

# STATE OF COLORADO

---

## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
Phone: (303) 866-3441  
Fax: (303) 866-4474  
www.cwcb.state.co.us



TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Chris Sturm, Stream Restoration Coordinator

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 13, May 15-16, 2012 Board Meeting  
Watershed and Flood Protection Section, Revised  
Criteria for the Colorado Watershed Restoration  
Program**

---

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Mike King  
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel  
CWCB Director

---

### Background

The Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (CWRP) is designed to provide planning and project implementation funding for watershed and stream restoration and protection efforts. The program supports applicants committed to collaborative approaches to restoring and protecting the ecological processes that connect land and water. The CWRP guidance document and application was approved by the Board in September of 2008. Since then, the program has funded 33 projects with nearly \$1.1 million. Every CWCB dollar contributed to the program has leveraged \$5.5 from other local, state, and federal sources. A list of the project history is attached. It includes projects recently selected from the January 2012 grant cycle. Other applications submitted to CWRP have been funded through the Severance Tax Multi-objective Watershed Protection Program.

### Discussion

The attached "greylined" revision of the 2008 guidance incorporates comments received over the last four years. None of the changes affect the basic applicant qualifications, and the program values still exist as proposed in 2008. Many of the changes are incorporated to make the guidance and application easier to follow and review. Some changes were made to clarify that qualifying applications submitted as part of a forest health initiative will be considered for funding.

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve the revised guidance and application for the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program.

Project #	Applicant	Project	CWCB Funds	Year	Location	Total Funds
1	Colorado Open Lands	Bank Stabilization & Riparian Re-vegetation	\$28,520	2009	Tarryall Creek	\$69,520
2	Eagle River Watershed Council	Riparian maintenance & monitoring	\$50,000	2009	Eagle River- Edwards	\$675,000
3	Trout Unlimited - Boulder Flycasters	Channel Restoration - Trout Habitat Improvement	\$30,000	2009	Middle Boulder Creek	\$231,580
4	Lake Fork Watershed Stakeholders	Floodplain/Channel Design Planning	\$95,000	2009	Lake Fork Gunnison River	\$245,850
5	Mancos Conservation District	Diversion Structure Assessment & Project Prioritization	\$30,500	2009	Mancos River	\$61,740
6	Coalition for the Upper South Platte	Bank Stabilization & Riparian Re-vegetation	\$50,000	2009	Horse Creek Watershed	\$376,601
7	Westerly Creek Connection	Greenway Master Plan	\$37,500	2009	Westerly Creek	\$75,000
8	Kerber Creek Restoration Project	Mine mitigation, Bank Stabilization & Riparian Protection	\$12,000	2009	Squirrel Creek	\$12,000
9	Colorado Open Lands	Bank Stabilization & Riparian Re-vegetation	\$18,480	2010	Fourmile Creek	\$36,980
10	North Fork River Improvement Association	Bank Stabilization & Riparian Re-vegetation	\$38,000	2010	N. F. Gunnison River, Paonia	\$95,600
11	Eagle River Watershed Council	Bank Stabilization & Riparian Re-vegetation	\$25,000	2010	Eagle River - Edwards	\$1,163,981
12	Coal Creek Watershed Coalition	Mine Remediation, Bank Stabilization, & Riparian Re-veg	\$19,150	2010	Coal Creek, Crested Butte	\$83,230
13	South Suburban Parks and Recreation District	River Restoration Design and Demonstration Projects	\$46,118	2010	South Platte Below Chatfield	\$94,726
14	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	Bank Stabilization & Riparian Re-vegetation	\$57,331	2010	Campbell Creek	\$182,129
15	Coalition for the Upper South Platte	Bank Stabilization & Riparian Re-vegetation	\$50,000	2011	Trail Creek	\$600,000
16	Trout Unlimited - West Denver	Channel Restoration - Trout Habitat Improvement	\$20,300	2011	Clear Creek	\$297,199
17	Chatfield Watershed Authority	Bank Stabilization & Riparian Re-vegetation	\$20,000	2011	Massey Draw	\$323,423
18	Rocky Mountain Field Institute	Bank Stabilization & Riparian Re-vegetation	\$7,115	2011	Upper West Beaver Creek	\$56,540
19	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	Riparian Re-vegetation	\$8,200	2011	Boulder Creek	\$47,835
20	Colorado Mountain College	Bank Stabilization & Riparian Re-vegetation	\$30,000	2011	Union Creek	\$90,000
21	Coal Creek Watershed Coalition	Ditch Diversion Reconstruction	\$13,705	2011	Coal Creek	\$39,338
22	Trout Unlimited	Bank Stabilization & Riparian Re-vegetation	\$37,000	2011	Kerber Creek	\$78,500
23	Trout Unlimited - Gunnison Gorge Chapter	Ditch Diversion Reconstruction	\$25,000	2011	Gunnison River	\$569,430
24	Upper Walker Ditch Company/Walker Ditch Company	Ditch Diversion Reconstruction	\$20,000	2011	Yampa River	\$132,250
25	Animas River Partnership	Channel Restoration Planning	\$13,220	2011	Lightner Creek	\$26,460
26	Blue River Watershed Group	Channel Restoration Design	\$25,000	2011	Upper Swan River	\$50,000
27	Colorado Water Trust	Ditch Diversion Reconstruction	\$39,325	2011	San Miguel River	\$191,000
28	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	Bank Stabilization and Riparian Re-vegetation	\$65,000	2012	Campbell Creek	\$435,412
29	Colorado Open Lands	Channel - Floodplain Restoration, Beaver Habitat Creation	\$40,000	2012	Tarryall Creek	\$87,000
30	Mountain Studies Institute	Fen Restoration	\$17,435	2012	Ophir Fen	\$87,623
31	Roaring Fork Conservancy	Upland Watershed Restoration & Stream Restoration Planning	\$39,579	2012	Coal Creek/Crystal River	\$231,379
32	Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas	Watershed Assessment	\$20,263	2012	South Arkansas Watershed	\$41,026
33	NFRIA-WSERC Conservation Center	Bank Stabilization and Riparian Re-vegetation	\$62,100	2012	N. F. Gunnison River, Paonia	\$325,600
Total CWB Funding			\$1,090,841			\$7,113,952

