

Augmentation water is top of mind for RBC because the recent administration of the White River now requires augmentation source for new growth opportunities in the eastern end of the County.

Anticipated Project Start Date: 11/2/2026
Anticipated Completion Date: 10/31/2027
Project Category(ies) Allocation: Please identify which of the five prioritized funding categories your project requested funding will address (check all that apply): Healthy Rivers, Infrastructure, Productive Agriculture

Describe how the project objectives fit within the category(ies) selected above, and if multiple categories, identify approximate percentage allocation of the project to each category:

Lake Avery is a reservoir located in the upper reaches of the White River above the Town of Meeker with a present capacity of 7,658 acre feet. It is currently owned and operated by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) as a recreational resource. YJWCD is proposing to enlarge the reservoir to create additional storage volume, which would then be used by YJWCD to be released to the White River for augmentation purposes or other contract uses, including by release to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) for instream flow purposes on the White River. Current estimates suggest modifications to the dam structure would increase capacity in the reservoir between 1,339 acre feet and 10,000 acre feet. The YJWCD has moved water rights decreed to its Sawmill Mountain Reservoir water right to this location in Case No. 19CW3017. Diligence on these conditional water rights were last confirmed in Case 20CW3034. Diligence is next due to be filed in May of 2028.

Healthy Rivers - Pursuant to the decree entered in Case No. 19CW3017, water stored in the enlarged reservoir could be used for piscatorial purposes below Lake Avery to support the CWCB's instream flow rights. The CWCB's instream flow rights are in deficit at certain times and certain years. CPW has released water from the reservoir under the statutory "5 in 10 year" authority. Adding capacity to the reservoir would allow for these releases to be made on an annual basis when flow levels are insufficient to meet the CWCB's water rights and provide needed flows to the fishery and recreational based economy of Rio Blanco County.

Infrastructure - The feasibility study is the next step in the process for improving infrastructure at Lake Avery. With increased storage volume, YJWCD would be able to provide augmentation water and support additional development within the White River basin. The White River is over-appropriated and new well permits cannot be issued absent an augmentation plan. There are no publicly available sources for potential water users to use. This project has been identified in the Basin Implementation Plan as a potential source and a new water supply project.

In 2017, the YJWCD engaged Applegate Group to conduct an analysis of the need for augmentation water in the White River basin. That study concluded there was an unmet augmentation need of 4,217 acre feet. Since that time, the Division Engineer deemed the White River as over-appropriated. No new well permits may be issued in the White River basin without an augmentation plan. YJWCD is the only public entity with water decreed for augmentation uses in the upper White River.

In 2016, Applegate evaluated need for additional water supplies for non-augmentation demands and determined future needs within the YJWCD boundaries between 3,635 and 14,457 acre feet as shown in the following table.

TABLE 1 FUTURE WATER NEEDS WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Water Use	Future Low(1)	Future High(2)
	(2050)	(2050)
Oil & Gas	111	303
Municipal	324	2,524
Agricultural	2,000	5,500
Non-Consumptive	1,200	8,050
Total	3,635	14,457

(1) Assumes population growth according to State Demographer projections, minimum amount of water for ISF purposes

(2) Assumes population growth associated with a 500,000 bbl/day oil shale industry and sufficient water to fulfill the ISF water right of 200 cfs at a point below Meeker

In 2011, YJWCD in conjunction with the CRWCD evaluated potential water storage locations and water availability for a number of water rights. This included evaluation of the water available for storage. Preliminary analysis concluded between 4,000 acre feet and 49,000 would be available for storage. Pages from that report are attached.

Productive Agriculture - Water stored in an enlarged Lake Avery could be used by contract to support agricultural uses within the White River basin. The YJWCD would need to develop an area-wide augmentation plan and water marketing policy to allocate water depending on the ultimate capacity constructed. As a public entity, the water storage could be used by constituents within the YJWCD's boundaries.

Project Partners: List all partners involved with this project and their role in the proposed project. :

Rio Blanco County will serve as fiscal agent and provide a portion of funding.

