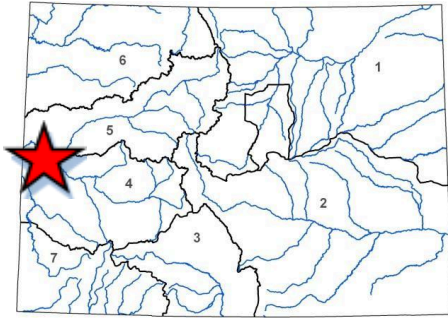




Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
County:	Mesa
Basin:	Colorado

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$168,100.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$83,100.00
Recommended Amount:	\$83,100.00
Match Commitment:	\$85,000.00
Grant to Match Ratio:	49/51
Project Type:	Education
Primary Project Category:	Engagement & Innovation Activities
Measurable Result:	25,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity

The Confluence Center of Colorado, Inc. is a new nonprofit organization in Mesa County. Its mission is to unite groups focused on land and water science, education, agriculture, and stewardship to amplify their impact on natural resource protection and engage future generations. The Grand Junction center, located at the confluence of the Colorado and Gunnison rivers, will provide nonprofit workspaces, a Land and Water Resource Hub, the STREAM (Science, Technology, Rivers, Engineering, Arts, and Math) employer-based childcare center and preschool, and an interpretive lobby for public education. The nonprofit partners of the Confluence Center are RiversEdge West, EUREKA! McConnell Science Museum, One Riverfront, Colorado National Monument Association, Colorado Canyons Association, and Colorado West Land Trust.



The Confluence Center of Colorado, Inc. seeks Water Plan Grant funding to create a permanent interpretive exhibit. This exhibit, to be housed in the atrium of its new facility, will feature a large-scale, wood-based timeline inspired by dendrochronology (correlating tree ring growth to climate and environmental conditions), illustrating the Colorado River's significance and pivotal historical, cultural, and ecological events that have shaped its basin.

The exhibit will serve as an educational tool, using interactive panels to promote a "One Water" ethic and connect visitors of all ages to water conservation. By fostering water literacy among diverse audiences through meaningful, place-based water education in a high-traffic, permanent location, this initiative will increase public understanding of water issues, inspire stewardship, and elevate engagement with Colorado's Water Plan, aligning with Water Plan Grant criteria for education, outreach, and innovation.

Grant dollars would be used for exhibit design, content development, fabrication, installation, and community engagement and evaluation activities. Project supporters include the Center partners and Ute Water Conservancy District.

The permanent interpretive exhibit will feature a large-scale timeline illustrating the importance of the Colorado River and key historical, cultural, and ecological events that have shaped the Colorado River Basin (concept art pictured).

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$83,100.00 to Confluence Center of Colorado, Inc. for the Confluence Center Atrium Exhibit project.