



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80127
P 303.291.7227 | F 303.291.7114

December 8th, 2015

Craig Godbout
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Coalition for the Upper South Platte's Water Supply Reserve Account Application - Horse Creek Restoration Project.

Dear Craig,

As the principle Aquatic Biologist for the Upper South Platte River Basin for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), I fully support the Horse Creek Restoration Project proposed by the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP).

The South Platte River near Deckers Colorado was heavily impacted by the Hayman fire in 2002. These impacts are still occurring today. Fish survey data shows that the number of trout per mile in the South Platte River downstream of Horse Creek is only 63 percent of what it were pre Hayman. Most of these fishery related impacts are from sediment that is brought down to the South Platte River from Horse Creek. This sediment fills in adult and overwinter habitat and reduces the survival of young-of-the-year (YOY) trout.

Horse Creek historically was an important nursery for YOY and juvenile trout. During spawning, trout would migrate into Horse Creek from the South Platte River. After spawning, adult trout would return to the South Platte while once hatched, YOY and juvenile trout would remain in Horse Creek where they were better protected from predation. Due to increased sediment, flooding, and improperly placed culverts in Horse Creek after the Hayman fire, upstream migration of spawning adults has been impacted.

CUSP's proposal to re-align sections of Horse Creek, replace improperly placed culverts with bridges, and to stabilize ephemeral drainages and alluvial fans will reduce the amount of sediment that enters the South Platte River and allow adult trout to migrate up Horse Creek to spawn. These actions will benefit the fishery in the South Platte River.



If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 303-981-3634.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Spohn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Spohn
Aquatic Biologist
Upper South Platte River Basin
Colorado Parks and Wildlife



1600 West 12th Ave
Denver, CO 80204-3412
303.628.6000
denverwater.org

November 6, 2015

Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Box 726
Lake George, CO 80827

Re: Grant Support Letter for the CUSP

To Whom It May Concern:

Denver Water is a municipal corporation that supplies water to 1.3 million people in and around Denver, Colorado. Our water supply is dependent on water generated in watersheds located primarily on U.S. Forest Service and other public and private lands west of Denver. We gather water in three watersheds west of Denver on both sides of the Continental Divide, and move it by canal and conduit as much as 80 miles to treatment facilities located near the city.

The Upper South Platte Watershed (USPW) provides Denver Water 50 percent of its water supply. The USPW has been affected by several large fires (High Meadow, Buffalo Creek and Hayman) in the last ten years. Since the fires, the USPW has been impacted by a large amount of erosion and sediment. Denver Water has spent over 16.5 million dollars to unsuccessfully remove sediment from Strontia Springs Reservoir due to the result of erosion from these fires. The end result from these impacts has been a degradation of water quality especially in the Horse Creek drainage.

Denver Water has a representative on the Coalition of the Upper South Platte (CUSP) Board of Directors and supports the CUSP proposal for this grant to help stabilize the Horse Creek drainage.

The CUSP is a proven leader in the protection and restoration of the USPW and they have a track record of proven results. The CUSP has brought thousands of volunteers to the watershed to accomplish watershed improvement projects, and with this grant support for Horse Creek will continue to accomplish beneficial projects for the watershed. Please consider awarding the CUSP as a grant recipient.

Please contact me if you need additional support information for this CUSP grant application (303-628-6524 or paula.daukas@denverwater.org).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Paula Daukas'.

Paula Daukas
Environmental Planning Manager

MEMORANUM

December 8, 2015

RE: Horse Creek Restoration Grant Support

Grant Review Committee:

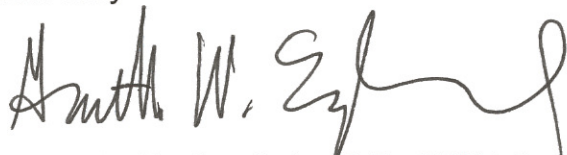
Douglas County supports the continued efforts to design, fund and restore the Horse Creek Channel to pre Hayman fire conditions. Since, the Fire the County has been struggling with the degraded condition of the Horse Creek channel. The eroded banks and large sediment loads have washed out driveways and SH 67. This is a real public safety issue for the County, so the improvement of the creek has become a high priority for our County Officials.

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte's (CUSP) worked previously on Trail Creek, located upstream from Horse Creek, by stabilizing the channel and restoring the habitat. The construction of the Trail Creek improvements along with the project coordination went very smoothly with CUSP and their volunteers. They achieved a great amount of work with minimal effort and cost.

The County has coordinated with CUSP since the Hayman fire in 2002 on numerous projects. They have always done their work professionally and timely! With the diverse problems and stakeholders in the Hayman area you can be comfortable that your financial support will go directly to the project implementation.

If you have any questions or would like to speak further regarding our agencies experiences with CUSP and our commitment to this project, please give me a call.

Sincerely



Garth W. Englund, Jr., P.E., CFM | Special Projects Engineer
Douglas County Department of Public Works Engineering
Engineering Services

Address | 100 Third St., Castle Rock, CO 80104

Direct | 303-660-7479 Main | 303-660-7490

Email | genglund@douglas.co.us



Aurora Water



City of Aurora

Water Administration
15151 E Alameda Pkwy, Suite 3600
Aurora, Colorado 80012
303.739.7370

Worth Discovering • auroragov.org

December 1, 2015

Re: Support Letter for the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) Grant for Horse Creek Project

To Whom It May Concern:

Aurora Water supplies water to approximately 333,000 people in the third largest city in Colorado. We are dependent on water generated in watersheds located primarily on U.S. Forest Service and other public and private lands west of the metro area. We gather water from three watersheds, the South Platte, the Arkansas and the Colorado, and move it over 200 miles through natural river systems and a system of reservoirs, pipes, and pump stations to treatment facilities located in the City of Aurora.

The South Platte Watershed provides Aurora with approximately 50 percent of its water supply, but nearly 90 percent of our total raw water supply travels down the South Platte River through the Upper South Platte Watershed (USPW). This watershed has been greatly affected by several large fires--High Meadow, Buffalo Creek and Hayman, over the last ten years. Since the fires, the USPW has been subject to a large amount of erosion. The end result from these impacts has been a degradation of water quality due to sediment migration and siltation especially in the Horse Creek drainage.

Aurora Water understands that CUSP is interested in pursuing a grant to help stabilize the Horse Creek drainage along the South Platte River system. Aurora Water has a representative on the Coalition of the Upper South Platte (CUSP) Board of Directors and supports the CUSP proposal for this grant.

The CUSP has brought thousands of volunteers to the watershed to accomplish watershed improvement projects, and with this grant for Horse Creek, will continue to accomplish beneficial projects for the watershed. Please consider awarding the CUSP as a grant recipient.

Sincerely,

Marshall P. Brown
Director, Aurora Water