Education
Project Category:	Engagement & Innovation Activities
Measurable Result: 125 acres of restored or preserved habitat; 2,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities	

Drylands Agroecology Research (DAR) is an independent research organization located in North Boulder County focused on dryland farming techniques. DAR is requesting funding to develop an Agroecology apprenticeship program and support 5 apprentice stipends.

DAR has completed a pilot project at Elk Run Farm, an experiment in restoring 15 degraded dryland acres into an agro-ecosystem on the high plains of Boulder County. The pilot project focused on using passive water-harvesting earthworks to enable the establishment of trees and shrubs without irrigation (pictured). Currently, DAR has partnered with five additional land owners to dig a total of 30,000 linear feet of contour swales, plant 12,000 trees and shrubs, and develop 100 acres with agroforestry and grazing systems.

The Agroecology Incubator Program objectives are: 1) Create and pilot a curriculum for a 112-hour Foundations of Agroecology course to train land managers in ecological design, implementation, management, and evaluation, all grounded in water management. This curriculum will be utilized for more widespread training in the future; 2) Provide vocational training to 5 apprentices who will have the opportunity to either work with DAR or receive mentorship and support in starting their own ventures; 3) Enable the establishment of approximately 15,000 linear feet of passive water-harvesting earthworks across 100-150 acres; 4) Collect data at partner sites, including data on soil health and water retention, insect biodiversity, tree and shrub survival rates, and grassland health and water holding capacity.

Match funding will be secured through Wright-Ingraham Institute and Drylands Agroecology Research.

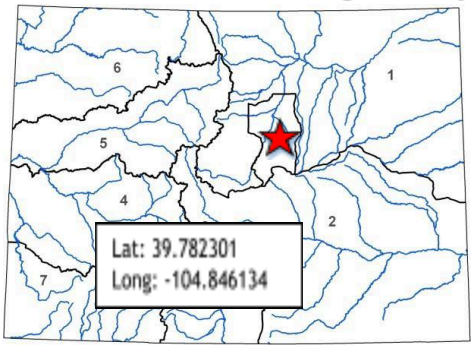
Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to Dryland Agroecology Research for the Agroecology Incubator Project. The application did not demonstrate a direct water nexus or support scalable outcomes related to Colorado's water supply challenges and did not score competitively against other applications in the category.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

ELK Outdoor and Water Education Programs
Environmental Learning for Kids

March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Arapahoe; Adams; Mesa; Denver
Drainage Basin:	Colorado, South Platte; Gunnison

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$140,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$100,000.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$40,000.00
Applicant Match:	$0
Project Type:	Education
Project Category:	WH&R/ Engagement and Innovation
Measurable Result:	150 student impacted by engagement activities

Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) is requesting funding for a water and outdoor education program for underserved youth of color. Water Plan Grant funding would support the implementation of four separate educational activities.

ELK is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides science education and outdoor experiences for underserved youth of color.

The proposed project is a water and outdoor education program that includes in-class water education, a river education trip, camping at State Forest State Park, and a stewardship activity at Barr Lake State Park Appreciation Day. The goal of this project is to strengthen the connection between youth and their local water resources by actively involving them in stewardship projects and appreciation events, fostering a sense of community responsibility, environmental awareness, and a connection to water ecosystems.

This project consists of four separate activities:

1. Six-week water pollution course
2. Educational rafting experience in Grand Junction focused on river ecosystems, water conservation, and outdoor recreation
3. Camping trip at State Forest State Park near Walden with an environmental conservation stewardship project.
4. Stewardship activity during Barr Lake State Park Appreciation Day, encouraging youth to actively contribute to park maintenance and environmental preservation.

ELK staff would measure and assess the educational impact of the water-focused activities, ensuring that participants gain knowledge about water pollution, conservation, and stewardship.

