COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Forest Lakes Metropolitan District
Name of Water Project	Forest Lakes Metropolitan District - Drought Management Plan
Grant Request Amount	**$37,500.00**
Primary Category	$37,500.00
Conservation & Land Use Planning	
Total Applicant Match	**$12,500.00**
Applicant Cash Match	$12,500.00
Applicant In-Kind Match	$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	**$0.00**
Total Project Cost	**$50,000.00**

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Forest Lakes Metropolitan District
Mailing Address: 82 Alpine Forest Dr. Bayfield CO 81122

Organization Contact: Corey Griffis
Position/Title: District Manager
Email: cgriffis@flmd.com
Phone: 970-884-2925

Organization Contact - Alternate: Mark Fuson
Position/Title: Utilities Manager
Email: mfuson@flmd.com
Phone: 970-884-2925

Grant Management Contact: Corey Griffis
Position/Title: District Manager
Email: cgriffis@flmd.com
Phone: 970-884-2925

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Shawna Johnson
Position/Title: Administrator
Email: sjohnson@flmd.com
Phone: 970-884-2925

Engineering Contact: Hayes Lenhart
Position/Title: Vice President
Email: hlenhart@wrightwater.com
Phone: 970-259-7411

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

Type of Eligible Entity

☐ Public (Government)

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- [ ] 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.
- [x] 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	37.328938
Longitude	-107.605529
Lat Long Flag	Water district centroid: Coordinates based on centroid of water district boundary
Water Source	Alluvial wells tributary to the Pine River (aka Los Pinos River)
Basins	Southwest
Counties	La Plata
Districts	31-Los Pinos River Basin

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Planning
Scheduled Start Date - Design	10/1/2025
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	

Description

Located in La Plata County Colorado, the FLMD is a rural domestic water and wastewater service provider to a water service area population of approximately 2,000 people (see Figure 1), and an anticipated future full buildout area population of approximately 4,600 people. The FLMD’s primary raw water supply source is from alluvial wells tributary to the Pine River, operated in accordance with the FLMD’s Augmentation Plan Decree.

The FLMD Drought Management Plan seeks to help address the persistent drought conditions present in the

Southwest Basin. As noted in the January 2022 Southwest Basin Implementation Plan, persistent drought conditions since the early 2000s are challenging the water balance across all water use sectors in the Southwest Basin, and projected water scarcity due to climate change is anticipated to compound this challenge. Faced with a growing service area population, constant drought, and a currently physically limited water supply, the goals of the FLMD's Drought Management Plan are as follows:

• Identify baseline supply- and demand-side water efficiency activities to promote annual water savings over the long term to inform the need and timing for developing additional raw water supply and or augmentation water supply.
• Develop a sustainable framework for drought monitoring and water efficiency targets from quantifiable drought triggers based on historical and future drought vulnerability assessments.
• Work with the community to present and identify supply- and demand-side drought mitigation and response strategies that are applicable to the FLMD's rural community.
• Develop a plan that meets or exceeds the CWCB's most current Drought Management Planning Guidance, issued in June 2020.

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)
37	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)
2,080	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
2,080	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	

More water in Wommer Reservoir (aka Lake Simpatico) for recreational uses due to reduced augmentation water releases.

Water Project Justification

Goals and strategies identified in the January 2022 Southwest Basin Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) that are in line with the FLMD Drought Management Plan include the following:

BIP Goal A – Balance All Needs and Reduce Conflict (see BIP Page 22)

BIP Strategy A1: Support projects important to maintaining the quality of life in this region by pursuing community-directed projects that address single and/or multiple water needs, for example municipal, industrial, and risk management water needs.

BIP Strategy A2: Support dialogue and foster cooperation, collaboration, and conflict resolution among water interests in every subbasin, between basins, and at the Southwest BRT for the purpose of implementing strategies to mitigate risk and build resiliency for Southwest Colorado's and Colorado's water supply challenges.

