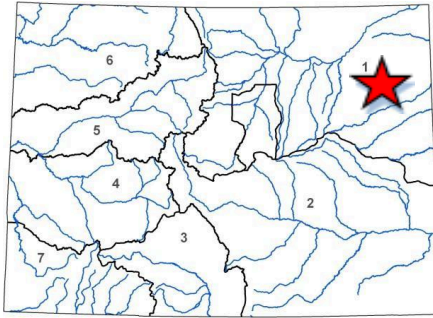




Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
Counties:	Kit Carson; Sedgwick; Phillips
Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$629,680.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$462,094.00
Recommended amount:	\$0
Match Commitment:	\$167,586.00
Grant to Match Ratio	73/27
Project Type:	Study
Primary Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	100 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity

Colorado State University (CSU) is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support the establishment of a Colorado Discovery Farm in the Republican River Basin. The goal of this initiative is to unite CSU researchers with local producers in a shared pursuit to discover practical, science-backed ways that soil health practices can strengthen water resource management and drought resiliency.

This project is proposing to establish three long-term, on-farm research hubs to generate region-specific insights on how soil health practices influence water dynamics, supporting sustainable agriculture by advancing producer-informed conservation strategies.

CSU is requesting grant funding for staff costs, supplies, lab use fees, analysis, travel, and indirect costs across four main tasks: establishing soil health and case study baselines, connecting soil health to evapotranspiration and water efficiency, co-learning with producers and community engagement.

CWCB is currently funding a similar initiative in the Colorado Basin through a Water Plan Grant, and it is about 10% completed.

The project seeks to advance the Colorado Water Plan's vision for Robust Agriculture and Healthy Lands by increasing soil health and effective use of water and aligns with the Water Plan Grant criteria by enhancing resilience to drought and climate change.

Project supporters include the Republican River Water Conservation District, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Kit Carson County Commissioners, Colorado Conservation Tillage Association, Pfaltzgraff Farms, LLC, and Rocky Mountain Farmers Union.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff does not recommend Colorado State University be awarded a Water Plan Grant for Republican River Basin Discovery Farms, because it did not adequately demonstrate project feasibility. Additionally, work on the existing grant in the Colorado Basin has not yet been sufficiently completed to demonstrate success before expanding further.