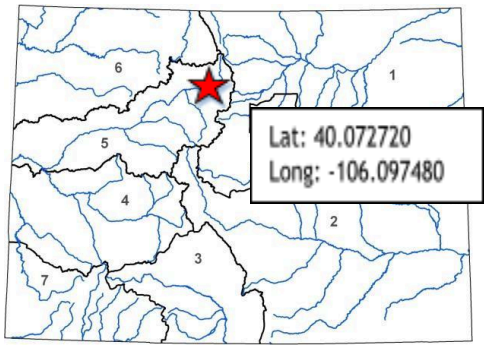
Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to Environmental Learning for Kids for the ELK Outdoor and Water Education Programs Project. The application included an overly broad scope of work that does not meet the Watershed Health and Recreation and Engagement and Innovation category guidelines of a planning, design, or project grant in a highly competitive application cycle.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Upper Colorado River Interactive Data Platform
Grand County Water Information Network

March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Grand
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$109,800.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$82,348.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$6,450.00
Applicant Match:	$21,002.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Engagement and Innovation
Measurable Result: Engagement from over 20 membership organizations and water users throughout Grand County	

This project proposes to develop and publish a web platform to make Upper Colorado River water resources data easily accessible. The platform will link directly to existing public and private datasets from the US Geological Survey, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Northern Water, and others. Water Plan Grant funding would support technical efforts to design the platform, education and outreach, and project management costs.

The Grand County Water Information Network (GCWIN), who would execute the work, was established in 2004 to enable better decision-making through science-based water quality monitoring, information-sharing and educational programming in Grand County. GCWIN currently operates five programs: stream temperature monitoring along the Fraser and Colorado Rivers, water clarity monitoring of Grand Lake and Shadow Mountain Reservoir, temperature and specific conductivity in the Three Lakes region, macroinvertebrate monitoring, and River Watch.

This project proposes the development of the Upper Colorado River Interactive Data Platform (Data Platform). The Data Platform will be the final step in the long process of fulfilling the mission to organize and share data in a comprehensive, user-friendly format. This Data Platform streamlines access to a complete dataset, customizable for users to inform water management decisions in the Upper Colorado River watershed.

The project will:

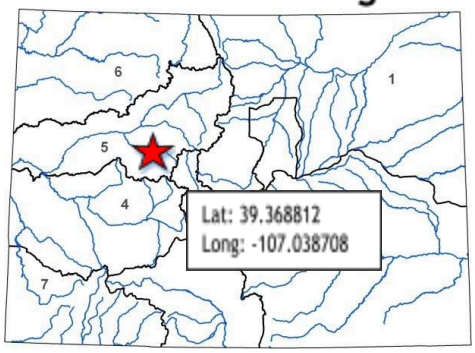
1. Develop a cloud-based platform with a GIS map interface that is publicly available.
2. Serve as a repository and access point for data, reports, and education.
3. Integrate information for select parameters such as summary statistics, comparisons between water years, and automation of reports.
4. Customize visualizations to illustrate measurements, calculations, and/or analytics. These visualizations will be adjustable so users can view datasets of interest.
5. Educate users on how to use the Data Platform. Integrate its use in various public platforms and stakeholder groups.
6. Include future capabilities of the Data Platform to meet evolving needs.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to Grand County Water Information Network for the Upper Colorado River Interactive Data Platform Project. Submissions in the Engagement and Innovation category must include a supplemental application. The applicant did not submit this document as part of their application.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Impact Reporting on Roaring Fork Conservancy's Policy and Science Projects
Roaring Fork Conservancy
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Eagle; Pitkin; Garfield
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$158,576.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$118,932.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$39,644.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Engagement and Innovation
Measurable Result:	Impact report on four completed water projects in the Roaring Fork Valley

Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC) has inspired people to explore, value, and protect the Roaring Fork Watershed since 1996. They 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. Roaring Fork Conservancy serves 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 this project is to illustrate the impact of different programs established by Roaring Fork Conservancy for the Roaring Fork Valley community and peers in the water community. Showing the impact of RFC's programs through a monitoring and evaluation lens will highlight how the organization is using scientific studies, stream management planning and other methods to enhance Colorado's outreach, education, and public engagement efforts in the Colorado Water Plan and addressing resilience within the watershed. This proposed project is collaborative in nature as the studies and projects under consideration all involved significant public outreach as well as partnerships with relevant experts.

