



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Bent Conservation District
Name of Water Project	Supporting Nature's Engineers: Beaver Dam Analogs for Watershed Restoration
Grant Request Amount	\$58,325.00
Primary Category	\$58,325.00
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$45,125.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$45,125.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$0.00
Total Project Cost	\$103,450.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Bent Conservation District	
Mailing Address: 760 Bent Avenue Las Animas CO 81054	
Organization Contact: Ashley Grasser	
Position/Title: District Manager	Email: bentconsdist@gmail.com
Phone: 7194560120 x 105	
Organization Contact - Alternate: Shana Vaid	
Position/Title: District Conservation Technician	Email: bentdct@gmail.com
Phone: 209-605-4263	
Grant Management Contact: Ashley Grasser	
Position/Title: District Manager	Email: bentconsdist@gmail.com
Phone: 7194560120 x 105	
Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Shana Vaid	
Position/Title: District Conservation Technician	Email: bentdct@gmail.com
Phone: 209-605-4263	

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 38.033870
 Longitude -103.201700
 Lat Long Flag Stream location: Coordinates based on general location on stream
 Water Source Purgatoire River
 Basins Arkansas
 Counties Bent
 Districts 17-Arkansas: Fowler to Las Animas

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Agricultural
 Type of Water Project Construction / Implementation
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 10/1/2025
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction 11/3/2025
 Description
 This water project would help restore the riparian habitat around the Purgatoire River through the construction of approximately 50 beaver dam analogs (BDA). BDAs are a low-cost method of slowing down the water flow, filtering out sediment to improve water quality, raising the water level, and spreading out the water to restore wetlands and improve soil health. The implementation of BDAs will help improve watershed health by reducing soil erosion, increasing the area's resilience to floods, drought, and wildfires, and attracting more beavers back into the area.

Measurable Results

24,600	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)
Other	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
No additional measurable results provided	

Water Project Justification

This water project would help restore the riparian habitat around the Purgatoire River through the construction of approximately 50 beaver dam analogs (BDA). BDAs are a low-cost method of slowing down the water flow, filtering out sediment to improve water quality, raising the water level, and spreading out the water to restore wetlands and improve soil health. The implementation of BDAs will help improve watershed health by reducing soil erosion, increasing the area's resilience to floods, drought, and wildfires, and attracting more beavers back into the area.

The Purgatoire River runs through the southern part of the district before meeting with the Arkansas River. For most of the year, the river's gage height sits between 2 and 3 feet where it flows through Bent County, based on readings from the USGS measured in Las Animas and measurements taken from the river. It is approximately 15-20 feet wide throughout, sitting about 4-5 yards lower than its banks in most places. The main issues observed in the river are poor water quality, severe incision, the proliferation of invasive species, and erosion.

Related Studies

2018. Maestas, J. D., Conner, S., Zeedyk, B., Neely, B., Rondeau, R., N. Seward, Chapman, T., With, L., and Murph., R.: Hand-built structures for restoring degraded meadows in sagebrush rangelands: Examples and lessons learned from the Upper Gunnison River Basin, Colorado, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Denver, CO, 47 pp.

2016. Yochum, S. E.: Guidance for stream restoration and rehabilitation, US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, National Stream and Aquatic Ecology Center. Technical Note no. TN-102.2, 2016.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

No Tax Bill of Rights provided