

# STATE OF COLORADO

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## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Chris Sturm, Stream Restoration Coordinator

DATE: November 5, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 16d, November 13-14, 2012 Board Meeting**  
**Finance – Construction Fund En-Bloc Non-Reimbursable**  
**Investment**  
**Colorado Watershed Restoration Program**

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Mike King  
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel  
CWCB Director

### Introduction

The CWCB supports watershed restoration projects presented by multiple stakeholders with diverse interests. The results are plans and projects designed to satisfy a range of non-consumptive and consumptive water use objectives. Many of these efforts are completed on small budgets funded through several sources of local, state and/or federal funds. There is often a community volunteer component that contributes in-kind services through donated materials and time. The Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (CWRP) has funded 33 projects with nearly \$1,000,000 since its first grant cycle in January 2009. The projects have leveraged \$5.50 for every \$1.00 contributed by CWRP.

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board request the General Assembly to authorize \$250,000 from the Construction Fund to be appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources for allocation to the CWCB for the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program.

## Water Project Construction Program - Project Data Non-Reimbursable Investment

**Grantee:** Colorado Water Conservation Board      **County:** Statewide  
**Project Name:** Colorado Watershed Restoration Program  
**Project Type:** Watershed Protection and Flood Mitigation  
**Drainage Basin:** All River Basins in Colorado      **Water Source:** N/A  
**Total Project Cost:** up to 50% cost share      **Funding Source:** CWCB Const. Fund  
**Type of Grantee:** State Government  
**CWCB Non-Reimbursable Inv.:** \$250,000

### SUMMARY

The Program objective is to provide funding for watershed restoration studies and projects. Special consideration is given to projects that reduce flood hazards, protect infrastructure, and increase benefits for water supply. Past projects successfully completed with aid from the Construction Fund include channel stabilization and restoration on Clear Creek near Golden, riparian re-vegetation on the Eagle River in Edwards, and channel restoration and diversion reconstruction on the San Miguel River. Program funding has also been used in conjunction with funding from the Water Quality Control Division to develop a Measureable Results Program (MRP). Studies and projects resulting from this program can have far reaching benefits for water supply (e.g. SWSI), flood protection, forest restoration, enhancement of aesthetic and environmental quality, recreation, and increased economic benefit. The CWCB has not had access to a regular and reliable source of funding for this Program in past years. Instead, special allocations on an annual basis from Severance Tax and Construction Fund investments have provided support for the Program. The Program has funded 33 projects since the first grant cycle in January 2009. Total project funding exceeds \$1,000,000. The projects have leveraged \$5.5 for every \$1 contributed by the Program. Twenty-three of the thirty-three projects funded have been mapped with focus areas identified in the Non-Consumptive Needs Assessment. The Program is intended for statewide benefit. The map below displays projects funded since 2009.

### Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Grant Projects 2009 - 2012

