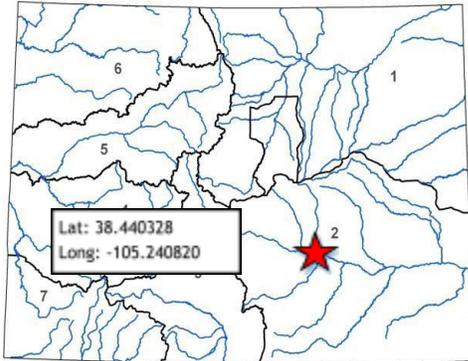




Water Plan Grant Application



DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$198,200
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$98,575
Recommended Amount:	\$98,575
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$99,625
Project Type:	Education Activities
Project Category:	Engagement & Innovation
Measurable Result:	100 Coloradoans impacted by engagement activity

LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Statewide
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas, Southwest

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support River Science (a Canon City-based non-profit) in improving upon and expanding the reach of water education for junior and senior-level high-school students from the Arkansas Basin to eight school districts in Southwest Colorado. The Colorado Water Plan grant request is 49.7% of the total project cost and the non-CWCB match is 50.3%.

Building on the 30-year success of River Watch’s water quality education statewide, high school teachers will be trained in locally tailored curriculum “designed to give students a foundational knowledge of water quality and water quantity, build student skill sets, provide student experiences, and spark interest in water-related careers” thereby catalyzing the next generation of Colorado’s water leaders. This curriculum, which is already approved through Career Development Incentive Program (CDIP) and currently in use in Canon City, certifies students in water-related workforce skills.

The Next Generation Water Leaders Program demonstrates a commitment to collaboration with more than 100 volunteer groups, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, school districts and teachers, Water Education Colorado, the Roundtables, and Public Education, Outreach and Participation (PEPO) liaisons. The project seeks to innovate upon River Watch’s educational blueprint by incorporating water quantity, policy, and planning concepts in workforce skill development. This grant application is supported by the Southwest Basins Roundtable and the Southwest PEPO liaison.

Success of the project will include 1) development of a regional resource list of interested partners, resources, and opportunities for education along with a strategic plan for expansion into new communities, 2) local adaptation of resource guides for interested schools, 3) and implementation of a 2023 pilot teacher training program. While not included in their initial Statement of Work, CWCB staff and the applicant have discussed the collection of metrics summarizing the number of teachers trained, students taught, and students securing CDIP certification for their workforce skills.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the requested \$98,575 to River Science for the Next Generation Water Leaders Program.