



**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:** September 18, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM: 11a-11w Water Plan Grants**

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**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends Board action on 23 Water Plan Grant applications above \$100,000 as described in the following summary tables.

**Introduction**

The 2024 Water Projects Bill (SB24-1435) appropriated \$23.3M for Water Plan Grant awards available beginning in fiscal year 2025. Water Plan Grant awards are made in two cycles during the fiscal year. The due date for the first review cycle of the 2025 fiscal year was July 1, 2024. By that date, CWCB had received 41 applications requesting \$11.4M. All applications are available for public viewing online at: <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/july-2024-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. During the process, three applicants withdrew resulting in 38 staff recommendations for consideration. The end result of the review is a portfolio of recommendations representing the strongest individual projects which collectively best advance the Colorado Water Plan. \$9.3M in awards are recommended.

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 agenda item recommends approval of 23 applications above \$100,000 for a total recommended amount of \$8.8M as shown in Table 1. See attached Data Sheets for additional project details.



**Table 1: Award Recommendations above \$100,000**

Category	Number of Applications	Recommended
Agriculture	3	\$ 2,370,661.00
Conservation & Land Use	5	\$ 938,635.75
Engagement & Innovation	2	\$ 210,286.12
Water Storage & Supply	3	\$ 1,327,497.50
Watershed Health & Recreation	10	\$ 4,000,138.35
Total	23	\$ 8,847,218.72

**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
11a	Colorado Master Irrigator	Colorado Master Irrigator Statewide Expansion Phase 2	\$1,226,363.00	\$1,201,294.00	\$1,606,850.00	25%	Arkansas; Colorado; South Platte; Rio Grande; Gunnison; Southwest; Republican
11b	Pothook Water Conservancy District	Upper Little Snake River Restoration and Diversion Structure Improvements	\$781,989.00	\$781,989.00	\$1,563,978.00	50%	Yampa/White/Green
11c	Colorado State University	Colorado River Basin Discovery Farms	\$387,378.00	\$387,378.00	\$544,127.00	29%	Colorado; Southwest; Gunnison

**\$2,370,661.00**

### Conservation & Land Use

	Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
11d	Town of Frederick	Frederick Water Reuse Plan	\$270,675.63	\$270,675.63	\$360,900.84	25%	South Platte
11e	Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority	El Paso County Indirect Potable Reuse Project (IPR Project)	\$249,900.00	\$249,900.00	\$349,925.00	29%	Arkansas
11f	University of Northern Colorado	UNC Landscape Water Resiliency Comprehensive Plan	\$167,799.49	\$167,799.49	\$233,312.81	28%	South Platte
11g	Western Resource Advocates	Implementing Turf Limits in Landscape Codes	\$150,260.63	\$150,260.63	\$200,347.51	25%	Arkansas; Colorado; Southwest; Gunnison; Yampa/White/Green; Metro; Rio Grande; South Platte; North Platte
11h	City and County of Denver	Denver Resilient Landscape Code	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$300,000.00	67%	South Platte; Metro

**\$938,635.75**



### Engagement & Innovation

	Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
11i	Colorado Mesa University	Outreach, Engagement, and Educational Programming	\$163,991.00	\$110,286.12	\$222,251.00	26%	Colorado; Yampa/White/Green; Southwest; Gunnison
11j	Palmer Land Conservancy	Front Range and West Slope Tour of Mirasol	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$324,000.00	69%	Arkansas; Colorado; Southwest; Rio Grande; South Platte; Gunnison; Metro
							<b>\$210,286.12</b>

### Water Storage & Supply

	Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
11k	Dominion Water & Sanitation District	South Platte Diversion Infrastructure Design	\$1,281,424.00	\$866,179.50	\$1,154,906.00	25%	Metro
11l	Farmers Reservoir & Irrigation Company	Standley Lake Spillway Raise Design	\$289,777.00	\$289,777.00	\$445,811.00	35%	South Platte
11m	Middle Park Water Conservancy District	Jones Ponds	\$171,541.00	\$171,541.00	\$228,721.00	25%	Colorado
							<b>\$1,327,497.50</b>



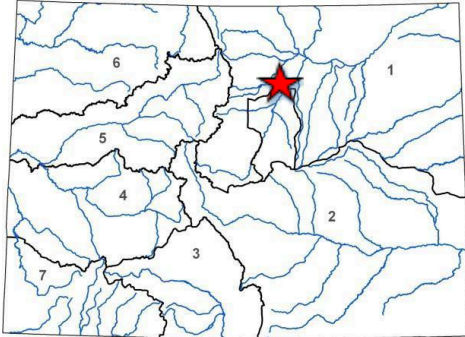
**Watershed Health & Recreation**

	Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
11n	River Science	River Conservation Corps	\$999,370.00	\$999,370.00	\$3,009,855.00	67%	Arkansas; Colorado; Gunnison; Yampa/White/Green; Southwest; Rio Grande; South Platte; Metro
11o	Headwaters Alliance	North Creede Stream Stability and Flood Mitigation	\$830,130.00	\$830,130.00	\$3,288,561.00	75%	Rio Grande
11p	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	Rio Grande Restoration Project at Gunbarrel Road	\$440,136.00	\$440,136.00	\$968,734.43	55%	Rio Grande
11q	Eagle River Watershed Council	Eagle River Community Water Plan: Phase 2	\$356,827.00	\$356,827.00	\$1,009,806.00	65%	Colorado
11r	Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed	Upper and Lower Poudre River Health Assessment	\$327,851.60	\$327,851.60	\$480,173.50	32%	South Platte
11s	San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council	Animas River Plan Phase 2	\$305,827.00	\$305,827.00	\$471,690.00	35%	Southwest
11t	Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District	CRCC Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan	\$500,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$500,000.00	50%	Colorado
11u	Fountain Creek Watershed, Inc. (Pikes Peak Waterways)	Stream Reach Plan for Monument Creek	\$187,305.00	\$187,305.00	\$249,740.00	25%	Arkansas
11v	American Whitewater	Taylor River Access Improvement Project	\$154,154.00	\$154,154.00	\$310,651.00	50%	Gunnison
11w	American Whitewater	Recreational Impacts and Opportunities Ph 2	\$148,537.75	\$148,537.75	\$198,779.66	25%	Arkansas; Colorado; Gunnison; Metro; Yampa/White/Green; Rio Grande; South Platte; Southwest; North Platte

**\$4,000,138.35**



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Statewide
Drainage Basin:	Statewide

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost (modified):	\$1,606,850.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$1,226,363.00
Recommended amount:	\$1,201,294.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Funding (Irrigation Innovation Consortium, River District, Sponsors):	\$236,956.00
Applicant Match (In Kind and Cash):	\$168,600.00
Project Type:	Education & Training
Project Category:	Agricultural
Measurable Result:	450 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities; 50% of participants report reduction in their water use

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support three years of the Colorado Master Irrigator programming in the Arkansas, Colorado, Gunnison, Rio Grande, South Platte, and Southwest basins. Colorado Master Irrigator is a four-day, in-person, interactive course to enhance irrigators' understanding of hydrology and water and energy conservation strategies with a focus on how to integrate technology to improve farm sustainability and profitability.

Tailored to each region's unique water challenges, the course is taught by fellow irrigators, Colorado State University extension staff, state and federal agency personnel, representatives from different agriculture industries, and crop consultants. Each regional program has a Project Advisory committee composed of local community members representing water and conservation districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service offices, local agriculture-related businesses, and producers that guide the messaging of public-facing communications; recruit participants and program sponsors and partners; and support productive, conservation-oriented conversation at local, state, and regional levels.

The programs focus on advanced conservation and irrigation practices, regional hydrology, and technical advancement. The 25 irrigator participants share information on water use and target yield goals for the operations on which they work, and reflect on their current management practices in light of the material covered during the course. Each irrigator receives compensation for their participation. Master Irrigator staff tracks and analyzes each participant's water use progress over three growing seasons while offering support and insight into water management, efficiency, and profitability.