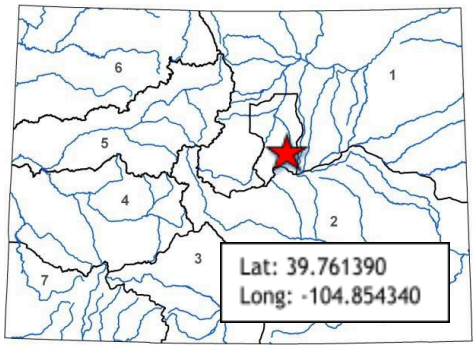
The four projects and associated reports are: 1) Crystal River Restoration and Efficiency Project at Riverfront Park, an eight-year multi-stakeholder collaboration to remediate the degradation of Carbondale's Crystal River and direct outcome of the Crystal River Management plan. 2) The Cattle Creek Stream Health Assessment, a 10-year partnership with Garfield County to address the Section 303(d) status of Cattle Creek, which was delisted as the result of the project. 3) The 10-year "Didymo Survey," a study of the algae *Didymosphenia geminate* (didymo) on the Fryingpan River. The study began in partnership with CMC to understand the prevalence of didymo and its blooms and emerged from the Comprehensive Lower Fryingpan River Assessment as part of the management plan for this river. 4) Pilot public-private partnership for evaluating and tracking instream flows (ISF) in areas which have ponds/diversions with rights junior to instream flows.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to the Roaring Fork Conservancy for the Impact Reporting on Roaring Fork Conservancy's Policy and Science Project. The application received below-average scores on overall impact to regional and state water challenges compared to other projects.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

XBAT Pilot Study
South Metro Water Supply Authority
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Counties:	Arapahoe; Adams; Douglas; Denver
Drainage Basin:	Metro

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$1,561,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$800,000.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$463,000.00
Applicant Match:	$325,000.00
Project Type:	Study
Project Category:	Engagement & Innovation Activities
Measurable Result: This pilot study could lead to future projects with quantifiable water savings	

South Metro Water Supply Authority is requesting funding for a pilot study to compare the water loss of a traditional reverse osmosis (RO) system to a more innovative ion exchange approach system (XBAT) while removing salinity from water. Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support equipment leasing, mobilization, commissioning, demobilization, operations, and testing.

The goal of this study is to compare the XBAT process to the more traditional reverse osmosis process for salinity removal from water. Traditionally, this challenge has led water providers to evaluate reverse RO systems that are expensive to operate and can recover as little as 85% of the water, with the other 15% typically being lost to deep well injection. It is expected that the XBAT process will result in a much higher recovery rate than traditional reverse osmosis—potentially as high as 99.2%. The XBAT process may also result in lower operation and maintenance costs. By reducing the water lost while removing salinity in water, municipalities will be able to meet growing demands without pursuing additional supply.

The pilot study will run a parallel process for XBAT and reverse osmosis to compare water quality, operation and maintenance costs, amount of water recovery, and classify the waste brine to understand disposal needs. A report will be developed that can be shared for other entities to consider if this process could be a fit for their systems.

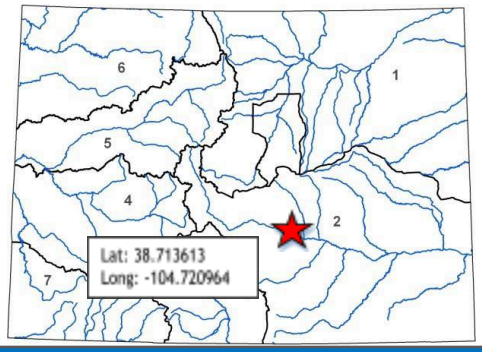
Match funding will be provided by South Metro Water Supply Authority, Aurora Water, Denver Water, and Metro Water Recovery.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to South Metro Water Supply Authority for the XBAT Pilot Study. The application included an overly broad statement of work and incomplete application materials. The required statement of work template was not submitted with the application, resulting in an incomplete application. Furthermore, the submitted statement of work was not detailed, which made it difficult to evaluate results, partners, objectives, and deliverables. The project did not score competitively against other applications in a highly competitive application cycle.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

El Paso County Regional Indirect Potable Reuse Project
Colorado Springs Utilities
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	El Paso
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$350,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$250,000.00
Recommended amount:	**$0.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$100,000.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Water Storage and Supply
Measurable Result: 25,000 AF of New Storage Created	

The Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA), Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU), and The Loop Water Authority are collaborating on the El Paso County Regional Indirect Potable Reuse Project (IPR Project). Project partners are requesting Water Plan Grant funding to complete a 15% design of the IPR Project.