**Colorado Watershed Restoration Program  
Grant Program Guidance  
~~August 2008~~ Revised May 2012**

**A. Background**

House Bill ~~1206-1313~~ 165, ~~adopted by~~ proposed to the ~~2006-2012~~ Colorado General Assembly, establishes funding for Watershed Restoration. The legislative declaration states:

**SECTION 4. Continuation of the watershed restoration program - appropriation.**

~~(1) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the Colorado water conservation board construction fund not otherwise appropriated, to the department of natural resources, for allocation to the Colorado water conservation board, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, the sum of \$500,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the board to continue to provide planning and engineering studies, including implementation measures, to address technical needs for watershed restoration and flood mitigation projects throughout the state. (2) The moneys appropriated in subsection (1) of this section remain available for the designated purposes until they are fully expended.~~

~~**SECTION 7. Watershed restoration -- appropriation.** (1) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the Colorado water conservation board construction fund not otherwise appropriated, to the department of natural resources, for allocation to the Colorado water conservation board, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, for planning and engineering studies, including implementation measures, to address technical needs for watershed restoration and flood mitigation projects throughout the state. (2) The moneys appropriated in subsection (1) of this section shall remain available for the designated purposes until the project is completed.~~

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Allow hanging punctuation, Font Alignment: Auto

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: Font: Bold

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is the state executive branch agency responsible for state water policy and planning. The Board's mission is to conserve, develop, protect, and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations. Its major programs ~~sections~~ include Watershed ~~Protection & Flood Mitigation~~ Flood Protection; Water Supply ~~Protection~~ Planning; ~~Water Supply Planning and Finance~~; ~~Water Conservation and Drought Planning~~; Stream and Lake Protection; ~~Water Information~~; and Intrastate ~~Water Management & Development~~ Federal. More information about the CWCB and its sections can be found at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/>.