The county and YJWCD will be entering into an MOU on this project.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife owns and operates Lake Avery. It has submitted a letter of support for funding.

Project Description and Tasks: Provide a detailed description of the project including anticipated tasks and project milestones (ie study completion, permitting, design). For each task, please provide anticipated start and end dates. Attach additional documentation to the application if necessary. Identify any water rights associated with the project and the record owner of those water rights. :

AECOM has been selected by the YJWCD after release of a request for proposals as the engineering firm to conduct the feasibility of enlarging the reservoir. A copy of the RFP and its proposal is included with this

application. The study will perform a geotechnical evaluation of the existing reservoir to determine what, if any, existing issues would impact a potential enlargement. It will evaluate modification of the existing spillway and/or raising the dam height to accommodate up to 10,000 af of additional water. They will evaluate how recent modifications to the outlet structure impacts reservoir operations. They will identify permitting requirements and provide an opinion of probable cost for any enlargement. The study is expected to take one year to complete.

Milestones for the Feasibility Study:

- Kickoff Meeting
- Geotechnical Evaluation - 5 mo
- Spillway & Outlet Evaluation - 5 mo
- Water rights - Wilson Water Group will be evaluating simultaneously
- Engineers Opinion of Probably Costs - 1 mo
- Permitting - 2 mo
- Feasibility Report & Finalize Drawings - 5 mo (overlapping)

With the assistance of Wilson Water Group, the project will evaluate YJWCD's water rights and extend the current Basin Roundtable model beyond its current period ending in 2015. The water right to be considered is YJWCD's Sawmill Mountain Reservoir right identified in Case No. 19CW3017.

While this feasibility study is in process, RBC and YJWCD will work together and with Colorado River District to consider and determine the best option regarding how to move forward with the assumption there will be at least one feasible option to store water. Together, we will determine:

- The most appropriate entity to coordinate and move this water storage project forward including administration, grant writing, permitting, project management, technical expertise, etc.
- Identifying the specific steps to move from feasibility, to acquiring CPW approval for storing water, to construction, to dam operations.

Project Success and Deliverables: Please describe anticipated project deliverables and any measurable results of your project (ie AF of storage, efficiency savings/elimination of system losses, ft of stream protected, etc) :

Project deliverables will include:

- Feasibility study report including conclusions and recommendations for further investigation and plan development.
- A plan identifying the most appropriate entity to coordinate and move this water storage project forward including administration, grant writing, permitting, project management, technical expertise, etc.
- A plan identifying specific steps to move from feasibility, to acquiring CPW approval for storing water, to construction, to dam operations.

Operations and Maintenance: Please describe existing and planned operations and maintenance associated with the project (if relevant). How does this project impact operational costs? If operational costs are expected to increase, describe long-term plans to cover ongoing expenses. :

This feasibility study will not require an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plan.

However, while the Feasibility Study is in progress, YJWCD and RBC will work together as noted in above questions to identify a path forward that will lead to an O&M plan. We would appreciate any suggestions CRD can provide in this effort.

Anticipated Permitting Required for this Project: Please describe any anticipated permitting requirements (include any local, state, federal or other permits anticipated and/or required for this project and the status of each permit at the time of application.) :

No permits are anticipated for this feasibility study. However, this Feasibility Study will identify necessary permitting for efforts moving forward.

Project Budget and Funding

Total Project Cost: \$242,000.00

Amount Requested: \$99,000.00

If you receive partial funding – how will that affect the project outcome?

Best case scenario, partial funding could reduce the scope of the analysis.

Worst case scenario, partial funding would delay the analysis until additional funds are located.

Budget Narrative:

Total cost of the project is \$242,000.

