

**COLORADO**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

## Colorado Water Conservation Board

## Water Plan

## Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
Name of Water Project	Rye Resurgence Project - Phase 2
Grant Request Amount	<b>\$652,000.00</b>
Primary Category	\$652,000.00
<i>Agricultural Projects</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>\$652,000.00</b>
<i>Private Foundation</i>	\$20,000.00
<i>Project Farmers</i>	\$132,000.00
<i>Project Partners - Customers</i>	\$480,000.00
<i>San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District</i>	\$20,000.00
Total Project Cost	<b>\$1,304,000.00</b>

## Applicant &amp; Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

Mailing Address: 623 4th Street Alamosa CO 81101

Organization Contact: Daniel Boyes

Position/Title: Executive Director

Phone: 719-589-2230

Email: daniel@riograndeheadwaters.org

Organization Contact - Alternate: Emma Reesor

Position/Title: Administrative Director

Phone: (719) 589-2230

Email: emma@riograndeheadwaters.org

Grant Management Contact: Daniel Boyes

Position/Title: Executive Director

Phone: 719-589-2230

Email: daniel@riograndeheadwaters.org

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Emma Reesor

Position/Title: Administrative Director

Phone: (719) 589-2230

Email: emma@riograndeheadwaters.org

## Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

## 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 37.736500  
 Longitude -105.900860  
 Lat Long Flag Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters  
 Water Source San Luis Valley Unconfined Aquifer and the Rio Grande  
 Basins Rio Grande  
 Counties Alamosa; Rio Grande  
 Districts 20-Rio Grande

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Agricultural  
 Type of Water Project Construction / Implementation  
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 10/1/2025  
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction  
 Description  
 The Rye Resurgence Project Phase 2 (RRP2) will build off the first phase of the project to grow the market for San Luis Valley Rye as a tool to save water, improve soil health, support agriculture resilience, and keep farmers farming. Through RRP2, more farmers will incorporate rye into crop rotations as a winter cover crop for green manure, livestock feed, or to market. The project team will continue to build relationships in the baking, milling,

brewing, distilling, malting, restaurant, and business communities to expand the use of San Luis Valley Rye, with a focus on fair prices for farmers. The project will provide incentives for processing, cleaning, or shipping costs. The project will also assist partners with the development of new products or access to new markets for existing products. Finally, the project will also focus on increasing demand for San Luis Valley Rye by assisting with product marketing and focusing advertisements and media efforts on communities throughout the West. The Rye Resurgence Project will continue to be coordinated by the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District (SLVWCD) with project administration and fiscal agent assistance from the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation (CRGRF).

### 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)
	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)
46,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
200,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
Water saved by use of low-water use crop: 4,000 AF	

### Water Project Justification

The project directly supports the goals of the Colorado Water Plan (CWP) and Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan (RGBIP). Regarding Robust Agriculture, the CWP notes on page 176, “Robust agriculture supports a sustainable agriculture economy and culture where farms and ranches are profitable and a high quality of life for farming communities is maintained.” This statement perfectly aligns with the motivation of the Rye Resurgence Project, which seeks to support farmers as they adapt to using less water while maintaining the rural culture and economy that drive the San Luis Valley. The CWP vision for Robust Agriculture states on page 176, “innovations are needed to sustain irrigated agriculture, including strategies to stretch available water supplies, increase resiliency, enhance good production, and maintain profitability.” Further, the CWCB Agency Action of 2.10 is to “integrate soil health, water conservation, and adaptive practices that increase economic outputs with less water use.” The information about Agency Action 2.10 goes on to say, “Colorado, in response to aridification, periodic and intense drought, and declining groundwater supplies in some basins, must increase focus on promoting soil and water conservation to sustain agricultural production. Pairing soil and water conservation strategies with positive production and economic outcomes is essential for increased adoption. In partnership with CWCB, Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) will assess impacts to water use and economic opportunities that accompany emerging soil and water conservation strategies (i.e., reduced tillage or low-water crops).” The proposed project is a perfect example of the implementation of Agency Action 2.10 as it seeks to help farmers build and expand a market to enable expanded production the low water use crop, rye, while remaining profitable and improving soil health.

CWCB recently published the Water Plan Agency Action 2.6 Report – 10 Strategies to Protect Irrigated Agriculture. Strategy 5 is, “Expand Market Pathways for Producers: Create more opportunities for economic

success with investments in processing facilities, marketing campaigns, cooperatives and food hubs, and agritourism.” The Rye Resurgence Project is a great example of a project to expand market pathways for San Luis Valley Rye.

Finally, the project fits well within the RGBIP as it supports the Basin’s goals of “Aquifers with sustainable supplies of groundwater for farmers and ranchers, towns, and wildlife habitat” and “Vibrant and resilient agriculture, recreation, municipal, and industrial economies that support thriving communities.”

#### Related Studies

Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan  
Rye Resurgence Project, Phase 1

#### Taxpayer Bill of Rights

None.