



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Ducks Unlimited
Name of Water Project	Building Community Awareness of Wetlands and Water
Grant Request Amount	\$28,951.00
Primary Category	\$28,951.00
<i>Engagement & Innovation Activities</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$2,500.00
Applicant Cash Match	\$0.00
Applicant In-Kind Match	\$2,500.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$21,800.00
Colorado State University Career Center	\$10,000.00
Colorado State University Center for Collaborative Conservation	\$11,800.00
Total Project Cost	\$53,251.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Ducks Unlimited
 Mailing Address: 2114 Midpoint Dr. Suite 1 Fort Collins CO 80525
 FEIN: 13,563,799

Organization Contact: Courtney Massey
 Position/Title: Biologist Email: cmassey@ducks.org
 Phone: 971-791-1379

Grant Management Contact: Courtney Massey
 Position/Title: Biologist Email: cmassey@ducks.org
 Phone: 971-791-1379

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Wetland conservation and restoration agency

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 45.566508
Longitude -105.037614
Lat Long Flag Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters
Water Source
Basins South Platte; Metro
Counties
Districts

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type
Type of Water Project Planning
Scheduled Start Date - Design 6/1/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction
Description
This project represents a Phase I study and planning initiative dedicated to establishing enduring, community-centric education and engagement initiatives for urban wetlands in Colorado. Aligned with the principles of the Colorado Water Plan, our focus is on nature-based solutions, leveraging wetlands as versatile tools for water supply, habitat, and recreation. Given that over 80% of the state's population resides in urban areas, our objective is to actively engage these communities in Ducks Unlimited's work, fostering awareness of wetlands' indispensable role in meeting present and future needs.

The project adopts a holistic approach, integrating outreach, education, and community-based research. Collaboration with community-based organizations will explore long-term engagement opportunities, enhance community awareness of wetlands, and foster understanding of conservation efforts. Through participatory research, insights into community values will be gathered, ensuring an objective, community-driven approach. At the conclusion of this planning effort, the project team will identify a robust engagement strategy focused on

partnering with community partners and environmental education facilities, heightening awareness of wetlands' roles, and connecting with urban wetland users for tailored outreach. This project aligns with the Colorado Water Plan's priorities for recreation, watershed resilience, and wildlife habitat, contributing to a water-resilient and biodiverse future.

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
300 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other
No additional measurable results provided

Water Project Justification

The proposed project aligns with the Colorado Water Plan's Partner Actions Handbook, which calls on partners to foster information sharing, education, and innovation at the state and local level. Additionally, we will work to fulfill the Water Plan's Vibrant Communities, Thriving Watershed, and Resilient Planning action areas.

Vibrant Communities: The insights gained through this work will support future efforts to build the understanding described on page 3 of the Partner Actions Handbook: "Colorado communities need resilient water supplies, water-conscious and attractive urban landscapes, planning that integrates land use and water solutions, and residents who understand the importance of water to their lives and economy."

Thriving Watersheds: DU hopes to integrate the findings from this project into our long-term vision for urban wetland restoration in the state. With this in mind, we believe this project supports the Thriving Watersheds call for "a shared stewardship ethic to plan and implement multi-benefit projects to enhance the health of our watersheds" by developing an avenue for wetlands to serve as both education areas and nature-based solutions across the state. Furthermore, the project addresses the Engagement and Education action category under this action area by "assisting in data collection, project implementation, analysis, and education."

Resilient Planning: The Partner Actions Handbook states, "Raising awareness and helping all Coloradans recognize our water scarcity issues will be important to addressing our challenges. Education is the key to bridging perceived divides geographies and cultures. Public education around water must be increased, and outreach efforts should be increasingly inclusive. The State should work with local governments to support common messaging that increases awareness of water challenges and helps all Coloradans understand the critical importance of funding, collaboration, and multi-purpose projects." Through this work, DU will work with community-based partners, including local governments, to engage residents in education programs focused on wetlands and water. By focusing this initial effort on the Metro-South Platte Basins, we will be able to better understand any potential

divides within this fairly limited scope. At the end of this project, we will also develop a strategy to engage other Basins in the state, increasing the potential for this work to bridge perceived divides across the state.

