



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**Water Plan**

**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Mountain Studies Institute
Name of Water Project	Forests to Faucets Teacher Training Workshop Series
Grant Request Amount	<b>\$23,600.00</b>
Primary Category	\$23,600.00
<i>Engagement &amp; Innovation Activities</i>	
Total Applicant Match	<b>\$375.00</b>
Applicant Cash Match	\$0.00
Applicant In-Kind Match	\$375.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	<b>\$48,125.00</b>
Water Information Program	\$7,000.00
Water Information Program	\$8,250.00
San Juan Mountains Association	\$675.00
Environmental Protection Agency	\$10,000.00
Expert guest speakers	\$10,000.00
La Plata County	\$8,000.00
Fort Lewis College	\$3,000.00
Donated Meeting Space	\$1,200.00
Total Project Cost	<b>\$72,100.00</b>

**Applicant & Grantee Information**

Name of Grantee: Mountain Studies Institute  
Mailing Address: 679 E. 2nd Avenue, Suite #8 Durango CO 81301  
FEIN: 731,644,103

Organization Contact: Amanda Kuenzi  
Position/Title: Community Science Director      Email: amanda@mountainstudies.org  
Phone: 9286075344

Organization Contact - Alternate: Melissa May  
Position/Title: Executive Director      Email: melissa@mountainstudies.org  
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Grant Management Contact: Amanda Kuenzi  
Position/Title: Community Science Director      Email: amanda@mountainstudies.org  
Phone: 9286075344

**Description of Grantee/Applicant**

Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) is an independent not-for-profit mountain research and education center established in 2002 in Silverton, Colorado. MSI develops science that people can use to address environmental issues facing the San Juan Mountains.

### 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	37.280446
Longitude	-107.878618
Lat Long Flag	Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters
Water Source	Animas River, San Juan River, Dolores River
Basins	Southwest
Counties	La Plata; Montezuma; Archuleta
Districts	30-Animas River Basin; 29-San Juan River Basin; 71-West Dolores Creek/Tribs.

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Education
Type of Water Project	Education
Scheduled Start Date - Design	3/18/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	
Description	

The purpose of the Forests to Faucets Teacher Training Workshop Series is to train 15-20 teachers annually about the importance and interconnection of healthy watersheds to area water supplies through a multi-day

field-based course, including educational tours. The COVID19 pandemic has put enormous pressures on educators, and the support offered through this workshop is needed now more than ever. Through needs assessment surveys conducted throughout 2020-2022, teachers have requested non-screen-based educational tools. This training empowers educators to include place-based watershed education in their lesson plans and engage students to think critically about Colorado's water issues. Through this "train-the-trainer" model, we are able to amplify our impact. We estimate each teacher that participates in our program will impact 10-30 students per year. This workshop is appropriate for teachers of K-12 classrooms and rotates each year between the Animas/San Juan River watershed (Durango and Silverton), the Upper San Juan watershed (Pagosa Springs), and the Mancos/Dolores River watershed (Mancos, Dolores, and Cortez). The Forest-to-Faucets education partnership contributes to Southwest Conservation District's and Southwest Basin Roundtable's Education Action Plan priority to provide water education for constituents in the region (Southwest Basin's Public Education, Participation, and Outreach Implementation 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)  
 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  
 1,260 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity  
 Other  
 No additional measurable results provided

### Water Project Justification

Engagement and education are called as partner actions under the Colorado Water Plan. The Forests to Faucets program meets the Colorado's Water Plan Goal 9.5:

"K-12 Education: Water providers across the state administer several K-12 programs. All of these programs use education and outreach to help address specific water supply issues, many of them aimed at educating the public on how to reduce municipal and agricultural water use. Other numerous water conservancy district efforts reach thousands of students each year at children's water festivals and special initiatives within area school districts."

One example is Project Wet (Water Education for Teachers), which is "a national program that trains Colorado teachers how to educate their students about water." The Forests to Faucets program uses Project WET curriculum, as well as unique, original lessons designed for the southwest region.

#### Southwest Basin Implementation Plan

The Forest to Faucets education partnership contributes to the Southwest Basin Roundtable's Education Action Plan priority to provide water education for constituents in the region (Southwest Basin's Public Education, Participation, and Outreach Implementation Plan).

This project meets the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan's (BIP) Goal A4: "Promote dialogue, foster

cooperation and resolve conflict among water interests in every basin and between basins for the purpose of implementing solutions to Southwest Colorado's and Colorado's water supply challenges (SWSI 2010)" by supporting watershed education for young water users. Educators that attend the Forests to Faucets program are introduced to lessons regarding municipal water use, land management implication for water quality, agricultural practices and irrigation, and impacts of drought. These lessons serve to foster an informed public for generations to come.

### Related Studies

Our program relates to the following in terms of education & outreach:

1. Colorado Water Plan
2. Southwest Basin Implementation Plan
3. PEPO Education Action Plans
4. Statewide Water Education Action Plan

### Taxpayer Bill of Rights

Not applicable to this effort.