The purpose of this Grant Program Guidance is to establish and describe the program for the issuance and administration of grants from the CWCB Watershed Restoration Program.

**B. Grant Approval Criteria**

**1. Application Requirements**

The Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (Program) objective is to provide planning, engineering, and construction services for watershed/stream restoration studies and projects. The

Program also provides support for flood mitigation. ~~Special consideration is reserved for~~ Planning and project efforts that integrate multi-objectives in restoration and flood mitigation will score higher than single objective applications. This may include projects and studies designed to ~~restore-stabilize perennial, ephemeral, & intermittent~~ stream channels, provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species, ~~restore-re-vegetate~~ riparian areas, reduce erosion in upland and riverine environments, reduce-mitigate flood hazards, improve recreational opportunities, provide fish passage, and increase the capacity to utilize water.

#### Basic Applicant Qualifications

Grant applicants must demonstrate:

- a commitment to collaborative approaches, involving locally and/or regionally based diverse interests within the watershed in question, with participation open to all interested persons in the watershed;
- a commitment to restoring or protecting ecological processes that connect land and water while protecting life and property from flood hazards;
- that the purpose of the application is to implement or plan for a project intended to (1) restore and/or protect the water, lands and other natural resources within the watershed, (2) mitigate flood hazards, and/or (3) integrate a multi-objective approach;
- a broad based involvement in and/or support for the grant application, including relevant local, state, or federal governmental entities; and
- an ability to provide the appropriate in-kind or cash match for the activities proposed.

Grant applications that do not demonstrate the above criteria will be disqualified from the application review process.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0"

## 2. Grant Categories

Four categories of grants will be available under the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program:

(1)Watershed/Stream Restoration and/or Protection (Restoration) Grants, (2)Flood Mitigation Grants, (3)CWCBC initiated projects, and (4)CWCBC Monitoring Projects. Restoration and Flood Mitigation Grants are available to qualified applicants outside of the CWCBC (see basic applicant qualifications). Applications that integrate multi-objectives in restoration and flood mitigation are highly encouraged.

Costs associated with forest health project initiatives, e.g. forest fuels mitigation, can be used as match for projects having components that qualify for Restoration or Flood Mitigation Grants.

~~Stream and Watershed Restoration studies and projects~~Restoration Grants will be funded by the CWCBC on a cost-share basis. CWCBC funds shall not exceed 50% of the total cost of the individual study or project, and State funds should be leveraged to the maximum extent possible with other local, state, or federal funds.

Flood-~~Hazard~~ Mitigation ~~studies and projects~~Grants will be funded by the CWCBC on a cost share basis. The amount of the required cost-share for each project will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and will take into account benefits to the State with a strong emphasis on public health, safety, and welfare. Projects that protect life and property will receive a high priority and will be funded accordingly. CWCBC contributions to federally sponsored studies or projects should not exceed 50% of the total cost.

- | CWCB staff may initiate small studies or demonstration projects (~~watershed~~ restoration or flood mitigation) utilizing up to 25% of the annually authorized Program funding amount.
- | CWCB may reserve 10% of the annually authorized Program ~~F~~unding for monitoring and evaluation of existing projects.

### 3. Application Evaluation Criteria

As a threshold matter, only grant applications that conform to the Application Requirements set forth above in B. (1.) will be considered. Grant applications that meet these qualifications will then be evaluated with respect to the following three factors:

- How *well* does the applicant fit the qualifications test?
- Does the applicant organization have the capability to *accomplish* the proposed work?
- How effective is the proposal at accomplishing the goals of restoration or flood mitigation”?

