



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Colorado Foundation for Agriculture	
Name of Water Project	Advancing Water Education and Conservation through a Colorado Reader	
Grant Request Amount		\$10,000.00
Primary Category	<i>Engagement & Innovation Activities</i>	\$10,000.00
Total Applicant Match		\$2,000.00
Applicant Cash Match		\$2,000.00
Applicant In-Kind Match		\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		\$0.00
Total Project Cost		\$12,000.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Colorado Foundation for Agriculture
 Mailing Address: 10343 Federal Blvd Unit J PMB 224 Westminster CO 80260
 FEIN: 841,177,351

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Description of Grantee/Applicant

The Colorado Foundation for Agriculture (also known as Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom) is a nonprofit educational corporation that is the lead agricultural literacy organization, serving the full spectrum of prekindergarten through 12th grade formal and informal education in Colorado. Its mission is connecting Colorado educators and students to their food, fiber, fuel, and natural resources. CoAITC provides resources and programs to educators and students across the state, many of which are free or at minimal cost.

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 39.818635
Longitude -105.050156
Lat Long Flag
Water Source
Basins Arkansas; Colorado; Gunnison; Metro; Yampa/White/Green; Rio Grande; South Platte; Southwest; Nort...
Counties
Districts

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Education
Type of Water Project Education
Scheduled Start Date - Design 1/1/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction
Description
The Colorado Foundation for Agriculture will publish and distribute a Colorado Reader focused on water as part of its preK-12 Agriculture in the Classroom programs for the 2023-2024 school year. A Colorado Reader is an

eight-page student activity newspaper provided to educators and students completely free of charge. They are sent in classroom sets of 30 copies and include an educator’s guide with additional lessons and activities and an evaluation. A total of 60,000 copies would be printed and directly mailed to 1800 classrooms in urban, suburban, and rural communities across the state. This issue will be archived in a digital flip-book format in the CFA Digital Library at www.GrowingYourFuture.com. The library is accessible to everyone and available free of charge, with each issue reaching an additional 2,000 youth and adults. Content for this Colorado Reader would include Colorado’s complex water system, water basins, agriculture water use, water conservation, and the Colorado Water Plan.

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
 62,000 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
 Other
 No additional measurable results provided

Water Project Justification

The purpose of this project is to create a change in awareness, knowledge, and behavior of elementary students and teachers regarding Colorado’s complex water system, water basins, agriculture water use, water conservation, and the Colorado Water Plan through a Colorado Reader. A Colorado Reader is an eight-page student activity newspaper geared towards upper elementary students, and also used in middle and high school classrooms. A total of 60,000 copies will be printed and distributed to students and educators, in both formal and informal learning environments, throughout Colorado in the spring of 2024.

This educational project meets the Engagement and Innovation objective of the Colorado Water Plan. K-12 students and educators, their families, and the general public in all nine Roundtables will benefit. The Colorado Reader focused on water will be directly mailed to 54,000 students in urban, suburban, and rural communities across the state. Additionally, water education partners including Water Education Colorado, Colorado Water Assembly, individual Roundtable Basins, and others may request printed copies and will have access to the digital flip-book version to utilize and distribute. The content of this Colorado Reader will be targeted to meet specific needs, goals, themes, and strategies of the Colorado Water Plan, the Statewide Water Education Action Plan, and individual Basin Education Action Plans, as outlined below:

Colorado Water Plan Actions – Public outreach and education Tool

- 1.1 - Define, benchmark and institutionalize water-saving communities (CWP, page 182).
- 1.7 - Identify turf replacement options that support transformative landscape change (CWP, page 188).
- 2.1 - Expand agricultural water conservation, education, and peer-to-peer programs that enhance innovation (CWP, page 196).

- 2.5 - Support the integration of robust agriculture into local government planning (CWP, page 199).
- 2.9 - Assess agricultural impacts and best practices for water quality protection (CWP, page 202).
- 4.1 - Create a capacity-building hub to provide accessible educational opportunities (CWP, page 220).
- 4.3 - Create a collaborative Colorado Water Plan education and outreach campaign (CWP, page 222).

Statewide Water Education Action Plan

(Source: <https://www.cowateredplan.org/strategies-and-example-actions.html>)

Outcome 1: The proportion of Coloradans in each river basin who can identify how water supports their quality of life, as well as the threats to and potential solutions for a sustainable water supply, increases.

- SWEAP Strategies 1a. Implement a multi-channeled public relations and media campaign that can be applied at various scales throughout the state.

Outcome 3: The proportion of Coloradans in each river basin who report confidence in having the knowledge necessary to take an active role in water stewardship in their community increases.

