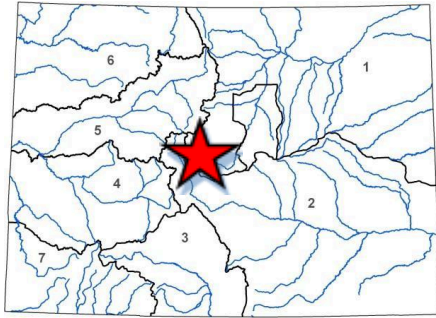




Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Statewide
Basin:	Statewide

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$511,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$379,000.00
Recommended Amount:	\$0
Match Commitment:	\$132,000.00
Grant to Match Ratio	74/26
Project Type:	Education
Primary Project Category:	Engagement & Innovation Activities
Measurable Result:	500 Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

The Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance (DARCA), an organization supporting Colorado's water delivery entities, is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support a statewide capacity-building project in various basins across Colorado.

This project would expand DARCA's capacity to deliver community-driven education and outreach, aiming to strengthen mutual ditch and reservoir companies and similar stakeholders. This project aims to advance the Colorado Water Plan by increasing public awareness and engagement among agricultural water users and seeks to align with grant criteria by providing targeted education, building local capacity, and fostering collaboration.

Grant dollars would be used to hire a project manager to conduct a needs assessment, identify, develop and deliver workshops and trainings, cover costs for staff to attend basin roundtable meetings and other events, and manage the grant.

The project aims to address key gaps in support for Colorado's ditch and reservoir companies, which often lack operational training, clarity on governance and finances, and face challenges with leadership transitions as experienced water stewards retire. These entities see the need for targeted, accessible education but often lack the time or resources to seek it out independently. The project aims to provide education, foster better engagement, and deliver regionally relevant content, aligning with the Colorado Water Plan's priority to support agricultural water users and build local capacity. This project seeks to ensure the continued, reliable delivery of agricultural water and strengthen the long-term viability of rural communities.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff does not recommend The Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance (DARCA) be awarded a Water Plan Grant for the Statewide Capacity-Building project because their application did not adequately demonstrate clear deliverables, project readiness or feasibility.