



Colorado Water Conservation Board

## Water Supply Reserve Fund - Basin

### Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF)	
Name of Water Project	2025 Arkansas River Basin Water Forum Education and Outreach Program	
Basin Account Request Subtotal		\$30,261.00
Applicant Cash Match		\$90,784.00
Applicant In-Kind Match		\$0.00
Basin Requests		
<i>Arkansas</i>		\$30,261.00
Sources of Funding		

### Grant Details

#### Water Project Justification

The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF) offers various types of educational programs and events. The ARBWF brings together local and state partners, technical experts, and community with topics exploring innovative funding opportunities, healthy watersheds, lessons from the field in agriculture, Colorado River issues, storage and conservation, drought innovation and resiliency planning, and much more. The Forum strives to provide tools and data that educate the water community on climate change, population growth, scenario planning, and drought resilience. It also focuses on the importance of embracing equity, diversity, and inclusion as we partner to explore ways to be more resilient.

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 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. Colorado's and the Ark Basin's outdoor recreation and agriculture industries are vulnerable to drought. As well as watershed impacts of flooding and wildfire.

The Forum recognizes the need to offer educational tools to address climate resilience. With increasing temperatures come shifts in snowmelt runoff, water quality concerns, stressed ecosystems and infrastructure, impacts to energy demands, and extreme weather events that can impact recreational opportunities and water quality and quantity. Addressing the impacts of climate change will require collaborative solutions because they have a significant influence on hydrology, water use, and estimated supply-demand gaps.

The ARBWF has support and buy-in from many stakeholder groups, from local non-profits and governments to agricultural producers and the environmental and recreation communities. The ARBWF educational programs are developed to balance the needs of each stakeholder while encouraging 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

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
Agency Information		
Agency Type	Other	
Current Assessment		
Number of Shareholders or Customers	550	
Number of Shares		
Number of Taps		
Average Monthly Water Bill		
Annual Water Delivery (acre-feet)		
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	38.276463	
Longitude	-104.604607	
Lat Long Flag	Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters	
Water Source		
Basins	Arkansas	
Counties	Baca; Bent; Chaffee; Crowley; Custer; El Paso; Fremont; Huerfano; Kiowa; Lake; Las Animas	
Districts		
Water Project Overview		
Major Water Use Type	Education	
Type of Water Project	Education	
Scheduled Start Date - Design	1/2/2025	
Scheduled Start Date - Construction		
Description	For thirty years the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum's main objective has been to provide a friendly, constructive medium where individuals and organizations are able to explain their views and engage in open dialogue with other water users. The overall objective of the Forum is to serve as a conduit for information about	

issues related to water in the State of Colorado and the Arkansas River Basin. Through our annual Forums, a wider understanding of water issues has evolved and along with it the opportunity to find common ground.

Objective 1) Conduct a successful and well attended Forum at Pueblo Convention Center, March 5 – 6, 2025 and a well-attended informative Local Leaders Dinner Reception on the evening of March 4, 2025. Contract with Pueblo Convention Center and the Pueblo Union Depot to provide suitable venues.

Objective 2) Contract with the Pueblo Convention Center and Pueblo Union Depot to provide catering for the two events.

Objective 3) Contract with a Program Manager to successfully provide event deliverables on time, on budget and according to the Board of Directors’ expectations.

Objective 4) Contract with Pueblo Convention Center to provide audio-visual tech support and equipment for the event.

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
550	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
No additional measurable results provided	

# Arkansas Basin Roundtable

September 20, 2024

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 2025 Educational and Outreach Event*

Dear Ben:

At its September 11, 2024, meeting the Arkansas Basin Roundtable (ABRT) approved support of the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum (ARBWF) 2025 Educational and Outreach Event request for \$30,261 from the Arkansas Basin WSRF grant fund. The applicant is providing \$90,784 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



9-7-2024

Mr. Ben Wade  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Ben Wade,

I am pleased to write a letter in support of the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum's Water Supply Reserve Fund grant proposal. As a major supporter of the Forum, the Arkansas River Outfitters Association/ Arkansas River Conservation Cooperative strongly supports this grant application and the important focus it brings to water education in the Arkansas River Basin.

Our organization's mission is aligned closely with the Water Forum's goals and objectives. In addition, our passion of fostering communication between the various water users and supporting regional and state-wide water education is shared. Because we see the value this event brings to all who call the Arkansas River Basin home, we are one of the most loyal sponsors of the Forum. Our intent is to continue to support this organization in the same manner as we have throughout the years.

Sincerely,

Bob Hamel, Executive Director

Arkansas River Outfitters Association



UPPER ARKANSAS  
**WATER CONSERVANCY**  
DISTRICT

VIA EMAIL: Arkansas River Basin Water Forum <arbwf1994@gmail.com>

September 6, 2024

Mr. Ben Wade  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Ben Wade,

I am pleased to write a letter in support of the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum's Water Supply Reserve Fund grant proposal. We strongly support this grant application and the important focus it brings to water education in the Arkansas River Basin.

Our organization's mission is aligned closely with the Water Forum's goals and objectives. In addition, our passion of fostering communication between the various water users and supporting regional and state-wide water education is shared. Because we see the value this event brings to all who call the Arkansas River Basin home, we are one of the most loyal sponsors of the Forum. Our intent is to continue to support this organization in the same manner as we have throughout the years.

Sincerely,

Ralph L. "Terry" Scanga Jr.  
General Manager



# LOWER ARKANSAS VALLEY

## Water Conservancy District

September 12, 2024

Mr. Ben Wade  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Ben Wade and CWCB Board of Directors,

I am writing to express the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District's support of the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum's (ARBWF) Water Supply Reserve Fund grant proposal.

The ARBWF has developed a reputation for being a leader in water education and outreach in the Arkansas River Basin. They've accomplished this through their decades of fostering communication between a variety of water users through their annual water forum. This forum is the premier water conference held in the Arkansas River Basin each year and is always well attended.

The LAVWCD has been a loyal sponsor of the forum for many years and will continue to do so as we see the significant value that the ARBWF brings to our water community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Goble".

Jack Goble, P.E.  
General Manager  
Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District  
801 Swink Avenue  
Rocky Ford, CO 81067