



Colorado Water Conservation Board

## Water Supply Reserve Fund - Statewide & Basin

### Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF)
Name of Water Project	Arkansas River Basin Water Forum Education and Outreach Program
Basin Account Request Subtotal	\$17,500.00
Statewide Request Amount	\$17,500.00
Statewide Project Category	Drought Resiliency
Applicant Cash Match	\$21,000.00
Applicant In-Kind Match	\$14,000.00
Basin Requests	
<i>Arkansas</i>	\$17,500.00
Sources of Funding	

### Grant Details

#### Statewide Project Category Justification

The Forum strives to provide resources to educate attendees on climate change, healthy watersheds, scenario planning, and drought resilience. The education programs are developed to encourage projects and actions that work towards multiple benefits.

### Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF)

Mailing Address: PO Box 2055 Pueblo CO 81004

FEIN: 383,937,559

Organization Contact: Jean Van Pelt

Position/Title: Program manager

Phone: 7192512875

Email: arbwf1994@gmail.com

Organization Contact - Alternate: Robert Hamel

Position/Title: President

Phone: 7193713172

Email: director@raftthebest.com

Grant Management Contact: Jean Van Pelt

Position/Title: Program manager

Phone: 7192512875

Email: arbwf1994@gmail.com

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Robert Hamel

Position/Title: President

Phone: 7193713172

Email: director@raftthebest.com

### Description of Grantee/Applicant

Arkansas River Basin Water Forum is a nonprofit 501C which specializes in hosting events and assisting others with water education and outreach within the Arkansas Basin.

### Location of Water Project

Latitude	37.985882
Longitude	-103.548203
Lat Long Flag	Municipal centroid: Coordinates based on centroid of municipal boundary
Water Source	
Basins	Arkansas
Counties	Baca; Costilla; Bent; Chaffee; Cheyenne; El Paso; Elbert; Fremont; Huerfano; Custer; Crowley
Districts	

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Education
Type of Water Project	Education
Scheduled Start Date - Design	1/2/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	

Description

The Forum offers various types of educational programs and events over a 3-day period. The Forum brings together local and state partners, technical experts, and community with topics exploring innovative funding opportunities, healthy watersheds, innovative agriculture projects, Colorado River issues, storage and conservation, drought innovation and resiliency planning, and much more. The Forum strives to provide tools and resources that educate the water community on climate change, population growth, scenario planning, and drought resilience.

The Forum provides an opportunity to educate others on the methodology of both short-term and long-term water planning, including drought mitigation planning. Drought is a normal, recurrent feature of Colorado's climate but without adequate mitigation and response, it can be very destructive. Drought mitigation planning is critical to preserving essential public services and minimizing the adverse effects of a water supply emergency on public health and safety, economic activity, environmental resources, and individual lifestyles.

The Forum supports and has buy-in from many stakeholder groups, from ranchers and agricultural producers to the environmental and recreation communities. The education programs are developed to balance the needs of each stakeholder while encouraging projects and actions that work towards multiple benefits.

### Measurable Results

- New Storage Created (acre-feet)
- New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
- Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
- New Storage Created (acre-feet)
- Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
- Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
- Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
- Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
- Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)

Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)

Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning

350 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

No additional measurable results provided

# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

July 13, 2023

**Via Electronic Mail: [ben.wade@state.co.us](mailto:ben.wade@state.co.us)**

Mr. Ben Wade  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant Application: *Arkansas River Basin Water Forum 2024 Educational and Outreach Event*

Dear Ben:

At its July 12, 2023, meeting the Arkansas Basin Roundtable (ABRT) approved support of the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF) 2024 Educational and Outreach Event request for \$35,000 from the State and Basin WSRF grant fund. The applicant is providing \$35,000 in matching funds.

This educational program supports the goals of the Colorado Water Plan and the Arkansas Basin Roundtable Implementation plan. The Arkansas Basin Roundtable and the ARBWF have a long history of supporting each other's educational efforts. The Arkansas Basin's Implementation Plan (ArkBIP) and PEPO's Education Action Plan states that public outreach across all stakeholders in the community should be achieved in a variety of outreach mediums. The Forum has and will continue to address the identified water gap included in the ArkBIP through implementation of PEPO's Education to Action program. The Forum demonstrates sustainability by educating stakeholders and the public on best practices related to drought resiliency, conservation, environmental and recreational interests, ways to mitigate or enhance water quality, wise water management decisions, and demonstrates techniques to avoid economic and social impacts on agricultural and rural communities.

The Arkansas Basin Roundtable approved supporting this application by consensus and there were no dissenting views.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by telephone (719) 668-8028.

Thank you,

*MD Shea*

Mark Shea  
Chair

Copy via email: Applicant; Needs Assessment Chair