Colorado Master Irrigator has leveraged CWCB grants to launch its first courses in the Northern High Plains (WSRF 2020) and Republican Basin (Water Plan Grant 2020) and then expand to new regions like the San Luis Valley (WSRF 2022, WPG 2021). This current Water Plan Grant request takes this program truly statewide to the Southwest, Gunnison, and Arkansas basins.

### Funding Recommendation:

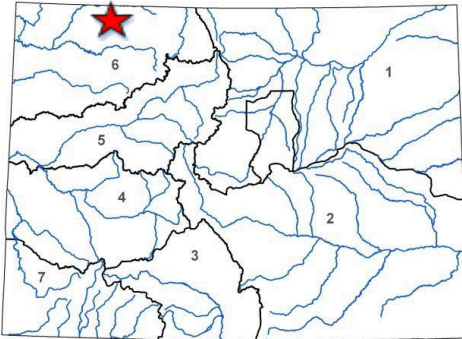
Staff recommends partial funding of \$1,201,294.00 to Colorado Master Irrigator for Colorado Master Irrigator Statewide Expansion Phase 2. This recommendation reflects removal of CWCB funding for the post-program Master Master competition in which irrigators can compete for funds to support changes at their operation leading to reduced consumptive use along with other incentives. Colorado Master Irrigator will pay for this aspect of the program with other matching funds.



## Upper Little Snake River Restoration and Diversion Structure Improvements Pothook Water Conservancy District

September 2024 Board Meeting

### Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Routt, Moffat
Drainage Basin:	Yampa/White/Green

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$1,563,978.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$781,989.00
Recommended amount:	\$781,989.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$754,989.00
Applicant Match:	\$27,000
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	55,440 ft of stream restored

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support reconstruction and modernization of three diversion structures on the Little Snake River in Northwestern Colorado. This project will install new headgates and headwalls at the diversions with modern equipment, improve fish passage, and restore the adjacent riparian corridor upstream and downstream of the structures. The three structures to be improved are the Ladder-Stull diversion, the Espy-Williams diversion, and the Espy-McKee diversion. In addition to the work in the vicinity of the three structures, nearly ten miles of streambank will also be stabilized.

The Little Snake River crosses the Colorado-Wyoming border at several points. In Wyoming, the Savery-Little Snake Water Conservancy District has worked with landowners to update and modernize diversions and restore stream habitat. The Pothook Water Conservancy District is the sister district doing similar work in Colorado. While the two districts are coordinating and undertaking complementary efforts, this grant will only contribute to work taking place in Colorado.

This project is part of the Headwaters of the Colorado Initiative, a new stakeholder led effort in Wyoming and Colorado that seeks to enhance headwater resources through partnerships, restoration, and management across boundaries, scale up forest and rangeland management, integrate forest productivity with biodiversity conservation, support community-based sustainable forest products and related resource-based economies, produce renewable energy feedstocks, and enable economically viable rural communities to thrive.

Participating stakeholders include three agriculture producers and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) which contributed to the development of the project. Funding partners include the NRCS, Little Snake River Conservation District, the Colorado River Water Conservation District, and Trout Unlimited.

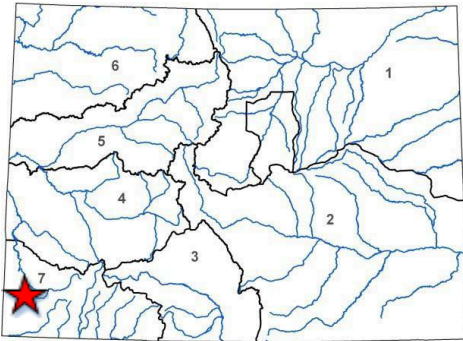
This project aims to advance the Colorado Water Plan goals by supporting productive agriculture while improving habitat.

#### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$781,989.00 to the Pothook Water Conservancy District for the Upper Little Snake River Restoration and Diversion Structure Improvements.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
<i>Counties:</i>	Various
<i>Drainage Basins:</i>	Colorado; Southwest; Gunnison

DETAILS	
<i>Total Project Cost:</i>	\$544,127.00
<i>Water Plan Grant Request:</i>	\$387,378.00
<i>Recommended amount:</i>	\$387,378.00
<i>Other CWCB Funding:</i>	\$0
<i>Other Funding (CDA, Conscience Bay Research):</i>	\$143,185.00
<i>Applicant Match:</i>	\$13,564.00
<i>Project Type:</i>	Study
<i>Project Category:</i>	Agricultural
<i>Measurable Result:</i>	210 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity; 3 soil/water research sites established

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support Colorado State University (CSU) in establishing three “Discovery Farms” in the Colorado River Basin (Colorado Mainstem, Southwest, and Gunnison sub-basins) to study the impact of soil health practices on soil/water dynamics, including evapotranspiration and irrigation over a three-year period.

CSU will coordinate with producers to co-create educational demonstration sites. The “Discovery Farms” will complement three existing research sites. CSU anticipates using all six sites for long-term data collection.

The on-farm case studies will fill a data gap regarding the direct link between soil health and water conservation. The work adds further value by providing region-specific insights and evaluating the potential for soil health improvement to contribute to improved agriculture water management in the Colorado River basin.

Success of the project includes individualized reports for participating producers detailing changes in soil health and soil-water dynamics, and technical assistance for producers throughout the project. CSU will partner with CDA to develop non-technical educational materials and host two field days at the Discovery Farms at which other producers and interested public can learn about soil health practices. Finally, CSU will publish and distribute a comprehensive report summarizing impacts on soil moisture, evapotranspiration, irrigation efficiency, on-farm profits and expenses, regional challenges, and case study reports for each Discovery Farm.

This project has the support of the Colorado River Water Conservation District, Dolores Water Conservancy District, Southwestern Water Conservation District, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Farm and Ranch Enterprise.

### Funding Recommendation:

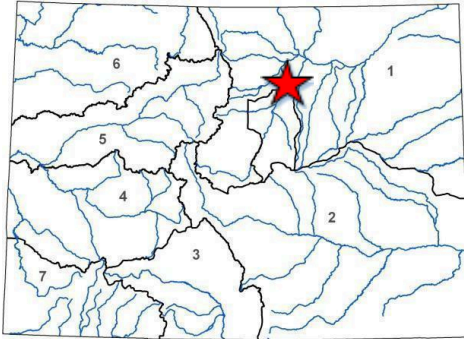
Staff recommends full funding of \$387,378.00 to Colorado State University for the Colorado River Basin Discovery Farms.



Photo credit: In-Riches



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Weld
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$360,900.84
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$270,675.63
Recommended amount:	\$270,675.63
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$90,225.21
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	13,374 Coloradans impacted by incorporating water-saving actions into land use planning and engagement activity

The Town of Frederick is requesting funding to develop a Water Reuse Plan, which will provide a vision for Frederick's non-potable, reusable water supplies and serve as a guide for the strategic development of a reuse system. Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support the Town and its consultants with project management, public engagement, evaluating exchange potential, raw water supply and conveyance alternatives, potential reuse water quality, and water storage alternatives.

The goal of this project is to draft a Water Reuse Plan for capturing, storing, conveying, and treating the Town's future reusable supplies that are intended to be used to meet a portion of its non-potable demands. The plan will incorporate evolving technology and future trends in water reuse.

Town staff and consultants will conduct public meetings to solicit community guidance and organize work sessions with the Town Board. They will inform neighboring towns and joint water reuse interests with a draft of the Water Reuse Plan to solicit feedback from an even broader base of stakeholders and publish public information notices. The findings will be presented to the public and the Town Board to review before finalization. The Water Reuse Plan will be considered for adoption by the Town.

