



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Name of Applicant | Colorado Ag Water Alliance |
| Name of Water Project | Sunnyside Ditch Pipeline |
| Grant Request Amount | \$40,000.00 |
| Primary Category | \$40,000.00 |
| <i>Agricultural Projects</i> | |
| Total Applicant Match | \$37,960.00 |
| <i>Applicant Cash Match</i> | \$17,960.00 |
| <i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i> | \$20,000.00 |
| Total Other Sources of Funding | \$50,000.00 |
| <i>Chaffe County Common Ground</i> | \$50,000.00 |
| Total Project Cost | \$127,960.00 |

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Colorado Ag Water Alliance
Mailing Address: 10440 W Fair Unit C Littleton CO 80127

Organization Contact: Brady Everett
Position/Title: Email: everettranchbeef@gmail.com
Phone:

Grant Management Contact: Brady Everett
Position/Title: Email: everettranchbeef@gmail.com
Phone:

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Association of agricultural organization focused on education and outreach. Our mission is to support and preserve irrigated agriculture

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 38.573646
Longitude -106.042404
Lat Long Flag
Water Source Arkansas
Basins Arkansas
Counties Chaffee
Districts

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Agricultural
Type of Water Project Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design 11/1/2025
Scheduled Start Date - Construction 12/1/2025
Description
TN Bar Cattle Company is the applicant. Not CAWA

This project involves piping 3,200 feet of the Sunnyside Ditch that runs along Highway 291 in Chaffee County. The erosion and debris from the highway make this section of the ditch extremely difficult to maintain and ensure water deliveries. Installing pipe will ensure water continues to be delivered to incredibly valuable irrigated farmland in the county. This includes hundreds of acres of irrigated crops is part of valuable wildlife corridor recognized by the county. The acres directly affected by this project are in the highest percentile (91-100) of wildlife habitat value in the county, and provide habitat for key species that are in decline. The county has also invested in these acres through the Chaffee County Community Conservation Connection Program, which acts as a temporary conservation easement and ensures scenic views, open space, and valuable return flows.

Measurable Results

New Storage Created (acre-feet)

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|----------|---|
| | 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) |
| 3,200.00 | 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) |
| | Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning |
| | Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity |
| Other | |
| | 800 acres of agriculture and critical riparian habitat for wildlife protected |

Water Project Justification

This section of the Sunnyside Ditch is an open ditch that has eroded significantly over the years from water flows and runoff from the highway that runs alongside the ditch. The ditch is also consistently filled with debris from the highway that makes it difficult to maintain and even access due to the proximity from the highway. These issues have made it difficult to deliver water to this section of the Sunnyside Ditch System. Not only does that water sustain agriculture, but it provides valuable riparian habitat.

This project supports the following goals in the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan:

- Support projects within and outside the Arkansas Basin that will help meet the basin's agriculture water supply gap, maintain existing supplies, better manage vulnerable supplies, and maximize use of water users' entitlements
- Sustain a productive agricultural economy in the Arkansas Basin that sustains viable rural, agricultural-based communities
- Maintain or improve aquatic, riparian, and avian habitat (including wetlands) that would support environmental features and recreational opportunities

The water through this section of the Sunnyside Ditch serves 800 acres that are flood irrigated. 630 of the acres are held in conservation easements and will continue to be productive agricultural lands into perpetuity. All of the 800 acres participate in the Chaffee County Community Conservation Connection Program. In the program, participants enroll in voluntary 5-year agreements. These agricultural operators receive annual payments on a per-acre basis in exchange for continuing agricultural production, limiting development, and protecting scenic views, water resources and wildlife habitat.

The ditch and flood irrigation also provides significant habitat for wildlife. Envision Chaffee County create the "Chaffee County Planning for Wildlife Map." According to research, 8 of 13 key wildlife populations in Chaffee County are in steady decline. To stabilize wildlife populations, the County created the wildlife decision support tools to provide science-based data to support strategies that protect wildlife. The acres directly affected by this project are in the highest percentile (91-100) of wildlife habitat value in the county (see attachment Wildlife+Habitat+Value). The acres in and surrounding the project area are home to many species of wildlife as well as serving as a migratory route and wetland sanctuary for heron, cranes, geese, various migratory birds and raptors, mink, muskrat, beaver, deer, elk and antelope.

The critical area served by the Sunnyside Ditch also supports two partner actions in the Colorado Water Plan. The pipeline project supports the goal of Robust Agriculture and “Wise Water Use” through “conveyance efficiency improvements that increase water delivery and predictability.” Since the irrigated acres served by this project have been designated by the county as critical habitat for several species, this project also supports the goal of Thriving Watersheds and “improving riparian and aquatic habitat.”

| Related Studies |
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| Envision Chaffee County 2018 Community Action Plan Envision Chaffee County Wildlife Habitat Value |

| Taxpayer Bill of Rights |
|-------------------------|
| NA |