



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Cole Bedford PE, Finance Section

DATE: March 15-16, 2022

AGENDA ITEM: 26a-d Water Plan Grants - Agriculture Category

Introduction

On December 1, 2021, the CWCB received 6 applications requesting funding of \$100,000 or greater for the Agriculture category totaling \$2,687,327. Staff is recommending approval of 4 grants totaling \$1,725,194. See attached Data Sheets for locations and project summaries.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the following Board action for activities listed in the following table regarding Colorado’s Water Plan Grant Program funding.

Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request Amount	Staff Recommendation
a. Trout Unlimited	Gunnison River Drought Resilience and Restoration Project	\$275,194	\$275,194
b. Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust	San Luis Creek Conservation Partnership	\$450,000	\$450,000
c. The Nature Conservancy	Maybell Diversion Construction on the Yampa River	\$750,000	\$750,000
d. Boulder County Parks and Open Space	Howell Ditch Diversion Reconstruction and Boulder Creek Restoration Project	\$800,000	\$250,000
Total Recommended for Approval			\$1,725,194



Background:

CWCB staff, with assistance from a review committee, review all agricultural applications according to the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program criteria and guidelines and category specific criteria. The grant review committee consists of Colorado Water Conservation Board staff in consultation with Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff where appropriate. The review committee evaluates agricultural grants on several criteria including whether the project furthers critical action items identified in the Colorado Water Plan, whether the project promotes collaboration, and whether the project provides an innovating, multi-benefit approach to solving water resource challenges affecting Colorado's agricultural industry.

Project Issues/Additional Needs:

- All funding awards are contingent upon the applicants' ability to secure match funding within a reasonable time period; based on applicants continued efforts to secure match funding.
- Grantees should adequately address CWCB staff comments to scopes of work and engineering designs (when applicable) prior to contracting. This may result in changes, especially in the case of partial funding awards. Staff will schedule meeting with each successful application to discuss comments and contracting procedures.

