



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Supply Reserve Fund - Basin

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	White River Conservation District	
Name of Water Project	Rio Blanco County Post-Fire Diversion Infrastructure Resilience Project	
Basin Account Request Subtotal		\$100,000.00
Applicant Cash Match		
Applicant In-Kind Match		\$7,500.00
Basin Requests		
<i>Yampa/White/Green</i>		\$100,000.00
Sources of Funding		
<i>Colorado Independant Cattlemen Association</i>		\$2,500.00
<i>Tri-State</i>		\$25,000.00
<i>Private Landowners</i>		\$127,500.00

Grant Details

Water Project Justification

The Rio Blanco County Post-Fire Diversion Infrastructure Resilience Pilot Project directly supports multiple goals and themes outlined in the Colorado Water Plan, the Yampa/White/Green Basin Implementation Plan, and the Colorado Water Plan Education, Outreach, and Engagement Action Plan.

Alignment with Colorado's Water Plan:

- Agriculture and Infrastructure (CWP, Ch. 6.3 & 6.5): The project advances the Plan's objectives to sustain Colorado's working lands and modernize aging water infrastructure. By replacing and upgrading fire-damaged diversion systems, the project preserves decreed water rights, improves efficiency, and enhances watershed resilience. All priorities identified in the Plan's "Resilient Water Infrastructure" and "Thriving Agriculture" themes.
- Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation (CWP, Ch. 6.6): Tier 2 projects include erosion control, fish passage, and streambank stabilization actions that align with the Water Plan's watershed restoration and resilience goals (CWP, pp. 169–172).
- Collaboration and Shared Investment (CWP, Ch. 9.1): The project demonstrates basin-level collaboration among the White River Conservation District, Division 6, Colorado River District, and Trout Unlimited, fulfilling the Plan's emphasis on cooperative, locally led solutions.

Alignment with the Yampa/White/Green Basin Implementation Plan:

- Goal 2: Protect and Encourage Agricultural Uses (BIP, pp. 17–18): Supports agricultural producers by restoring diversion infrastructure and maintaining water rights while respecting private property.
- Goal 3: Improve Agricultural Water Supplies and Reduce Shortages (BIP, pp. 18–19): Improves conveyance efficiency and reduces post-fire water losses, directly meeting identified Basin needs for reliable irrigation systems.
- Goal 5: Quantify and Protect Environmental and Recreational Uses (BIP, pp. 21–22): Stabilizing riverbanks and

improving diversions enhances aquatic habitat and water quality, meeting non-consumptive needs identified in the YWG Non-Consumptive Needs Study.

-Goal 7: Restore, Maintain, and Modernize Water Infrastructure (BIP, pp. 23–24): The project's central purpose is to replace and modernize diversion structures - this matches this goal precisely.

-Goal 9: Public Water Education (BIP, p. 26): Outreach through the Conservation District and Roundtable will share lessons learned from wildfire recovery and infrastructure improvements, promoting basin-wide learning and collaboration.

Alignment with the Colorado Water Plan Education, Outreach, and Engagement Action Plan:

-Theme 2: Community Capacity (pp. 6–7): The project builds local capacity by empowering landowners to implement solutions and improve understanding of post-fire water management.

-Theme 3: Sharing Success Stories (pp. 8–9): Through WRCD's outreach, the project will showcase successful wildfire recovery efforts, supporting the Education Action Plan's goal of broadening awareness of effective local water projects.

This project fulfills both state and basin priorities by combining local leadership, shared funding, and multi-benefit outcomes that protect agricultural viability, enhance watershed health, and foster public awareness consistent with the Colorado Water Plan (2023), YWG Basin Implementation Plan (2021), and Education Action Plan (2023).

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: White River Conservation District

Mailing Address: 351 7th St Meeker CO 81641

Organization Contact: Vanessa Trout

Position/Title: Executive Director

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Organization Contact - Alternate: Blake McGahan

Position/Title: Office Manager

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Grant Management Contact: Vanessa Trout

Position/Title: Executive Director

Phone: 970-878-9838

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Agency Information

Agency Type

District

Current Assessment

Number of Shareholders or Customers

Number of Shares

Number of Taps

Average Monthly Water Bill

Annual Water Delivery (acre-feet)

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

Location of Water Project

Latitude

39.964444

Longitude	-108.151389
Lat Long Flag	Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project
Water Source	White River, Piceance Creek, Sheep Creek,
Basins	Yampa/White/Green
Counties	Rio Blanco
Districts	43-White River Basin

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Agricultural
Type of Water Project	Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design	2/1/2026
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	5/1/2026

Description

The White River Conservation District (WRCD) proposes a three-year pilot program to help landowners replace, repair, and modernize wildfire-damaged diversion infrastructure across the Lee and Elk fire burn scars and downstream areas. This cost-share program, with two tier project options, will restore water delivery systems critical to agricultural production, maintain decreed water rights, and enhance watershed resilience. Both Tiers will focus on primary diversion structures and conveyance/flow control. Tier One projects will include measurement/administration devices, and Tier Two will add erosion/habitat protection measures and supporting infrastructure. This will support larger, modernized replacements with erosion control, resilient materials, and improved flow management. The program pools multiple small landowner projects into a coordinated funding approach, advancing agricultural viability, watershed function, and environmental co-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
5,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
No additional measurable results provided	