

NOV 24 2008



Colorado Water Conservation Board

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
2150 Centre Ave  
Bldg. A, Ste 116  
Fort Collins, CO 80526

November 21, 2008

Todd Doherty  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Intrastate Water Management and Development Section  
1313 Sherman St., Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Doherty and CWCB Board:

This letter is in support of the Willow Creek Reclamation Committee's (WCRC) application to restore Lower Willow Creek in Creede, Colorado.

The NRCS has collaborated with the WCRC since the inception of the watershed group, working to develop a number of analyses, including a document in cooperation with the CWCB. Over the last several years NRCS put substantial resources into the production of the report *Willow Creek Stream Restoration: Planning Study* (April 2007), which includes the present available data on the floodplain and provides informed alternatives and recommendation for a restoration, including cost estimates.

The objectives of the Lower Willow Creek Restoration project of constructing a geomorphically stable, meandering stream channel within a functioning riparian corridor will improve bank and bed stability, reducing sediment production during high flow events. It will also provide enhanced sediment transport capability, will increase wildlife habitat within the riparian corridor, and will help encourage the existence of a healthy fishery in Willow Creek and the Rio Grande.

The Lower Willow Creek Restoration project will not only restore stream function to a locally-atypical braided stream, but will also maintain open space and provide an aesthetic gateway to the historic town of Creede. I strongly urge you to fully support this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Yochum".

Steven E. Yochum, PE  
Hydrologist

Cc: WCRC