



PRESS RELEASE

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UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT AWARDS 2024 **GRANT FUNDING TO 16 RECIPIENTS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) voted at their last meeting to award **\$260,106** to organizations and individuals in the Upper Gunnison River Basin. These grant funds will be used for projects that will enhance water supply, improve stream and irrigation conditions, conserve water, provide water education benefits and restore wetlands. There were a diverse group of project applications from all over the Upper Gunnison River. Examples include a Town of Crested Butte Boardwalk Bog Bridge project; a Western University study exploring the effects of harmful algal blooms on the foraging patterns of kokanee in a freshwater ecosystem; an automation project for a ditch diversion; a number of irrigation rehabilitation and infrastructure improvement projects and an irrigation efficiency project for Dos Rios Golf Course.

All applicants were required to provide a 50 percent cost match and their projects had to be consistent with the District's purpose, mission, and objectives.

UGRWCD Senior Program Manager Beverly Richards reported during the 2024 grant cycle, the District received requests for funding that totaled \$308,739.

"Members of the District Grant Committee were very impressed with all of the applications this cycle," said Beverly. "Even the handful that did not get awarded grant monies were worthy projects but the committee felt there needed to be reviews by a geo-fluvial hydrologist first to ensure successful outcomes and avoid any potential negative downstream effects from the proposed projects. The District will reach out to these applicants to help cultivate solutions that might be appropriate for future funding."

Beverly noted the District Grant Funding Program is a prime example of the District's dutiful allocation of tax revenues to directly benefit diverse water projects in the basin. "The District's grant award dollars leverage matching funds at a ratio of 1:2, which is an outstanding return of the District's investment in these projects," said Beverly.

The UGRWCD Grant Program follows an annual cycle with applications due in February each year. Beverly urges potential applicants or individuals, even those just wondering about a water project, to contact the District now so that the District can help with engineering or infrastructure assessment that can assist prospective applicant in being funded. If you have a water project in mind, please call the District at (970) 641-6065 to schedule a consultation.



(Arch Ditch proposed for Diversion Automation)



(Irrigation issues shown at Dos Rios Golf Course)