



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
Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: March 22, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 12. Colorado's Water Plan Implementation Update

Staff recommendation: This item is informational only, with no Board action requested.

Background:

In November of 2015, the CWCB presented the final draft of Colorado's Water Plan to Governor Hickenlooper. The Plan included a number of actions, goals, and measurable objectives. Chapter 10 of the Plan was designated the "Critical Action Plan," featuring near-term, high-impact actions which would support the measurable objectives and enhance Colorado's Water Values.

CWCB Staff will present an update on Colorado's Water Plan implementation efforts, specifically those efforts related to Stream Management Plans (SMP). Attached is a list of all SMPs and SMP implementation projects funded through the CWCB Colorado Watershed Restoration Program since 2016. Many of these plans rely on match funding through the Water Supply Reserve Fund, and this is noted in the list.



Project Title	FY Year Applied	Stream Miles Protected	Grant Amount	WSRF Amount	Non-State Match	Other Funding (In-Kind)	Objectives
San Miguel River Stream Management Plan Pilot Project	2016	Initial Watershed Assessment	\$ 64,275	\$ 32,138	\$ 20,138	\$ 12,000	The San Miguel River Stream Management Plan Pilot Project will assess environmental and recreational (E&R) water needs within the San Miguel River basin, identify water gaps, and develop a cooperative process to find ways to meet those gaps in a collaborative manner. Phase II of this study will look at specific reaches within the watershed.
North Fork Environmental and Recreational Needs Assessment and Project Identification	2016	33	\$ 26,000	N/A	\$ 20,000	\$ 8,000	This project seeks to identify collaborative projects that would improve the overall health of the water shed and identify important values related to water for a variety of water users in the North Fork, all while protecting existing uses and values.
City of Steamboat Springs Stream Management Plan	2016	11	\$ 51,875	\$ 21,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 12,000	The City of Steamboat springs objective is to develop a Stream Management Plan capable of identifying a preferred target flow, a baseflow that is needed to support temperature, water quality, and aquatic life for the Yampa River while engaging diverse stakeholders to help inform and drive decisions.
Crystal River Stream Management Plan Implementation	2017	12	\$ 31,000	N/A	\$ 53,000	\$ -	Implementation of the Crystal River Stream River Management Plan includes expanding implementation of Non-Diversion Agreements, agricultural efficiencies, restoration, and other means to increase flows and benefit ecological health of the lower Crystal River, including instream and riparian areas.
Biological and Ecological Benefits from Chatfield Reallocation Environmental pool Increased Releases	2017	32	\$ 20,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 5,000	Develop a stream management plan that provides guidance on operational release of additional flows for biological and ecological benefits from Chatfield Dam.

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Upper Gunnison Basin Watershed Assessment and Management Planning: Initial Steps for Ohio Creek, East River, and the Lake Fork Sub-basins	2017	Initial Watershed Assessment	\$ 175,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 37,800	The Upper Gunnison Basin Watershed Assessment and Management Planning project is focusing on the Ohio Creek, East River and the Lake Fork River Sub-basins to do an initial assessment identifying key stakeholders, data gaps and provide a comprehensive range of watershed best management practices.
St. Vrain & Left Hand Stream Management Plan	2018		\$150,000	\$50,000	\$93,000	\$7,000	The overall goal of the SMP is to collaboratively identify projects and management strategies in both St. Vrain and Left Hand Creeks that transition stakeholders from flood recovery to stream health projects that improve environmental conditions in the river while also meeting water users' current and future needs and are aligned with private property rights, public land and resource management plans, and the prior appropriation system. The District will lead the development of a SMP that will take place in two phases over approximately five years.
Increasing Local Capacity for Integrated Water/Stream Management Plans	2018		\$97,915 (Awarded Funding is \$89,015)	\$ -	\$146,433	\$ -	Through this work, River Network aims to: Enlarge the pipeline of local coalitions that are interested, ready and capable of undertaking stream management plans; Strengthen the community of practice of local watershed coalitions, statewide NGOs and the technical community to help meet coalitions' knowledge gaps around how to plan and implement stream management plans; Expand access to funding for watershed health and coalition longevity by assisting local coalitions in finding appropriate matching funds for their stream management plan grant requests to CWCBC.