These factors will be evaluated by applying the following criteria and rating system:

#### Qualifications Evaluation (Maximum of 30 points)

This factor assesses how *well* the applicant fits the qualifications test:

- 2.1 Identify the lead project sponsor and describe the other stakeholders’ level of participation and involvement. 10 points
- 2.2 What information is the project sponsor using to develop the proposed plan or project? Include any relevant information regarding existing watershed plans, geomorphic assessments, flood studies, fire protection plans, riparian conditions assessments, aquatic/terrestrial habitat conditions, wildlife studies, and/or river restoration reports. 10 points
- 2.3 Specify in-kind services and cash contributions (match) amount for the proposed activities. The applicant must provide at least 50% match of the projects total cost. Discuss whether other funding sources are secured or pending. 10 points
- ~~How diverse is the organization in terms of stakeholder participation and involvement? (Maximum of 10 points)~~
- ~~What is the applicant organization’s history of working cooperatively in partnership with other community organizations and state and federal agencies? (Maximum of 10 points)~~
- ~~What level of cash and in-kind match for the proposed project or planning effort can the applicant organization provide? (Maximum of 10 points)~~

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.5", No bullets or numbering

Formatted: Font: 12 pt

Formatted: List Paragraph, No bullets or numbering

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.5", No bullets or numbering

#### Organizational Capability (Maximum of 20 points)

- 3.1 What is the applicant organization's history of accomplishments in the watershed? Provide several past project examples. List partner organizations and agencies with whom applicant worked to implement past projects. 10 points
- 3.2 What level of staffing will be directed toward the implementation of the proposed project/planning effort? Discuss the number of staff and amount of time dedicated for the project. Will volunteers be utilized, and if so, how? Include brief resumes for each member of the active project team. 10 points
- What is the applicant organization's history of accomplishments in regards to the proposed project or planning effort? (Maximum of 5 points)
- What level of staffing (volunteer or paid) does the applicant organization have available for the proposed project or planning effort? (Maximum of 5 points)
- How capable is the available staff/contractor of accomplishing the proposed project or planning effort? (Maximum of 10 points)

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.5", No bullets or numbering

Formatted: Tab stops: 1.41", Left

#### Effectiveness of Proposal (50 points)

- 3.1 Demonstrate that the project budget and schedule are realistic. Please use the attached budget/timeline spreadsheet. 10 points
- 3.2 Discuss the multi-objective aspects of the project and how they relate to each other. Describe similar activities in the watershed and how this project complements but does not duplicate those activities. Multi objectives may include (but are not limited to) channel stabilization, riparian re-vegetation, habitat improvement, recreation opportunity enhancement, natural hazard reduction, flood mitigation, water supply delivery improvement, fish migration improvement, ephemeral/intermittent channel stabilization, and upland erosion mitigation. 30 points
- 3.3 Describe the proposed monitoring plan. How will the project measure success of its objectives? 10 points
- If the proposed project or planning effort is implemented, will it have measurable results that have a significant impact on improving the health of the watershed and/or protecting life and property from flood hazards? (Maximum of 20 points)
- Is the proposal well thought out and will the proposal implementation steps really accomplish the stated goals of the proposal. (Maximum of 10 points)
- Is the proposed project or planning effort anticipated timeline realistic? (Maximum of 10 points)
- Does the project or planning effort have multiple objectives (Maximum of 10 points)

In addition, applications must be submitted electronically and written according to the following format (will be considered disqualified otherwise):

Font size: minimum 11 pt  
Margins: 1 inch  
Maximum number of pages: 5 (excluding maps and attachments)

Projects from qualified applicants will be ranked based on these criteria for the purpose of determining which projects receive grant funds.

## C. Grant Program Administration

### 1. Application Process

#### **Timeline**

The timeline for the grant application cycle is:

- Applications available: October 31
- Deadline to submit applications: January 31
- Applications reviewed and approved: April 15
- Grants awarded: July 1
- Annual progress reports due: July 1 of the following year

#### **Contact Information**

Interested parties are strongly encouraged to call the CWCB to discuss potential applications.

For more information, please contact:

Chris Sturm

[chris.sturm@state.co.us](mailto:chris.sturm@state.co.us)

Colorado Water Conservation Board

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721

Denver, CO 80203

Phone: 303-866-3441, ext. 3236

Fax: 303-866-4474

### 2. Payment Procedure

- \* The CWCB will make between 1 and 4 payments, as requested by each grantee. The individual payments do not need to be equal. All payments will be based on invoices for work already completed.
- \* The final payment will be at least 10% of the total grant award, which will not be released until full completion of grant and upon preparation and approval of a final report.