Water providers in the El Paso County region have been exploring Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) projects capable of capturing, treating, and delivering advanced treated water to respective water rights owners and providers in the region. PPRWA and CSU have identified IPR alternatives configured to divert and store reusable return flows from Fountain Creek, convey water to necessary advanced treatment facilities, and deliver treated water to water service providers in the region. These alternatives would allow access to reusable return flows and locally available water supplies owned or controlled by water providers in El Paso County who discharge treated reusable or return flows into Monument and Fountain Creeks.

Under the proposed project, participants would use the Chilcott Ditch infrastructure to divert water supplies off Fountain Creek and deliver to the proposed Williams Creek Reservoir, which has been permitted for 25,000 acre-feet of storage. Existing Southern Delivery System (SDS) infrastructure would then be used to pump the water to the Bailey Water Treatment Plant. A successful design would include an annual average of 15 mgd (about 23 cfs) to be diverted and would be used to diversify water service for more than half a million people. Ideally, the project could be scaled up over time to treat additional return flows generated by increasing population.

This project aims to advance the Colorado Water Plan goals by supporting Vibrant Communities and Resilient Planning by including thoughtfully planned, locally available storage to help meet growth and future uncertainty by storing supplies needed for reliable and safe drinking water.The IPR Project leverages integrated planning by collaborating with both PPRWA participants and CSU to leverage existing infrastructure and projects to benefit multiple participants in the Pikes Peak Region. Resiliency will be improved by providing redundancy and diversifying water supplies and water supply systems for multiple participants.

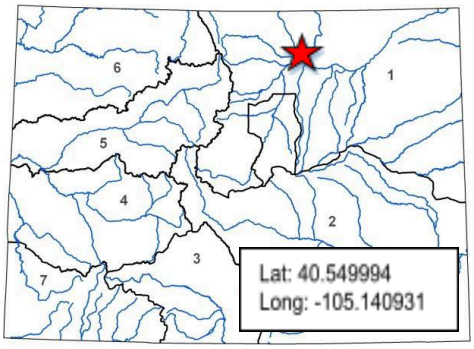
Funding Recommendation:

Staff is not recommending funding to Colorado Springs Utilities for the El Paso County Regional Indirect Potable Reuse Project. The application scored below-average on technical and financial feasibility and match funding, as a large component of the applicant's match consists of in-kind contributions of existing staff responsibilities.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Irrigation Supply Improvements Project
Dixon Canyon Ditch & Reservoir Company
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Counties:	Larimer
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$149,886.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$74,943.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$74,943.00
Project Type:	Construction/Implementation
Project Category:	Water Storage & Supply
Measurable Result: 230 linear feet of pipe, canal built, or improved; $7,000/year efficiency savings	

Dixon Canyon Ditch and Reservoir Company (DCDR) is requesting funding for the design and construction of upgrades to a short portion of ditch that is over 70 years old and limits the flow of water through the system. The project will increase the capacity of the section from an estimated 1.6 cubic feet per second (CFS) to 2.6 CFS by reducing friction through the installation of 230 linear feet of new 12-inch pipe and modifications to existing cleanouts. The new pipe will also include a flow meter for measurement of pipe flow. Colorado Water Plan Grant funding would support permitting, engineering design, bid services, construction oversight, and construction.

The section to be replaced is immediately downstream of Dixon Reservoir, located in the City of Fort Collins. It will continue to provide irrigation water to the DCDR gravity irrigation system, which runs through the City's Spring Canyon Park. The increased capacity in this section would also allow for full delivery of contract water to the Teft Acres Water Association. Additionally, the improvements aim to increase the efficiency of delivery options, improve public safety by enclosing a short section of open ditch, and reduce annual maintenance costs.