BIP Strategy A3: Support and implement education and outreach efforts to the diverse communities of Southwest Colorado to create a water-fluent public by providing relevant local and statewide water information.

BIP Goal C – Meet Municipal and Industrial Water Needs (see BIP Page 23)

BIP Strategy C1: Pursue Projects to meet the current municipal and future municipal demand.

BIP Strategy C3: Promote wise and efficient water use through implementation of municipal conservation and efficiency strategies to reduce overall future water needs.

BIP Goal D – Meet Recreational Water Needs (see BIP Page 23):

BIP Strategy D1: Maintain, protect, and enhance recreational values that support local and regional economies derived from recreational water uses, such as fishing, boating, hunting, wildlife watching, camping, and hiking.

BIP Goal F – Promote Healthy Watersheds (see BIP Page 24)

BIP Strategy D1: Encourage and support projects that build resilient watersheds and healthy forests impacted by drought, fire, and climate change.

BIP Goal G – Manage Risk Associated with Colorado River Compact (see BIP Page 25)

BIP Strategy G1: Plan and help preserve water supply options for all existing and new uses and values.

BIP Strategy G2: Support viable strategies to build resiliency and manage Compact risk.

Vision and actions for addressing Colorado's Risks summarized in the January 2023 Colorado Water Plan (CWP) that are in line with the FLMD Drought Management Plan include the following:

Vibrant Communities | Meeting Future Water Needs
Optimize investments in infrastructure and increase efficiency and conservation: Municipal water providers need to make the right investments in infrastructure to handle the uncertainties of the future. Reducing water loss and implementing conservation and efficiency programs can help municipalities reduce water demand and minimize additional infrastructure costs (see CWP Page 180).

Proper and accurate monitoring of water use and reduction in water loss: Water systems should be as efficient as economically possible, and water losses in distribution systems and private plumbing should be minimized through consistent water loss auditing, third party validation, component analysis, leak detection, and timely repairs. Thoughtful system monitoring and investments in new technologies can be used to more accurately account for the water that is sent to customers and can also help reduce water loss (e.g., advanced metering infrastructure, or “AMI”, or other approaches) (see CWP Page 181).

Vibrant Communities | Wise Water Use

Implementing water-saving measures: Water conservation and efficiency is fundamental to Colorado’s success, and investing in water conservation campaigns, incentives, and technologies is critical. Establishing partnerships with the business community can create and promote innovative new technologies for water efficiency and tracking water use (see CWP Page 181).

Vibrant Communities Integration Across Action Areas | Robust Agriculture

More efficient water use and additional storage in communities can delay or prevent the need to acquire and transfer agricultural water supplies (see CWP Page 181).

Vibrant Communities Integration Across Action Areas | Thriving Watersheds

Efficient use of water supplies in communities can benefit the environment if more water is left in streams or if municipal water operations can be flexible and enhance streamflows (see CWP Page 181).

Resilient Planning | Meeting Future Water Needs

Integrated planning: Planning studies of water supply, demand, and needed infrastructure that consider a range of uncertain future conditions will help water providers develop supplies and facilities that are resilient and adaptable (see CWP Page 217).

Resilient Planning | Wise Water Use

Water efficiency and drought plans: Actionable water efficiency and drought plans should be developed by every municipality and/or water provider. Plans should include trackable metrics and strategies that are implementable and appropriate for the community (see CWP Page 218).

Conservation-oriented outreach and education: Education and outreach programs that focus on water conservation programs, outdoor water use, and incentives can foster greater adoption and save water. They can also raise the public's general awareness of their water footprint and the importance of water supply projects and funding efforts (see CWP Page 218).

Related Studies

The FLMD Drought Management Plan is related and complementary to other Drought Management and Water Efficiency Plans developed by water service providers within the Southwest Basin, including the nearby Town of Bayfield, CO and the City of Durango, CO.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

Currently, the FLMD is not subject to any TABOR limits for grant funding.