

Helping Landowners Recover from the Lee and Elk Fires

DIVERSON INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT Assistance Program



PURPOSE



Provide a streamline program to encourage landowners to apply for with a one-page application and receive funding to replace, repair and improve damage or destroyed diversion infrastructure and/or install infrastructure upgrades following wildfire impacts.

BACKGROUND



The Lee and Elk Fires burned through key agricultural watersheds in Rio Blanco County followed by severe post-fire debris flows, causing extensive damage to agricultural diversion infrastructure within the burn scars and downstream areas.

PROGRAM GOALS



- Benefit diverters by securing continued water delivery
- Support agricultural water use and protect water rights
- Protect downstream infrastructure and reduce sedimentation
- Provide environmental co-benefits such as improved fish passage and riparian function

COST-SHARE DETAILS



- Tier One projects - smaller scale repairs and replacements that quickly restore basic water delivery functions
- Tier Two projects - larger more complex infrastructure improvements that enhance long-term watershed resilience and management
- Projects must be located within WRCD boundaries, within burn scars or directly affected areas, including down-shed.
- Applicants must demonstrate decreed water rights
- Landowners contribute half the total cost; WRCD assists with the remainder through recovery funding



This program is made possible through the White River Conservation District, working with local producers, agencies, and recovery funders such as the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Tri-State, Colorado Independent Cattlegrowers Association.

351 7th Street, Meeker, CO



970.878.9838



whiterivercd@gmail.com