



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Headwaters Alliance	
Name of Water Project	Water Efficiency Planning for Creede, CO	
Grant Request Amount		\$49,105.00
Primary Category		\$49,105.00
	<i>Conservation & Land Use Planning</i>	
Total Applicant Match		\$0.00
	<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$0.00
	<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		\$25,900.00
	<i>City of Creede</i>	\$10,000.00
	<i>Rio Grande Water Conservation District</i>	\$5,900.00
	<i>Sonoran Institute</i>	\$10,000.00
Total Project Cost		\$75,005.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Headwaters Alliance
Mailing Address: PO Box 518 Creede CO 81130
FEIN: 814,405,786

Organization Contact: Randy McClure
Position/Title: President, Headwaters Alliance Board of Directors Email: hardrockenterprises@gmail.com
Phone: 970-317-5355

Grant Management Contact: Randy McClure
Position/Title: President, Headwaters Alliance Board of Directors Email: hardrockenterprises@gmail.com
Phone: 970-317-5355

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Sole community-driven watershed organization in Mineral County, CO attending to legacy mining impacts in Willow Creek, the vital water quality and quantity issues at the mountain headwater of the Rio Grande, and providing high-quality stewardship education and information to our community - young and old, local and visitors in service to a climate resilient future.

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	37.855431
Longitude	-106.927583
Lat Long Flag	Municipal centroid: Coordinates based on centroid of municipal boundary
Water Source	Rio Grande Basin
Basins	Rio Grande
Counties	Mineral
Districts	20-Rio Grande

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Planning
Scheduled Start Date - Design	3/1/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	

Description

The City of Creede is located at the mountain headwaters of the Rio Grande Basin. Creede provides water and sewer service to a year-round population of 800, increasing upwards of 4000 individuals during the summer. While Creede appears to have adequate water supply, providing about 4 acre-feet of water per year to customers and leasing 341 acre-feet to the Rio Grande Water Conservation District, the community struggles with outdated infrastructure and a planning. The last Master Plan was established in 1977, and there is a pressing need to make costly and significant improvements to the wastewater system. Additionally, there is a limited effort towards metering in the City, with only two larger customers being metered for consumption, and while new construction and/or upgrades are required to install a water meter near the property line there is no effort to connect these

customers. The many concerns for moving towards metering has effectively stifled productive conversations regarding implementing water efficiency solutions.

Completing a Water Efficiency Plan will enable Creede to identify and monitor water efficiency opportunities, and to provide effective public outreach to its customers. Additionally, the Water Efficiency Plan will serve as a directive for revising and updating the City's Master Plan to inform long term needs related to water efficiency use, drought mitigation, integrated land and water use planning and more.

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)

4,800 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning

5,600 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

We look forward to reporting water savings through implementation of planning efforts that result from this project.

Water Project Justification

This project supports the following State and Rio Grande Basin Goals:

1. The Colorado Water Plan set a measurable objective that by 2025, 75% of Coloradans will live in communities that have incorporated water-saving actions into land-use planning.

2. Aligns with two out of the 5 Goals articulated in the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan, Volume 1, 2022, as follows:

* Goal #3: Vibrant and resilient agriculture, recreation, municipal, and industrial economics that support thriving communities (RGBIP, Vol 1:2022. Pg 22), which specifically articulates the following Supporting Strategies to Achieve the Goal: (1) "Towns and cities create, periodically update and implement water efficiency plans" (RGBIP, Vol 1:2022. Pg 22); and (2) "Towns and counties create comprehensive plans and/or master plans that address existing and future water supply needs." RGBIP, Vol 1:2022. Pg 22).

* Goal #5: Citizens who are engaged and informed on local, state and regional water issues and participate in robust and diverse educational opportunities. (RGBIP, Vol 1:2022. Pg 24).

3. Last but not least, this project is included in the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan, Volume 1, 2022 as a project component within RG-2020-0050 Mineral County Water Use Plan (RGBIP, Vol 1:2022. pg 42).

Related Studies

HWA initiated the Comprehensive Willow Creek Watershed Planning Project in 2020 with partner and funding support from CWCB, City of Creede, Mineral County, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Colorado Watershed Assembly, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, Trout Unlimited and the Lower Willow Creek Restoration

Company. While HWA is delighted to have completed the original objectives as outlined in the 2020 scope of work, there was a longer term objective meant to establish long-term shifts in cultural and civic practices around water-centered issues within the Willow Creek Watershed - of which the practice of "comprehensive" is key. This simple word is meant to remind and require that the various entities working in the watershed share information cross purposes and outcomes, to make sure that the proverbial left hand knows what the right hand is doing. This next step of seeking a Water Efficiency Plan for Creede is another step in making water, water security, planning, supply, etc. transparent both to our civic leaders and our community at large. Because Creede is the sole town within Mineral County, every action within City limits has a ripple effect across the county. This project will significantly further the intent and work already invested in the Comprehensive Willow Creek Watershed Plan.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

NA