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Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plan – Phase 1	2018		\$118,000	\$ -	\$99,660	\$ 20,600	The project will capitalize on the community's momentum toward the effort to create stream management plans (SMPs) for portions of the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek. The SMPs will utilize existing data regarding the physical condition of reaches and data collected through targeted sampling. The collection, summary, and application of the data will be completed with ongoing stakeholder participation. The goals identified in the SMPs will further the efforts of the communities of the San Luis Valley to improve flows and physical conditions of priority streams for environmental, recreational, and community benefits.
Upper San Juan River Basin Stream Management Plan, Phase I	2018		\$45,090	\$22,545	\$22,544	\$ 18,691	Envisioned as a three-phase process, the ultimate purpose of the proposed project is to initiate the SMP process to integrate values and seek opportunities to preserve the Upper San Juan Basin streams and their uses with wide-ranging community support and decisions based on current, relevant science and assessments.
Middle Colorado Integrated Water Management Plan	2018	75	\$207,600	\$103,800	\$68,000	\$ 66,200	The long-term goal of the IWMP project is to improve security for all water uses in the planning area by understanding and protecting existing uses, meeting shortages, and maintaining healthy riverine ecosystems in the face of increased future demand and climate uncertainty. The planning and implementation effort will be conducted in a series of phases as stakeholder interest and funding allows.

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Mancos Watershed Drought Resilience Planning	2018		\$84,000	\$ -	\$71,400	\$12,600	The Mancos Watershed Drought Resilience Planning effort aims to engage stakeholders in identifying proactive strategies and actions that “Balance all needs and reduce conflict,” a primary goal of the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan (2015). Related goals are to enhance relationships and communication among water users (agricultural, environmental, industrial, municipal and recreational), to improve and maintain aquatic and riparian habitat, water-use infrastructure, and conservation and efficiency among all users, and to improve water quality.
Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP)	2018		\$181,445	\$75,000	\$106,500	\$ 27,000	The Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP) intends to develop proactive water management recommendations that anticipate changes to local hydrology due to 1) population growth and increasing municipal demand for water in Eagle County, 2) climate change, and 3) projects related to the Eagle River MOU (ERMOU), an intergovernmental agreement for developing municipal water supplies in the upper Eagle River watershed.
Assessing Existing Conditions in the Upper Poudre Watershed	2018		\$99,865	\$ -	\$50,292	\$ 83,037	The goal of this project is to create and implement a baseline assessment of the riparian/river corridor of the Upper Cache La Poudre watershed with a focus on the North Fork and the mainstem of the Poudre. Our intent is to take an existing baseline assessment methodology, called the River Health Assessment Framework (RHAF), that has been applied to other areas of the Cache la Poudre.

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Crystal River Management Plan – Water Market Implementation	2018		\$30,000	\$20,700	\$3,200	\$6,100	<p>Today, we are at the cusp of signing our first pilot agreement with Cold Mountain Ranch. The pilot agreement will incentivize Cold Mountain Ranch's operator to modify his irrigation schedule to leave water in the river at the most crucial times for the Crystal. Upon execution, we can continue our effort to incentivize other water users to work with us. We remain closely connected with other grantees, RFC and Public Counsel, but need additional funding at the Water Trust to (1) finalize the pilot agreement; (2) implement that agreement; (3) develop proposals for additional agricultural partners; (4) conduct outreach with those potential partners; (5) negotiate and execute additional flow restoration agreements; and (6) implement several agreements in a coordinated manner to benefit the Crystal River.</p>
South Fork Republican Restoration Coalition: Stream Management and Restoration Planning	2018		\$99,000	\$ -	\$120,000	\$63,500	<p>The objective is to create an implementable management and restoration plan for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. re-establishing a functioning South Fork Republican River channel and connected floodplain from Highway 385 to Bonny Dam; 2. improving instream surface flows in the planning area, within the parameters of the legal requirements of the Republican River Compact between Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska; 3. restoring riparian and riverine habitat to address wildlife and native fish habitat needs, and 4. creating future recreation-based economic opportunities in the project planning area.