

Funding

The Yampa River Stewardship Program would like to help landowners and land managers obtain funding to implement improvements along the Yampa River and its tributaries. There are several sources of available funding, described in the table below. The Yampa River Stewardship Program supports the design multi-benefit projects that meet landowner objectives such as agricultural productivity while simultaneously improving conditions for river health. A successful project design might be able to obtain funding from one (or several) of the funding opportunities listed on the following pages.

Grant Opportunity	Description	Application Date	Timeline to Funding Availability	Who is Eligible to Apply?	Website
Yampa River Fund	Yampa River Fund funding opportunities include: 1. Voluntary, market-based water leases and releases from reservoirs that will enhance river flows. 2. Restoration actions that will improve riparian, in-channel, streambank, and aquatic habitat, with a special focus on addressing temperature issues. 3. Agricultural infrastructure improvements that will generate combined agricultural, environmental, and recreational benefits.	April 1	May	a. Public (government): municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are eligible, but the agency needs to demonstrate why a local non-federal partner should not be the grant recipient. Federal agencies are encouraged to partner with local entities b. Public (districts): authorities, Title 32 special districts, conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts, and water activity enterprises.. c. Private Incorporated: this is limited to mutual ditch companies, homeowners' associations, and nonprofit corporations. d. Non-governmental organizations: typically nonprofit.	www.yampariverfund.org
CWCB Water Project Loan	The CWCB Water Project Loan Program provides low-interest loans for the design and construction of agricultural, municipal and hydrologic projects in Colorado. A minimum loan request of \$100,000 is recommended.	Applications for loans less than \$10 million are accepted at any time.	Rolling, Approximately one year from application date	Any private or public entity that can contract with the state and that can establish and document the need for the project. The project sponsor must show that the project is technically, economically, institutionally and financially feasible.	Water Project Loan Program DNR CWCB CWCB Water Funding Explorer
CWCB Colorado Water Plan Grant	Program funding categories include Water Storage & Supply, Water Sharing Agreements, Conservation & Land Use Planning, Engagement & Innovation, Agricultural, and Watershed Health & Recreation	July 1 and Dec 1 (twice annually)	September and March	Governmental entities: municipalities, districts, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Covered Entities as defined in Section 37-60-126, C.R.S., are eligible if the applicant has adopted an approved water conservation plan. Private entities: mutual ditch companies, non-profit corporations, and partnerships	Colorado Water Plan Grants DNR CWCB CWCB Water Funding Explorer

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CWCB Healthy Rivers Fund	This fund supports projects that promote the improvement and/or protection of the condition of the watershed. Types of projects include: water quality and/or water quantity monitoring; participation in the development and/or implementation of total maximum daily loads; implementation of watershed-related recommended practices, flood protection, channel stability, and a wide variety of other riparian, streambank and habitat restoration efforts.	Last day of February	Mid-April	Eligible applicants include locally-based watershed protection groups who are committed to a collaborative approach to the restoration and protection of lands and natural resources within Colorado's watersheds.	Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund DNR CWCB CWCB Water Funding Explorer
CWCB Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants	This fund provides funding to assist Colorado water users in addressing their critical water supply issues and interests including technical assistance regarding permitting, feasibility studies and environmental compliance; studies or analysis of structural, nonstructural, consumptive and nonconsumptive water needs, projects or activities; design of structural projects or activities; and infrastructure replacement or maintenance projects	February 1, April 1, June 1, August 1, October 1, December 1	Approximately one year from application date	1. Governmental entities: municipalities, special, water and sanitation, conservancy, conservations, irrigation and water activity enterprises, counties and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Covered Entities as defined by Section 37-60-126, C.R.S., are eligible IF the applicant has adopted a CWCB approved Water Efficiency Plan. 2. Private entities: mutual ditch companies, non-profit corporations, individuals and partnerships, etc. Requests must be approved by the Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable. Contact the Basin Roundtable to review their respective guidelines.	Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants DNR CWCB CWCB Water Funding Explorer

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CWCB Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund Grants	This fund grants money to mitigate impacts on fish and wildlife resources. Grant funds can be used for mitigation, enhancement, and species recovery projects	Rolling Applications accepted throughout the year	Approximately one year from application date	Eligible parties for all grants for New Projects are limited to the operators of the water facility for which mitigation and enhancement are needed. Eligible parties for Species Recovery Grants include established non-profit organizations, watershed coalitions, local governments, conservation and water conservancy districts, and Colorado's tribal governments.	Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund Grants DNR CWCB CWCB Water Funding Explorer
CWCB Diversion Measurement Installation Program	Available for the installation of measurement structures, such as flumes, weirs and pumps. Eligible water users will receive a measurement structure, installed at their point of diversion, at no cost to them.	End of January	Work performed by State contractor—target fall installation	Water users with a missing or faulty measurement device	Diversion Measurement Installation Program DNR CWCB CWCB Water Funding Explorer
RESTORE Colorado Program (Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Resources and the Environment)	RESTORE supports large-scale habitat restoration and stewardship projects across public and private lands	RFP available: August	Approximately 5-8 months from application date	Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations, U.S. Federal government agencies, state government agencies and other political subdivisions of the state, local and municipal governments, Tribes, and educational institutions. Ineligible applicants include businesses and unincorporated individuals.	RESTORE Colorado Great Outdoors Colorado