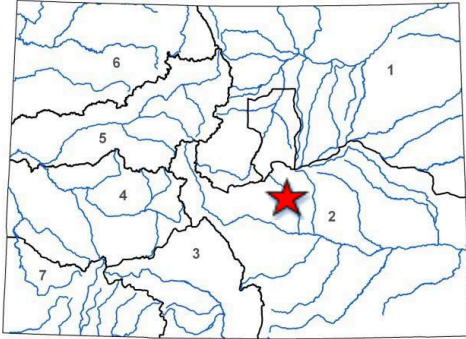
Match funding will be provided by the Town of Frederick.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$270,675.63 to the Town of Frederick for the Frederick Water Reuse Plan project.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	El Paso
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$349,925.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$249,900.00
Recommended amount:	\$249,900.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$100,025.00
Project Type:	Study
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	Identification of 5,600 acre-feet/year in potential efficiency savings

The Colorado Water Plan Grant will support the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority's El Paso County Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) Project. This feasibility study aims to evaluate the potential for diverting and reusing water from Fountain Creek via the Chilcott Ditch to provide potable water for multiple regional water providers. The study will explore infrastructure requirements, storage sizing, water quality analysis, and conceptual designs, ensuring efficient use and reuse of water supplies in El Paso County. El Paso County faces growing water demands due to population growth and limited local water supplies. The IPR Project addresses these challenges by leveraging existing infrastructure and maximizing the reuse of legally available water, including converted agricultural water and treated wastewater return flows.

Grant funds will support a feasibility study to assess the viability of the IPR Project. Key activities include analyzing infrastructure needs, determining raw water storage capacity, conducting water quality assessments, and developing conceptual designs for the system. The study will explore phased implementation options to gradually increase capacity from 5 million gallons per day (mgd) to a potential 15 mgd, benefiting smaller water providers and improving regional water resilience.

The study will identify potential water efficiency savings of approximately 5,600 acre-feet per year, contributing to significant improvements in regional water reuse. The success of the project will be evaluated based on the feasibility of diverting and treating reusable water supplies, the cost-effectiveness of infrastructure upgrades, and the potential for expanding water reuse to multiple participants.

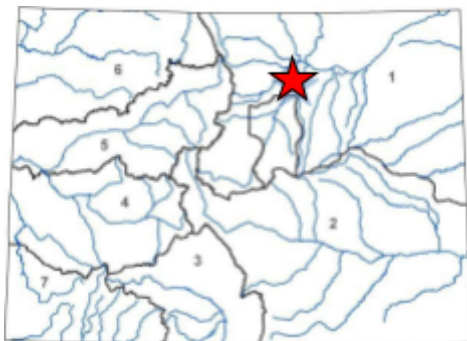
The Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority includes multiple water providers and municipalities in El Paso County, who will collaborate on this project. Key partners include Colorado Springs Utilities and other regional stakeholders, providing technical expertise, infrastructure support, and funding contributions for the study. These partnerships will ensure that the project benefits from integrated planning and shared resources.

The IPR Project aligns with the Colorado Water Plan's goals by enhancing water efficiency, resilience, and collaboration. By optimizing water reuse and leveraging existing infrastructure, the project supports the Vibrant Communities and Resilient Planning action areas. Additionally, the project advances Wise Water Use by ensuring that legally available return flows are efficiently captured and reused, addressing future water needs in a growing region. Further, the study also contributes to integrated water planning by coordinating efforts among multiple water providers in El Paso County.

**Funding Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$249,900.00 to the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority for the El Paso County Indirect Potable Reuse Project.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Weld
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$233,312.81
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$167,799.49
Recommended amount:	\$0
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$65,513.32
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	Anticipated 283 acre-feet/year efficiency savings

The University of Northern Colorado (UNC) is requesting funding to develop a 10-year strategic plan for landscape water conservation and resiliency on the UNC's campus in Greeley. Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support an inventory and analysis of current water usage, preliminary concept development for conservation strategies, community engagement, drafting of the strategic plan, and project management.

With 40% of its water supply sourced from the Colorado River and the likelihood of increased water scarcity, UNC seeks to responsibly and proactively manage its water usage. This project will identify a 10-year plan for landscape water conservation and resilience planning, covering 260 acres of campus landscape. This project will inventory and map all 260 acres of the campus for vegetation types, water usage, irrigation infrastructure, and opportunities for stormwater harvesting to inform recommendations to increase UNC's landscape water conservation and resiliency. The project will prioritize student involvement, inclusivity, and innovation. The project aims to enhance campus sustainability, promote cost-effective solutions, and engage with community partners, such as the City of Greeley, for regional water resource management.

The Landscape Water Resiliency Comprehensive Plan has received support from multiple student organizations, Poudre Heritage Alliance, City of Thornton, South Platte Basin Roundtable, Aurora Water, Colorado WaterWise, WaterNow Alliance, and Alliance for Water Efficiency.

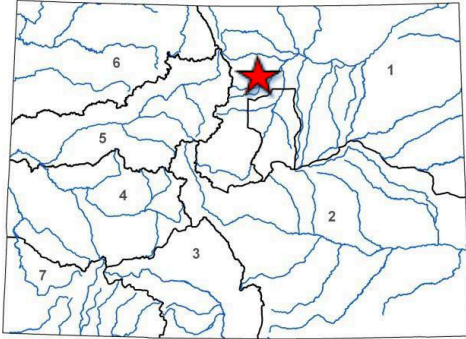
Match funding will be provided by the University of Northern Colorado.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$167,799.49 to the University of Northern Colorado for the UNC Landscape Water Resiliency Comprehensive Plan project.



### Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
<i>Counties:</i>	Statewide
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	Statewide

DETAILS	
<i>Total Project Cost:</i>	\$200,347.51
<i>Water Plan Grant Request:</i>	\$150,260.63
<i>Recommended amount:</i>	<b>\$150,260.63</b>
<i>Other CWCB Funding:</i>	\$0
<i>Other Funding (Mighty Arrow):</i>	\$35,641.00
<i>Applicant Match (WRA):</i>	\$14,445.88
<i>Project Type:</i>	Education
<i>Project Category:</i>	Conservation and Land Use Planning
<i>Measurable Result:</i>	9,658 acre-feet/year of water efficiency savings

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support Western Resources Advocates (WRA) in conducting education and outreach with a goal of accelerating the implementation of SB24-005, *Water Conservation and Landscaping Practices Act*, which prohibits the installation of non-functional turf, artificial turf and invasive plant species on new, non-residential properties statewide.

SB24-005 requires cities and counties to update or establish new landscaping codes or standards by January 1, 2026. Many Colorado communities may need to modify their codes and develop review processes to comply with the new statute and realize the resulting water savings.

WRA will conduct an education and outreach effort in communities statewide about how this non-functional turf limit will affect local requirements.

With guidance from a Landscape Code Technical Advisory Group that WRA will form, WRA will develop resources and tools to support local implementation of the new statutory requirement and other water wise landscaping best practices. These tools may include template landscape codes to support communities across a spectrum of planning expertise and capacities, a sample request for proposals for cities and counties to hire a consultant to support a landscape code revision, or a summary of compliant landscape codes adopted by other Colorado communities.

WRA will then assess implementation efforts, challenges and opportunities, and identify potential next steps. WRA currently provides related municipal water conservation technical assistance to communities statewide and is well positioned to respond to the needs of municipalities, counties, local governments, and other stakeholders.

#### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$150,260.63 to Western Resource Advocates for Implementing Turf Limits in Landscape Codes.



## Denver Resilient Landscape Code City and County of Denver

September 2024 Board Meeting

### Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Denver
Drainage Basin:	Metro

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$300,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$100,000.00
Recommended amount:	\$100,000.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$200,000.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	713,000 Coloradans impacted by development of regulation

The City and County of Denver (Denver) is requesting funding to draft resilient landscape regulatory code language for approval and adoption in Denver. Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support the compilation of Denver's various existing requirements and regulations, analysis of the gaps and inconsistencies among them, creation of an implementation plan to ensure long-term success of new requirements, engagement with key stakeholders, and drafting of consistent and unified regulatory code language.