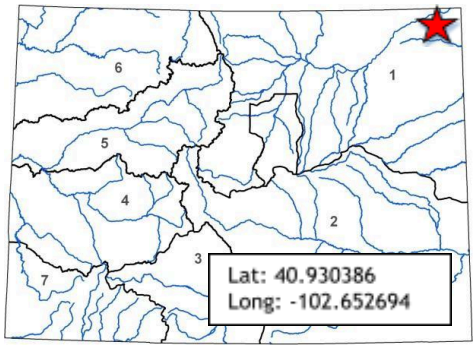
Match funding will be provided by DCDR.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to the Dixon Canyon Ditch and Reservoir Company for the Irrigation Supply and Improvements Project. The project did not score competitively against other applications or meet minimum program requirements in the category. The supply and storage category funds projects that develop new sources of supply or increase storage, through new reservoirs, reservoir enlargement, or dredging. The applicant did not demonstrate a scalable solution, collaborative involvement beyond the ditch users, or multiple benefits. Furthermore, the applicant did not provide a feasibility study, which is a categorical requirement for implementation projects.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Julesburg Reservoir Enlargement Feasibility Study
Julesburg Irrigation District
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Counties:	Sedgwick
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$89,649.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$67,236.73
Recommended amount:	**$67,236.73**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$22,412.27
Project Type:	Study
Project Category:	Water Storage & Supply
Measurable Result:	350 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Julesburg Irrigation District (JID) is requesting funding to complete a feasibility study for the potential enlargement of Julesburg Reservoir (pictured). Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support a geotechnical evaluation, hydrology evaluation, cost estimates, and preliminary designs.

All study elements will meet current dam safety standards and are determined to be the best method to increase the normal storage volume by approximately 7,972 acre-feet. This study will allow JID to begin the process of planning how to fund the potential design and construction of enlarging the reservoir depending on the findings of this feasibility study.

Match funding will be provided by JID.

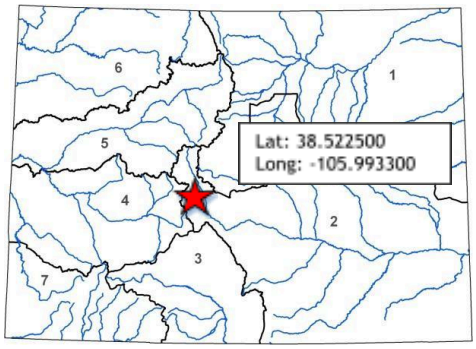
Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $67,236.73 to Julesburg Irrigation District for the Julesburg Reservoir Enlargement Feasibility Study.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

South Arkansas River Restoration Concept Design
Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited

March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Chaffee
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$83,611.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$62,709.00
Recommended amount:	**$62,709.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$20,902.00
Project Type:	Design & Engineering
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result: 6,400 LF of Stream Restored	

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support concept designs and construction cost estimates for re-naturalization of in-stream habitat and the riparian corridor along a 1.2-mile stretch of the South Arkansas River in Salida, Colorado.

The target reach has been impaired by 150 years of intensive land use and stream modification. The river is channelized and separated from its floodplain, the channel is shallow and overly wide in many areas, stream banks are actively eroding, and riparian vegetation is largely absent. This project is envisioned as a multi-benefit project that will enhance ecological health, diversity, and resilience; add opportunities for ecological education and recreation; provide opportunities for public and landowner engagement in ecological restoration; and provide for wildfire protection and mitigation of post-fire effects.

The South Arkansas River Restoration Concept Design project incorporates Partner Actions that will support the Thriving Watersheds goals of the Colorado Water Plan. By stabilizing the eroding stream banks through the target stretch of river, this project aims to increase resiliency to unpredictable flow regimes in the future and target the Meeting Future Water Needs partner action. The South Arkansas restoration will directly improve riparian and aquatic habitat. A functional riparian corridor and reconnected floodplains will provide wildlife migration routes and habitat refuge as climate change threatens drier conditions, thereby promoting the Healthy Lands partner action of the Colorado Water Plan. This project also promotes the Engagement and Outreach partner actions by including extensive public and landowner outreach and educational opportunities for the public. Finally, this project advances the Arkansas Basin Roundtable's Watershed Health and Environment and Recreation goals and is listed in the Basin's BIP.

