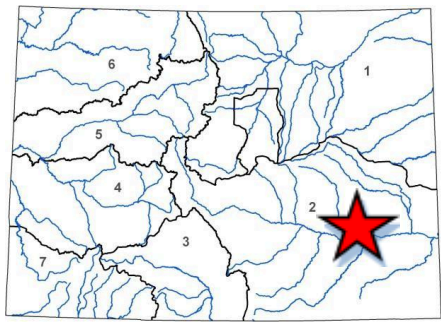
Bent Conservation District

September 2025 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
County:	Bent
Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	$103,450.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	$58,325.00
Recommended Amount:	**$0.00**
Match Commitment:	$45,125.00
Grant to Match Ratio:	56/44
Project Type:	Implementation
Primary Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result: 24,600 linear-feet of stream restored or protected	

Bent Conservation District, a public district, is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support a watershed restoration project titled "Supporting Nature's Engineers: Beaver Dam Analogs for Watershed Restoration." The project will take place on the Purgatoire River. The project involves the construction of approximately 50 beaver dam analogs (BDAs) along five miles of the river to help restore the riparian habitat.

The applicant describes the goal of the project as improving watershed health by reducing soil erosion, increasing the area's resilience to floods, drought, and wildfires, and attracting more beavers back into the area. When appropriately installed in well-designed projects, BDAs can be a low-cost method to slow water flow, filter sediment, raise the water level, and restore wetlands.

Grant dollars would be used for the construction and implementation of the BDAs with the goals of addressing issues such as poor water quality, severe incision, the proliferation of invasive species, and erosion in the Purgatoire River.

The Bent Conservation District is the main project proponent. No other project supporters are included in the application materials.

Funding Recommendation:
Staff does not recommend that the Bent Conservation District be awarded a Water Plan Grant for Supporting Nature's Engineers: Beaver Dam Analogs for Watershed Restoration because application materials did not identify a collaboratively-developed plan that informed the project, engaged stakeholders or appropriate agencies and the application materials did not adequately demonstrate project feasibility.