

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Center Conservation District
Name of Water Project	Southern Colorado Wool Pellet Project
Grant Request Amount	\$264,965.00
Primary Category	\$264,965.00
<i>Agricultural Projects</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$35,375.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$9,500.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$25,875.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$137,600.00
<i>Colorado Department of Agriculture</i>	\$30,000.00
<i>Colorado Wool Growers Association</i>	\$2,500.00
<i>Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority</i>	\$2,600.00
<i>Colorado Association of Conservation Districts</i>	\$10,000.00
<i>Colorado State Conservation Board</i>	\$50,000.00
<i>Colorado State Conservation Board</i>	\$25,000.00
<i>Colorado State University WSARE Grant</i>	\$5,000.00
<i>Saguache County Sales Tax Grant</i>	\$5,000.00
<i>Saguache County Sales Tax Grant</i>	\$7,500.00
Total Project Cost	\$437,940.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Center Conservation District
Mailing Address: 0048 W County Road 10 N Center CO 81125

Organization Contact: Mattea Freel
Position/Title: General Manager Email: centercd1@gmail.com
Phone: 719-754-3400

Grant Management Contact: Mattea Freel
Position/Title: General Manager Email: centercd1@gmail.com
Phone: 719-754-3400

Description of Grantee/Applicant

A special district (conservation district) focused on promoting soil health practices through education, outreach, and producer support

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 37.718892
 Longitude -106.149647
 Lat Long Flag Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters
 Water Source Groundwater and surface water shares, primarily in the Rio Grande and Arkansas Basins.
 Basins Arkansas; Rio Grande
 Counties
 Districts

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Agricultural
 Type of Water Project Study
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 12/1/2025
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction
 Description
 The Southern Colorado Wool Pellet Project (SOCOWPP) aims to trial the product efficacy of wool pellets in agricultural operations for the purpose of increasing soil moisture retention rates while providing organic fertilizer benefits. The trials will take place on farms across Southern Colorado to determine if wool pellets are a useful amendment for water savings in agricultural crops.

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)
10 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)
50,000 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
100 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other
No additional measurable results provided

Water Project Justification

The Southern Colorado Wool Pellet Project (SOCOWPP) answers the goals of the Colorado Water Plan and Rio Grande Basin Water Plan to assist with groundwater and aquifer sustainability and seek a viable alternative for resilient agriculture. The SOCOWPP is trialing wool pellets as a soil amendment focused on increasing soil moisture retention rates, therefore reducing irrigation requirements in agriculture. This project is focused on Subdistrict 1 in the Rio Grande Basin, but also extends into other areas of Southern Colorado (primarily the Arkansas Valley) where the wool pellets have the potential to reduce the amount of groundwater used on agricultural crops.

Related Studies

Bradshaw, Terence, and Hagen, Kimberly. Wool Pellets Are a Viable Alternative to Commercial Fertilizer for Organic Vegetable Production. Agronomy. 2022.

Hagen, Kimberly, and Hodgson, Suzy. Vermont Sheep Wool: Value-Added Products from Raw Wool. University of Vermont, Center for Sustainable Agriculture. 2018.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

There are no TABOR issues that would affect our application.