



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Eagle River Water and Sanitation District	
Name of Water Project	Bolts Lake Design Development Progress Drawings	
Grant Request Amount		\$776,390.00
Primary Category		\$776,390.00
<i>Water Storage & Supply</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		\$776,390.00
<i>Eagle River Water and Sanitation District</i>		\$194,097.50
<i>Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority</i>		\$582,292.50
Total Project Cost		\$1,552,780.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Eagle River Water and Sanitation District
Mailing Address: 846 West Forest Road Vail CO 81657

Organization Contact: Justin Hildreth
Position/Title: Sr. Water Resource Engineer Email: jhildreth@erwsd.org
Phone: (970) 471-1152

Organization Contact - Alternate: Tim Friday
Position/Title: Planning & Water Resources Manager Email: tfriday@erwsd.org
Phone: (970) 763-8983

Grant Management Contact: Justin Hildreth
Position/Title: Sr. Water Resource Engineer Email: jhildreth@erwsd.org
Phone: (970) 471-1152

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Tim Friday
Position/Title: Planning & Water Resources Manager Email: tfriday@erwsd.org
Phone: (970) 763-8983

Description of Grantee/Applicant

ERWSD provides water and wastewater services.

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	39.557000
Longitude	106.404000
Lat Long Flag	Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project
Water Source	Eagle River and Cross Creek
Basins	Colorado
Counties	Eagle
Districts	37-Eagle River Basin

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Design / Engineering
Scheduled Start Date - Design	7/1/2025
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	1/1/2028

Description

Bolts Lake is a proposed 1,200-acre-foot off-channel reservoir to be filled with water diverted from Eagle River and Cross Creek (Figure 1). The project entails the design, permitting, and construction of a reservoir and delivery system at the historic Bolts Lake site, located south of Minturn and adjacent to the former Eagle Mine. In February 2022, the Eagle River Water and Sanitation District (District) and Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority (Authority) acquired the site to develop a water supply reservoir to provide essential in-basin water storage. Upon completion, the reservoir will enhance the resilience of our community's water supply as we adapt to the effects of climate change and support key community land use priorities such as workforce housing.

Redeveloping Bolts Lake is expected to take up to ten years. The reservoir will support passive recreation like non-motorized boating, paddleboarding, and fishing. In 2023-2024, the District hired Black & Veatch for Program Manager services and AECOM for engineering design, achieving 30% progress drawings and specifications. The next steps are to finalize Design Development to 60%, secure an Army Corps Nationwide Permit, and hire a Construction Manager.

Measurable Results

1,200	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
1,200	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
1,200	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
25,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
No additional measurable results provided	

Water Project Justification

This project will provide the following benefits:

1. Provide additional in-basin storage in the Eagle River Valley to meet the water supply needs of the Towns of Avon, Minturn, and Vail, and the communities of Arrowhead, Beaver Creek, Bachelor Gulch, Berry Creek, Cordillera, Eagle-Vail, Edwards and other surrounding areas in unincorporated Eagle County served by the Eagle River Water & Sanitation District and Upper Eagle River Water Authority. This project meets the Colorado Water Plan goals of “thoughtful storage” and “manage future water needs,” identified as a partner action (page 205).
2. Increase the reliability and resiliency of the District and Authority’s water supply to adapt to a changing climate by achieving the water supply planning goal of developing an in-basin strategic reserve equal to ten percent (10%) of the District and Authority’s annual water demands. The Colorado Water Plan identifies climate change as a long-range challenge on page 148.
3. Reinforce the ability of the District, the Authority, and the Town of Minturn to meet CWCB minimum instream flow requirements decreed in water court case nos. 78W3796, 80CW0124, and 80CW0126.
4. Address water scarcity in the headwaters of the Colorado River Basin.
5. Provide recreational opportunities in the Eagle River Valley.
6. The project has the support of the Colorado Basin Roundtable, and the letter of support is included with the application. This coincides with partner action 4.2 (page 221) of the Colorado Water Plan.

Related Studies

- Bolts Lake Reservoir Feasibility Study (Shannon & Wilson), January 2022
- Bolts Lake Reservoir Preliminary Design (Shannon & Wilson), March 2024
- Bolts Lake Reservoir Preliminary Design Geotechnical Report (Shannon & Wilson), December 2023

Bolts Lake Reservoir Preliminary Design Hydraulic Report (Shannon & Wilson), February 2024
Bolts Lake Redevelopment Project 30% Design (AECOM), May 2025

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

Taxpayer Bill of Rights does not apply to the ERWSD because it was debruced in 2014.