- **AECOM Feasibility Study proposal = \$220,000**
- RBC will pay \$100,000 for AECOM study
- CRD will pay \$90,000 for AECOM study
- YJWCD will pay \$30,000 for AECOM study
- **Rio Blanco County Administration Fee = \$22,000 (10%) - to cover administration, accounting, and project management**
- YJWCD will pay \$10,000 admin fee
- CRD will pay \$9,000 admin fee (no attorney's fees will be paid out of these funds)
- RBC will provide \$3,000 in-kind match for administration which will cover the cost of attorney's work on the legal and administration work

As the fiscal agent, Rio Blanco County will pool funds from YJWCD, CRD, and their funds to pay AECOM invoices after review by YJWCD and CRD for verification.

Please describe planned efforts to meet the project budget. Should budget be exceeded please describe plan to cover additional costs.

AECOM has committed to their 2025 proposal. With this being a feasibility study, cost overruns are not expected.

RBC will work closely with OECOM, YJWCD, and CRD to ensure the invoices are appropriate and work has been completed within that respective time. Contract will have a 10% hold on funds for the final deliverable.

Should project budget exceed proposed amount, YJWCD may be required to appropriate money in the next fiscal year to complete the project.

Please review the standard method for funding distributions outlined in the CFP Program Guidelines document.

I have read and understand the CRD's standard disbursement method for the Community Funding Partnership Contract: Yes

If the standard funding schedule does not work, please provide a detailed explanation why and what the preferred method of distribution of funds is for the applicant. This could include different project timing; cashflow restrictions; and other alternatives.

- Budget table

Please upload a completed budget using this template. (See attached file)

To upload, please click the green plus sign below.

CFP BUDGET WORKSHEET

YJWCD Budget Worksheet.xlsx

CFP Budget Worksheet
Added by Scott Grosscup at 4:50 PM on June 1, 2026

Insurance

Are you able to meet the minimum requirement for Commercial General Liability of:

(1) Bodily Injury and Property Damage:
\$1,000,000 each occurrence/\$1,000,000 aggregate

(2) Personal Injury:
\$1,000,000 each occurrence/\$1,000,000 aggregate

Yes/No: No

Please explain:

AECOM holds its own Commercial General Liability coverage.

Are you able to meet the minimum requirement for Commercial Auto Liability of:

(1) Bodily Injury & Property Damage:
\$1,000,000 any one accident or loss

Yes/No: No

Please explain:

AECOM holds its own Commercial Auto Liability insurance. YJWCD does not have any employees who would work on the project.

Are you able to meet the minimum requirement for Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability of:

(1) Workers' Compensation: Statutory

(2) Employer's Liability:
\$100,000 each accident
\$100,000 disease - each employee
\$500,000 disease - policy limit

Yes/No: No

Please explain:

AECOM provides its own Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability coverage. YJWCD does not have any employees who would work on the project.

Local Community Support

Please attach letters of support from the board(s) of county commissioners in which the county(ies) the project is located and/or water from the project will be utilized, and where appropriate, the governing board of the municipality(ies) in which the project is located. Should a letter of support not be available from the appropriate local government(s), project proponent should provide detailed explanation of the reasons.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT



CPW Letter of Support for Lake Avery Enlargement Engineering Feasibility Study_04302026_SignedbyMS.pdf



Letter of Support

Added by Scott Grosscup at 9:51 AM on May 11, 2026

Colorado River District Mission Alignment

Please review the Colorado River District Mission Statement, Strategic Plan and Partnership Projects Funding Program Framework. Describe how your project aligns with and supports the mission and strategic goals of the River District. :

This project has the potential to provide a significant water development project in the White River basin, in an area where water storage is lacking and needed. Once completed, an enlarged Avery will be for the benefit of all constituents in the White River and protect Colorado water users.

Project Risk Analysis

What are the top three risks you may encounter during the course of this project, the steps you could take to mitigate these risks, and the ways in which we (as the funder) could help? These may include: shortfall in funding; permitting; rising expenses; labor costs and availability; and partner fall through.

First risk if project is determined to be infeasible due to soil conditions or other unknown conditions of the reservoir. This will then force discussion about alternate supply sources.

