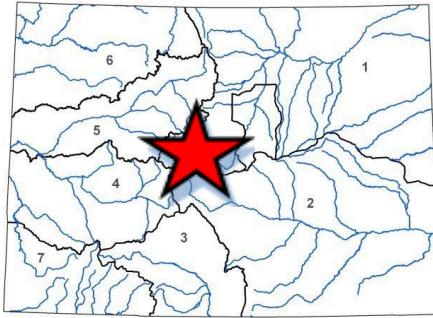




## Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
Counties:	Statewide
Basin:	Statewide

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$733,291.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$511,237.00
Recommended Amount:	\$511,237.00
Match Commitment:	\$222,054.00
Grant to Match Ratio	70/30
Project Type:	Study
Primary Project Category:	Agricultural Projects
Measurable Result:	70 stakeholder groups impacted by engagement activity 15 new weather and soil moisture measurement sites

The Integrated Rocky Mountain-region Innovation Center for Healthy Soils (IN-RICHES) at Colorado State University Agricultural Experiment Station is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support the expansion of the Colorado Open Soil Moisture Monitoring Network in locations primarily across the Eastern Plains and Moffat County, as well as other grazed rangeland and dryland agroecosystems throughout the state.

This project would strengthen Colorado's ability to understand and respond to drought by enhancing data visualization, monitoring infrastructure, citizen science, and evaluation. It aims to deliver actionable, science-based tools to inform climate resilience across Colorado's diverse landscapes.

It advances the Colorado Water Plan by addressing aridification and declining soil moisture, expanding sensor infrastructure in under-monitored regions, and deploying a browser-based platform (Quench) that integrates remote sensing, in-situ data, and user input to support water decision-making. The project aligns with the Water Plan Grant criteria by promoting collaborative, multi-benefit projects for data-driven water use decisions and climate resiliency supporting agriculture and watershed health.

Grant dollars would be used to enhance the Quench Platform, expand soil moisture infrastructure by installing 15 new stations, strengthen citizen science engagement through the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), and conduct a process evaluation of the project's impact and relevance.

Project supporters include the Colorado Department of Agriculture, NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, Aspen Global Change Institute, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, State Senator Cleave Simpson, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, UCSD Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, Republican River Water Conservation District, Kit Carson County, Louis Martin (member of the Colorado State University Board of Governors), Gunnison Basin Roundtable, North Platte Basin Roundtable, Southwest Basins Roundtable, Arkansas Basin Roundtable, Metro Basin Roundtable, and Rio Grande Basin Roundtable.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$511,237.00 to Colorado State University for Colorado Open Soil Moisture Project.