

**COLORADO**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

## Colorado Water Conservation Board

## Water Plan

## Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Center Conservation District
Name of Water Project	San Luis Valley Wool Pellet Project
Grant Request Amount	<b>\$134,946.70</b>
Primary Category	\$134,946.70
<i>Agricultural Projects</i>	
Total Applicant Match	<b>\$8,950.00</b>
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$8,250.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$700.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	<b>\$163,500.00</b>
<i>Colorado Ag Water Alliance</i>	\$20,000.00
<i>Colorado Association of Conservation Districts</i>	\$10,000.00
<i>Colorado State University (Research Farm)</i>	\$33,500.00
<i>National Sheep Industry Improvement Center</i>	\$80,000.00
<i>Colorado Wool Growers Association</i>	\$10,000.00
<i>Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust</i>	\$10,000.00
Total Project Cost	<b>\$307,396.70</b>

## Applicant &amp; Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Center Conservation District  
Mailing Address: 0048 W County Road 10 N Center CO 81125

Organization Contact: Mattea Freel  
Position/Title: Email: centercd1@gmail.com  
Phone: 719-754-3400

Grant Management Contact: Mattea Freel  
Position/Title: Email: centercd1@gmail.com  
Phone: 719-754-3400

## Description of Grantee/Applicant

A special district (conservation district) focused on promoting soil health practices through education, outreach, and producer support

## 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 37.708310  
 Longitude -106.144277  
 Lat Long Flag  
 Water Source Water shares from Santa Maria and Rio Grande  
 Basins Rio Grande  
 Counties Rio Grande  
 Districts 20-Rio Grande

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Agricultural  
 Type of Water Project Study  
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 3/3/2025  
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction  
 Description  
 The San Luis Valley Wool Pellet Project (SLVWPP) aims to trial the product efficacy of wool pellets in agricultural operations for the purpose of increasing soil moisture retention rates while providing organic fertilizer benefits. The trials will take place at the CSU Research Farm in Center, CO to determine if wool pellets are a useful amendment for water savings in agricultural crops.

### Measurable Results

New Storage Created (acre-feet)  
New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive  
Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)  
New Storage Created (acre-feet)  
Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)  
Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)  
Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)  
10 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)  
47,000 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning  
100 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity  
Other  
No additional measurable results provided

### Water Project Justification

The San Luis Valley Wool Pellet Project (SLVWPP) answers the goals of the Rio Grande Basin Water Plan to assist with groundwater and aquifer sustainability and seek a viable alternative for resilient agriculture. The SLVWPP is trialing wool pellets as a soil amendment focused on increasing soil moisture retention rates, therefore reducing irrigation requirements in agriculture. This project is focused on Subdistrict 1 in the Rio Grande Basin where the wool pellets have the potential to reduce the amount of groundwater used on agricultural crops.

### Related Studies

Bradshaw, Terence, and Hagen, Kimberly. Wool Pellets Are a Viable Alternative to Commercial Fertilizer for Organic Vegetable Production. Agronomy. 2022.

Hagen, Kimberly, and Hodgson, Suzy. Vermont Sheep Wool: Value-Added Products from Raw Wool. University of Vermont, Center for Sustainable Agriculture. 2018.

### Taxpayer Bill of Rights

There are no TABOR issues that would affect our application.