



Colorado Water Conservation Board

## Water Plan

### Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Name of Water Project	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Federal Reserved Water Rights Options Study
Grant Request Amount	<b>\$398,230.00</b>
Primary Category	\$398,230.00
<i>Water Storage &amp; Supply</i>	
Total Applicant Match	<b>\$0.00</b>
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$0.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	<b>\$0.00</b>
Total Project Cost	<b>\$398,230.00</b>

### Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 128 Towaoc Colorado 81334	
Organization Contact: Erin Wilson	
Position/Title:	Email: erin.wilson@wilsonwatergroup.com
Phone: 3039531923	
Grant Management Contact: Erin Wilson	
Position/Title:	Email: erin.wilson@wilsonwatergroup.com
Phone: 3039531923	
Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Erin Wilson	
Position/Title:	Email: erin.wilson@wilsonwatergroup.com
Phone: 3039531923	

### Description of Grantee/Applicant

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is a federally recognized Tribal Sovereign Nation

### 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	37.103900
Longitude	108.662800
Lat Long Flag	Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters
Water Source	Mancos River, Dolores River, San Juan River, McElmo Creek
Basins	Southwest
Counties	Montezuma; La Plata
Districts	34-Mancos River Basin; 32-McElmo Creek Basin; 71-West Dolores Creek/Tribs.

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Agricultural
Type of Water Project	Study
Scheduled Start Date - Design	6/1/2025
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	

Description

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe settled their federally reserved water rights with the state of Colorado in 1991 in cases W-1603-76F-H for existing and future uses. A portion of the Tribe's reserved water rights have yet to be put to beneficial use because of 1) lack of technology to track changes in use; 2) infrastructure and funding limitations for design and construction; 3) location and hydrologic feasibility not defined in the settlement. This project will investigate opportunities to use reserved rights for the economic benefit of Tribal members and includes:

- an on-the-ground inventory and development of database to track existing well and stockpond use;
- a hydrologic and geotechnical analysis to identify potential reservoir sites for development of the reserved storage right in the Mancos River basin;
- design of a diversion structure, pump station, and pipeline to deliver the San Juan River reserved water right to identified irrigated acreage near the Four Corners;

options to use the reserved irrigation right in the McElmo River basin;  
 investigation of opportunities to deliver their Dolores Project allocation of municipal and industrial water to the Four Corners region.  
 This study will not address the Tribe's reserved Animas-La Plata water rights.

### Measurable Results

21,000	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
6,400	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
21,000	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
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

Project is primarily a study, water supply and storage location for 21,000 AF reserved storage right will be investigated. Water supply study and feasibility for two reserved irrigation rights yet to be developed for 6,400 AF per year will be investigated.

### Water Project Justification

The primary objective of this project is to track existing water use and identify options to develop the Tribe's federal reserved water rights within the Reservation boundary for the economic benefit of the Tribe and its members. The project meets several of the Water Plan objectives, fitting primarily in the Water Storage and Supply Project funding category. Development of additional reserved agricultural rights, especially the San Juan River right and storage in the Mancos River basin will provide long-term drought protection for the Ute Mountain Ute Farm and Ranch when there is reduced allocation from the Dolores Project. Opportunities to use the Tribe's reserved storage right in the Mancos will include investigation of environmental benefits in the severely depleted lower Mancos River.

In addition to clearly meeting Water Plan objectives, this project was a Basin Identified Project in the recent Southwest Basin Implementation Plans as follows:

"The Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe plans to seek funding to begin exploring options to develop the Tribe's unused Federal Reserved water rights for the benefit of the Tribal membership. As specific uses are identified as part of the study, separate projects will spin off for further analysis to include more detailed economic benefits, infrastructure needs, and marketing opportunities. These separate projects will then be included in future updates to the IPP database and may be included in more detail in future water availability analyses."

### Related Studies

Mancos Watershed Stream Management Plan

### Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A