- SWEAP Strategies 3a. Curate and promote a readily accessible source for current, factual information on a broad array of important water topics.
- SWEAP Strategies 3b. Support hands-on and project-based learning and service opportunities for water-related issues.

Outcome 6: Voters have access to factual information that addresses potential impacts to sustainable water resources in relevant issue areas.

- SWEAP Strategies 6a. Provide factual information that can be used to analyze issues, policies or initiatives from a water perspective.

Outcome 8: Where relevant, local and state policies and practices are supportive of advancing statewide water literacy.

- SWEAP Strategies 8a. Collaborate with Colorado Department of Education and other partners to incorporate water literacy as part of implementation of Colorado Academic Standards.

Arkansas Basin Education Action Plan

“The Workgroup will continue to engage with existing partners and foster relationships with additional entities in the education and outreach space in the basin to convene and education and outreach collaborative.” (ABRT EAP, page 1).

Colorado Basin Roundtable Education Action Plan

Goal 5. Other identified water education opportunities and events as identified by CBRT members and partners (CBRT EAP, page 2).

Gunnison Basin Education Action Plan

h. Collaborating with K-12 educators, especially those involved with water-related activities (e.g. seminars, field trips, and public forums) (GB EAP, page 2).

Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Education Action Plan

“Reach target audiences that include local community members, urban audiences outside our basin, and recreational visitors to our basin in order to communicate our values regarding the importance of agriculture, water management, collaboration between partner agencies, and natural resource stewardship...communications tools that may be disseminated at a state level as well as our local Basin level including print publications...and coordination with K-12 and higher education curriculum.” (RGBR EAP, page 1).

South Platte Basin Roundtable PEPO

Task 1 – Coordination and Facilitation: Advance overall objectives described in the Education Action Plan, the Basin Implementation Plan and the Colorado Water Plan (SPBR PEPO, page 5).

Task 3 – Outreach: Leverage existing outreach network and messaging to promote the goals of the Basin Implementation Plan and the Colorado Water Plan (SPBR PEPO, page 5).

Southwest Basin Education Action Plan

“The SW Basin PEPO will continue to expand efforts to develop and distribute water resource information related to the SW Basin (SWB), including regional and basin-specific water supplies and demands, related hydrology and watershed information, water quality influences and challenges and opportunities facing citizens. The SWB’s goal is to reach target audiences that include local community members, urban audiences outside our basin, and recreational visitors to our basin in order to communicate our values regarding the importance of agriculture, water management, collaboration between partner agencies, and natural resource stewardship...[Supporting goals and objectives using a method of] vi. Educational videos and water-related displays and printed brochures available for use at a variety of events and water/river festivals.” (SWB EAP, pages 1-2).

Yampa-White Green Basin Education Action Plan

6. Other identified water education opportunities as identified by the YWG Round Table and partners (YWG EAP, page 2).

Related Studies

The Colorado Reader is one of the longest-standing and most successful Agriculture in the Classroom programs of the Colorado Foundation for Agriculture. This Colorado Reader on water would be one of four issues published during the 2023-2024 school year. Colorado Readers are packaged in classroom sets of 30 and accompanied by an educator guide with additional lessons and activities for students and a teacher evaluation. The Colorado Reader on water would be published in spring of 2024, in time to also be distributed to students attending various youth water festivals across the state.

The Colorado Reader is provided to educators completely free of charge. Teachers subscribe to the Colorado Reader and incorporate it into their curriculum and lesson plans. Teachers use the Colorado Readers in a variety of ways. Most often it is used to supplement current curriculum to reinforce core subject concepts. In some cases, teachers have reported not having access to quality curriculum, particularly with social studies and non-fiction reading. The Colorado Reader fills this need, especially in rural and underserved communities.

The following are comments received from educators who use the Colorado Readers with their students:

- “My class LOVED these! Every issue was very interesting and related to things we were learning,” said a 4th grade teacher in Erie, Colorado.
- “Thank you for doing the Colorado Readers. My families really enjoy them,” said a teacher at a Title 1 school in Colorado Springs who involves parents in student learning.
- “Our social studies curriculum is horrible and since we focus on Colorado in 4th grade, your resources are so valuable to us. We truly appreciate it,” said a 4th grade teacher from Colorado Springs.
- “This is a great supplement to add to all areas and non-fiction reading groups,” said an elementary teacher from Golden.

As pressures on our water system increase due to the growing global population, research has shown that an agriculturally literate society is vital to address these concerns. Introducing young people to agriculture and natural resource topics during prekindergarten-12th formal education, through Agriculture in the Classroom® (AITC) programs, increases their capabilities for knowing and addressing water issues now and in the future.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

The Colorado Foundation for Agriculture is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and is not affected by TABOR.

