



COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT
APPLICATION FORM



Today's Date: November 1, 2015

Horse Creek Restoration Project

Name of Water Activity/Project

Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Name of Applicant

Metro & South Platte

Amount from Statewide Account:

\$650,000*

Amount from Metro Account(s):

\$50,000

Amount from SP Account(s):

\$50,000

Approving Basin Roundtable(s)
(If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

\$750,000*

FEIN: 84-1469785

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Required Exhibits

- A. Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule
- B. Project Map
- C. As Needed (i.e. letters of support, photos, maps, etc.)

Appendices – Reference Material

- 1. Program Information
- 2. Insurance Requirements
- 3. WSRA Standard Contract Information (Required for Projects Over \$100,000)

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4. W-9 Form (Required for All Projects Prior to Contracting)

Instructions

To receive funding from the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA), a proposed water activity must be approved by the local Basin Roundtable **AND** the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for Basin Roundtable consideration and approval is outlined in materials in Appendix 1.

Once approved by the local Basin Roundtable, the applicant should submit this application **with a detailed statement of work including budget and schedule as Exhibit A** to CWCB staff by the application deadline.

WSRA applications are due with the roundtable letter of support 60 calendar days prior to the bi-monthly Board meeting at which it will be considered. Board meetings are held in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Meeting details, including scheduled dates, agendas, etc. are posted on the CWCB website at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us> Applications to the WSRA Basin Account are considered at every board meeting, while applications to the WSRA Statewide Account are only considered at the March and September board meetings.

When completing this application, the applicant should refer to the WSRA Criteria and Guidelines available at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-supply-reserve-account-grants/Documents/WSRACriteriaGuidelines.pdf>. In addition, the applicant should also refer to the [Supplemental Scoring Matrix](#) applied to Evaluation Criteria Tiers 1-3 for Statewide Account requests .

The application, statement of work, budget, and schedule **must be submitted in electronic format** (Microsoft Word or text-enabled PDF are preferred) and can be emailed or mailed on a disk to:

Craig Godbout - WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203
Craig.godbout@state.co.us

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Craig Godbout at: 303-866-3441 x3210 or craig.godbout@state.co.us.

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Part I. - Description of the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner);

1.	Applicant Name(s):	Coalition for the Upper South Platte		
	Mailing address:	Box 726, Lake George, CO 80827		
	FEIN #:	84-1469785		
	Primary Contact:	Carol Ekarius	Position/Title:	Executive Director
	Email:	carol@uppersouthplatte.org		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: 719-439-2268	Office:	719-748-0033
	Alternate Contact:	Mike McHugh	Position/Title:	Permitting Coord, Aurora Water
	Email:	Mmchugh@auroragov.org		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: 720-381-8866	Office:	303-739-7006

2. Eligible entities for WSRA funds include the following. What type of entity is the Applicant?

- ☐ Public (Government) – municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities and the local entity should be the grant recipient. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
- ☐ Public (Districts) – authorities, Title 32/special districts, (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
- ☐ Private Incorporated – mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
- ☐ Private individuals, partnerships, and sole proprietors are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
- ☒ Non-governmental organizations – broadly defined as any organization that is not part of the government.

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3. Provide a brief description of your organization

The Hayman fire burned over 137,000 acres of the Upper South Platte watershed in 2002, yielding long-term negative impacts to water infrastructure and environmental values downstream of the fire scar that continue today. The Horse Creek drainage was significantly damaged, and has had continued flooding, and high-levels of erosion, which delivers over 57,000 tons of excess sediment downstream in average years, and during high precipitation periods, has delivered hundreds of thousands of tons (primarily from streambank erosion). This material has significant negative impacts on water supply infrastructure (particularly with the volume deposited in Strontia Springs Reservoir, but also affecting downstream diversions and flumes). It also has significant impacts on fisheries, and T&E species (this is a Prebbles Mouse habitat area.)

