COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Pothook Water Conservancy District
Name of Water Project	Upper Little Snake River Restoration and Diversion Structure Improvements
Grant Request Amount	**$781,989.00**
Primary Category	$781,989.00
Agricultural Projects	
Total Applicant Match	**$27,000.00**
Applicant Cash Match	$12,000.00
Applicant In-Kind Match	$15,000.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	**$754,989.00**
Little Snake River Conservation District	$87,000.00
Trout Unlimited	$3,000.00
Landowner NRCS funding	$414,989.00
Colorado River District	$250,000.00
Total Project Cost	**$1,563,978.00**

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Pothook Water Conservancy District
Mailing Address: PO Box 60 Baggs WY 82321

Organization Contact: Jonathan Bowler
Position/Title: Water Master
Phone: 307-380-3232
Email: savery.lsr@gmail.com

Grant Management Contact: Jonathan Bowler
Position/Title: Water Master
Phone: 307-380-3232
Email: savery.lsr@gmail.com

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Special taxing district in Moffat County, CO

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
- ■ Public (District)
- ☐ Public (Municipality)
- ☐ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☐ Non-governmental Organization

- ☐ Covered Entity
- ☐ Other

Category of Water Project

- ■ Agricultural Projects
  Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- ☐ Conservation & Land Use Planning
  Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- ☐ Engagement & Innovation Activities
  Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- ☐ Watershed Restoration & Recreation
  Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- ☐ Water Storage & Supply
  Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude	41.000000
Longitude	-107.360000
Lat Long Flag	Stream location: Coordinates based on general location on stream
Water Source	Little Snake River
Basins	Yampa/White/Green
Counties	Routt; Moffat
Districts	55-Little Snake River

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Agricultural
Type of Water Project	Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design	
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	9/30/2024

Description

The planned project involves converting existing irrigation infrastructure that have outlived their lifespans and have multiple issues with irrigation efficiency, streambank erosion, fish passage, and increased instream sediment and turbidity. The 3 proposed irrigation diversions owned by multiple landowners are all designed with Rosgen stream design techniques that utilize large rocks and bioengineering to stabilize the system, improve fish habitat and passage, while allowing the irrigators to effectively divert adequate water. New headgate and headwall structures are planned to deliver water to adjacent ditches. Currently irrigators are required to push up gravel and plastic tarp dams in the Little Snake River. These dams are installed annually and can cause significant issues on site and downstream. This project is part of a large scale watershed wide project to replace old irrigation diversion structures with updated efficient fish friendly structures on the Little Snake River crossing Wyoming and Colorado.

The three proposed structural improvements are located in Routt and Moffat Counties, CO near the Colorado / Wyoming border within the boundaries of the Headwaters of the Colorado Initiative.

Measurable Results

	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
55,440	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
$10,000	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
254	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
69	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

3 refurbished diversion structures
21.06 CFS pre-compact water rights
5,750 ft bank stabilization
5,250 ft channel delineation
5,500 ft riparian vegetation (4.4 acres)
10.5 miles direct impact to river corridor
restored pool-riffle stream morphology

Water Project Justification

This project includes improvements to three points of diversion on the Little Snake River in Colorado, each with associated stream bank stabilization, river channel delineation, aquatic and riparian habitat improvements and constructed fish passage. These three diversions carry seven different pre-compact water rights and the planned improvements will help to meet the Yampa White Green Roundtables Basin Implementation goals of protecting the Bain from Colorado River Compact Curtailment, protecting agricultural uses of water, improved agricultural uses of water to reduce shortages, restore and modernize water distribution infrastructure, and develop an integrated system of water use administration, and delivery to reduce water shortages and meet environmental needs. The existing diversion structures consist of gravel and cobble dams pushed up annually to pool water where it can be diverted through headgates in unmeasured ditches. This project would be further justified through the elimination of gravel/cobble dams that block passage for aquatic species, increase sediment in the river, disrupt macroinvertebrate populations; provide measuring devices to document diversion records; and provide modern, Rosgen designed structures that would provide for habitat and agricultural benefits at a full range of river flow levels.

Related Studies

Understanding Wetlands and Irrigation in the Little Snake River Basin - 2019
Little Snake River / Vermillion Creek Watershed Study, Level 1 - 2013
Diversion and Barrier Assessment Little Snake River Basin, WY - 2009

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

No Tax Bill of Rights provided