



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	West Divide Water Conservancy District
Name of Water Project	Crystal River Augmentation Phase II
Grant Request Amount	\$83,460.00
Primary Category	\$83,460.00
<i>Water Storage & Supply</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$41,730.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$41,730.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$41,730.00
<i>Colorado River District</i>	\$41,730.00
Total Project Cost	\$166,920.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: West Divide Water Conservancy District
Mailing Address:

Organization Contact: Tammy Keenan
Position/Title: Office Manager
Phone: 970-625-5461

Email: water@wdwcd.org

Grant Management Contact: Tammy Keenan
Position/Title: Office Manager
Phone: 970-625-5461

Email: water@wdwcd.org

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

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 39.070900
 Longitude -107.179800
 Lat Long Flag Reservoir location: Coordinates based on location of reservoir
 Water Source Crystal River
 Basins Colorado
 Counties Garfield; Gunnison; Pitkin
 Districts 38-Roaring Fork River Basin

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Municipal
 Type of Water Project Design / Engineering
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 8/1/2024
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction
 Description
 This project will continue to move the augmentation plan forward by developing augmentation supplies which include both surface and groundwater storage investigations. The main tasks include improvements to Beaver Lake to make the structure usable as an augmentation supply by improving inlet/outlet structures and adding measuring devices. It also will improve dam safety conditions by armoring the bank to prevent wave action erosion. The project will look at feasibility and design of ponds located on private property and determine the storage capacity and cost estimates for construction of feasible pond sites. Additionally, the project will continue to study the feasibility of utilizing the Janeway floodplain reconnection project as an additional augmentation supply while simultaneously providing resiliency to drought, flood, and fire through riparian uplift.

Measurable Results

50 New Storage Created (acre-feet)
 50 New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
 Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
 50 New Storage Created (acre-feet)

1,000.00 Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
 Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
 Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
 Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
 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
 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other
 This project will eventually provide water users with a legal water supply.

Water Project Justification

This project aligns with many of the goals of the Colorado Water Plan including Building Vibrant Communities, Enhancing Watershed Health, and Resilient Planning. This project will build vibrant communities by providing a legal water supply to ensure uninterrupted water supplies and protection of property values. This project incorporates both traditional surface storage (existing and future development) as well as innovative groundwater storage investigations at the Janeway floodplain restoration project which will provide riparian uplift, re-connection with the historical floodplain, and delayed groundwater return flows that can be claimed as augmentation credits. The Janeway project is a nature-based solution to provide both environmental and augmentation benefits to the basin while providing resilience for flood, fire, and drought. The project also incorporates Resilient Planning by incorporating thoughtful storage to meet existing and future water needs in the Crystal river basin. WDWCD has participated in Wild and Scenic stakeholder groups to ensure the plan aligns with their goals of protecting the free flowing nature of the Crystal River. The water supply projects being investigated will be incorporated into a regional augmentation plan which is now required to protect domestic water supplies as hydrological conditions have changed in the face of a warming climate.

The project was identified in the Colorado Basin Implementation plan as a regional demand, gap, and supply project and highlighted the 2018 Ella Ditch call which revealed the vulnerability of water supplies in the Crystal River basin (CO BIP Vol 2, page 132 and 143) and highlighted the need for local augmentation supplies. This project was specifically identified as project ID CO-2020-0091 and 0092 (pg 139) as well as aligning with project CO-2020-0147. The application is lacking a letter of support from the Colorado Basin Roundtable (which has been requested); however, the specific inclusion of this project in the BIP illustrates the need for the project to protect water supplies.

Related Studies

Crystal River Augmentation feasibility studies were conducted with WSRF and Water Plan funds. Additionally, off-channel reservoirs and channel modification projects were identified as actions in the 2016 Crystal River Management Plan to simultaneously promote ecosystem function and protect agricultural uses.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

It is our understanding that as long as state grant funds are processed through the District's enterprise funds, that they will lose the ability to raise rates and will lose the enterprise status for the impacted year when grants exceed 10% of revenues.