



2/4/2013

Greg Johnson
Program Manager
Colorado Water Conservation Board
gregory.johnson@state.co.us

RE: Lake Fork Restoration Project Funding Request

Mr. Johnson,

On behalf of Trout Unlimited and its 10,000 members across the State of Colorado I am writing you to express our support of the Lake Fork Valley Conservancy District's Lake Fork Restoration Project. This project is a great example of how CWCB Watershed Supply Reserve Account monies can be used to address consumptive and non-consumptive needs identified by the Gunnison Basin Roundtable process.

The Lake Fork Valley, particularly in the project area near the beautiful town of Lake City, has suffered considerable impacts from development and the historic mining practices in the River and upstream on Henson Creek. This project will address not only the in-channel habitat, water quality, aesthetic and structural concerns but will also assist the town with correcting issues with the structural deficiencies of an irrigation water diversion.

The river downstream of Lake City is marvelous combination of healthy riparian zone, outstanding trout fishery and ranch lands. Public access on this stretch of river, unfortunately, is limited. Completion of the restoration project described in the funding request will be the first step toward restoring the parts of this important river to its potential state for the public to enjoy.

The Lake Fork of the Gunnison is a true treasure of western Colorado that should be treasured, protected, and restored. For this reason Trout Unlimited supports the effort of the Lake Fork Valley Conservancy District and encourages the CWCB board to provide the requested funding for this important project. Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Cary Denison
Trout Unlimited
Gunnison Basin Project Coordinator
Ouray County Representative -GBRT