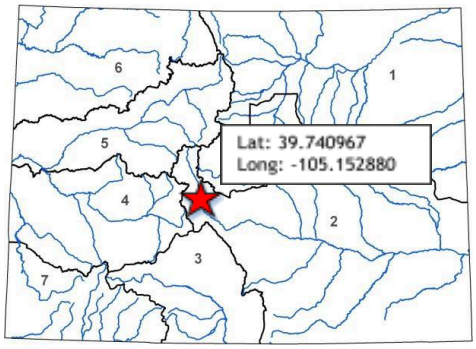
The project is a collaboration between Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Southwest Conservation Corps, Central Colorado Conservancy, Colorado Trout Unlimited, Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, members of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and local landowners.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $62,709.00 to the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited for the South Arkansas River Restoration Concept Design project.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Chaffee County Wetland Restoration Project Development
Colorado Open Lands
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Chaffee
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$132,285.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$65,785.00
Recommended amount:	$65,785.00
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$66,500.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result: Developed projects on four to six miles of degraded wetland riverscape on National Forest within Chaffee County.	

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support the development of approximately six shovel-ready low-tech process-based wetland restoration projects across Chaffee County, Colorado. These projects will be aimed at improving four to six miles of wetland riverscape. The intention is that these projects will be ready for implementation in 2026.

This project includes three distinct objectives. First, the applicant intends to conduct professional field assessments for low-tech process-based wetland restoration at 21 identified sites on National Forest land in Chaffee County. Second, the applicant, and project partners, will engage community leaders to prioritize restoration projects and connect highest priority sites with other landscape-scale projects and programs to amplify impact. Third, the applicant and project partners will fully develop six projects to shovel-ready status for 2026 implementation. This project development effort will include developing detailed treatment, monitoring, and adaptive management plans for each of the selected projects, obtaining NEPA clearance and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 404 permits, addressing community issues, and initiating fundraising for implementation.

This project's collaborative and community-driven project assessment and prioritization approach supports Chaffee County's wildfire protection and recreation management plans, numerous specific environmental goals within the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan and the Thriving Watersheds goal of the Colorado Water Plan. Further, this project supports the One Water Ethic outlined in the Colorado Water Plan by supporting an integrated planning and implementation approach to watershed restoration.

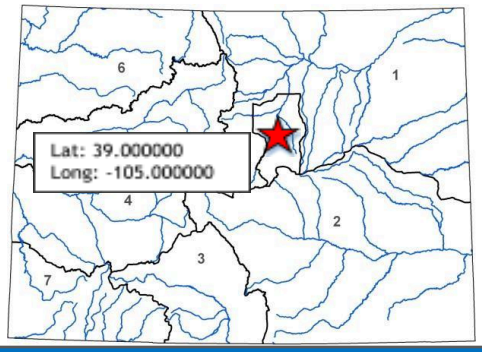
This project is supported by matching funds from Chaffee County, the US Forest Service and Chaffee Common Ground.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $65,785.00 to Colorado Open Lands for their Chaffee County Wetland Restoration Project Development project.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Riparian Restoration and Monitoring in Lower Bear Creek
Groundwork Denver
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Denver
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$194,300.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$93,588.00
Recommended amount:	**$93,588.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$100,712.00
Project Type:	Implementation
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result: 42,240 LF of Stream Restored,160 Acres Restored Habitat	

Groundwork Denver is requesting Colorado Water Plan Grant funding for Riparian Restoration and Monitoring in Lower Bear Creek to engage youth and community members in volunteer events focused on repairing the structure and function of the riparian ecosystem along a heavily-impacted eight-mile stretch of Lower Bear Creek in Sheridan, Colorado. This project is aimed at restoring Lower Bear Creek's natural resilience and preserving its function for both humans and the environment. To complement the riparian restoration included in this project, Groundwork Denver will also conduct monitoring twice per month to assess the project's impact on ecosystem health, including water quality and streambank stability. Groundwork Denver will implement approaches identified in the stakeholder-led Lower Bear Creek Watershed Plan and engage diverse stakeholders, including partners and disproportionately impacted communities, in project planning and implementation.

