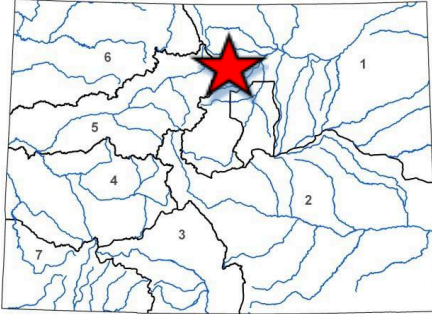




Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
County:	Larimer
Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$821,841.46
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$410,862.46
Recommended amount:	\$410,862.46
Match Commitment:	\$410,862.46
Grant to Match Ratio	50/50
Project Type:	Implementation/Construction
Primary Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	19,008 feet of stream restored; 70 acres of habitat restored; 100 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity

Larimer Conservation District (LCD), a special district of the State of Colorado that partners with NRCS to implement forestry, riparian, and soil conservation projects, is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support the Collaborative Elkhorn Creek Restoration project in Larimer County.

This project aims to restore 3.6 miles of Elkhorn Creek to improve geomorphic and hydrologic function, enhance stream complexity, improve wildlife habitat, increase resiliency to future disturbances, and expand public understanding of resilient watersheds. It is identified as a high priority stream for restoration in the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed's Upper Poudre Resilience Master Plan. Key goals and objectives include reconnecting the creek to the floodplain, enhancing 70 acres of riparian and wetland habitat, and installing a combination of in-stream, low tech structures. It also includes upsizing and replacing two undersized culverts with bottomless culverts to improve aquatic organism passage and to facilitate passage of higher peak flows.

Grant funding will be used for project management, design, permitting, construction, stakeholder outreach and coordination, monitoring, and adaptive management activities.



This project advances the Colorado Water Plan's vision for Thriving Watersheds by collaborative watershed management and shared stewardship. It aligns with the Water Plan Grant criteria by restoring riparian habitat and improving stream ecological health through a stakeholder led planning processes.

Project supporters include the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, The Nature Conservancy, City of Fort Collins Utilities, Drala Mountain Center, and Ben Delatour Scout Ranch.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$410,862.46 to Larimer Conservation District for the Collaborative Elkhorn Creek Restoration project.