Currently, Denver does not have a robust set of landscape guidelines for new development or redevelopment, which often leads to minimal landscape plantings or typical turf lawns in residential areas. Although the recent SB24-005, *Water Conservation and Landscaping Practices Act*, prohibits new turf grass in civic, industrial, and institutional areas, it does not currently address other uses such as residential, nor what landscape should be replacing those areas. This project aims to develop a holistic approach for all new development, redevelopment, and city projects in Denver.

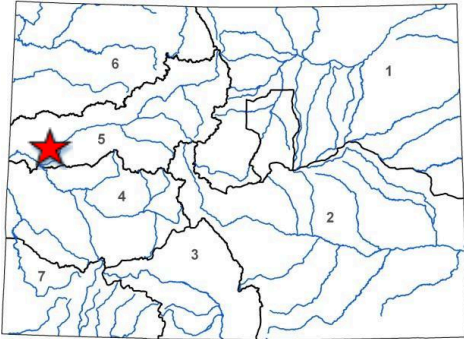
The goal of this project is to create requirements and guidance for new landscape development in Denver, which addresses the effects of changing climate, including limited water resources, drought, increased intensity rainfall and flood events, extreme heat, wildfire, and decreasing biodiversity. This project is in line with approved Denver plan guidance including the Comprehensive Plan 2040, Blueprint Denver, the Denver Game Plan, the Climate Action Plan, and will work to implement the Denver One Water Plan, previously funded by CWCB. This project has the support of Metro Basin Roundtable and Denver Water.

Match funding will be provided by the City and County of Denver.

#### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$100,000.00 to the City and County of Denver for the Denver Resilient Landscape Code project.

## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Mesa
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost (modified):	\$151,645.28
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$163,991.00
Recommended amount:	\$110,286.12
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$5,500.00
Applicant Match:	\$52,760.00
Project Type:	Education
Project Category:	Education and Innovation
Measurable Result:	1,500 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support Colorado Mesa University (CMU) Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center develop and implement curriculum over two years to reach new audiences on the Western Slope and Grand Valley.

The Colorado Mesa University Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center's mission is to perform and facilitate interdisciplinary and collaborative research, education, outreach, and dialogue to address the water issues facing the Upper Colorado River Basin, including Colorado's Western Slope.

The project will engage with university students and Grand Valley community members through five programs:

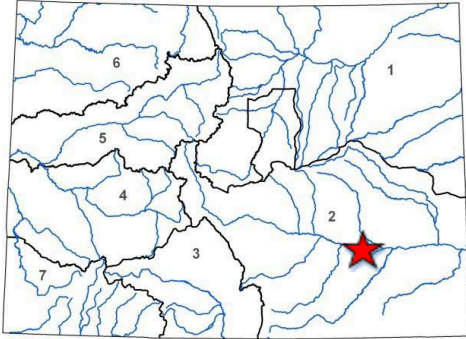
1. **The Upper Colorado River Basin Forum** is an annual one-day workshop exploring emerging issues related to water in the west.
2. **The Water Course Seminar** is a three-day event that serves as a primer course covering hydrology, laws and regulations, water quality, and management best practices.
3. **Water Workforce Needs Assessment Follow-up Study** will build upon the 2021 Workforce Needs Assessment, which was partially funded through a previous Water Plan Grant, by identifying and implementing actions to improve curriculums and programming.
4. **Environmental Justice and Water Equity Educator Workshop** is a professional development program for educators at the collegiate and high school levels covering environmental justice and water equity. It will be a hybrid design available to educators across Colorado, presented through a mixture of speakers, presentations, case studies, and participant-led discussion groups.
5. **The Environmental Science Seminar Series** is a 16-week seminar series that covers topics related to the management of water and natural resources. Speakers address new research findings, career pathways, policies and regulations, and other developments in natural resource management.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends partial funding of \$110,286.12 to the CMU for CMU Water Center's Outreach, Engagement, and Educational Programming. This recommendation reflects funding for the Water Course Seminar, Water Workforce Needs Assessment Follow-up Study, Environmental Justice and Water Equity Educator Workshop, and Environmental Science Seminar Series (Programs 2-5). In line with CWCB sponsorship precedent for other local forums, funding for the Upper Colorado Basin Forum (Program 1) is not recommended through the Water Plan Grant program.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Statewide
Drainage Basin:	Statewide

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$324,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$100,000.00
Recommended amount:	\$100,000.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$224,000.00
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type:	Engagement
Project Category:	Engagement and Innovation
Measurable Result: 100,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities	

The Colorado Water Plan Grant will support Palmer Land Conservancy's project *Mirasol: Looking at the Sun*, a documentary film and strategic outreach campaign aimed at bridging the urban-rural divide through storytelling. The grant will fund a Front Range and West Slope tour, engaging diverse stakeholders to raise awareness about land and water issues critical to Colorado's future.

This project addresses the urgent need for public education on the impacts of water scarcity on rural agricultural communities. The film highlights the challenges faced by farmers in protecting their land, culture, and livelihoods amidst growing urban development pressures. The project builds on Palmer Land Conservancy's ongoing Bessemer Farmland Conservation Project, funded in part by CWCB, which seeks to protect critical agricultural water rights in Pueblo.

Grant funds will support a film tour across the Front Range and West Slope, including screenings, community discussions, and educational outreach events. The project also includes the development of educational materials and partnerships with water districts, land trusts, and local organizations to facilitate broader engagement. The goal is to connect urban audiences with the realities faced by rural communities and inspire collective action on water conservation.

The project aims to reach 100,000 Coloradans through film screenings, outreach events, and educational materials. Success will be evaluated by the number of attendees at screenings, the reach of media coverage, and audience engagement metrics such as surveys and follow-up actions taken by participants. The project's impact will be measured by increased awareness and dialogue around water conservation and rural-urban water dynamics.

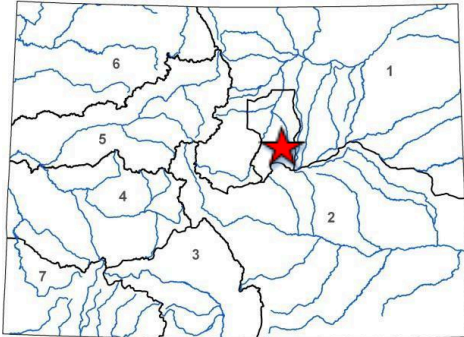
Project partners include the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District, private philanthropists, and local businesses. These partners provide funding, venues, and outreach support for the film tour and educational events, helping to amplify the project's message and extend its reach across diverse communities.

The project aligns with the Colorado Water Plan's goals by promoting public engagement and education in the Robust Agriculture and Thriving Watersheds action areas. By showcasing the challenges faced by agricultural communities and exploring collaborative solutions, the project supports the Plan's emphasis on preserving rural economies and preventing the loss of irrigated lands. The project also promotes cross-sector partnerships, engaging both urban and rural stakeholders in conversations about sustainable water management.

**Funding Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$100,000.00 to the Palmer Land Conservancy for the Front Range and West Slope Tour of Mirasol.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Douglas
Drainage Basin:	Metro

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost (modified):	\$1,154,906.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$1,708,561.00
Recommended amount:	\$866,179.50
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$288,726.50
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Water Storage & Supply
Measurable Results:	Up to 2,500 AF new annual water supplies developed or conserved (planning); 500 AF existing storage preserved or enhanced; 16,368 ft length of pipe built; >2,500 AF/year of renewable water supplies developed by the project that offsets the need for non-renewable groundwater

Dominion Water and Sanitation District (Dominion) is requesting funding to design a new diversion from the South Platte River downstream of a future wastewater treatment plant's discharge. Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support project management, topographic and wetland surveys, biological resources evaluation, and 60% design of a channel, intake, pump station, and pipeline.

Dominion is a Title 32 Special District authorized to provide wholesale water and wastewater services to retail customers in northwest Douglas County. Dominion is the wholesale water and wastewater provider for the Sterling Ranch Development.