The project supports the goals of the Colorado Water Plan Grant in numerous ways. First, to support Vibrant Communities and Healthy Lands, the project will engage diverse stakeholders, including disproportionately impacted communities historically excluded from environmental remediation efforts, in holistic planning for urban landscapes. To support the Water Plan's goal of Thriving Watersheds, the project will identify and implement nature-based solutions while rehabilitating streams to improve riparian and aquatic habitat, reduce erosion, and meet both human and environmental needs. Finally, the project supports the South Platte's Basin Implementation Goals around water quality, education, outreach and recreation.

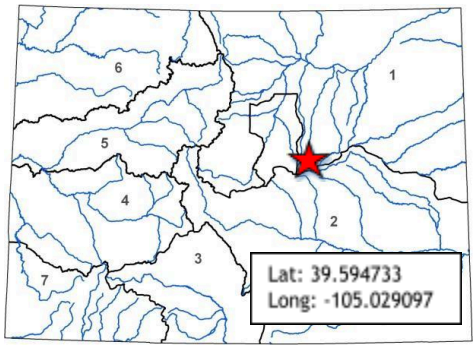
Project partners include South Suburban Parks and Recreation, Denver Parks and Recreation, the City of Sheridan, Great Outdoors Colorado, and the Colorado River Watch. Partners are providing match support and will ensure the project's technical feasibility, while watershed residents will receive education about watershed health and engage in both planning and implementing riparian restoration projects.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $93,588.00 to Groundwork Denver for Riparian Restoration and Monitoring in Lower Bear Creek.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

South Platte River at Reynolds Landing
Mile High Flood District
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Counties:	Arapahoe
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$14,500,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$500,000.00
Recommended amount:	**$0.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$500,000.00
Other Funding Amount:	$8,986,710.00
Applicant Match:	$5,013,290.00
Project Type:	Construction/Implementation
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	3,100 linear feet of stream restored; 4 acres restored or preserved habitat

Mile High Flood District (Urban Drainage and Flood Control District) is requesting funding for continued implementation of a river restoration project on the South Platte River at Reynolds Landing in Littleton. MHFD was awarded a $500,000 Water Plan Grant in September 2023. They are requesting an additional $500,000 to offset unanticipated additional costs because of delays related to the permitting process.

This project includes removal of the existing in-river grade control structure and boat ramps, earthwork, installation of new grade control structures that include recreational features like rapids and habitat channels, bank stabilization, imported river cobble bed material and other fish habitat structures. Other project tasks MHFD is not seeking funding for include upland multi-use improvements, planting and irrigation, and parking improvements.

The need for this project was identified in the Arapahoe County South Platte Working Group long-term implementation plan. It is a multi-purpose project, located within the CWCB-owned right of way, and is anticipated to improve river resiliency, safety, quality of experience for recreational users, connection of people to the natural environment and local park, and restoration and habitats while maintaining flood protection for surrounding communities.

Match funding is secured through MHFD, Arapahoe County, City of Littleton, South Suburban Park and Rec District, Non-Profit Foundation, and Great Outdoors Colorado.

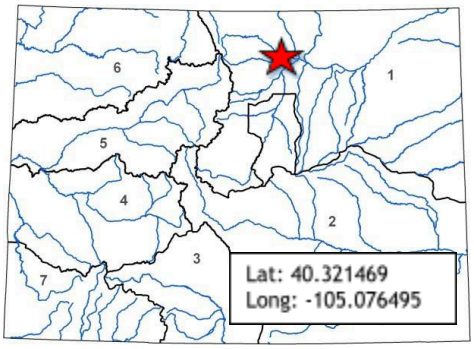
Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to MHFD for the South Platte River at Reynolds Landing Project. This project has already received a Water Plan Grant in a previous funding cycle, and given the number of quality applications received this round, staff feel that there are other projects in the Watershed Health and Recreation category with less capacity to continue without Water Plan Grant funding and CWCB's support.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Poudre Watershed Source Water Protection Planning
Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Counties:	Larimer
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$150,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$50,000.00
Recommended amount:	**$50,000.00**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$90,000.00
Applicant Match:	$10,000.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Results:	500,000 Coloradans impacted by planning activity

