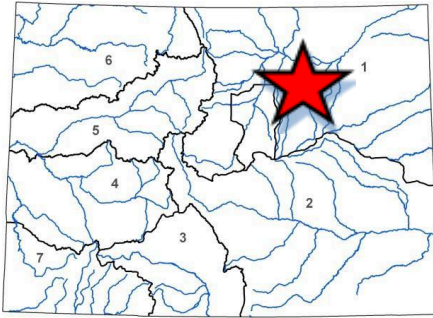




Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
<i>Counties:</i>	Weld; Arapahoe
<i>Basin:</i>	South Platte

DETAILS	
<i>Total Project Cost:</i>	\$92,220.00
<i>Water Plan Grant Request:</i>	\$69,165.00
<i>Recommended Amount:</i>	\$69,165.00
<i>Match Commitment:</i>	\$23,055.00
<i>Grant to Match Ratio:</i>	75/25
<i>Project Type:</i>	Design/Engineering
<i>Primary Project Category:</i>	Agriculture
<i>Measurable Result:</i>	1,000 acre-feet/year efficiency savings

The Owl Creek Supply and Irrigation Company, a privately owned ditch company that supplies water to privately owned farms and ranches centered around the town of Galeton, Colorado, is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support the final design and construction plans for an innovative temporary storage project. CWCB funded the feasibility study for this project through the Local Capacity grant program.

The Owl Creek Lateral is a carrier ditch and does not own water rights. The 137 shareholders include Larimer and Weld Irrigation Company, the Larimer and Weld Reservoir Company, the Windsor Reservoir and Canal Company, and shares in Colorado-Big Thompson water. The farms in this area grow corn (silage and grain), alfalfa, and operate large livestock and dairy operations.

This project design involves reconstructing a section of the Owl Creek Lateral ditch to temporarily retain water and improve system efficiency and management. The lateral, which is at the end of the Larimer and Weld Irrigation system, experiences inconsistent water flow during the later part of the irrigation season. This is because the ditch is out of priority, and water is lost during weekly startup and shutdown procedures.

The project's goal is to reduce these losses and improve the predictability of water deliveries to the 20,000 acres of farmland it serves. This is expected to create between 15 and 23 acre-feet (AF) of storage. This type of storage does not require a new storage right, as it will be managed under the 72-hour rule. This ability to temporarily retain water will decrease the time it takes for water to reach full flow from several hours to as little as 30 minutes, potentially saving between 800 and 1,000 AF of water over an entire irrigation season.

Grant dollars would be used for engineering services, including hydraulic design, geotechnical engineering, surveying, structural engineering, and preparation to secure construction financing.

This project advances the Colorado Water Plan's vision of Robust Agriculture by providing an example of innovative and thoughtful storage and is a demonstration of a solution that is scalable to the region. It aligns with the Water Plan Grant criteria by improving efficiency and water management of irrigation delivery systems.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$69,165.00 to The Owl Creek Supply and Irrigation Company for the Operational Improvement Owl Creek Lateral project.