



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

P (303) 866-3441
F (303) 866-4474

Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director

Lauren Ris, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Lauren Duncan, Regional Water Plan Grant Manager
Cole Bedford, Chief Operating Officer

DATE: July 17-18, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: CA2a Change of Water Plan Grant Project Budget - Colorado Open Lands,
Chaffee County Wetland Restoration Project Development

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends amending the budget for the Colorado Open Lands, Chaffee County Wetland Restoration Project Development Water Plan Grant as shown in the attached Datasheets.

Background

Colorado Open Lands, in partnership with the US Forest Service and Chaffee County, will utilize Water Plan Grant funding to develop 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.

Water Plan Grant funding of \$65,785.00 for this planning effort was approved by the Board in March 2024. In the course of developing the grant contract, it became apparent that the project budget included a higher percentage of in-kind match funding that is allowed by the Water Plan Grant Guidelines. CWCB staff and the Grantee have worked together to reduce the in-kind match percentage and reduce the total project budget, though the project scope remains unchanged.

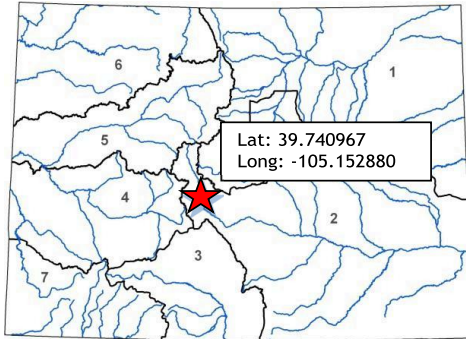
The recommended change does not modify the \$65,785.00 award, but only allows for a decrease of the grantee's match commitment from 50.3% to 33.4%. Even at this reduced percentage, the Grantee is still supplying more match than required for a planning-type Water Plan Grant. The Colorado Open Lands, Chaffee County Wetland Restoration Project Development project was highly competitive during the original review and the proposed scope modifications would not have changed the staff recommendation to approve the project in March 2024.

Attachments: Original March 2024 Datasheet, Updated July 2024 Datasheet





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.

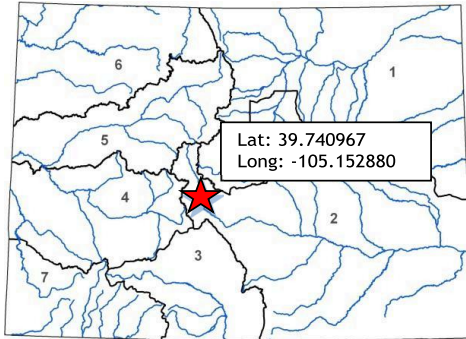
This project's collaborative and community-driven project assessment and prioritization approach supports Chaffee County's wildfire protection and recreation management plans, numerous specific environmental goals within the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan and the Thriving Watersheds goal of the Colorado 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.

Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Chaffee
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$98,785.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$65,785.00
Recommended amount:	\$65,785.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$33,000.00
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.

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