



**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**Water Plan**

**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Montezuma Land Conservancy	
Name of Water Project	Place-Based Water Education in SW Colorado	
Grant Request Amount		<b>\$112,000.00</b>
Primary Category		\$112,000.00
<i>Engagement &amp; Innovation Activities</i>		
Total Applicant Match		<b>\$50,400.00</b>
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>		\$50,400.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>		\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		<b>\$250,000.00</b>
<i>Great Outdoors Colorado/Montezuma</i>		
<i>Inspire Coalition</i>		\$20,000.00
<i>Colorado Health Foundation</i>		\$171,000.00
<i>Colorado Parks and Wildlife--Outdoor</i>		
<i>Equity</i>		\$16,500.00
<i>Gates Family Fund</i>		\$42,500.00
Total Project Cost		<b>\$412,400.00</b>

**Applicant & Grantee Information**

Name of Grantee: Montezuma Land Conservancy  
Mailing Address: 216 W Montezuma Ave  
PO Box 1522 Cortez CO 81321  
FEIN: 311,632,961

Organization Contact: Travis Custer  
Position/Title: Executive Director  
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**Description of Grantee/Applicant**

No description provided

### 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	37.490000
Longitude	108.690000
Lat Long Flag	
Water Source	Dolores River, southwest basin
Basins	Southwest
Counties	Montezuma
Districts	32-McElmo Creek Basin

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Education
Type of Water Project	Education
Scheduled Start Date - Design	4/1/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	
Description	Efforts to educate youth about the water issues facing Colorado need to be viewed as relevant to local communities and culturally appropriate for schools to prioritize water education. Montezuma Land Conservancy

(MLC) will collaborate with three local charter schools to develop a series of lessons and field trip experiences that teach the Critical Concepts described in the Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP). The lessons will engage students with local watersheds, allocations, and delivery systems; they will incorporate diverse cultural perspectives, mainly from local Indigenous communities. For the last seven years staff from MLC have been delivering water lessons regularly for school groups during field trips to Fozzie’s Farm, an 83-acre irrigated working farm and ranch owned and managed by the land trust. Existing partnerships with Kwiyaqat Community Academy, Battle Rock Charter School, and Southwest Open School have proven productive and provide students with place-based, hands-on learning. These charter schools serve a diverse student body, including a large percentage of Nuchu’u (Ute) and Dine’ (Navajo) youth. Funding will provide capacity for MLC staff to further collaborate with teachers at each school to develop and deliver lessons, plan field trips, and create culturally appropriate teaching materials.

### 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
- 1,620 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

This education project will serve as a pilot project and opportunity to create replicable, culturally relevant lesson plans over the two-year grant period. Untold numbers of future students will also benefit, as MLC expands education programming with other local schools.

### Water Project Justification

This project directly addresses key elements in the Colorado Water Plan, the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan, and the Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP) developed by Water Education Colorado. The Water Plan Values (page 8) describe, “An informed public with creative, forward-thinking solutions that are sustainable and resilient to changing conditions and result in strong, equitable communities that can adapt and thrive in the face of adversity.” This project creates a scaffolded approach for educating local students about our community’s water resources and challenges starting at the 3rd grade level and continuing through high school. By partnering with charter schools that serve a very diverse population, specifically Indigenous students, the project takes aim at the inequities that limit public participation from Nuuchi-u (Ute) and Dine’ (Navajo) community members. The Action Area of Resilient Planning also acknowledges the need for embracing equity, diversity, and inclusivity (page 8) in education and engagement projects. Similarly, the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan identifies the goal of “Balancing all needs and reducing conflict.” Strategy A3 under that goal calls for us to, “Support and implement education and outreach efforts to the diverse communities of southwest Colorado to create a water-fluent public by providing relevant local and statewide water information.” Finally, this project incorporates the SWEAP Guiding Principles (page 4 of the Executive Summary) including making education efforts “accessible, engaging, and striving for equity.” The education project will address the Knowledge and Skills of the students in order to achieve the outcomes identified (page 5): increasing awareness

of the Critical Concepts and increasing confidence in “taking an active role in water stewardship in their communities.”

#### Related Studies

No Related Studies provided

#### Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A