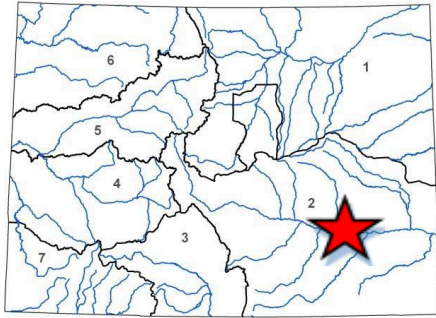




## Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
County:	Pueblo
Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$494,987.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$246,055.00
Recommended Amount:	<b>\$246,055.00</b>
Match Commitment:	\$248,932.00
Grant to Match Ratio:	50/50
Project Type:	Construction
Primary Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	1,228 acre-feet storage preserved/enhanced, 200 linear-feet of stream restored, 1 acre of restored/preserved habitat

The Arkansas Groundwater and Reservoir Association (AGRA), a 501-c12 not-for-profit corporation that develops, manages, and conserves water resources for its members, is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support the West Pueblo Bank Restoration project. The project location is on the Arkansas River below the Pueblo Dam. This section of the river is publicly accessible and represents a significant public safety hazard for those accessing the river for fishing. The reservoir itself provides opportunities for fishing and boating.

This project would repair a section of the Arkansas River stream bank that has a significant scour hole caused by a malfunctioning fish habitat structure. The project's goal is to prevent the scour hole from eroding into a lined gravel pit reservoir owned by AGRA. This is crucial to prevent a breach of the reservoir liner, which would cause major ecological damage, impact AGRA's ability to store water for its members and could cause negative impacts to downstream water rights. The project will stabilize the eroded bank, reshape the channel, and use natural channel design principles and locally sourced materials. Native vegetation will also be planted to promote long-term stability and restore riparian habitat.



The project advances the Colorado Water Plan by protecting key water infrastructure. It will re-establish the riverbank, safeguard recently constructed water storage infrastructure, and reduce sediment runoff to improve water quality. This will reinforce the long-term sustainability of both the river ecosystem and its water users.

By 2021 (Photo at left), significant deposition can be seen upstream of the failed J-hook and significant portions of the flow in low flow events were being directed into the growing scour hole.

By 2024 (Photo at right) a majority of the low flows of the river are traveling through the expanded scour hole.

The project is currently in the 30% design phase. The design includes hydraulic modeling and recommendations for channel structures to direct flow away from the bank. The construction is anticipated to take place from

December 2025 to March 2026, with revegetation in Fall 2026. Emergency repairs were already conducted in late March 2025 to temporarily stabilize the bank and prevent further scouring.

This project will be completed in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$246,055.00 to the Arkansas Groundwater and Reservoir Association for the West Pueblo Bank Stabilization.