This design project aims to optimize existing water rights and infrastructure to develop over 2,500 acre-feet of new renewable water supplies by diverting water from the South Platte River downstream of a future wastewater treatment plant's discharge. This includes water rights owned by the District in the South Platte River and return flows from the future plant. The diversion will convey up to 5 cubic feet per second through an intake to a pump station. From there, raw water will be transported approximately 3 miles via a new 16-inch pipeline. The pipeline will traverse major roadways and a drainageway, ultimately supplying raw water to the Larry D. Moore Water Treatment Plant.

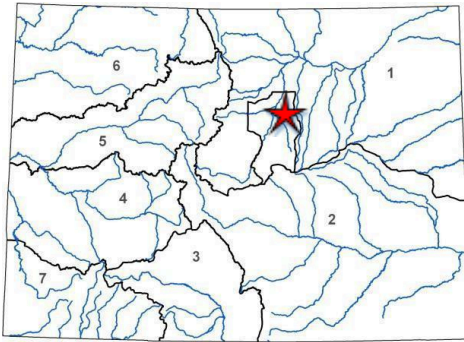
Match funding will be provided by Dominion Water and Sanitation District.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends partial funding of \$866,179.50 to Dominion Water and Sanitation District for the South Platte Diversion Infrastructure Design project. This recommendation reflects the costs necessary to carry the design to a 60% level, where the feasibility of further development can be assessed, rather than the 90% level as submitted.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Jefferson
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$445,811.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$289,777.00
Recommended amount:	\$289,777.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$156,034.00
Project Type:	Design & Engineering
Project Category:	Water Storage & Supply
Measurable Result:	Up to 4,200 AF of storage created (planning)

Farmers Reservoir & Irrigation Company (FRICO) is requesting funding to evaluate, design, and permit a spillway and dam crest raise and required park infrastructure modifications at Standley Lake, located northwest of Denver. The modifications based on these efforts will increase the storage capacity in the reservoir by 4,200 acre-feet. This will bring the total capacity to 47,544 acre-feet, closer to the decreed storage amount of 49,060 acre-feet. Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support design and permitting costs.

FRICO is a mutual ditch company incorporated in 1902. It has 8,000 shares with 500 shareholders. The FRICO system consists of four major reservoirs, several smaller reservoirs, and approximately 400 miles of canals extending from the Front Range foothills to east of Greeley. FRICO provides agricultural irrigation water to farmland and supplements the municipal needs of 300,000 citizens across four municipalities. While FRICO's other reservoirs remain predominantly in agricultural use, Standley Lake is a key storage component of the water supply systems for Thornton, Westminster, and Northglenn. These cities currently withdraw water directly from Standley Lake to supply their municipal water systems.

Increasing the storage capacity of Standley Lake will provide these benefits:

- 1) Reduced municipal and industrial water gap: The increased capacity will help address the growing demand for municipal and industrial water in the region.
- 2) Increased reliability of water supply systems: Additional storage will enhance the reliability of the water supply systems for Thornton, Westminster, and Northglenn, reducing the risk of shortages during droughts.
- 3) Increased water supply for irrigated lands: The project will also increase the water supply available to serve lands irrigated by Standley Lake shareholders.

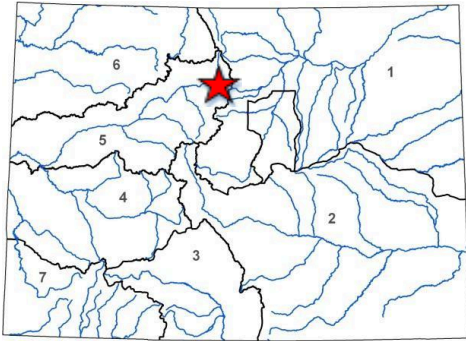
Match funding will be provided by Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Company.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$289,777.00 to the Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Company for the Standley Lake Spillway Raise Design project.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Grand
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$228,721.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$171,541.00
Recommended amount:	\$171,541.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$57,180.00
Project Type:	Design & Engineering
Project Category:	Water Storage and Supply
Measurable Result:	35 new acre feet storage created (study)

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support feasibility planning and reservoir design efforts to enlarge Jones Ponds, a privately owned pond system to provide augmentation water storage for the Middle Colorado Water Conservancy District.

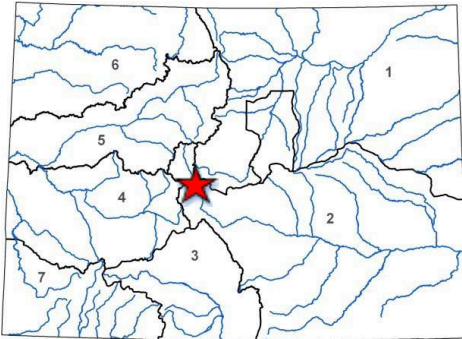
Middle Park Water Conservancy District (District) owns conditional water rights on the Fraser River, which are presently undeveloped. There is a significant need to develop these conditional rights in order to provide more augmentation water in the District's service area. To meet this need, the District 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 order to meet Division of Water Resources requirements. In addition, the District will need to construct inlet and outlet works between the ponds and Fraser River. If this project is constructed, it would provide between 20- and 50-acre feet of additional water storage capacity in Grand County.

This project aims to advance the Colorado Water Plan goals by developing additional water storage to meet water delivery needs. Match funding is being provided by the District. The landowner is engaged and supportive of this project.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$171,541.00 to the Middle Park Water Conservancy District for Jones Ponds.

## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Statewide
Drainage Basin:	Statewide

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$3,009,855.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$999,370.00
Recommended amount:	\$999,370.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$2,010,485.00
Project Type:	Capacity Building
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result: 45 LF of stream protected, 200 acres of Restored habitat, 400 PFAS samples and data reported, 10 additional ISF recommendations	

River Science's River Conservation Corps (RCC) program aims to address the significant capacity gaps in Colorado's watershed health initiatives. RCC is a new AmeriCorps program designed to provide technically trained AmeriCorps "members" to support the capacities of NGOs and agencies involved in Thriving Watersheds actions. Members will enhance partner capacity by providing data collection and assessment expertise, assisting with public outreach, communication, and education, and contributing labor to support river restoration implementation. This program aims for financial sustainability through Serve CO Operational Grants, host fees, and service contracts.

River Science has leveraged initial funding from a Serve Colorado Planning Grant, which has shaped the RCC program by identifying the critical capacity needs through discussions with over 50 partners. This foundational support has been pivotal in developing the RCC's framework and ensuring it aligns with the Colorado Water Plan's goals.

The RCC program is designed to deliver measurable results, including the collection of baseline data to support the CWCB's Instream Flow Program, assisting in the preparation of instream flow recommendations, and implementing river restoration projects. Key funding partners for the RCC include Serve Colorado, which has committed to funding AmeriCorps Members' recruitment and support, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, which has secured a contract with River Science for Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances water quality sampling. The U.S. Forest Service has also committed funding to support RCC activities.

