



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Ben Wade, Grants Section
Erik Skeie, Snow and Water Measurement Specialist

CC: Jeannine Shaw, Grants Section

DATE: November 19, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda CA2a, Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant, Change of Grant

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board approve a new grant to match ratio of 65% grant to 35% match.

Background:

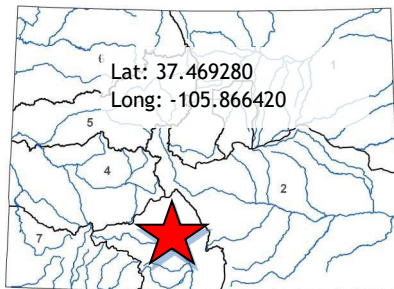
At the March 2025 Board meeting, the Board approved a \$793,396 Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant to the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation to conduct Airborne Snow Observatories Inc. (ASO), LiDAR flights for three years.

After the grant was awarded, actual costs for forecasting within the basin were reduced from the estimated costs in the application materials. As such, ASO withdrew their In-Kind match that was intended to cover the increased costs. This reduces the applicant's match ratio from 42% to 35%, still within WSRF Grant Guidance. The overall scope of the project has not changed. Please see the attached data sheet for more details.





Water Supply Reserve Fund **Change of Grant**



DETAILS	
<i>Revised Total Project Cost:</i>	\$1,048,396
<i>Total WSRF Grant Award:</i>	\$793,396
<i>Rio Grande Basin Account Award:</i>	\$116,800
<i>Statewide Account Award:</i>	\$676,596
<i>Approved Amount:</i>	\$793,396
<i>Original Grant to Match Ratio:</i>	58%-42%
<i>Revised Grant to Match Ratio:</i>	65%-35%
<i>Grantee Match:</i>	\$232,000

The Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation was awarded a WSRF grant in March 2025 to fund up to 12 Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO) flights in the headwaters of the Rio Grande River and Conejos River systems. The flights will take place over a three-year period. The data gathered through each flight is incorporated into streamflow forecasting models.

The project partners will use the network of SNOTEL stations, combined with the ASO flights to improve the streamflow forecasting. The combined data gathered from the flights and SNOTEL sites will help water managers better understand the timing and amount of expected runoff, which will help water providers adjust their management.

This project is being brought back to the Board due to reduction in Total Project Costs and Matching Funds. As originally approved, the Applicant had a match ratio of 42%. However, the actual cost of the forecasting component was less than the original estimate, and ASO will no longer be providing in-kind match that would have covered the higher estimated costs. The new match ratio still falls within WSRF Guidelines, at 35% total match.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board approve a new grant to match ratio of 65% grant to 35% match.