



**COLORADO**  
Colorado Water  
Conservation Board  
Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Chris Sturm, Stream Restoration Coordinator  
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Linda Bassi, Chief, Stream & Lake Protection Section  
Tom Browning, Deputy Director, Integrated Resources

**DATE:** January 26-27, 2015 Board Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM** 20.a CWCB's 2015 Projects Bill  
Colorado Watershed Restoration Program - Non-Reimbursable Investment

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### Introduction

The Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (CWRP) has been operational since 2009, which has allowed the CWCB to support watershed projects brought forward by multiple stakeholders with diverse interests. The results are plans and projects intended to satisfy a range of environmental, recreational, and water resource objectives. Many of these efforts are completed using relatively small budgets assembled through various combinations of local, state and federal funds. There is often a community volunteer component that contributes in-kind services through donated time and materials.

The CWRP has funded 36 projects totaling over \$1,300,000 since its first grant cycle. The projects have leveraged over \$5.50 for every \$1.00 contributed by CWRP. In recent years, Colorado has experienced catastrophic floods, large wildfires, and post-fire debris and flood flows that have destabilized streams in the impacted areas.

In recent years, staff has requested \$500,000 for the CWRP to aid in traditional program uses throughout the state as well as disaster area post-flood and post-fire restoration.

At this time, staff is requesting an increase of \$1,000,000 on top of the previously approved \$500,000. This increase will also be managed through the standard CWRP process, but will greatly assist with plans and projects to support watershed health goals outlined in Colorado's Water Plan. Activities could include aquatic habitat protection, flexible operations for multiple uses, restoration work, quantification of environmental flow needs, and monitoring efforts.

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve this request for the General Assembly to authorize this project and appropriate \$1,500,000 from the Severance Tax Perpetual Base Fund to the Department of Natural Resources for allocation to the CWCB for purposes of the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program.

