



2026 Eagle County Conservation District 50/50 Conservation Grant Program

Application Deadlines:

- Midnight, March 31st, 2026 (for 2026 only): for 2026 project implementation
- Midnight, September 30, 2026 (re-occurs annually): for 2027 project implementation

ECCD Mission

The Eagle County Conservation District's mission is to represent landowners and agricultural producers by providing tools, resources and support for their stewardship of land and natural resources.

Program Background

The 50/50 Conservation Grant program was created to help implement on-the-ground (technical) conservation projects. The program is **open to all private landowners or land managers** located within ECCD boundaries. This grant applies only to private lands and is not available for municipal or government properties. Funding is competitive and allocated annually based on availability of funds. Availability of funds will differ each year and there is no guarantee of a continuation of funds into future years.

Applications will be reviewed using the Grant Scoring Rubric ([LINKED HERE](#)) by a Review Committee of ECCD Board Members and specialized staff, who make the final funding decision. **NOTE:** ECCD will **not** award [Beyond Lawn](#) or [Noxious Weed Cost Share](#) projects.

This grant provides a **50/50 cost-share** for project expenses, up to a total project cost of \$30,000. The grant will cover up to 50% of eligible costs, with a **maximum award of \$15,000**. If project costs exceed \$30,000, the landowner is responsible for all costs above this amount. The landowner's share may include cash and/or in-kind contributions, as allowed by the grant guidelines listed below. Projects must be completed within one year of the signed contract.

ECCD prioritizes on-the-ground technical conservation projects that support our [Mission](#), Vision, and [2026-2030 Strategic Operating Plan](#), demonstrating a benefit to the environment and/or community in one or more of the following grant categories: Land, Water, Vegetation, Wildlife or Sustainability. Some examples of projects include (but are not limited to):

**Land:**

- Soil health improvements such as cover cropping, compost application, reduced tillage, or erosion control
- Regenerative or climate-smart agricultural practices
- Improvements to pasture management, grazing systems, or rangeland health
- Infrastructure that supports conservation on working lands
- Projects that improve soil carbon sequestration or resilience to drought
- Demonstration or pilot projects that showcase best practices for local producers

Water:

- Water efficiency or conservation improvements
- Irrigation infrastructure improvements
- Projects that improve water quality through sediment reduction, nutrient management, or pollutant mitigation
- Wetland creation, enhancement, or protection
- Stormwater management or green infrastructure projects
- Monitoring or assessment projects tied to on-the-ground improvements
- Riparian protection and restoration

Vegetation:

- Native plant restoration or revegetation projects
- Invasive species removal and long-term management **This grant will not award only noxious weed treatment. Please see our [Noxious Weed Cost Share Program](#)*
- Forest health treatments such as thinning, biodiversity enhancement, fuels reduction, or prescribed fire preparation
- Defensible space projects that reduce wildfire risk while maintaining ecological integrity
- Pollinator habitat creation or enhancement
- Post-disturbance restoration

Wildlife:

- Habitat restoration or enhancement for native wildlife species
- Projects that improve wildlife connectivity or migration corridors
- Measures to reduce human-wildlife conflict
- Projects that mitigate impacts of development on wildlife and natural resources
- Monitoring or data collection directly tied to habitat improvement or management actions

Sustainability:

- Projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while conserving natural resources
- Demonstration projects that promote sustainable practices within Eagle County
- Composting or waste reduction initiatives



Applications

Applications must be submitted via email to Grants@ECCDistrict.org by midnight on each of the deadlines listed above. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. All applications will be evaluated equally, regardless of the dollar amount requested.

Application Requirements & Instructions

All applications must be filled out completely. Any incomplete applications can and will be denied or returned for more detail. Applications must be submitted on or before the deadline and must include:

- Exhibits A (Project Scope and Deliverables)
- Exhibit B (Budget and Budget Narrative)
- W-9
- Signed Terms and Conditions
- Optional: Photographs

All above documents must be received by the deadline and submitted either:

- Emailed as a pdf file to Grants@ECCDistrict.org
- Printed and mailed to ECCD: PO Box 360, Eagle, 81631 (must be received before the deadline), OR
- Printed and dropped off at the ECCD office: 1286 Chambers Ave, Unit #201, Eagle

Operational Requirements to Consider

Project Timeline: Projects must be completed within 1 year of signed contract.

