



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Blue Elements	
Name of Water Project	AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards	
Grant Request Amount		\$413,970.00
Primary Category		\$413,970.00
<i>Engagement & Innovation Activities</i>		
Total Applicant Match		\$401,700.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>		\$382,500.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>		\$19,200.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		\$0.00
<i>Serve Colorado</i>		
Total Project Cost		\$815,670.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Blue Elements
 Mailing Address: 9996 W. US HWY 50 #1009 Salida CO 81201
 FEIN: 854,365,228

Organization Contact: Emily Loubsky
 Position/Title: _____ Email: emily@blueelements.org
 Phone: 719-214-0574

Organization Contact - Alternate: Sheena O'Hara
 Position/Title: _____ Email: sheena@huts.org
 Phone: _____

Grant Management Contact: Emily Loubsky
 Position/Title: _____ Email: emily@blueelements.org
 Phone: 719-214-0574

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Sheena O'Hara
 Position/Title: _____ Email: sheena@huts.org
 Phone: _____

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Watershed Stewardship 501(c)3

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 39.246147
 Longitude -106.279397
 Lat Long Flag
 Water Source
 Basins Arkansas; South Platte; Gunnison
 Counties Fremont; Chaffee; Lake; Larimer; Gunnison
 Districts

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type
 Type of Water Project Education
 Scheduled Start Date - Design
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction
 Description
 The Watershed Stewards Program leverages the benefits of national service to 1) support community engagement in the water field, 2) increase the capacity of water-focused organizations, and 3) train a skilled incoming water workforce. Funding is being requested from the Colorado Water Plan Grant to be able to recruit, train, and retain qualified AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards. These specific program components are critical to ensure quality service delivery and meaningful member experience.

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
Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

No additional measurable results provided

Water Project Justification

The project objectives for the are to recruit, train, and retain at least 30 AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards by the end of 2026. AmeriCorps is a great tool to leverage resources, foster cross sector-collaborations, and prepare a new generation of leaders. The Watershed Stewards Program aligns with many objectives identified in various local, regional, and state planning documents. “Tools” identified in the Colorado Water Plan being utilized in the program are: 1) Public outreach and education, 2) Collaboration, 3) Innovation, and 4) Equity.

The Watershed Stewards Program mirrors many project ideas listed in the Colorado Water Plan Partner Actions handout. With focused attention on community engagement and education activities, the Watershed Stewards Program will support vibrant communities, robust agriculture, thriving watersheds, and resilient planning. Additionally, the program will empower residents to participate in citizen science and community stewardship events, and engage with local watershed groups, thereby fostering collaboration across sectors and communities. Through its various components, the program provides opportunities for individuals to explore water career paths and will provide opportunities for community members to actively participate in educational programs, aligning with the overarching goal of enhancing Colorado's water communication, outreach, and public engagement efforts.

The program supports goals outlined in the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan, including 1. environment and recreation objectives around maintaining or improving habitat (including wetlands), 2. watershed health goals around water quality, and 3. supports the roundtable's Public Education, Participation, and Outreach mission to “inform, engage, and educate citizens about local water resources.”

Related Studies

No Related Studies provided

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

No Tax Bill of Rights provided