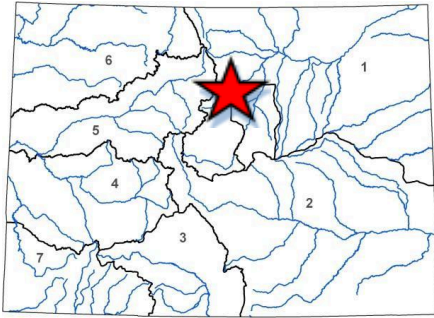




Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION

Counties:	Jefferson; Boulder; Larimer
Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS

Total Project Cost:	\$1,700,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$850,000.00
Recommended amount:	\$675,000.00
Match Commitment:	\$1,025,000.00
Grant to Match Ratio	40/60
Project Type:	Implementation/Construction
Primary Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	200 acres of restored habitat

Boulder Mushroom LLC, is a Boulder-based organization focused on developing nature-based solutions for environmental stewardship projects. They are seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support advancing biological fire mitigation and soil moisture retention technologies for Front Range watershed resiliency in Jefferson, Boulder, and Larimer Counties.

This project would transform forest biomass from wildfire mitigation into a resource for soil health, landscape-scale moisture retention, and erosion control, aiming to treat approximately 200 acres and establish offsite biomass processing yards.

Grant dollars will fund a portion of this project including the in-situ biomass treatment at forest sites, distribution and application of soil amendment, monitoring and data collection and analysis, engagement and educational outreach, and project management.

Boulder Mushroom will partner directly with Boulder Valley & Longmont Conservation Districts (BVLCD), Jefferson Conservation District (JCD), and Larimer Conservation District (LCD) to 1) treat approximately 200 acres of fire mitigated forest within high priority wildfire mitigation zones, and 2) establish offsite satellite biomass receiving & processing yards to transform forest biomass into a soil amendment at scale. The amendment generated from these yards will be distributed for use in agricultural and environmental stewardship soil applications.

Boulder Mushroom will align project implementation with relevant plans such as Boulder Watershed Collective WRAP, Cache LaPoudre WRAP, and Jefferson Conservation District/ North Fork WRAPS, Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), and county-led Woody Biomass Utilization Studies. Boulder Mushroom will incorporate a stakeholder engagement and educational programming component to contribute to WRAPs, synthesize information and data on these practices to provide to practitioners, and generate interactive tools to assist with future planning and design. It advances the Colorado Water Plan's vision for Thriving Watershed, Vibrant Communities, and Resilient Planning by emphasizing increased soil health and effective use of water and forest health improvements that enhance watershed resilience and water quality. It aligns with the Water Plan Grant criteria by studying erosion mitigation techniques in upland areas.

Project supporters include the South Platte Basin Roundtable, Boulder County's Office of Sustainability, Climate Action and Resilience, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, City of Boulder Climate Initiatives Department, Boulder Watershed Collective, Jefferson Conservation District, and Larimer Conservation District.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends partial funding of a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$675,000.00 to Boulder Mushroom for the Biological Soil Moisture Retention project.