



Colorado Springs Utilities

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April 19, 2010

Mr. Todd Doherty
Intrastate Water Management and Development Section
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1580 Logan Street, Suite 600
Denver, Co 80203

Re: Clear Springs Ranch – Fountain Creek Fish Monitoring Grant Request

Dear Mr. Doherty:

Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) is highly committed to making Fountain Creek a healthier habitat for both wildlife and people. Therefore, it is with great pride that CSU supports the attached Water Supply Reserve Account Grant application to monitor fish near a diversion dam that is owned and operated by CSU on Clear Spring Ranch (CSR). This work is a critical part of monitoring the success of a small plains fish passage that is now being designed and will hopefully be installed in the near future.

The fish passage project is very important for the following reasons:

- Has been rated a very high priority on Fountain Creek by the USACE, the CDOW, Colorado State University, and the USGS, all project partners.
- Provides the first ever passage for two target fish species, the state threatened Arkansas darter and state species of concern, flathead chub.
- Identifies fish performance curves for the Arkansas darter and flathead chub for the first time.
- Establishes fish passage design criteria for plains fish species, a task that has never been completed before.
- Demonstrates how future fish passages for plains fishes can be accomplished on Fountain Creek as well as statewide.
- Develops a long-term working partnership between CSU, Lower Arkansas Valley Conservation District, CODOW, USACE, USGS and Colorado State University to design and implement projects that will enhance fish and wildlife resources throughout the Fountain Creek corridor.

Being able to quantify the success of this project is contingent on having pre-passage understanding of fish movement in this area. The attached grant application outlines how this work can be done.

Colorado Springs Utilities is committed to improving the health of Fountain Creek. This commitment is evidenced by co-funding and managing the \$600K Fountain Creek Corridor Master Plan, playing a significant role in the Fountain Creek Vision Task Force planning effort, and cofounding the Fountain Creek Flood Control and Greenway District for two years (\$600K).

Colorado Springs Utilities appreciates your review and onsideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Carol M. Baker,

Carol Baker, P.E.
Watershed Planning Manager
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