

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District
Name of Water Project	Frost Ranch Final Design
Grant Request Amount	\$199,694.00
Primary Category	\$199,694.00
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$59,908.20
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$59,908.20
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$0.00
Total Project Cost	\$259,602.20

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District
Mailing Address: PO Box 26373 Colorado Springs CO 80936

Organization Contact: Allison Schuch

Position/Title: Executive Director

Phone: 719-650-7474

Email: fountainckdist@gmail.com

Organization Contact - Alternate: Jordan Witteveen

Position/Title: Administrative Assistant

Phone: 7047639876

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Grant Management Contact: Allison Schuch

Position/Title: Executive Director

Phone: 719-650-7474

Email: fountainckdist@gmail.com

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Jordan Witteveen

Position/Title: Administrative Assistant

Phone: 7047639876

Email: fcwdaa@gmail.com

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Authority - Water authority or water and wastewater authority

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 38.561704
 Longitude -104.623689
 Lat Long Flag Stream location: Coordinates based on general location on stream
 Water Source N/A
 Basins Arkansas
 Counties El Paso; Pueblo
 Districts 10-Fountain Creek

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type
 Type of Water Project Design / Engineering
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 8/15/2025
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction
 Description
 The Frost Ranch project, located on Fountain Creek in El Paso County, addresses severe channel erosion and sediment loading caused by rapid creek migration. Between 2018 and 2024, an estimated 100,000 cubic yards of sediment were lost from an eroding outer meander bench. To restore stability and function, the project will reconnect a relic channel, construct bendway weirs, and install large woody debris to re-establish a stable, braided channel system.

This 3,000-foot reach begins at the confluence with Williams Creek and features a 50–60-foot high vertical bank. Design elements aim to reduce sediment input, promote natural stream processes, improve water quality, and restore riparian habitat. A 60% design is complete; this grant request supports final design development, permitting, easement acquisition, and bid-ready construction documents.

Project outcomes include a shovel-ready restoration package that protects water quality, enhances ecosystem resilience, and lays the foundation for future implementation funding. The design also supports FEMA floodplain updates and long-term landowner engagement.

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)
3,000	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)
10	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
100	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
No additional measurable results provided	

Water Project Justification

Alignment with the Colorado Water Plan and the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan (Revised Goals)

The Frost Project Final Design supports and advances the core values of the Colorado Water Plan (CWP), the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan (BIP, Revised 2021), and the Statewide Water Education Action Plan (SWEAP) through multi-benefit restoration, water quality improvement, agricultural protection, and resilient community planning. The project will result in a shovel-ready design that positions this high-impact effort for construction-phase implementation.

Vibrant Communities & Resilient Planning

The project improves public safety and quality of life by restoring floodplains, stabilizing streambanks, and reducing erosion risks near developed areas. These outcomes align with the CWP's Vibrant Communities (Ch. 5, pp. 78–80) and Resilient Planning (Ch. 6) goals, emphasizing nature-based solutions in vulnerable corridors. It also supports BIP Watershed Health Goal 1, which promotes proactive restoration of at-risk watersheds impacted by sedimentation and wildfire.

By preparing a shovel-ready design based on stakeholder-informed conceptual planning, the project fulfills BIP Municipal & Industrial Goal 2a, which encourages cost-effective, regional project delivery, especially in rural communities. The site lies in a particularly dynamic and erosive reach of rural El Paso County, where lateral migration creates widespread sediment impacts across lower Fountain Creek and the Arkansas River.

Thriving Watersheds & Ecosystem Health

The project will restore 202 acres of riparian and upland habitat, re-establishing ecological connectivity, improving water quality, and reducing nutrient and sediment loading. These outcomes advance CWP Measurable Objective #6 (p. 115) to support stream management and aquatic habitat, and directly support BIP IPP #A-10 (p. 62) for restoring riparian function.

Additionally, the project contributes to BIP Environment & Recreation Goal 4 by maintaining and improving aquatic, riparian, and avian habitat, and to Goal 2, by supporting fish habitat and ecological resilience. These ecosystem functions also serve BIP Watershed Health Goal 2, addressing sediment and nutrient impairment in the Arkansas Basin.

Robust Agriculture

Stabilized streambanks and restored floodplains will protect irrigated lands from erosion, reduce sedimentation in diversion infrastructure, and help sustain irrigation return flows. These outcomes align with CWP Measurable Objective #4 (p. 112) and BIP Agriculture Goals 1 and 5, supporting agricultural water supply reliability, rural economies, and multi-benefit land stewardship. The project provides downstream benefits by decreasing sediment load to Fountain Creek and the Arkansas River, which has long been a concern for irrigators.

Education & Community Engagement

The Frost Project will be incorporated into District public programming including e-newsletter articles, a project webpage, and direct engagement with landowners, schools, and community partners throughout design and implementation. These efforts align with SWEAP Initiatives 1a and 2a (pp. 17–18) and CWP Ch. 9.5 (p. 153), promoting inclusive, place-based water education. The Fountain Creek Watershed District will continue its tradition of hosting project tours—before, during, and after construction—to share lessons learned, demonstrate restoration effectiveness, and encourage watershed stewardship across the region.

Conclusion

The Frost Project Final Design directly advances measurable goals of the Colorado Water Plan, Arkansas BIP (Revised 2021), and SWEAP, delivering climate-adaptive, community-informed, and multi-benefit water management. It addresses a critical erosion and sediment source while strengthening agricultural resilience, ecological function, and public understanding of watershed restoration. Once completed, this shovel-ready design will be ready to advance into construction, offering lasting benefits to the watershed and its diverse users.

Related Studies

Fountain Creek Watershed Study, Watershed Management Plan, January 2009
Fountain Creek Corridor Restoration Master Plan, October 2011
Fountain Creek Corridor WARSSS Study, March 2017
Fountain Creek Watershed District's Floodplain Management Opportunity Study, December 2019. Table 4-5, 5-1, P. 67 - Frost Focus Area, p. 94 Frost Cost Estimates,
Frost Focus Area Feasibility Assessment Report, December 2023.
Fountain Creek Lessons Learned River Assessment, June 2025.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A