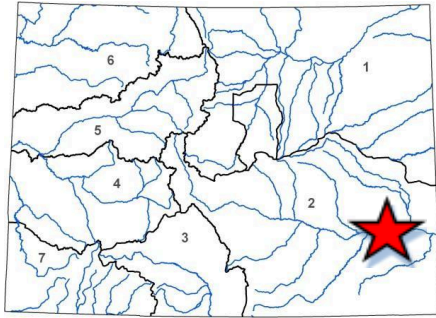




## Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
<b>Counties:</b>	Bent; Crowley; Pueblo; Otero
<b>Basin:</b>	Arkansas

DETAILS	
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	\$242,099.06
<b>Water Plan Grant Request:</b>	\$362,801.00
<b>Recommended amount:</b>	\$172,951.83
<b>Match Commitment:</b>	\$69,147.23
<b>Grant to Match Ratio:</b>	71/28
<b>Project Type:</b>	Planning
<b>Primary Project Category:</b>	Watershed Health & Recreation
<b>Measurable Result:</b> Technically-sound prioritization plan for a collaborative approach to sediment-control project in the Lower Arkansas basin.	

The Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC), in partnership with Ducks Unlimited (DU), is seeking a Colorado Water Plan grant to support watershed planning efforts in the Arkansas River corridor between Pueblo Reservoir and the John Martin Reservoir, specifically within Bent, Crowley, Pueblo, and Otero counties. As documented by the US Geological Survey, sedimentation and invasive species are challenges in this lower section of the Arkansas Basin. This project aims to begin a stakeholder-driven effort to develop plans and projects to address these challenges in the lower watershed.

This Phase 1 project aims to build stakeholder capacity and outreach, community engagement, and an understanding of ecological and infrastructure stressors. It will do this by hiring a dedicated Lower Arkansas Watershed Coordinator and completing a baseline inventory of river conditions. The project's ultimate goal is to define priorities for future project development and funding and build momentum for a Phase 2 project that incorporates shared community priorities and identifies shovel-ready projects.

This project aims to provide a unified and comprehensive examination of the entire Lower Basin. It will develop the resources needed to plan and implement projects that support robust agriculture and a thriving watershed. By creating a baseline inventory of current river corridor conditions, the project will allow ARWC and other organizations to directly address needs in the future. Building capacity in this region will encourage local stakeholders to collaborate on solving problems.

The project supports Colorado's Water Plan goals of integrated water management, healthy watersheds, and community resilience. This project directly addresses several agricultural and watershed health goals outlined in the Arkansas Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan.

CWCB staff will be closely involved in the development of the final scope of work and will request to be included as a stakeholder in this new collaborative. CWCB Watershed staff will attend stakeholder meetings and work to facilitate project success throughout the life of this grant.

Project supporters include a number of organizations providing funding: Arkansas Groundwater and Reservoir Association, Ducks Unlimited, Aurora Water, Colorado Springs Utilities, Colorado Canal, Amity Canal, Pueblo West, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, Pueblo Water, and the Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends partial funding for a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$172,951.83 to the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative for the Lower Arkansas Watershed Planning Initiative. Partial funding will support a successful project by allowing ARWC to hire a facilitator to complete initial outreach and planning efforts while simultaneously working with technical partners to further the development of project planning documents.