The Horse Creek Project will re-align approximately 2,000 feet of Horse Creek, restore sediment transport function within 5 sub-basins in the Horse Creek Project utilizing heavy equipment and hand crews, stabilize 2 additional sub-basins with hand crews, and replace three bridges in the project area. The new bridges will replace temporary culvert crossings that continue to fail and destabilize the river with each failure, as well as acting as aquatic species blockage. The new bridges will be single span construction, to allow for flood debris to pass underneath the structure without damage.

CUSP and the partners in this project did a similar and highly successful restoration project upstream in Trail Creek in 2010 through 2012. We have completed a Watershed Assessment for River Stability and Sediment Supply with the USFS for this project area (this is the preferred methodology of EPA for quantifying and modeling sediment contributions, and prioritizing areas to be worked in. The WARSSS can be seen at http://cusp.ws/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Horse-Creek-Watershed-Assessment_Final.pdf

4. If the Contracting Entity is different then the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner) please describe the Contracting Entity here.
NA

5. Successful applicants will have to execute a contract with the CWCB prior to beginning work on the portion of the project funded by the WSRA grant. In order to expedite the contracting process the CWCB has established a standard contract with provisions the applicant must adhere to. A link to this standard contract is included in Appendix 3. Please review this contract and check the appropriate box.

☒ The Applicant will be able to contract with the CWCB using the Standard Contract

☐ The Applicant has reviewed the standard contract and has some questions/issues/concerns. Please be aware that any deviation from the standard contract could result in a significant delay between grant approval and the funds being available.

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6. The Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect the applicant.

NA

Part II. - Description of the Water Activity/Project

1. What is the primary purpose of this grant application? (Please check only one)

☒ Nonconsumptive (Environmental or Recreational)

☐ Agricultural

☒ Municipal/Industrial

☐ Needs Assessment

☐ Education

☐ Other Explain:

2. If you feel this project addresses multiple purposes please explain.

The project directly improves environmental and recreational values in both Horse Creek and the mainstem of the South Platte between Deckers and Strontia Springs Reservoir. It also has a major impact in reducing sediment entering Strontia, which is a municipal reservoir for both Denver and Aurora Water. Post-fire flooding has caused significant sedimentation impacts in the reservoir. Denver and Aurora tried dredging, but it was extraordinarily costly and ineffective. Keeping sediment out of this facility is by far the most cost-effective way for the reservoir to meet its purpose.

3. Is this project primarily a study or implementation of a water activity/project? (Please check only one)

☐ Study

☒ Implementation

4. To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRA funds can you provide any of the following numbers?

New Storage Created (acre-feet)

New Annual Water Supplies Developed, Consumptive or Nonconsumptive (acre-feet)

Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)

7,500 Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)

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4. To help us map WSRA projects please include a map (Exhibit B) and provide the general coordinates below:

Latitude: 105.199641

Longitude: 39.230185

5. Please provide an overview/summary of the proposed water activity (no more than one page). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRA funding will be used for. A full **Statement of Work** with a detailed budget and schedule is required as **Exhibit A** of this application.

The following is a summary of objectives for this project.

- 1.) Reduce erosion and flooding in Horse Creek, protecting public infrastructure and life safety.
- 2.) Reduce sediment moving downstream by ~50,000 tons per year.
- 3.) Improve habitat for T&E species (Prebbles Jumping Mouse), other species of concern, fisheries, and provide aquatic species passage from West Creek reservoir to the mainstem of the South Platte.

We will accomplish these objectives by

- 1.) Utilizing heavy equipment and hand crews to do restoration on approximately 7,500 feet of channel.
- 2.) Replacing three “temporary” culvert crossings that were installed in the channel after prior floods. These will be replaced with permanent, clear-span bridges which will allow aquatic species passage and eliminate the continuing cycle of the culverts damming, failing, causing bank instability and downstream destruction, and then replacement by the property owners. We will have property own “skin in the game”, however the property owners could never afford to do this on their own.
- 3.) Performing additional hillslope stabilization, seeding, and planting.

WSRA funding will cover approximately 40% the cost of the overall project.