**COLORADO WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM**  
**GRANT APPLICATION**  
**Revised May 2012**

The information below is a brief summary of what must be included in an application for funding from the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program. Proposals shall address all sections listed below. **Please refer to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Guidance document for complete descriptions and requirements for the grant application.** Proposals shall be no longer than 5 pages (*minimum 11 point font and 1 inch margins*), not including the summary sheet and attachments (e.g. maps).

**SUBMITTAL INFORMATION**

**Completed applications are due by 5:00 pm on January 31.**

**All applications should be submitted electronically via email to [chris.sturm@state.co.us](mailto:chris.sturm@state.co.us)**

**Electronic applications on CD or DVD may also be mailed to:  
Colorado Water Conservation Board, ATTN: Chris Sturm  
1313 Sherman St., Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203**

**Logistical questions about submitting applications should be directed to Chris Sturm (303-866-3441, ext. 3236 or [chris.sturm@state.co.us](mailto:chris.sturm@state.co.us)).**

**The entire application must be submitted as one file, e.g. word .doc or .pdf. Files larger than 8mb cannot be received via email. Larger files should be mailed to the address above.**

**Please read the application guidance document for information regarding grant types, basic applicant qualifications, and descriptions of evaluation criteria.**

**1.0 PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET      Please list the following on the summary sheet:**

**Project Title**

**Project Location (include map and/or latitude/longitude if applicable)**

**Grant Type (see guidance document for grant types)**

**Grant Request/Amount**

**Cash Match Funding**

**In-kind Match Funding**

**Project Sponsor(s) (identify the fiscal agent if different from the project sponsor)**

**Contact person name, email address, and phone number**

**Brief description of the project**

**All of the above information should fit on one page. Please use a font size no smaller than 11 point.**

Applications will be scored based on the evaluation criteria below.

## **2.0 APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS**

- 2.1 Identify the lead project sponsor and describe the other stakeholders' level of participation and involvement. 10 points
- 2.2 What information is the project sponsor using to develop the proposed plan or project? Include any relevant information regarding existing watershed plans, geomorphic assessments, flood studies, fire protection plans, riparian conditions assessments, aquatic/terrestrial habitat conditions, wildlife studies, and/or river restoration reports. 10 points
- 2.3 Specify in-kind services and cash contributions (match) amount for the proposed activities. The applicant must provide at least 50% match of the projects total cost. Discuss whether other funding sources are secured or pending. 10 points

## **3.0 ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY**

- 3.1 What is the applicant organization's history of accomplishments in the watershed? Provide several past project examples. List partner organizations and agencies with which applicant worked to implement past projects. 10 points
- 3.2 What level of staffing will be directed toward the implementation of the proposed project/planning effort? Discuss the number of staff and amount of time dedicated for the project. Will volunteers be utilized, and if so, how? Include brief resumes for each member of the active project team. 10 points

## **3.0 EFFECTIVENESS OF PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 Demonstrate that the project budget and schedule are realistic. Please use the attached budget/timeline spreadsheet. 10 points
- 3.2 Discuss the multi-objective aspects of the project and how they relate to each other. Describe similar activities in the watershed and how this project complements but does not duplicate those activities. Multi objectives may include (but are not limited to) channel stabilization, riparian re-vegetation, habitat improvement, recreation opportunity enhancement, natural hazard reduction, flood mitigation, water supply delivery improvement, fish migration improvement, ephemeral/intermittent channel stabilization, and upland erosion mitigation. 30 points
- 3.3 Describe the proposed monitoring plan. How will the project measure success of its objectives? 10 points

**4.0 ATTACHMENTS** – Please complete the attached scope of work template. Other documents may be attached to the application in order to support the request for funding. These may include:

- If the project is an implementation project, the applicant is encouraged to include a copy of the watershed plan on which the proposal is based, if such a plan exists
- Letters of support from other entities and letters of financial commitment
- Pertinent still photos
- Maps and reports from other similar or related projects