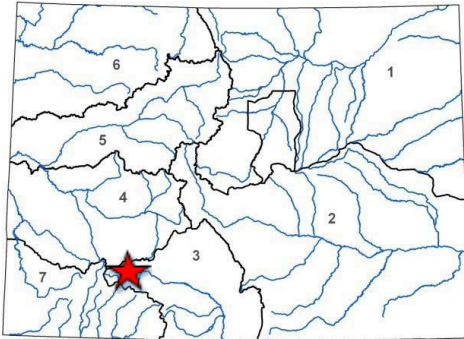
This project directly advances the Colorado Water Plan goals by enhancing the capacity of organizations to execute critical watershed health and river restoration projects. By providing trained personnel and supporting infrastructure, the RCC will help meet future water needs, improve stream health, and contribute to sustainable water management practices across the state. The RCC exemplifies broad-based involvement and a commitment to collaboration by partnering with various non-profits, government agencies, and community organizations. These collaborations will facilitate comprehensive watershed management efforts and ensure that diverse stakeholder needs are addressed.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$999,370.00 to River Science for River Conservation Corps.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application

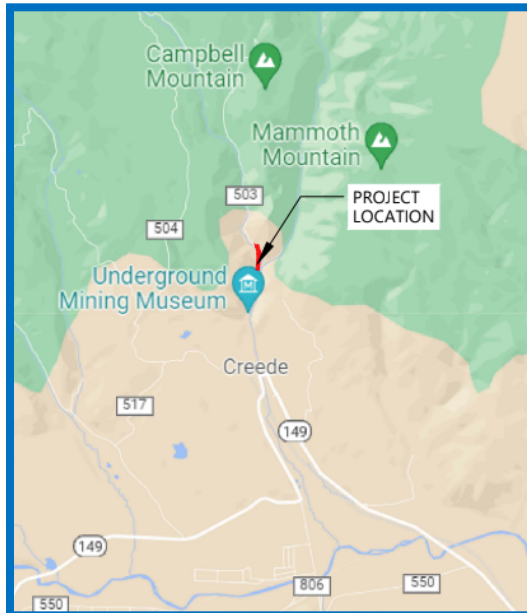


LOCATION	
County:	Mineral
Drainage Basin:	Rio Grande

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$3,288,561.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$830,130.00
Recommended amount:	\$830,130.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Funding (WaterSMART, TU, Creede):	\$2,438,431.00
Applicant Match (HWA):	\$20,000.00
Project Type:	Design & Construction
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	3,300 linear ft of stream restored; 2 acres of habitat restored; 6,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will aid Headwaters Alliance with final design, permitting, and construction for stream restoration and flood protection along a three-quarter mile reach of Willow Creek north of Creede.

Fires, floods, and mining activity within the Willow Creek watershed have resulted in an excessive sediment deposition, thereby reducing flood carrying capacity and migrating the channel laterally. This channel migration is impacting adjacent roadway embankments, public recreation facilities, and flood control infrastructure. Nearby infrastructure is regularly flooded, including the county road, a bridge, the fire department, and two hockey ponds. Vegetation is absent altogether.



The project aims to reduce sediment loading, restore Willow Creek using natural channel design, and provide flood protection for the City of Creede. Post-construction, the desired condition along this reach of Willow Creek is 1) an ecologically functioning stream channel with 2.2 acres of vegetated and connected floodplain that provides significantly improved aquatic habitat; 2) improved terrestrial habitat; 3) improved sediment transport capacity; and 4) more than adequate flood capacity as evidenced by a FEMA-approved flood map revision for Creede.

CWCB has previously supported this project with direct engagement and technical assistance from the Watershed and Flood Protection Section, a \$46,000 grant for design and engineering, and a \$257,000 grant for the Comprehensive Willow Creek Watershed Plan that identified this project as a priority for stakeholders.

Key stakeholders including the City of Creede, Mineral County, and Trout Unlimited have been engaged in project identification, design, and now construction.

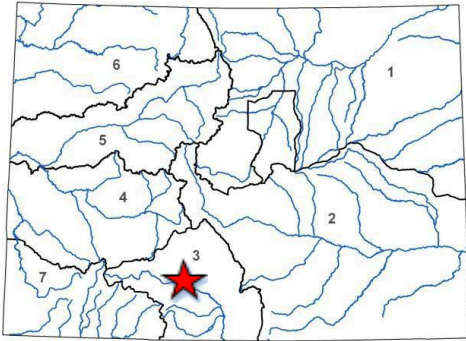
The Project also has Rio Grande Basin Roundtable support.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$830,130.00 to Headwaters Alliance for the North Creede Stream Stability and Flood Mitigation project.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Rio Grande
Drainage Basin:	Rio Grande

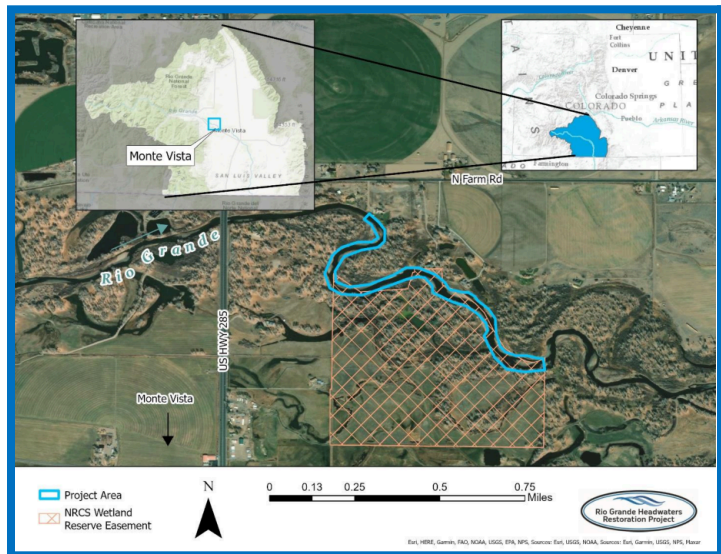
DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$968,734.43
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$440,136.00
Recommended amount:	\$440,136.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount (NRCS):	\$353,598.43
Private Landowners:	\$175,000.00
Project Type:	Design & Construction
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	5,111 linear feet of restored stream; 2 acres of restored riparian habitat

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support planning, engineering, and construction for river restoration efforts along the Rio Grande river just north of Monte Vista. The “Rio Grande Restoration Project at Gunbarrel Road” includes 5,111 feet of streambank stabilization, construction of bankfull benches planted with native riparian vegetation, and realignment of the stream channel.

This reach of the Rio Grande downstream of Gunbarrel Road (Highway 285) is facing a deterioration in river health due to unstable and eroding streambanks and an overwide channel. Significant amounts of sediment are mobilized, which is degrading water quality, reducing aquatic habitat, and reducing the extent of riparian habitat.

The project aims to reduce erosion, improve water quality, and improve ecological function along the reach. The Project will also enhance riparian and aquatic habitat for the federally endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, federally threatened Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, and the Rio Grande Chub, a Colorado Parks and Wildlife priority species. A half-mile portion of this riverfront is under a conservation easement through the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Wetland Reserve Easement Program.

This Project was identified in the Rio Grande Stream Management Plan and is a result of planning and collaboration between NRCS, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, private landowners, and Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation. The project has the support of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable and financial commitments from private landowners and NRCS.

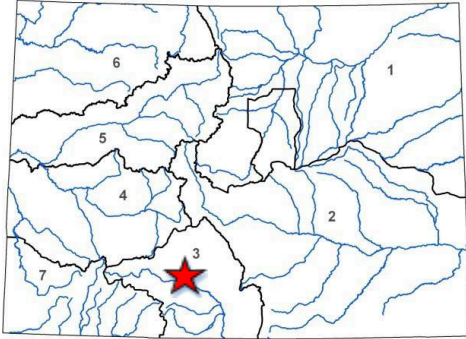


### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$440,136.00 to the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation for the Rio Grande Restoration Project at Gunbarrel Road.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Eagle
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$1,009,806.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$356,827.00
Recommended amount:	\$356,827.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$474,515.00
Applicant Match:	\$178,464.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	Bring nine Water Plan Phase 1 recommendations to implementation readiness

The Eagle River Watershed Council recently rebranded to the Eagle River Coalition (ERC) in order to more accurately represent the role the Coalitions plays within Eagle County. In early 2024 ERC completed the Community Water Plan (CWP), supported by CWCB funding. As a guiding document, the plan provides a framework of the watershed resources and the current and future stressors impacting those resources. In order to advance the goals of the plan, Phase 2 will leverage federal funding to raise several plan elements to implementation ready status over the next three years, and create pathways for funding project implementation.