Part III. – Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

1. Describe how the water activity meets these **Threshold Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines.)
 - a) The water activity is consistent with Section 37-75-102 Colorado Revised Statutes.¹
 - b) The water activity underwent an evaluation and approval process and was approved by the Basin Roundtable (BRT) and the application includes a description of the results of the BRT's evaluation and approval of the activity. At a minimum, the description must include the level of agreement reached by the roundtable, including any minority opinion(s) if there was not general agreement for the activity. The description must also include reasons why general agreement was not reached (if it was not), including who opposed the activity and why they opposed it. Note- If this information is included in the letter from the roundtable chair simply reference that letter.
 - c) The water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes.² The Basin Roundtable Chairs shall include in their approval letters for particular WSRA grant applications a description of how the water activity will assist in meeting the water supply needs identified in the basin roundtable's consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs assessments.
 - d) Matching Requirement: For requests from the Statewide Fund, the applicants will be required to demonstrate a **25 percent** (or greater) match of the total grant request from the other sources, including

¹ 37-75-102. Water rights - protections. (1) It is the policy of the General Assembly that the current system of allocating water within Colorado shall not be superseded, abrogated, or otherwise impaired by this article. Nothing in this article shall be interpreted to repeal or in any manner amend the existing water rights adjudication system. The General Assembly affirms the state constitution's recognition of water rights as a private usufructuary property right, and this article is not intended to restrict the ability of the holder of a water right to use or to dispose of that water right in any manner permitted under Colorado law. (2) The General Assembly affirms the protections for contractual and property rights recognized by the contract and takings protections under the state constitution and related statutes. This article shall not be implemented in any way that would diminish, impair, or cause injury to any property or contractual right created by intergovernmental agreements, contracts, stipulations among parties to water cases, terms and conditions in water decrees, or any other similar document related to the allocation or use of water. This article shall not be construed to supersede, abrogate, or cause injury to vested water rights or decreed conditional water rights. The General Assembly affirms that this article does not impair, limit, or otherwise affect the rights of persons or entities to enter into agreements, contracts, or memoranda of understanding with other persons or entities relating to the appropriation, movement, or use of water under other provisions of law.

² 37-75-104 (2)(c). Using data and information from the Statewide Water Supply Initiative and other appropriate sources and in cooperation with the on-going Statewide Water Supply Initiative, develop a basin-wide consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply needs assessment, conduct an analysis of available unappropriated waters within the basin, and propose projects or methods, both structural and nonstructural, for meeting those needs and utilizing those unappropriated waters where appropriate. Basin Roundtables shall actively seek the input and advice of affected local governments, water providers, and other interested stakeholders and persons in establishing its needs assessment, and shall propose projects or methods for meeting those needs. Recommendations from this assessment shall be forwarded to the Interbasin Compact Committee and other basin roundtables for analysis and consideration after the General Assembly has approved the Interbasin Compact Charter.

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by not limited to Basin Funds. A minimum match of 5% of the total grant amount shall be from Basin funds. A minimum match of 5% of the total grant amount must come from the applicant or 3rd party sources. Sources of matching funds include but are not limited to Basin Funds, in-kind services, funding from other sources, and/or direct cash match. Past expenditures directly related to the project may be considered as matching funds if the expenditures occurred within 9 months of the date the contract or purchase order between the applicant and the State of Colorado is executed. Please describe the source(s) of matching funds. (NOTE: These matching funds should also be reflected in your Detailed Budget in **Exhibit A** of this application)

The project does not affect current water rights holders in a negative fashion. Watershed health has been identified as a priority in the States' Water Plan. This project meets the following objectives outlined in the BIPS by the Metro and South Platte Roundtables:

METRO: Implement projects or programs that enhance environmental and recreational attributes...

SOUTH PLATTE: Identify opportunities to optimize existing and future water supply infrastructure

BOTH: Both plans call for programs or projects that that address T&E species to protect in-basin uses.