Funding and Distribution: Maximum award is \$15,000 and requires a 50% match contribution from the landowner. Funds will be awarded in the form of a grant contract and may be disbursed monthly on a reimbursement basis, mailed by check. Funds may only be used for eligible expenses incurred on or after the award date. Reimbursement requests must meet a minimum of \$1,000. Final disbursement of funds will not be mailed until the project is completed and final report has been received.

Matching Contribution: Match requirements may be either "cash" or "in-kind" contribution. In-Kind contributions can only account for half (50%) of the total match required. See Exhibit B instructions below for more detail.

Reports: Bi-annually

- Mid Year Report: Due July 31st
- Final Report: Due December 15th



Exhibit Guidelines

Exhibit A- Project Scope and Deliverables

Download or print the PDF fillable application form and answer each question thoroughly. This is the section to make your project stand out for the reviewers. In addition to meeting the minimum eligibility requirements, your narrative should illuminate the “why”, “what”, and “how” of your work. Provide a complete understanding of goals and objectives, background context, scope of work, methodology, funding, potential partners or contractors, capacity to execute the project, and how outcomes will be monitored and measured.

Projects that address a greater number of natural resource concerns and demonstrate clear, measurable outcomes will receive higher scores in the evaluation process. Preference will be given to proposals that achieve the greatest overall impact, including long-term benefits to natural resources, the landscape and the community.

Deliverables: Identify what natural resource benefits will be addressed and clearly define the quantifiable metrics that will impact those natural resources. What conservation practices will be implemented? Will there be economic benefits? Are there quantitative estimates? How will you quantify, track and report these metrics?

Exhibit B- Proposed Budget and Budget Narrative

Download the Excel spreadsheet and enter your data in the shaded **Gray, Green and Blue** cells only. Some cells contain automatic formulas to calculate totals. The budget should be detailed and include all contributions (cash and in-kind) and expenses.

Note: ECCD funds from other cost share programs cannot be used as a match. This includes ECCD’s Noxious Weed Cost-Share Program, the Wolf Mitigation Program, or the Beyond Lawn Program.

This grant will award (receipts will be required):

- **Personnel:** Hired personnel (paystub or check will be required as form of receipt)
- **Professional/contracted services:** Paid contractor time to implement project activity
- **Supplies and materials:** Smaller individual items. Can include fence, seed, irrigation components, etc.
- **Equipment rental:** No-till drill, manure spreader, etc.
- **Travel:** Mileage for project-related travel (reported at the federal rate: 72.5 cents per mile)



This grant will not award:

- Equipment purchases: Such as no-till drill, manure spreader, etc.
- Personal landowner or land manager time / labor

Match Contributions: The portion of total project costs that is contributed by the applicant or other sources outside of the Eagle County Conservation District.

- **Cash Match:** Documented purchases- with receipts available for goods, services, equipment or payroll.
 - Has to account for a minimum of 50% of total match
- **In-Kind Match:** Non-cash contributions provided by the applicant
 - Cannot account for more than 50% of total match
 - **Types of In-Kind Match:**
 - **Personal landowner/manager time / labor:** Personal time or labor to implement project activity (*must follow [CSU Custom Rates for labor -page 5](#)*)
 - **Travel:** Mileage (*reported at the federal rate: 72.5 cents per mile*)

ECCD Contact

For more information and assistance, contact Allegra Waterman-Snow, District Manager, Eagle County Conservation District, Allegra@ECCDistrict.org



Submission Check List

- Exhibit A- Project Scope and Deliverables (PDF Application)**
 - Thoroughly explains the landowner's goals and objectives
 - Explains the natural resource concerns being addressed
 - Explains how the conservation practices were planned and how they will be maintained sustainably
 - Outlines in detail how the project will be implemented
 - Provides a detailed timeline
 - Provides how the landowner will measure the success of the project

- Exhibit B- Budget and Budget Narrative (Application)**
 - The proposed budget table is filled out thoroughly
 - The proposed budget table shows 50% match from the landowner, with at least 50% of that match being hard cash
 - The budget narrative is filled out with rates, quantities and/or timeframes

- W-9**

- Signed Terms and Conditions**

- Optional: Supporting documents, examples:**
 - Budget quotes
 - Permits
 - Site plans for irrigation projects

- Optional: Supporting photographs**