



The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) consists of 15 members. Eight voting members represent the state's major water basins: the South Platte, North Platte, Arkansas, Rio Grande, Gunnison/Uncompahgre, Colorado Mainstem, Yampa/White and the San Juan/Dolores/San Miguel. One voting member represents the City and County of Denver, and the tenth voting member is an Ex-Officio, the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources.

Other Ex-Officios, who are non-voting members, inform and advise the other Board Members on water issues as they relate to or impact their agencies. These five members consist of the Director of the CWCB, the State Engineer, the Attorney General, the Director of the Division of Wildlife, and the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Board Members serve three year terms, and are appointed by the Governor after they apply or are nominated for the position. All appointees must be confirmed by the Senate. Applicants for the positions are generally experienced in water resource issues, such as water law, irrigated farming, ranching, and water project planning, financing, or engineering. No more than five appointees can be members of the same political party, and all appointees must reside in the area they represent.

The Board meets every two months, in various locations around the state, with location often depending on some of the current issues to be discussed. These meetings are open to the public, and citizens have the opportunity to address the board during official agenda item discussions.

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<http://cwcb.state.co.us/WatershedProtectionFloodMitigation/Watershed>



Watershed Protection & Restoration



FY 2009/2010

ANNUAL SUMMARY



Watershed Protection & Restoration

The Colorado Water Conservation Board supports watershed planning and projects designed to restore and protect watersheds. This is more clearly defined in the Board's Policy Implementation Objectives, which include multi-objective planning, project development, and stream restoration. In order to achieve this objective, the Board will participate with partners to plan and undertake multi-objective projects designed to reduce flood hazards, stabilize and restore stream channels, provide habitat, reduce erosion, and increase the capacity to utilize water. Inter and Intra agency coordination, communication, and prioritization are essential components of this objective. Board Staff with the Watershed Protection and Flood Mitigation Section achieve these goals through administration of the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program, the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund, and the Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund. The Board administers the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund in cooperation with the Colorado Water Quality Control Division.

Travis Reid, www.travisreidphotos.com



Projects & Funds

Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (CWRP) is a non-reimbursable program designed to support multi-objective watershed planning and project implementation. The CWRP objectives are to provide grants for planning, engineering, and construction for watershed/stream studies and projects. Special consideration is reserved for planning and project efforts that integrate multi-objectives in restoration and flood mitigation. This may include stream channel restoration, habitat improvements, riparian re-vegetation, erosion reduction, flood hazard mitigation, and efforts to increase the capacity to utilize water.

Grant applicants must meet minimum qualifications by demonstrating:

- A commitment to collaborative approaches, involving diverse local or regional interests within the watershed, with participation open to all interested parties.
- A commitment to restoring or protecting ecological processes that connect land and water while protecting life and property from flood hazards.
- A purpose to implement or plan for a project intended to restore/protect water, lands, and other natural resources within the watershed, mitigate flood hazards or integrate a multi-objective approach.
- A broad based involvement in and support for the grant application, including relevant local, state, and federal governmental entities.
- An ability to provide the appropriate cash and in-kind match for the activities proposed.

Applications must be submitted by January 31st. Applications are reviewed and applicants are notified by April 15th. Non-reimbursable awards are made on July 1st. The Program began in January 2009. It has funded eight projects with \$333,500.



Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund (CHRF) is part of the Checkoff Colorado effort. Taxpayers can make donations to the CHRF when filing their Colorado State Income Tax. CHRF helps support local watershed organizations in their efforts to provide clean water, protect wildlife and their habitat, and improve recreation and accessibility. The Fund was originally legislated in 2002, and it was most recently re-authorized in 2008. The legislative declaration states:

The general assembly hereby finds and declares that the natural heritage and quality of life in Colorado are of fundamental importance to the citizens of the state, and the protection of this natural heritage and quality of life are essential to sustain economic development in the state. The general assembly



further finds and declares that locally based watershed groups have emerged around the state over the past decade that are committed to collaborative approaches to the restoration and protection of lands and natural resources within Colorado's watersheds in concert with economic development. The general assembly recognizes that the Colorado Watershed Assembly, a nonprofit corporation, serves as a state-level umbrella organization for such local groups. The general assembly further recognizes that the citizens of Colorado may be willing to provide funds to assist in the restoration and the protection of lands and natural resources within watersheds of the state. It is therefore the intent of the general assembly enacting this part 23 to provide Colorado citizens the opportunity to support local watershed efforts by allowing citizens to make a voluntary contribution on their state income tax returns for such purpose.

CHRF is administered by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado Water Quality Control Division, in cooperation with the Colorado Watershed Assembly. Grant applications may be submitted for locally based watershed protection efforts, provided that the applicant is committing to a collaborative approach to the restoration and protection of lands and natural resources with Colorado's watersheds in concert with economic development. CHRF has funded 50 projects since its inception for a total of \$680,000. CHRF funding is typically matched with larger amounts of project funding from other governmental and private entities.

Planning grants are available for up to \$25,000. Project grants are available for up to \$50,000. Applications are available annually on March 1st. The deadline to submit applications is April 30th.

Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund is set up to provide funding to mitigate the effects of the construction, operation, and maintenance of water diversion, delivery, and storage facilities. The Colorado Water Conservation Board will accept applications throughout the year for grants for the appropriation or acquisition of instream flow water rights and river restoration construction projects. Grant applications will be considered for the following two categories:

- The appropriation or acquisition of water rights for the purpose of preserving or improving the natural environment to a reasonable degree to mitigate the impact of an existing water facility.
- River restoration feasibility studies and construction projects that are designed to directly mitigate or significantly improve the environmental impacts of existing water facilities.

Past projects include funding to mitigate for channel geometry changes associated with trans-basin diversions and funding to provide for a fish ladder study/design for warm water fish species.