

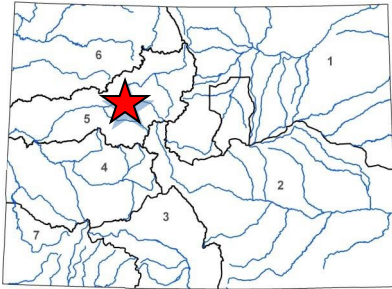


Efficient Irrigation System Program Eagle County Conservation District

March 2023 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Application

Lat: 39.6520440
Long: -106.82553



LOCATION

Counties: Eagle, Grand, Garfield

Drainage Basin: Colorado

DETAILS

Total Project Cost:	\$89,989
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$62,999
Recommended Amount:	\$62,999
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$23,240
Applicant Match:	\$3,750
Project Type:	Implementation, Capacity Building
Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use
Measurable Result:	60 Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning and Engagement Activities

The Efficient Irrigation System (EIS) program is a subset of a larger grant project with the Colorado River District, called the Water Efficient Landscape Conversion (WELC) program. The WELC project will establish rebates for non-functional turf replacement and irrigation systems, research on lawn species alternatives, waterwise demonstration gardens, and educational opportunities on outdoor water management practices, sustainable landscapes, and policy change.

The Efficient Irrigation System program will provide landscape assessments, Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) training, and an Efficient Irrigation System rebate program. The EIS program will provide 60 WELC participants technical assistance and expertise on sustainable landscaping and efficient irrigation systems through landscape assessments and irrigation audits. The program will also provide financial assistance to 30 WELC participants to offset the cost of upgrading a home irrigation system. Overall the WELC and EIS programs aim to reduce usage by more than 4 acre-feet in 3 years, with the assistance of the EIS program. After the EIS phase is established, WELC program collaborators will also be applying for supplemental rebate funds through the Colorado Water Conservation Boards' new Turf Replacement Program.

Water Plan Support: *Action Areas-Vibrant Communities-* Plan for and create low water use landscapes, *Resilient Planning-* Provide conservation-oriented outreach; *BIP IPP-* Increase the QWEL capacity in the county

WPG Request:70%

Matching Funds: ECCD: \$3,750; CRD: \$10,250; Participant Fees: \$7,000; CSU Extension: \$5,990 (in kind) *The request is 70% of the project cost. The overarching WELC project is \$385,000, so the CWCB grant is 16% of that project.

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends Board approval of \$62,999 to Eagle County Conservation District for the Efficient Irrigation System Program.



Upgrade Your Irrigation Efficiency

The Qualified Water Efficient
Landscaper (QWEL) program is an EPA
WaterSense labeled professional
certification in irrigation system audits.
Hire a QWEL Pro and improve your
irrigation efficiency.



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Eagle County Conservation District	
Name of Water Project	Efficient Irrigation System Program	
Grant Request Amount		\$62,999.00
Primary Category		\$62,999.00
<i>Conservation & Land Use Planning</i>		
Total Applicant Match		\$0.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>		
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>		
Total Other Sources of Funding		\$26,990.00
<i>Colorado River District</i>		\$10,250.00
<i>Participant Fees</i>		\$7,000.00
<i>Eagle County Conservation District</i>		\$3,750.00
<i>CSU Extension</i>		\$5,990.00
Total Project Cost		\$89,989.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Eagle County Conservation District
Mailing Address: PO Box 360 Eagle CO 81631
FEIN: 841,054,028

Organization Contact: Laura Bohannon
Position/Title:
Phone: 970-445-0307

Email: laura.eaglecountycd@gmail.com

Organization Contact - Alternate: Allegra Waterman-Snow
Position/Title: District Lead Technician
Phone: 3152435590

Email: allegra.eaglecountycd@gmail.com

Grant Management Contact: Laura Bohannon
Position/Title:
Phone: 970-445-0307

Email: laura.eaglecountycd@gmail.com

Description of Grantee/Applicant

CO Special District- Title 35; Conservation and Natural Resource Management

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
☒ Public (District)
☐ Public (Municipality)
☐

- ☐ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☐ Non-governmental Organization
- ☐ Covered Entity
- ☐ Other

Category of Water Project

- ☐ Agricultural Projects
Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- ☒ Conservation & Land Use Planning
Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- ☐ Engagement & Innovation Activities
Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- ☐ Watershed Restoration & Recreation
Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- ☐ Water Storage & Supply
Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude	39.652044
Longitude	-106.828553
Lat Long Flag	Water district centroid: Coordinates based on centroid of water district boundary
Water Source	Eagle River Watershed
Basins	Colorado
Counties	Eagle; Grand; Garfield
Districts	37-Eagle River Basin

