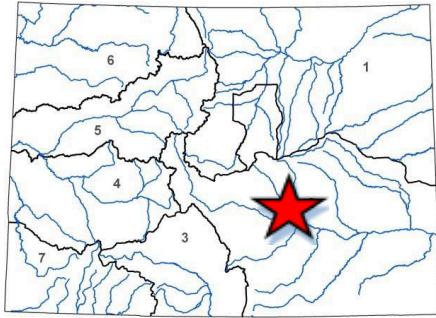




## Water Plan Grant Program



| LOCATION         |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Counties:</i> | El Paso; Pueblo |
| <i>Basin:</i>    | Arkansas        |

| DETAILS                          |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Total Project Cost:</i>       | \$199,694.00   |
| <i>Water Plan Grant Request:</i> | \$139,785.80   |
| <i>Recommended Amount:</i>       | <b>\$139,785.80</b>  |
| <i>Match Commitment:</i>         | \$59,908.20  |
| <i>Grant to Match Ratio:</i>     | 70/30  |
| <i>Project Type:</i>             | Planning and Design  |
| <i>Primary Project Category:</i> | Watershed Health & Recreation  |
| <i>Measurable Result:</i>        | 3,000 linear-feet of stream restored, 10 acres of restored habitat, and 100 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity |

The Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District (District) is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support the Frost Ranch Final Design. The project is located on Fountain Creek within the Arkansas Basin, downstream of Colorado Springs. The project's purpose is to address severe channel erosion and sediment loading caused by rapid creek migration.

Between 2018 and 2024, an estimated 100,000 cubic yards of sediment were lost from an eroding outer meander bench, resulting from variable flows and area-specific geology. The project's goal is to produce a "shovel-ready" design package for a restoration effort that will stabilize and restore the channel, and it aims to achieve several positive outcomes, including public safety and downstream infrastructure protection. The final design will include plans to reconnect a relic channel, build bendway weirs, and install large woody debris to re-establish a stable, braided channel system. Once implemented, the project will restore 3,000 linear feet of stream and is expected to restore or preserve 10 acres of riparian and upland habitat. The design elements aim to reduce sediment input, promote natural stream processes, improve water quality, and restore riparian habitat. This design project will support additional sediment-capture and management efforts throughout the Fountain Creek watershed. This project is supported by numerous planning documents including: Fountain Creek Floodplain Management Opportunities Study, the Fountain Creek Corridor Watershed Assessment of River Stability and Sediment Supply Report and the Fountain Creek Corridor WARSSS Study.

The project advances the Colorado Water Plan and the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan by supporting multi-benefit restoration, water quality improvement, agricultural protection, and resilient community planning. It aligns with the Water Plan's goals for Vibrant Communities and Resilient Planning by improving public safety, restoring floodplains, and stabilizing streambanks. The project also supports numerous watershed health, municipal and industrial and environmental and recreational goals of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan.

Grant dollars would be used to support the final design development, permitting, easement acquisition, and to create bid-ready construction documents. The project will also include public programming through the District's e-newsletter, a project webpage, and direct engagement with landowners, schools, and community partners. The District plans to host project tours to share lessons learned and demonstrate restoration effectiveness.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$139,785.80 to the Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District for the Frost Ranch Final Design.