



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Northern Water	
Name of Water Project	Poudre Watershed Source Water Protection Planning	
Grant Request Amount		\$50,000.00
Primary Category		\$50,000.00
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>		
Total Applicant Match		\$10,000.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>		\$10,000.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>		\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		\$90,000.00
<i>Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment</i>		\$50,000.00
<i>City of Fort Collins</i>		\$10,000.00
<i>City of Greeley</i>		\$10,000.00
<i>City of Thornton</i>		\$10,000.00
<i>Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority</i>		\$10,000.00
Total Project Cost		\$150,000.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Northern Water
 Mailing Address: 220 Water Avenue Berthoud CO 80513
 FEIN: 846,000,204

Organization Contact: Kimberly Mihelich
 Position/Title: Source Water Protection Specialist Email: kmihelich@northernwater.org
 Phone: 9706222211

Grant Management Contact: Kimberly Mihelich
 Position/Title: Source Water Protection Specialist Email: kmihelich@northernwater.org
 Phone: 9706222211

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Northern Water is a conservancy district that delivers water to municipal and agricultural entities, providing water to over a million people in northern Colorado. Northern Water jointly operates and maintains the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, a federally owned water project that delivers supplemental water to northeastern Colorado, with the Bureau of Reclamation. Northern Water also manages a variety of other water projects and infrastructure. In addition, Northern Water provides regional leadership through data collection and delivery (including water supply forecasts), water efficiency programs, source water protection and interagency cooperation.

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	40.321469
Longitude	-105.076495
Lat Long Flag	Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters
Water Source	Cache la Poudre River
Basins	South Platte
Counties	Larimer
Districts	3-Cache La Poudre River

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Planning
Scheduled Start Date - Design	4/1/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	
Description	The Cache la Poudre Watershed (CLP) is a highly valued source water supply that is shared by Fort Collins Utilities, Greeley Water and Sewer, Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority, Northern Colorado Water

Conservancy District, and the City of Thornton (Poudre Water Providers). Water quality pollution risks include wildfire, algae blooms, chemical spills and other threats. The Poudre Water Providers currently collaborate with many watershed stakeholders to implement a diverse range of source water quality monitoring and protection projects and programs which help mitigate the threat of pollution to this critical water supply.

If awarded, this grant will be used to hire a consultant to work with the Steering Committee and targeted stakeholders to develop a regional collaborative Source Water Protection Plan for the CLP Watershed to further align source water protection priorities and will be closely tied to a diverse range of monitoring, pollution mitigation and restoration programs, projects and other best practices.

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)
388,658	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
500,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
	No additional measurable results provided

Water Project Justification

The Upper CLP Watershed is a key source water supply that is shared by the Cities of Fort Collins, Greeley and Thornton; Soldier Canyon Water Treatment Authority (SCWTA); and Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (hereafter referred to as Poudre Water Providers). Protecting water quality within this watershed is a high priority for these entities to ensure that current and future reliable, safe, and high-quality drinking water, and these partners are working together to develop a regional, collaborative Source Water Protection Plan for the CLP.

Development of a regional, collaborative Source Water Protection Plan supports the following plans:

Colorado Water Plan, 2023

Development of a regional, collaborative Source Water Protection Plan for the CLP addresses several “Partner Actions” under the Thriving Watersheds and Resilient Planning visions, including the following:

Thriving Watersheds

-Healthy Lands (pg. 206): The Source Water Protection Plan will identify projects to be implemented that will prevent or reduce the risk of potential contamination to drinking water sources. These projects will include forest health improvements and nature-based solutions to reconnect floodplains and improve riparian and aquatic habitat. Once the Source Water Protection Plan is developed, the Poudre Water Providers will begin implementation of such projects.

Resilient Planning

-Healthy Lands (pg. 218): Wildfire risk is a major concern for the Poudre Water Providers. The Source Water Protection Plan will seek to coordinate efforts with regional partners on pre-and post-hazard planning for critical infrastructure as well as coordinate on forest health and understanding forest hydrology.

South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, 2022, Volume 1

-Development of a regional, collaborative Source Water Protection Plan for the CLP watershed support the following South Platte Basins Implementation goals:

-Protect and enhance watershed function (pg. 32)

-Protect and enhance environmental attributes (pg. 36)

-Broaden South Platte communications, outreach, and education programs (pg. 39)

High quality water sources are reliant upon a healthy, functioning watershed. By protecting and enhancing watershed function and the environmental attributes of the CLP, it allows the Poudre Water Providers to ensure that current and future reliable, safe and high-quality drinking water can be achieved.

Related Studies

This project supports reports that have been conducted in the CLP including the following:

-The Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed's (CPRW) Wildfire Ready Watershed Plan & Active Stream Corridor Sediment Analysis (Poudre Pearls) are being used to implement low-tech process-based restoration and wetland enhancement projects to address the threat of sedimentation following future wildfires. Projects such as these will be included in the Source Water Protection Plan.

-CPRW's Poudre River Health Assessment Framework (RHAF) is currently being developed with anticipated completion in early 2024.

-CPRW's Poudre River Wildfire Ready Action Plan is currently in progress with anticipated completion in 2024.

-The City of Fort Collins River Health Assessment Framework, developed in 2015, will be used to assist with the characterization of the source water protection area.

-The City of Fort Collins Source Water Protection Plan was completed in 2016.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

Northern Water has reviewed TABOR's requirements and does not believe TABOR will limit its receipt of grant money pursuant to this application, or that receipt of such grant money will cause Northern Water to violate any applicable provisions of TABOR.