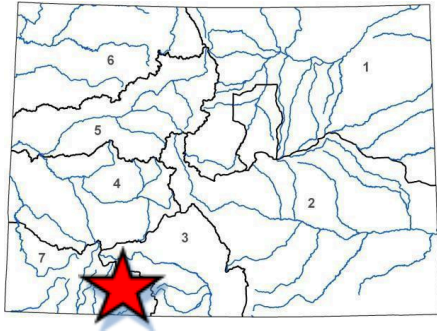




## Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
County:	Archuleta
Basin:	Southwest

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$2,840,393.13
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$1,827,393.13
Recommended Amount:	\$0
Match Commitment:	\$1,013,000.00
Grant to Match Ratio:	64/36
Project Type:	Design & Construction
Primary Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	12,100 linear feet of stream restored; 660 acres of habitat restored or preserved

Chama Peak Land Alliance, a non-profit conservation organization, is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support the San Juan-Chama Watershed Health Project in the Navajo, Little Navajo, and Blanco river basins southeast of Pagosa Springs.

The San Juan-Chama Project (SJCP) is a series of Reclamation diversions and infrastructure that conveys San Juan River water in Colorado to the Rio Grande Basin in New Mexico. Water allocations supplied through the SJCP are critical for much of New Mexico's population, making up 75% of Albuquerque's drinking water, 50% of Santa Fe's drinking water, and supporting multiple Tribes, irrigation districts, and municipalities. As such, the health of the SJCP source watersheds is of extraordinary importance to the State of New Mexico.

The proposed watershed health project would conduct riparian studies, fish barrier planning, otter analysis, and forest thinning, and would create wetlands, realign ditches, and enhance habitat along the Little Navajo and Blanco rivers.

The proponents aim to advance the Colorado Water Plan by restoring watershed health, reducing wildfire risk, and improving aquatic habitat. Several tasks within the project have been identified in the Upper San Juan Integrated Water Management Plan and the project has support of the local Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership.

The project has secured match funding from Reclamation for upland forest thinning. Grant dollars would be used to fund study, design, and construction of wetland and river-based work, including wetland creation, riparian planning, native cutthroat trout habitat protection, and North American river otter analysis.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff does not recommend the Chama Peak Land Alliance be awarded a Water Plan Grant for San Juan - Chama Watershed Health Project because the application did not adequately align with grant guidelines and lacked cohesion. The stated primary project goal is to protect critical source water for major New Mexico municipalities, not advance the Colorado Water Plan. Further, New Mexico's funding commitment and contributions are not reflected in the application. Regarding the ancillary goal of improving watershed health in Colorado, the application did not persuasively demonstrate that forest thinning efforts and riverscape restoration work were both planned cohesively to protect values at risk in Colorado.

