



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**Water Plan**

**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Middle Park Water Conservancy District	
Name of Water Project	Jones Ponds	
Grant Request Amount		<b>\$171,541.00</b>
Primary Category		\$171,541.00
<i>Water Storage &amp; Supply</i>		
Total Applicant Match		<b>\$57,180.00</b>
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>		\$57,180.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>		\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		<b>\$0.00</b>
Total Project Cost		<b>\$228,721.00</b>

**Applicant & Grantee Information**

Name of Grantee: Middle Park Water Conservancy District

Mailing Address: PO Box 145 Granby CO 80446

Organization Contact: Catherine Trotter

Position/Title: Legal Assistant

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Organization Contact - Alternate: Clayton Culbreath

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Grant Management Contact: Catherine Trotter

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Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Clayton Culbreath

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**Description of Grantee/Applicant**

District - Water conservancy or water conservation district

**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	39.996619
Longitude	-105.835891
Lat Long Flag	Reservoir location: Coordinates based on location of reservoir
Water Source	Fraser River
Basins	Colorado
Counties	Grand
Districts	51-Upper Colorado/Fraser Rivers

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	
Type of Water Project	Design / Engineering
Scheduled Start Date - Design	9/1/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	4/20/2025

#### Description

Middle Park Water Conservancy District (the "District") owns conditional water rights on the Fraser River, which are presently undeveloped. There is a significant need to develop these conditional rights in order to provide more augmentation water in the Fraser River Valley. To meet this need, the District has located a potential site for a water storage project. This site is owned, and will continue to be owned by private entities, but the water and water rights will be owned by the District. There are two existing ponds on this site located in the northeastern floodplain of the Fraser River in Grand County. The District intends to enlarge these ponds and line them to prevent connectivity of the water stored in the ponds with the groundwater. In addition, the District will need to construct an inlet and outlet from the ponds to the Fraser River. If this project is completed, it would

provide between 20- and 50-acre feet of additional water storage capacity in Grand County. This additional water will help preserve stream flows, plant and wildlife habitat, and water related recreational opportunities for Grand County and its residents. The District needs to obtain funding for the planning and design of this project.

### Measurable Results

- 35 New Storage Created (acre-feet)
- 35 New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
- 35 New Storage Created (acre-feet)
- 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
- 46,334 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

Middle Park Water Conservancy District (the "District") serves all of Grand and Summit County, Colorado. Therefore, the number of Coloradans impacted by this engagement is arguably equal to the combined population of these two counties. According to the United States Census Bureau, the combined population of these two counties in 2022 was 46,334 people.

Some of the questions in this application were intentionally left blank because the answer cannot be sufficiently answered with a number or word. The question asking about the number of customers was intentionally left blank because this difficult to quantify and varies from year to year. Likewise, the question asking about annual water delivery was intentionally left blank because this also varies from year to year. Lastly, the question asking about major water use type was intentionally left blank for the same reasons.

The District has put a lot of effort into garnering support for this project and determining whether this project is feasible. Letters of support from the Colorado Basin Roundtable, the Colorado River District, Grand County, and the landowner are attached to this application. Moreover, a preliminary feasibility study, a request for proposals, a water availability memo from the District's water engineer, a TABOR analysis from an attorney for the District are attached to this application. The District has received five proposals for this project and will award a contract - contingent on funding - for this project at the July 10, 2024 District board meeting.

### Water Project Justification

The Colorado Basin Implementation Plan was developed by the Colorado Basin Roundtable and published in January 2022. This Roundtable consisted of 38 diverse stakeholders who all contributed to the 2022 Colorado Basin Implementation Plan. See Colorado Basin Implementation Plan, Volume 1, p. 4 (January 2022). The Colorado Water Conservation Board used this plan in creating the 2023 Colorado Water Plan. See Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado Water Plan, p.5 (2023). The Colorado Basin Implementation Plan describes water storage in the Colorado Basin as "critical." Colorado Basin Implementation Plan, Volume 1, p. 3 (January 2022). According to the Implementation Plan, "Small high-altitude storage projects are critical to supporting [Grand County's] municipal and industrial needs." Id. at Volume 2, p. 92. "Water providers in the upper Fraser River Valley are vulnerable to extended droughts . . . and lack of upstream reservoir storage." Id. at 79. Even though the proposed water storage project is relatively small, the high-elevation location of the project is key.

Because of its location, the project can be used to satisfy downstream water rights, such and in-stream flow rights in the Fraser and Colorado Rivers. This project will contribute to resolving vulnerabilities faced by water providers in the Fraser River Valley. Furthermore, the Colorado Basin Roundtable has provided a letter of support for this grant application. This letter is attached to this application.

Besides providing augmentation water for Grand and Summit County residents, this additional water storage will help preserve stream flows, plant and wildlife habitat, and water related recreational opportunities.

### **Related Studies**

As mentioned above, this project will likely be used to satisfy Colorado Water Conservation Board in-stream flow rights in the Fraser and Colorado Rivers.

### **Taxpayer Bill of Rights**

This box did not allow enough room for a full explanation. Please refer to the attached letter from The Whitmer Law Firm, LLC.