



**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**Water Plan**

**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Colorado Open Lands	
Name of Water Project	Jorgensen Wet Meadow Restoration	
Grant Request Amount		<b>\$127,905.00</b>
Primary Category		\$127,905.00
<i>Watershed Health &amp; Recreation</i>		
Total Applicant Match		<b>\$0.00</b>
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>		\$0.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>		\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		<b>\$136,709.00</b>
<i>USFWS - North American Wetlands</i>		\$98,709.00
<i>Conservation Act</i>		\$98,709.00
<i>Ducks Unlimited</i>		\$38,000.00
Total Project Cost		<b>\$264,614.00</b>

**Applicant & Grantee Information**

Name of Grantee: Colorado Open Lands  
 Mailing Address: 1546 Cole Boulevard Lakewood CO 80401  
 FEIN: 840,866,211

Organization Contact: Dirk Rasmussen  
 Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: drasmussen@coloradoopenlands.org  
 Phone: (970) 368-2613

Grant Management Contact: Dirk Rasmussen  
 Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: drasmussen@coloradoopenlands.org  
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**Description of Grantee/Applicant**

Colorado Open Lands is one of Colorado's most impactful non-profit land conservation organizations. We are committed to protecting land and water forever.

**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	40.750691
Longitude	-103.218070
Lat Long Flag	Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project
Water Source	Cedar Creek
Basins	South Platte
Counties	Logan
Districts	

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Environmental
Type of Water Project	Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design	
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	6/1/2024

#### Description

This targeted habitat restoration project will provide treatment for ~34 acres of wet meadows and shallow-water wetlands along Cedar Creek, a tributary to the lower Platte River. The property is a small farm located in rural Logan County and Colorado Open Lands is working to acquire a conservation easement with the landowner. In addition to restoration treatments, this project will result in improved landowner management practices that includes 135 acres benefiting migratory waterfowl, wetland birds, songbirds, and other wildlife species that frequent the lower South Platte watershed. Healthy shallow-water wetlands in the lower South Platte watershed provide especially critical habitat and refugia for numerous migrant and resident genera.

This project is aligned with regional, state, and federal planning efforts and contributes to conservation priorities identified in the Colorado Water Plan, South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Wetlands Program Strategic Plan, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners for Wildlife

Strategic Plan. CPW emphasizes the importance of wetlands in the lower South Platte River corridor to improve the quantity and quality of fall migration and wintering habitats for waterfowl and USFWS targets restoration of seasonal emergent wetlands as a primary conservation objective.

Ducks Unlimited has secured cash match of \$136,709 combining internal Ducks Unlimited and North American Wetlands Conservation Act funds. With Funding from CWCB, this is a shovel-ready restoration project advancing 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)
- 34 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

In addition to restoration treatments, this project will result in improved landowner management practices that includes 135 acres benefiting migratory waterfowl, wetland birds, songbirds, and other wildlife species that frequent the lower South Platte watershed.

### Water Project Justification

The partnership between Ducks Unlimited (DU) and Colorado Open Lands (COL) connects private landowners with COL conservation easements with DU's engineering management and restoration expertise. The project proposed here is a targeted wet meadow restoration effort in Logan County that advances the Colorado Water Plan and South Platte Basin Implementation Plan.

This proposal embodies core Action Areas, The Colorado Vision, and specific Tools of the 2023 Colorado Water Plan (pgs. 8-10\*). Our partnership exemplifies the One Water Ethic vision for "integrated planning and implementation approach to managing finite water resources for long-term resilience and reliability, meeting both community and ecosystem needs" (p. 178\*). Integrated multi-benefit restoration projects such as this must consider consumptive use needs alongside the needs for healthy and resilient ecosystems.

Wise Water Use, Meeting Future Water Need, and Healthy Lands (pgs. 176-177\*) are all specific Partner Actions integrated with this proposal that directly support CWCB's vision for Thriving Watersheds (pgs. 205-206\*) and Robust Agriculture (pgs. 192-195\*). This proposal also specifically employs Tools including Steam/Watershed Restoration and Enhancement (p. 170\*), Land Use and Water Planning Integration (p. 163\*), and Conveyance Infrastructure (pg. 166\*).

The restoration efforts we propose will contribute directly to watershed Goals (BIP Goals 1, 5, 6, 7; pgs. 26-362†) and Strategies identified in the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan including Strategy 2 – Protect Irrigated Agriculture (pgs. 68-70†), Strategy 3 – Protect and Enhance Watersheds (pgs.72-73†), and Strategy 4 – Implement Projects (pgs. 74-75†).

Engaging these goals, strategies, tools, and priorities described in the Colorado Water Plan and South Platte Basin Implementation Plan will ensure the successful completion of deliverables described in this Scope of Work for this proposal.

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\*Digital version of the Colorado Water Plan (2023).

†South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (2022)

### Related Studies

The South Platte River is a priority area for Colorado Open Lands and Ducks Unlimited. Numerous CWCB-funded projects along the South Platte River corridor have been completed over the last decade or are in progress. These projects primarily utilized awarded CWCB Water Supply Reserve Grants. Additionally, numerous non-CWCB protection and restoration projects have been completed with separate funding that assist CWCB. As all of this work is centered on improvements to the South Platte watershed; the completed and ongoing projects coupled with this project are complementary in meeting the goals of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan.

### Taxpayer Bill of Rights

Colorado Open Lands is not aware of any TABOR issues that would impact this proposal.