Second risk is if project is feasible, YJWCD will need to determine a path forward to find funding and mechanism to proceed with the water storage project. We don't have the answers at this time but RBC will be working with YJWCD over the next year to identify a path forward and what entity will be successful in pursuing it as noted in above questions.

Finally, while we believe there is broad community support to increase storage in the White River Basin using an existing reservoir, neighboring landowners may have concerns of an operational reservoir with annually fluctuating storage volumes that will need to be addressed.

Is there anything in this project that may cause potential injury to vested absolute water rights or injure other water users? : No

Please explain:

YJWCD has gone to water court to change the water rights for the uses described in this application. Through that process, the court determined there would be no injury to other water rights. Storage in the reservoir would be operated in priority.

Will this project potentially cause reduced return flows with any potential negative effects? : No

Please explain:

Once constructed, this project will not modify return flows. It is to increase water stored in priority for later use.

Additional Factors for Evaluation

Does this overall project preserve pre-Compact (i.e. appropriation and adjudication date 1922 or earlier) water rights? : No

Does this funding request enhance the overall project's long-term viability? Yes

Please explain:

The overall project is to enlarge Lake Avery. The YJWCD has conducted analysis on the need and demand for this project, evaluated potential flood risks, and determinations on how best to provide additional water storage in the basin. This feasibility study is the next step. YJWCD does not have the resources to fund this project. Understanding what project is feasible will lead to the next steps of project design and construction.

Does this overall project promote innovation within a water use sector? No

Does this overall project or funding request develop applied research, science and data beneficial to the mission and strategic goals of the District? Yes

Please explain:

With the assistance of Wilson Water Group, this study will provide a better understanding of stream flows in the White River Basin.

Submission Details

How many hours did it take you to complete this application? : 6

Did you use an external consultant, contractor, or partner to help write this application? If yes, please explain why. :

YJWCD attorney, Scott Grosscup, started the application.
RBC Commissioner Callie Scritchfield added to the application and edited the budget.

The River District's review, and potential funding, of your project does not constitute a legal or engineering analysis regarding the efficacy of the project or any associated legal consequences, including any potential impact to water rights associated with your project. The River District encourages all applicants to consult legal and engineering professionals regarding their project prior to applying

Signature: Scott Grosscup





























Date of Signature: 5/15/2026

After clicking "**save and close**" be sure to click the green button "**submit**" to submit your application. If you have any questions, feel free to call Melissa Wills at 970-930-4194 or email her at mwills@crwcd.org.

Additional Documents

Please use the green plus signs on the right corner to upload any supporting documents.

OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AS NEEDED

 2011 Water Availability.pdf Other Document 2011 Water Availability Added by Scott Grosscup at 12:31 PM on May 27, 2026	  
 Aug needs memo 2017.pdf Other Document 2017 Augmentation Needs Study Added by Scott Grosscup at 9:48 AM on May 21, 2026	  
 2024 RFP.pdf Other Document 2024 RFP Avery Study Added by Scott Grosscup at 4:41 PM on May 11, 2026	  
 2026 Adopted Budget.pdf Other Document YJWCD 2026 Budget Added by Scott Grosscup at 4:41 PM on May 11, 2026	  
 AECOM Proposal Engineering Feasibility Study.pdf Other Document AECOM Proposal Added by Scott Grosscup at 4:37 PM on May 11, 2026	  
 YJWCD - Lake Avery Engineering Feasibility Fee Letter 5-1-26.pdf Other Document AECOM Letter Added by Scott Grosscup at 4:36 PM on May 11, 2026	  
 19CW3017 Judgment and Decree of the Water Court.pdf Other Document Decree Added by Scott Grosscup at 4:35 PM on May 11, 2026	  

AGREEMENT DOCUMENTS

Email Notes Back to Grantee - Internal Only

Comments to Applicant:

▼ Staff Analysis - Internal Only

Project Plan

Project Summary:

Can the project be completed during the propose project period? :

Outcomes and Evaluation

Are the intended outcomes well defined and appropriate for the proposed project? :