



Colorado Water Conservation Board

## Water Plan

### Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Town of Crested Butte
Name of Water Project	Town of Crested Butte Slate River Alternative Water Supply Feasibility Project
Grant Request Amount	<b>\$342,000.00</b>
Primary Category	\$342,000.00
<i>Water Storage &amp; Supply</i>	
Total Applicant Match	<b>\$114,000.00</b>
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$114,000.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	
Total Other Sources of Funding	<b>\$0.00</b>
Total Project Cost	<b>\$456,000.00</b>

### Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Town of Crested Butte  
Mailing Address: 507 Maroon Avenue - 39 Crested Butte CO 81224

Organization Contact: Carolyn de Groot  
Position/Title: Email: cdegroot@crestedbutte-co.gov  
Phone: 970-349-5338

### Description of Grantee/Applicant

The Town of Crested Butte (Town) owns and operates raw water supply infrastructure, a 1.67 mgd water treatment plant (WTP), a wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), treated water distribution, wastewater collection systems and fleet equipment as part of the Town's Enterprise Fund. Focus on the Water system, The raw water infrastructure is involves a high hazard dam, Coal Creek Dam that is under upgrade design that regulates water to Coal Creek River. The Town's water rights include 6 cfs (3.87 mgd) water right from Coal Creek and Wildcat Creek, and a 15 cfs (9.69 mgd) water right from the Slate River. Currently only Wildcat and Coal Creeks water rights are used.

### 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	38.870000
Longitude	-106.981000
Lat Long Flag	
Water Source	Slate River
Basins	Gunnison
Counties	Gunnison
Districts	62-Upper Gunnison River

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Planning
Scheduled Start Date - Design	4/15/2025
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	
Description	The Town's reliance on Coal Creek as its sole surface water supply leaves the community vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including postwildfire water quality in Coal Creek, debris flows, and declining snowpacks. To address this vulnerability, the Town will investigate and prepare an approach for an exploratory groundwater well program in the Slate River alluvium to determine the feasibility of developing a redundant raw groundwater supply. Preliminary investigations have narrowed the list of potential sites to two, and grant funding will support additional exploratory work including a geophysical survey, construction and testing of exploratory wells, assessments of wetlands impacts, preparation of engineering reports, and a study of water rights feasibility.

### Measurable Results

4	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)  
 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  
 5,000 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

Advance the development of an alternative water source, which will eventually need to meet 577 gpm to meet winter peak day conditions and 1,635 gpm to meet summer peak day conditions according to initial projections from engineers.

### Water Project Justification

The project is in alignment with the “Resilient Planning” action area of the 2023 Colorado Water Plan and its recommended action to “protect storage infrastructure from effects of wildfire, flooding, and debris flow”. This project will advance development of an alternative water source to mitigate the risks of relying on Coal Creek, which is highly susceptible to wildfire impacts, as the Town’s sole water source. It is also aligned with the Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan which states “Protecting existing supply infrastructure after wildfire is a concern that has not been adequately addressed”.

### Related Studies

The project is informed by the 2024 Town of Crested Butte Source Water Protection Plan (attached) and the in-development Crested Butte Wildfire Ready Action Plan funded through the CWCB Watershed Restoration Grants program.

### Taxpayer Bill of Rights

Town attorney confirmed that because the Town is not taking out any debt in 2025, Town can pursue grant funding without limitations.