

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Crawford Water Conservancy District
Name of Water Project	Smith Fork Siphon and SCADA project
Grant Request Amount	\$1,388,000.00
Primary Category	\$1,388,000.00
<i>Agricultural Projects</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$180,622.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$165,622.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$15,000.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$708,375.00
<i>USDA-NRCS</i>	\$708,375.00
Total Project Cost	\$2,276,997.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Crawford Water Conservancy District
Mailing Address: 183 Hwy 92 Crawford CO 81415

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Description of Grantee/Applicant

The CWCD has operated Reclamation's Smith Fork Project since 1964 and provides irrigation water to 10,200 Acres of farmland and pastureland in the North Fork of the Gunnison River Valley.

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	38.697500
Longitude	-107.614167
Lat Long Flag	
Water Source	Smith Fork
Basins	Gunnison
Counties	Delta
Districts	40-North Fork/Tribs.

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Agricultural
Type of Water Project	Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design	1/1/2026
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	1/1/2026
Description	<p>This is a multi-use project benefitting both agricultural and the State of Colorado Paks for public wildlife and recreation. Install 1,370' of 63" of HDPE pipe from an open canal system and siphon shoot on the Smith Fork Feeder Canal that delivers water into Crawford Reservoir at Crawford State Park. Remote water monitoring and automated gate systems will be installed at diversions for better efficiency and management. Timeline is approximately 2 years (Start Date: 01/01/26; End Date: 12/01/27). The Crawford Reservoir provides irrigation water for grass pasture and hay crops as well as public use benefits of supplying water to reservoir for recreation. Benefits include improved management of 10,000 ac-feet of water, the conservation of almost 40 ac-feet previously lost to seepage.</p>

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)
1,370.00	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)
225	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
No additional measurable results provided	

Water Project Justification

This is a multi-use project, benefiting both 225 agricultural producers and the State of Colorado Parks and wildlife by securing water in Crawford State Reservoir. Replace 1250 LnFt of open canal and 120 Ln Ft of leaking Siphon pipe with closed 63" HDPE pipe on the Smith Fork Feeder Canal that delivers 200cfs of water into Crawford Reservoir at Crawford State Park for wildlife and recreational use. Complete a remote water monitoring and automated gate system to water delivery ditch systems and diversions, creating more efficiency and greater management utility. Timeline is approximately 2 years (Start Date: 01/01/26; End Date: 12/01/27). The Crawford Reservoir provides irrigation water for grass pasture and hay crops as well as public use benefits of supplying water to reservoir for recreation. Benefits include improved management of 10,000 ac-feet of water, the conservation of almost 40 ac-feet previously lost to seepage. In addition, water monitoring and SCADA system will be implemented for the CWCD operating system.

CWP grant funds will be used specifically to purchase materials (e.g. pipe) and for construction management services.

Related Studies

Smith Fork Feeder Canal Feasibility Report 2023
Reclamation Water Management Plan (2008) and Crawford Master Plan (2016): The Smith Fork Feeder Canal is identified as a high priority area for delivery system improvement (e.g. piping) in both the Reclamation Water Management Plan and CWCB funded Crawford Master Plan. In addition, the Master Plan also identifies SCADA implementation throughout key points in the Smith Fork area. A SCADA Master Plan for the Crawford Focus area, a component of the Lower Gunnison Project RCPP, expands/leverages the benefits of this irrigation water management project.
Smith Fork of the Gunnison Watershed Assessment, WSCC, 2016.
Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan: Identified as a Tier 1 project.
Lower Gunnison Watershed Plan (Lower Gunnison Project) (2018)
Lower Gunnison Supplemental EA (2024)

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

The Crawford Water Conservancy District passed ballot measure allowing the CWCD to carry debt.