The Phase 2 component projects include: 1) The Education & Community Outreach which will build off the CWP stakeholder group to create an advisory committee and create a Community Outreach Plan; 2) Eagle River Fund Development to create a long-term funding source; 3) Recreation Infrastructure & Management through a recreation use study and Recreation Infrastructure Inventory & Upgrade Planning; 4) Instream Habitat Restoration plans and designs at the Wearyman Creek Watershed Health Project, the Lower Eagle Floodplain Reconnection & Restoration project, Fish Passage Study & Structure design, and Camp Hale-Eagle River Restoration; 5) Riparian Habitat Restoration through improving tree canopy cover and identifying restoration sites on the Lower Eagle River and tributaries, focusing on private property; 6) Management of instream Flows through a pilot temperature reduction project.

Funding partners include USFS, BLM, and the ERCWP Stakeholder Group. The CWCB funding would support new staff capacity and program development.

This project aims to advance the Colorado Water Plan goals by advancing the CWP goals of education, watershed health, restoration, recreation. Projects specifically identified by the Colorado Basin Roundtable include restoration of Camp Hale, development and implementation of a Water Quality Action Plan, and development of the Eagle River Fund. This project will advance the concepts envisioned in Eagle River Community Water Plan to projects ready for implementation.

This project demonstrates a commitment to collaboration by engaging stakeholders at all levels, through community groups, fundraising, and management activities.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$356,827.00 to the Eagle River Coalition for Eagle River Community Water Plan: Phase 2.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
Counties:	Weld & Larimer
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$480,173.50
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$327,851.60
Recommended amount:	<b>\$327,851.60</b>
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$152,321.90
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Results:	1,500 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities; Identification of 5 implementation projects

The Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW) is requesting funding to implement the Upper and Lower Poudre River Health Assessment Framework (RHAF). Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support stakeholder coordination, development of the 2025 Upper and Lower Poudre RHAF, and community outreach of findings.

In 2024, CPRW and partners with the City of Fort Collins completed the updated RHAF and User Manual to implement the RHAF from headwaters to confluence. This was a four-year effort that adapted the Upper, Middle, and Lower RHAF assessments into one protocol. This project was funded by a CWCB Water Plan Grant and is now complete. With partners, CPRW intends to conduct a basin-wide RHAF every five years to monitor river health over time. This new proposal will support the second iteration of the RHAF for the upper and lower watershed. Fort Collins Natural Areas is conducting the assessment in the Middle Reach starting this fall. CPRW and partners plan to complete the watershed-wide assessment to capture baseline conditions in 2025. The results from previous assessments conducted between 2015-2019 helped to inform river restoration projects, water quality protection and watershed planning.

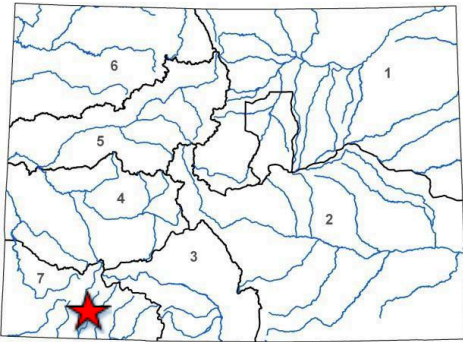
CPRW's goal is to implement the RHAF in the Upper and Lower Watersheds to: 1) gather baseline conditions to track changes over time (including from the Cameron Peak Fire); 2) identify areas in the river corridor for restoration; 3) communicate the health of the river to stakeholders and the community of the assessment widely across the watershed and use the data to inform future river planning and restoration efforts; and 4) identify five implementation projects across the upper and lower watershed after the results have been compiled.

Match funding will be provided by Fort Collins, Greeley, Sisters of St. Francis, and the National Science Foundation.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$327,851.60 to the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed for the Upper and Lower Poudre River Health Assessment project.

## Water Plan Grant Program Application

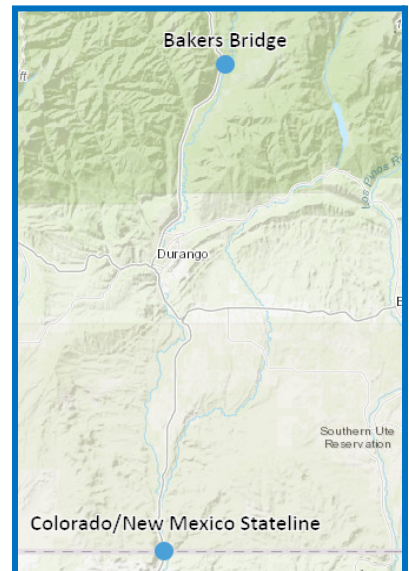


LOCATION	
County:	La Plata
Drainage Basin:	Southwest

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$471,690.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$305,827.00
Recommended amount:	\$305,827.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$142,223.00
Applicant Match:	\$23,640.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	70 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support Phase 2 of development of the Animas River Plan led by the Animas Watershed Partnership with the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council acting as its fiscal agent.

Phase I launched in 2022 with partial funding from CWCB to determine whether there was community consensus around developing a watershed plan, and if so, what the parameters of that plan would be. There was stakeholder consensus to move forward with a watershed plan that evaluates environmental, recreational, agricultural and municipal needs for the reach of the Animas River from Bakers Bridge to the Colorado/New Mexico state line (see map). This reach includes areas managed by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and their staff is engaged in the planning process. Stakeholders developed additional sideboards to help guide plan development and project implementation. During Phase I, an Animas River data gaps analysis report and stakeholder assessment were also completed.



During Phase II, a Steering Committee will be formed to lead watershed plan development and public outreach. They will coordinate directly with the hired consultant to develop a scorecard report (or data assessment) that describes existing conditions, future risks, and stressors. This scorecard report will underpin the stakeholders' development of a mission statement, goals, and strategies. From there, the group will identify multi-benefit water projects along the reach, create an implementation plan, and identify monitoring strategies to measure outcomes. The final Animas River Plan will incorporate all the above in a digestible document to share with the public and galvanize project implementation.

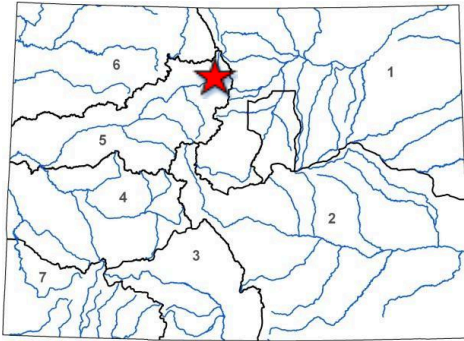
The Animas River Plan has broad-based community involvement. The Southwest Basins Roundtable has endorsed this planning effort, along with 11 partners that submitted letters of support, five of whom are providing matching funds.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$305,827.00 to the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council for Animas River Plan Phase 2.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Grand
Drainage Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost (modified):	\$500,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$500,000.00
Recommended amount:	\$250,000.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$250,000.00
Project Type:	Monitoring
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	40+ miles of aquatic habitat reconnected

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support five years of monitoring on the Colorado River Connectivity Channel (CRCC) in Grand County. The requested funding would also support rapid response adaptive management projects based on the monitoring results.



The CRCC was a multi-stakeholder, multi-year project to allow passage around Windy Gap reservoir (pictured on the left) on the Colorado River main channel and reconnect the river to make it free flowing. This opened up over 40 miles of the river.

Following the completion of the channel, Task 1 of this grant will support Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Northern Water) in monitoring the results for five years to determine aquatic species and the river channel geomorphic processes response.

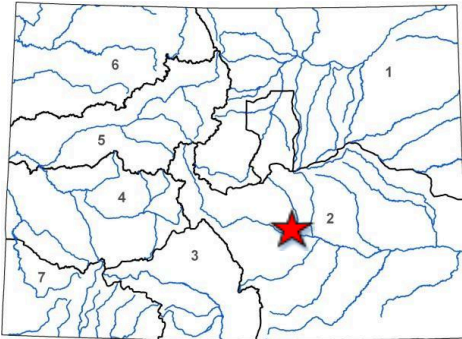
The adaptive management aspect of this project, Task 2 of the grant application, would assist Northern Water and their project partners to quickly respond to unanticipated negative outcomes and maintain the channel in the years following establishment.