We will provide significant match. The total ask shows an 7% match from each basin compared to the state wide funds from WSRA, and the total ask is for approximately 1/3 of the project. With total project budget of \$1.85 million, we expect matching funds and/or inkind resources coming from a variety of other sources, including the 319 Nonpoint Source Grant, USFS, Douglas County, Denver Water, Aurora Water, South Platte Enhancement Board, CDOT, CPW, and other sources. CUSP expects to provide at least 4,000 volunteer hours in the upper portions of basins where handwork is required.

2. For Applications that include a request for funds from the **Statewide Account**, describe how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines and repeated below.) Projects will be assessed on how well they meet the Evaluation Criteria. **Please attach additional pages as necessary.**

Evaluation Criteria – the following criteria will be utilized to further evaluate the merits of the water activity proposed for funding from the Statewide Account. In evaluation of proposed water activities, preference will be given to projects that meet one or more criteria from each of the three “tiers” or categories. Each “tier” is grouped in level of importance. For instance, projects that meet Tier 1 criteria will outweigh projects that only meet Tier 3 criteria. The applicant should also refer to the Supplemental Scoring Matrix applied to Evaluation Criteria Tiers 1-3 for Statewide Account requests. WSRA grant requests for projects that may qualify for loans through the CWCB loan program will receive preference in the Statewide Evaluation Criteria if the grant request is part of a CWCB loan/WSRA grant package. For these CWCB loan/WSRA grant packages, the applicant must have a CWCB loan/WSRA grant ratio of 1:1 or higher. Preference will be given to those with a higher loan/grant

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ratio.

Tier 1: Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation and Meeting Water Management Goals and Identified Water Needs

- a. The water activity addresses multiple needs or issues, including consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs, or the needs and issues of multiple interests or multiple basins. This can be demonstrated by obtaining letters of support from other basin roundtables (in addition to an approval letter from the sponsoring basin).
- b. The number and types of entities represented in the application and the degree to which the activity will promote cooperation and collaboration among traditional consumptive water interests and/or non-consumptive interests, and if applicable, the degree to which the water activity is effective in addressing intrabasin or interbasin needs or issues.
- c. The water activity helps implement projects and processes identified as helping meet Colorado's future water needs, and/or addresses the gap areas between available water supply and future need as identified in SWSI or a roundtable's basin-wide water needs assessment.

Tier 2: Facilitating Water Activity Implementation

- d. Funding from this Account will reduce the uncertainty that the water activity will be implemented. For this criterion the applicant should discuss how receiving funding from the Account will make a significant difference in the implementation of the water activity (i.e., how will receiving funding enable the water activity to move forward or the inability obtaining funding elsewhere).
- e. The amount of matching funds provided by the applicant via direct contributions, demonstrable in-kind contributions, and/or other sources demonstrates a significant & appropriate commitment to the project.

Tier 3: The Water Activity Addresses Other Issues of Statewide Value and Maximizes Benefits

- f. The water activity helps sustain agriculture & open space, or meets environmental or recreational needs.
 - g. The water activity assists in the administration of compact-entitled waters or addresses problems related to compact entitled waters and compact compliance and the degree to which the activity promotes maximum utilization of state waters.
 - h. The water activity assists in the recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species or Colorado State species of concern.
 - i. The water activity provides a high level of benefit to Colorado in relationship to the amount of funds requested.
 - j. The water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.
- Continued: Explanation of how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**.
Please attach additional pages as necessary.

Teir 1: Meets a & b.

This project is part of an ongoing collaborative partnership that has been working on post-fire restoration in the greater Horse Creek drainage. Shortly after the fire, CUSP began running the Hayman Recovery Assistance Center, and began working closely with Douglas County and the USFS in the Horse Creek drainage. The extent and severity of the fire in this drainage continued to cause extreme flood and sediment flows. In 2009 we contracted with Dave Rosgen of Wildland Hydrology to perform a Watershed Assessment for River Stability & Sediment Supply (WARSSS) for the entire Horse Creek basin. It showed

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the Trail Creek sub-basin in the headwaters of the drainage to be the highest priority. In 2011-2013 we implemented a 4-million dollar project that included dozens of partners working collaboratively, including other nonprofits (Rocky Mountain Field Institute, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Mile High Youth Corp, Groundworks Denver, Trout Unlimited), funders (CDPHE, National Forest Foundation, Coke, Vail Resorts, Gates Foundation, and Aurora Water – most of whom also provided not only funds, but also additional support in the form of volunteers), and the heavy-lifting working partners who helped us develop, manage, and implement the project (USFS, NRCS, CPW, Douglas County, Teller County). This project will move continue the collaboration downstream.

