



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Jeannine Shaw, Grants Section Chief
Ashley Garrison, Regional Grant Manager (Colorado, Gunnison,
Yampa/White/Green)

DATE: November 20, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: Agenda Item #18, Water Plan Grant Funding Recommendation

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends Board action on one (1) Water Plan Grant application above \$100,000.

Background

Staff presented Water Plan Grant funding recommendations for the first 2025 fiscal year award cycle to the CWCB Board's consideration in September 2024. Staff deferred one funding recommendation and since the September meeting, staff had the opportunity to clarify information regarding a grant application from the Pothook Water Conservancy District for the Upper Little Snake River Restoration and Diversion Structure Improvements in the agriculture category of Water Plan Grants.

The process of reviewing the application 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.

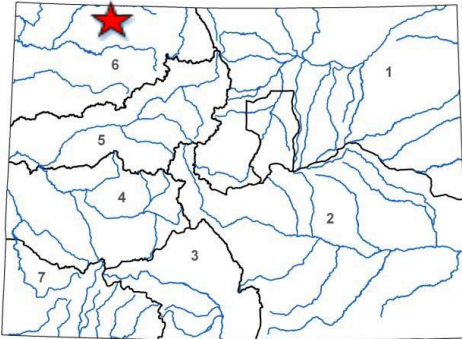
This agenda item recommends approval of one application above \$100,000 for a total recommended amount of \$781,989.00. Additional project details are in the attached data sheet.



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

November 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.