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Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District Diversion Infrastructure Improvement Project	Available for headgate or measuring device construction or replacement for water users within the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District boundary. Installation must occur from the point of diversion. Tier 1 applicants can apply for a 50% reimbursement of project costs, up to \$5,000. Tier 2 funding is available for larger projects	Funding has been extended through May 1, 2026. Rolling application timeline	No limitation; expenditures are also reimbursable for completed work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public agencies including local governments such as municipalities and counties, special districts such as irrigation or conservation districts, and all public authorities 2. Private corporations including mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, and partnerships 3. Non-governmental organizations including non-profit and for-profit organizations and corporations 4. Private landowners and individuals 	Diversion Infrastructure Improvement Grants - Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District Community Grant Funding Project	Community grants support projects that align with the mission, vision, and strategic plan of the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District: infrastructure improvement, water supply planning, river restoration, water quality, or education and outreach projects.	Rolling program with an open application process	Approximately 2-3 months from application (dependent upon Board meeting dates)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public agencies including local governments such as municipalities and counties, special districts such as irrigation or conservation districts, and all public authorities 2. Private corporations including mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, and partnerships 3. Non-governmental organizations including non-profit and for-profit organizations and corporations 4. Private landowners and individuals 	Community Grant Funding - Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership	These grants fund multi-purpose water projects on the Western Slope in five project categories: productive agriculture, infrastructure, healthy rivers, watershed health and water quality, and conservation and efficiency	Rolling basis (Quarterly determination for most projects)	Approximately 4-5 months from application date	Project proponents include stakeholders such as individuals, local governments, corporations, private entities such as mutual ditch companies, non-profit corporations, and partnerships.	Community Funding Partnership - Colorado River District 2025
Colorado River District Irrigation Company Financial Sustainability Pilot Grant	Help irrigation and ditch companies on the Western Slope strengthen their long-term financial health and prepare for critical infrastructure investments	February	Approximately 4-5 months from application date	Irrigation and ditch companies on the Western Slope located in the Colorado River District's territory, own or operate an irrigation ditch, and be able to contract with an engineering or consulting firm to develop a CIP and rate study	Pilot Program Description Community Funding Partnership - Colorado River District 2025

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Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants	Reclamation provides 50/50 cost share funding to irrigation and water districts, tribes, states and other entities with water or power delivery authority. Projects conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of hydropower; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to water supply reliability in the western United States	Program currently on-hold	Program currently on-hold	Category A: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States, Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; • State, regional, or local authorities, the members of which include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and • Other organizations with water or power delivery authority. OR Category B: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with, and with the agreement of, an entity described in Category A. 	WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants Bureau of Reclamation
Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	NRCS' flagship conservation program helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands. Reimbursable funds contingent upon check-out of various conservation practices performed to standard	Inquire at any time, by contacting the local NRCS office.	Approx 6-15 months depending on project specifics, grant is reimbursable	Eligible Agricultural producers	EQIP NRCS
CDA Noxious Weed Program Annual Grants	These grants provide additional financial resources for on-the-ground noxious weed management	December	May	"Local governing bodies," including counties and municipalities. Other eligible entities include conservation districts, non-profit organizations, and organized private entities such as road associations, and homeowner's associations, who have adequate capacity to carry out effective noxious weed management projects.	Noxious Weed Program Annual Grants CDA

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Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) Additive Conservation Program Payment for Ecosystem Services	This program implements projects that support long-term stewardship goals and conservation values. These projects will have multifaceted objectives that support both operational and ecological needs. Example projects may include: fire mitigation, river restoration, habitat enhancement, grassland improvement, and water infrastructure upgrades. The "Payment for Ecosystem Services" model compensates landowners for hosting and maintaining restoration sites.	Coordinate at any time with CCALT Director of Stewardship		Landowners who have already conserved their properties with a CCALT conservation easement	Landowners - Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust
USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program	This program provides free technical and financial assistance to plan, design, supervise and monitor customized habitat restoration projects	Inquire at any time by contacting the state coordinator	Approximately 3-9 months depending on project specifics, grant is reimbursable	All private landowners interested in restoring wildlife habitat on their land	Partners for Fish and Wildlife U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
CDA and Colorado Department of Revenue Agricultural Stewardship Tax Credit	This tax credit is meant to encourage the practice of qualified stewardship practices on a farm or ranch, including any practice that increases soil health, improves water efficiency, or creates more diverse and beneficial ecosystems while maintaining the productivity of the farm or ranch.	November for following tax year credit eligibility		Qualified Taxpayer applying for an Agricultural Stewardship Tax Credit in a given year.	Agricultural Stewardship Tax Credit CDA
Yampa Valley Beaver Working Group	Grant funding is available to complete on-site physical mitigation measures to allow beavers to co-exist on a landowners' property. Requires a 25% landowner match.	Rolling Basis	Rolling Basis	Landowners	www.friendsoftheyampa.com/yampa-valley-beaver-working-group/
Colorado Ag Water Alliance Drought Resiliency Projects	Program funds projects that demonstrate proof of concept for conservation of consumptive use and/or long-term drought resilience while maintaining profitability (alternative crops, water use efficiency, and hay/forage, livestock, and soil improvements)	December	Following year	Colorado agricultural producers and landowners and their partners	Drought Resiliency Projects coagwater

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CPW Wetlands for Wildlife Grants	A voluntary, collaborative, and incentive-based program to restore, enhance, and create wetlands and riparian areas in Colorado. CPW annually seeks applications for wetland and riparian restoration, enhancement, and creation projects to support the goals of this program.	Due in February	June	Local governments, other state and federal land management agencies, tribes, non-profit habitat conservation organizations, and private companies.	Wetlands CPW