This project aligns with CWCB & PEPO Workgroup Priorities for the Statewide Initiatives Fund. Related to Water Plan Action 4.3, a supported concept of interest is “Scoping for Water Plan campaign messages that get traction”. With this project’s focus on understanding community values related to wetlands and water conservation, we will generate insights into top messages and phrasing that will resonate with stakeholders and drive action. The project’s scope centers on multiple community hubs across Denver and the northern Front Range, allowing us to identify synergies in salient messaging that can be impactful across these communities of interest.

Statewide Water Education Action Plan

- We believe this work will advance water education concerning at least 3 of the Critical Water Concepts established in the SWEAP

Critical Water Concepts:

- The physical and chemical properties of water are unique and constant.
- Water is essential for life, our economy, and a key component of healthy ecosystems.
- Water is a scarce resource, limited and variable.
- Water cycles naturally through Colorado’s watersheds, often intercepted and manipulated through an extensive infrastructure system built by people.
- The quality and quantity of water, and the timing of its availability, are all directly impacted by human actions and natural events.
- Water is a public resource governed by water law.

Our project is informed by the guiding principles laid out in SWEAP, specifically the following: Supportive of the CO Water Plan Vision; Achieved with strong partnerships and collaboration; Using a watershed approach; Accessible, engaging, and striving for equity.

Our project will support the targeted outcomes in SWEAP (to be achieved by 2025), specifically:

- o The proportion of Coloradans who can articulate at least three Critical Water Concepts increases.
Strategy 2b. Facilitate incorporation of Critical Water Concepts in educational programming.
- o The proportion of Coloradans who report confidence in having the knowledge necessary to take an active role in water stewardship in their community increases.
Strategy 3a. Curate and promote a readily accessible source for current, factual information on a broad array of important water topics. Strategy 3b. Support hands-on and project-based learning and service opportunities for water-related issues

South Platte-Metro BIP

- In addition to fulfilling the BIP’s call to support SWEAP, this project supports the commitment made in Section 8 of the South Platte-Metro BIP, which states: “Metro and South Platte Roundtables will expand on existing communications and outreach programs to improve knowledge and understanding of water challenges and needs for all citizens of the South Platte Basin and how these needs are being addressed by the South Platte BIP.”

Related Studies

Our planning/study project draws upon a robust foundation of existing research, evidence, and data that underscores the critical importance of both wetlands conservation and community engagement. Key sources include:

This proposal is responsive to the 2018 update to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), an international plan to conserve waterfowl and migratory birds of North America, and the studies that supported the plan's development. First established in 1986, the 2012 NAWMP revision recognized a need to reach new audiences and grow numbers of waterfowl hunters, conservationists, and citizens who enjoy and support wetlands and waterfowl conservation. The 2018 update builds upon this goal by directly calling for better integration of social science into planning and program delivery, highlighting a need to invest in identifying key geographic areas where best opportunities exist to meet the needs of waterfowl and people, and calls on the community to compel people to take action to conserve waterfowl habitat. The proposed project seamlessly aligns with these NAWMP priorities, ensuring a purposeful and effective contribution to waterfowl and wetland conservation efforts.

The 2023 Colorado Wildlife Viewer Survey Report has informed the wetland and wildlife conservation aspect of our project. While primarily focused on wildlife viewing, the report's insights into conservation behaviors and community trust are invaluable. Drawing on these findings, our project team aims to refine methods, formulate targeted research questions, and strengthen the link between wetlands, wildlife conservation, and water conservation. This integration enhances the relevance of our research, benefiting from established patterns in wildlife viewer behavior and exploring how this translates to our engagement strategy. Additionally, the project provides an opportunity to explore synergies or dyssynergies between statewide survey results and our focused conservation efforts, ensuring a well-informed and contextually relevant approach.

Citations:

North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee. 2018. North American Waterfowl Management Plan Update: Connecting People, Waterfowl, and Wetlands.

Sinkular, E.N., Pausley, E.R., Pototsky, P.C., & Dayer, A.A. 2023. Colorado Results of the Wildlife Viewer Survey: Enhancing Relevancy and Engaging Support from a Broader Constituency. Virginia Tech: Blacksburg, Virginia

Wilkins, Emily J., and Holly M. Miller. Public views of wetlands and waterfowl conservation in the United States—Results of a survey to inform the 2018 update of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. No. 2017-1148. US Geological Survey, 2018.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

There are no TABOR issues related to this application