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Northern Water) is requesting funding to develop a regional Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP). Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will be used to hire a consultant to work with the Steering Committee and targeted stakeholders to develop a regional collaborative SWPP for the Cache la Poudre (CLP) watershed to further align source water protection priorities. The SWPP will be closely tied to a diverse range of monitoring, pollution mitigation and restoration programs, projects, and other best practices.

The headwaters of the CLP watershed are located within Rocky Mountain National Park. The river flows northeast through high elevation forest, foothills, agricultural lands, and the urban Front Range Corridor before its confluence with the South Platte River near the City of Greeley. CLP is a working watershed and provides a variety of beneficial uses to local communities, including recreation opportunities, agriculture and a high-quality source drinking water supply to approximately 500,000 people.

The Upper CLP watershed is a key source water supply that is shared by Fort Collins, Greeley, Thornton, Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority (SCWTA), and Northern Water. Protecting water quality within this watershed is a high priority for these entities to ensure current and future reliable, safe, and high-quality drinking water.

This project exemplifies broad-based involvement and demonstrates a commitment to collaboration through support from and partnering with the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, Larimer Conservation District, and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Northern Water has organized a Steering Committee with diverse stakeholders to drive the SWPP process.

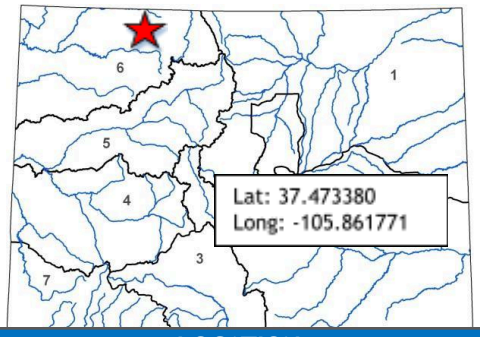
Match funding is secured through Northern Water, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, City of Fort Collins, City of Greeley, City of Thornton, and Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff recommends full funding of $50,000.00 to Northern Water for the Poudre Watershed Source Water Protection Planning project.

COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Yampa River Post-Construction Monitoring Pilot Study
Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Charitable Trust
March 2024 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Routt
Drainage Basin:	Yampa/White/Green

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$249,918.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$199,904.00
Recommended amount:	**$0**
Other CWCB Funding:	$0
Other Funding Amount:	$0
Applicant Match:	$50,014.00
Project Type:	Monitoring Study
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result: 5 years of quantitative monitoring data	

Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Charitable Trust (YVSICT) is requesting Water Plan Grant funding for post-project construction monitoring at three sites in the Yampa River to evaluate successes, failures, and document lessons learned from completed river projects.

Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Charitable Trust is a non-profit organization formed in 1983. The mission statement of the YVSICT is to protect and enhance water quality, trout habitat and riparian areas of the Yampa Valley and adjacent drainages in northwest Colorado, and to educate the public and enhance awareness of environmental water issues.

The Yampa River has a long history of channel improvement projects designed, and implemented with a variety of techniques and design approaches. A monitoring program that includes paired projects, with matching flow and sediment regimes, within close proximity can provide a valuable study to compare and quantify geomorphic responses to the process versus form design approaches.

The project is a basin-specific technical analysis of three river reaches: Sarvis Creek, Pleasant Valley, and Stagecoach Mountain Ranch in the Upper Yampa River Basin. The areas included are high use public access areas, providing outstanding waters for recreational fishing.

This program will be developed and performed in collaboration with several contributing partners, including the Yampa Valley Fly Fishers (TU chapter 929), Colorado Mountain College, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Aims Community College, and Colorado State University.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff is not recommending funding to the Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Charitable Trust for the Yampa River Post-Construction Monitoring Pilot Study. The application did not meet match requirements.