Due to the impacts to downstream water infrastructure, and the direct environmental and recreational benefits that are impacted by the erosion in and downstream of Horse Creek, this project clearly meets multiple objectives of federal, state, and local agencies. Improving the state of the Horse Creek drainage has a definite T&E impact, as this drainage was a known Prebbles mouse habitat before the fire, and though it is improving for that type of habitat, we will significantly increase its viability as Prebbles' habitat.

The work is of impact on two basin scales—the South Platte and Metro levels.

Teir 2: Meets d & e.

CUSP's ability to leverage funds from large numbers of sources has already been demonstrated, not only in the Trail Creek project, but also in projects such as our Happy Meadows Restoration, Roads-to-Rivers initiatives, and Trees for Trout projects. We will match WSRA funds at a rate of over 2.5:1.

Teir 3: Meets f, h, i and j.

This project obviously benefits environmental and recreation interests. It assists with T&E species, and in Trail Creek, we saw improvements in Northern Leopard Frog numbers, a state species of concern. It is highly beneficial relative to the funds requested, and is complimentary to other CWCB interests, such as watershed health and flood mitigation.

Part IV. – Required Supporting Material

1. **Water Rights, Availability, and Sustainability** – This information is needed to assess the viability of the water project or activity. Please provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized, or the water body to be affected by, the water activity. This should include a description of applicable water rights, and water rights issues, and the name/location of water bodies affected by the water activity.

NA

2. Please provide a brief narrative of any related studies or permitting issues.

We have completed all phases of the WARSSS study and plan for this project. We will be required to have a 404 permit, stormwater permit, and floodplain permit, and will seek each prior to implementation. NEPA (completed

for the project by the USFS) is almost complete, and will be finalized prior to implementation.

3. **Statement of Work, Detailed Budget, and Project Schedule**

The statement of work will form the basis for the contract between the Applicant and the State of Colorado. In short, the Applicant is agreeing to undertake the work for the compensation outlined in the statement of work and budget, and in return, the State of Colorado is receiving the deliverables/products specified. **Please note that costs incurred prior to execution of a contract or purchase order are not subject to reimbursement.** All WSRA funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis after review invoices and appropriate backup material.

Please provide a detailed statement of work using the template in Exhibit A. Additional sections or modifications may be included as necessary. Please define all acronyms and include page numbers.
See attached Exhibit A.

REPORTING AND FINAL DELIVERABLE

Reporting: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of the executed contract. The progress report shall describe the completion or partial completion of the tasks identified in the statement of work including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Deliverable: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how the project was completed. This report may contain photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

PAYMENT

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and invoicing by the applicant. Invoices from any other entity (i.e. subcontractors) cannot be processed by the State. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by major task, and estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire water activity in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues and proposed or implemented corrective actions. The last 10 percent of the entire water activity budget will be withheld until final project/water activity documentation is completed. All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant must be provided to the CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation. This information will in turn be made widely available to Basin Roundtables and the general public and help promote the development of a common technical platform.

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The above statements are true to the best of my knowledge:

Signature of Applicant: *Carol Ekarius*

Print Applicant's Name: COALITION FOR THE UPPER SOUTH PLATTE
CAROL EKARIUS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Project Title: HORSE CREEK RESTORATION

Date: 11/30/15

Return an electronic version (hardcopy may also be submitted) of this application to:

Craig Godbout – WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203
303-866-3441, ext. 3210 (office)
303-547-8061 (cell)
craig.godbout@state.co.us