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Education
Scheduled Start Date - Design	3/1/2023
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	4/1/2023

Description

The EIS program will provide 60 landscape assessments, over the course of 3 years. Each assessment will include a landscape & irrigation audit. The landscape audit will examine hydrozones, plant species, ground cover and soil conditions to provide recommendations for changes. The irrigation audit will be performed by a Qualified Water Efficiency Landscape (QWEL) certified technician and will measure water output, distribution uniformity and irrigation efficiency to suggest system improvements and help develop an irrigation schedule. This assessment will be available to anyone within the Conservation District boundary. A landscape conversion and QWEL training course will be provided by Irrigation Analysis and will be available to the public.

Once a participant has completed an initial landscape assessment, they can choose to apply for the Efficient Irrigation System rebate, which will fund 25% of the overall expenses, with a \$1,000 maximum, to offset the costs of upgrading and implementing a home irrigation system. They can also receive an additional \$100 rebate for a Smart Irrigation Controller. The EIS program aims to financially assist 30 participants over the course of 3 years. A post-project assessment will also be conducted with each participant to provide data analysis on outdoor water savings.

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)
 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)

60 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning

60 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

The EIS program will create positive impacts on new storage created and financial/water efficiency savings, however, without knowing the participants, the size of their property and current usage, we cannot estimate projected outcomes. Before and after audits will be performed throughout the 3 year project to provide measurable results of these findings in the final report.

Water Project Justification

As the West faces the continued challenges of aridification, climate change and population growth, water efficiency and conservation strategies at both large and small scale will be critical. The Efficient Irrigation System (EIS) program, which provides technical and financial assistance on outdoor water use, will addresses water conservation and act as a catalyst for the development of cost-effective and water efficiency programming. Additionally, it will provide matching funds to the Water Efficient Landscape Conversion (WELC) program, which has immense local support and aligns with the strategic goals and mission of the Colorado Water Plan, the Colorado River District and the Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan. It is also aligned with local water efficiency plans, a soon-to-be-completed Eagle River Community Water Plan, County priorities and statewide Colorado Water Plan goals. Lastly, this funding award will help to leverage other local, state and federal funding sources - a direct goal of the Community Funding Partnership through the Colorado River District.

EIS and WELC support the Colorado Water Plan grants by providing technical and financial assistance for critical community action with measurable objectives towards outdoor water conservation. It will establish collaborative solutions to an efficient water infrastructure system, and an informed public with creative, forward-thinking solutions that are sustainable and resilient to changing conditions (Colorado Water Plan, 2023 Fact Sheet).

In Colorado's Basin Implementation Plan, the EIS and WELC program will specifically address the 4th goal and 6th goal, to develop local water conscious land use strategies and encourage a high level of basinwide conservation. Under the "Develop local water conscious land use strategies" goal, the EIS/WELC program will: build a culture of water conservation within the development community, plan for water demands that will continue to grow beyond the current 2060 planning horizon, adopt local and regional comprehensive plans that

respect and recognize locally available limited water supplies through policy outreach, recognize the shortage and limits of water supply and establish achievable and meaningful water conservation goals (page 18, Section 4, Colorado_BIP_Volume1_2022). Lastly, under the "Encourage a high level of basinwide conservation" goal, EIS and WELC will provide: education and outreach, voluntary outdoor watering restrictions, audits that will cover leak detections and water loss tracking, limited requirements for outdoor irrigation, and adopted plans for xeriscaping or sustainable landscaping (page 20, Section 4, Colorado_BIP_Volume1_2022).

Related Studies

The Efficient Irrigation System program is a subset of a larger grant proposal with the Colorado River District, called the Water Efficient Landscape Conversion (WELC) program. The 3-year project will establish non-functional turf replacement and irrigation system rebates, research on lawn species alternatives, waterwise demonstration gardens, and educational opportunities on outdoor water management practices, sustainable landscapes and policy change. The Efficient Irrigation System program funds, requested through the Conservation and Land Use Planning Colorado Water Plan Grant, will provide matching dollars for the WELC program's landscape assessments, assessment training, and an Efficient Irrigation System rebate program. WELC program collaborators will also be applying for supplemental rebate funds through the Colorado Water Conservation Boards new HB 22-1151 Turf Replacement Program.

Please see the attached CFP_WELC Application and the EIS Scope of Work for reference.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A