Project partners are Northern Water Municipal Subdistrict, Grand County, Colorado River Water Conservancy District, Upper Colorado River Alliance, Trout Unlimited, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. This project demonstrates a commitment to collaboration by providing ecological benefits in Grand County as part of the Windy Gap Firing Project.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends partial funding of \$250,000 to Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District for the CRCC Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan. The recommendation is intended to support the monitoring component of the work (Task 1). Since the Adaptive Management projects (Task 2) cannot be planned until preliminary monitoring results are gathered, funding for that task is not recommended.

## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	El Paso
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$249,740.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$187,305.00
Recommended amount:	\$187,305.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$62,435.00
Project Type:	Planning
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result: 15,840 LF of Stream Restored, 25 ac of Restored or Preserved Habitat, 500,000 Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity	

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support the Fountain Creek Watershed, Inc. d/b/a Pikes Peak Waterways (PPW) in developing a Stream Reach Plan for Monument Creek, focusing on a 3-mile reach from Monument Valley Park to Garden of the Gods Road in Colorado Springs. The plan aims to restore the creek's natural functions, improve aquatic and riparian habitats, address water quality issues, and reconnect surrounding neighborhoods to the creek, enhancing both environmental and recreational opportunities. Monument Creek has deteriorated significantly due to urbanization, leading to degraded habitats, unstable creek banks, and excess sedimentation. The project builds on previous plans, including the 2022 Colorado Springs (COS) Creek Plan, and seeks to address these issues through targeted restoration strategies. The project aligns with both the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan and the Colorado Water Plan's goals of improving watershed health, enhancing water quality, and supporting community engagement.

Grant funds will be used for data collection, stakeholder outreach, identifying priority restoration sites, and developing a detailed plan with cost estimates and illustrative graphics. The project plans will focus on restoring riparian habitats, improving creek stability, reducing sediment loads, and enhancing recreational access. The plan will also integrate community input and establish a long-term vision for the creek that supports environmental stewardship and urban renewal.

Project success will be evaluated based on stakeholder engagement, the identification of priority restoration projects, and the development of strategies for habitat restoration and floodplain re-establishment. The study will also assess opportunities for leveraging private investment to enhance economically disadvantaged neighborhoods adjacent to the creek.

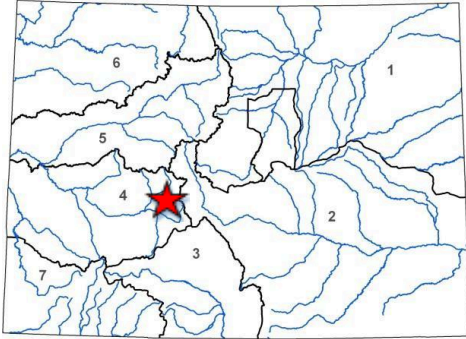
Key partners include the City of Colorado Springs and Colorado Springs Utilities, who will provide technical support, data, and collaboration throughout the project. PPW will also engage local stakeholders, nonprofits, and the community at large in the planning process, ensuring broad-based support and input. This collaborative approach builds on successful partnerships established during the development of the 2022 COS Creek Plan.

This project aligns with the Colorado Water Plan by addressing watershed health, climate adaptation, and equity goals. Additionally, it supports environmental justice by revitalizing neighborhoods in economically disadvantaged areas. The plan also contributes to public outreach and education, fostering a culture of environmental stewardship and sustainable urban development.

**Funding Recommendation:** Staff recommends full funding of \$187,305.00 to Fountain Creek Watershed, Inc. d/b/a Pikes Peak Waterways for Stream Reach Plan for Monument Creek.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Gunnison
Drainage Basin:	Gunnison

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$310,651.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$154,154.00
Recommended amount:	\$154,154.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$140,173.00
Applicant Match:	\$17,003.000
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	23,500 Coloradoans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support the construction of boat slides and stairs at 'The Slot' access point on the Taylor River in Gunnison County. Additionally, the project will improve the river access trail to reduce erosion, add interpretive signage, and create a more functional staging area.

American Rivers is working with the Gunnison Ranger district to facilitate completion of the recreation facilities along the Taylor River. This project is part of the USFS Taylor River Access Improvement Project to improve river recreation opportunities and river health at 'The Slot,' a popular access point for the Upper Taylor River. The recreation and river access site was developed in 2011, and includes a paved parking lot, a vault toilet, picnic tables, and a footpath to the river. New boat slides were envisioned but not included due to funding shortfalls. The current boat slides, shown in the image on the right, are two log stringers down a steep embankment subject to erosion and slip/trip hazards.



The engineered boat slides and access stairs will greatly improve safety while stabilizing the bank and reducing runoff.

Improved signage and staging areas will facilitate safe river access and improve user experience.

Funding partners include American Whitewater, and the Gunnison Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. It exemplifies broad based involvement by involving planning and funding support with American Whitewater, the Gunnison Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, river outfitters and users.

CWCB dollars will be used for construction of the boat/raft slide and associated site improvements.

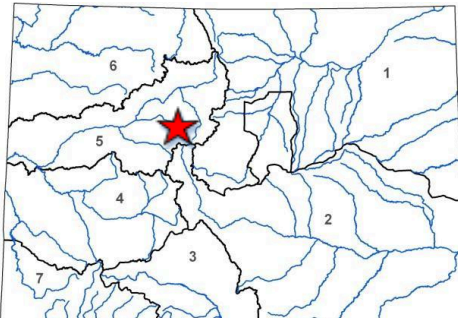
This project will advance the Colorado Water Plan goals by enhancing recreation access in the Gunnison Basin.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$154,154.00 to American Whitewater for the Taylor River Access Improvement Project.



## Water Plan Grant Program Application

	DETAILS	
	<i>Total Project Cost:</i> \$198,779.66	
	<i>Water Plan Grant Request:</i> \$148,537.75	
	<b><i>Recommended amount:</i></b> \$148,537.75	
	<i>Other CWCB Funding:</i> \$0	
	<i>Other Funding Amount:</i> \$45,000.00	
	<i>Applicant Match:</i> \$5,241.91	
	<i>Project Type:</i> Study	
	<i>Project Category:</i> Watershed Health & Recreation	
	<i>Measurable Result: Streamflow-dependent recreation risks identified in the Gunnison and Rio Grande basins, Water Sharing Agreement opportunities identified in each basin</i>	
LOCATION		
<i>County/Countries:</i>	Statewide	
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	Statewide	

American Whitewater's Recreational Impacts and Opportunities Phase 2 project will identify priority locations at risk of changing or diminished recreational opportunities due to changing climate and will develop a process for quantifying recreational water needs across Colorado in the future.

CWCB's Water Plan Grant program supported Phase 1 of this project with an approved Water Plan Grant in March 2023. Phase I began the development of a water-based recreation GeoDatabase as a critical first step to understanding existing recreation use throughout Colorado. The GeoDatabase was developed state-wide using a consistent approach with input from a Technical Advisory Group made up of recreation representatives from each Basin Roundtable. Phase II will focus on mitigation opportunities, specific to water sharing agreements, using specific locations in each basin to understand risks due to growing population and climate-based changes in hydrology.

The success of this project will include identification of priority recreation locations at risk, development of a process for quantifying recreational water needs of the future statewide, and collaboration with local municipalities to understand investments and plan to improve access to water-based recreation. Funding partners include the Mighty Arrow Family Foundation (\$15,000) and the Walton Family Foundation (\$30,000).

This project aims to advance the Colorado Water Plan goals by evaluating collaborative water sharing agreements, integrating water conservation through infrastructure improvements, and planning for a sustainable recreational economy. Further, this project exemplifies broad-based involvement by involving a Technical Advisory Group in the planning process and engaging with local municipalities and numerous stakeholders at local, state and federal levels.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$148,537.75 to the American Whitewater for Quantifying Recreational Impacts and Identifying Enhancement Opportunities Phase 2.