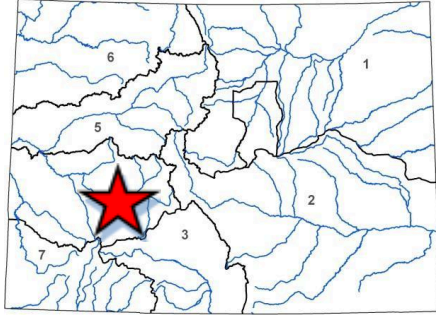




Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
Counties:	Gunnison; Saguache; Delta; Montrose; Hinsdale
Basin:	Gunnison

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$1,369,506.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$800,466.00
Recommended Amount:	\$800,466.00
Match Commitment:	\$569,040.00
Grant to Match Ratio:	58/42
Project Type:	Construction & Planning
Primary Project Category:	Agricultural Projects
Measurable Result:	75 acre-feet/yr efficiency savings

Trout Unlimited (TU) is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support a second phase of the Gunnison River Drought Resiliency and Restoration Project. In addition to a Water Plan Grant, the first phase was funded through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), a voluntary conservation program that allows the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to collaborate with a lead partner to address resource concerns in a specific project area. The current RCPP project is focused on addressing four key resource concerns: insufficient water/drought, inadequate habitat, water quality degradation, and soil quality degradation. To build on the regional impact of the first award, TU will apply for renewed RCPP funding.

	Phase 1 (2023-2025)	Phase 2 (2025-2028)
Kiser Creek		
Schmalz Irrigation Improvement	Design	Construction
Razon Creek		
Ackerman Irrigation and Stream Restoration	Design, Construction	
Tomichi Creek		
Lost Miner Irrigation and Restoration	Design, Construction	
Sargents No 2 Diversion and Channel Rehab		Construction
Ballie Tomichi Restoration	Design	
Quartz Creek		
Bosshard Ranch Channel Restoration		Design, Construction
Chittenden Ditch Diversion Rehab	Design, Construction	
Cochetopa Creek		
Norman Ditch Diversion	Design	Construction
True West Ranch	Design	

This project would update and improve aging irrigation infrastructure, restore stream corridors, and enhance watershed and water user resilience to drought resulting in 75 AF of water efficiency savings annually. The table shows the progression from planning and design to construction in the project area.

This project advances the Colorado Water Plan through the regional approach to improving and upgrading agricultural diversions to improve efficiency and function including environmental benefits.

TU will partner with The Freshwater Trust to use their BasinScout Analytics tool to identify and prioritize new locations where improvements and restoration will result in the highest resource benefit.

TU will develop designs and engineering on six new projects in the region, partnering with RCPP eligible landowners addressing the project resource concerns.

The project has additional match funding and support from the Colorado River District and Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$800,466.00 to Trout Unlimited - National for Gunnison Basin RCPP project.