

**Water Supply Reserve Fund – Grant and Loan Program**  
**Water Activity Summary Sheet**  
**January 28-29, 2019**  
**Agenda Item 8(b)**

**Applicant & Grantee:** City of Steamboat Springs

**Water Activity Name:** Yampa River Forest Restoration & Temperature Mitigation Project

**Water Activity Purpose:** Implementation-Multipurpose (Environmental/Education & Outreach/M&I)

**County:** Routt

**Drainage Basin:** Yampa-White-Green

**Water Source:** Yampa River

**Amount Requested:** \$25,000 Yampa-White-Green Basin Account

**Matching Funds:** Applicant & 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Match (cash) = \$150,000  
• 600% of the Basin Account request (meets 25% min)

<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>
Staff recommends <b>conditional approval</b> of up to \$25,000 from the Yampa-White-Green Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Yampa River Forest Restoration & Temperature Mitigation Project, contingent upon the conditions stated in the <b>Issues/Additional Needs</b> section below.

**Water Activity Summary:** WSRF grant funds, if approved, will assist the City of Steamboat Springs and the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council's (YVSC) ReTree program to restore the riparian forest through strategic plantings of willows, alders, cottonwoods and other native river plant species on public, open space parcels and other prioritized locations.

The 2018 Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan (aka The Stream Management Plan) found that the riparian forest is degraded on the reach of the Yampa River above the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area, through town and to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and that improving the quality of the vegetation, particularly the shading canopy cover, will lead to improvements in stream temperature and water quality on the Yampa River. By restoring the river forest, this 3-year project that was identified as a top priority action item in the Stream Management Plan, will also help to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat and to stabilize the river channel thus making it more resilient to floods, droughts, or human impacts. This project will connect community members, especially youth, to the river through this locally established volunteer tree-planting program. The WSRF funds will be used to design and prioritize restoration projects, to secure an adequate supply of trees and plants that are purchased and/or harvested locally, to construct a seasonal riparian plant nursery if deemed necessary, to coordinate plantings on the prioritized areas, and to protect plants by installing temporary barriers and irrigation systems where identified in the design phase.

**Discussion:** This project supports the goals of the Yampa/White/Green Basin Implementation Plan which states that non-consumptive environmental and recreational needs require flows to sustain endangered native fish, riparian plant communities, sport fisheries, whitewater boating, and ecological integrity. The goal to “Quantify and protect environmental and recreational water uses at locations identified in the non-consumptive needs study of the YWG BRT” is addressed by this project as is noted on page 1-11 which encourages that people:

*Recognize that floodplains, riparian areas, and wetlands are natural storage reservoirs, and implement restoration projects to maintain and improve these storage reservoirs. Rehabilitation of degraded riparian areas and reconnection of floodplains in degraded stream systems allows spring floods recharge groundwater tables for slow release to the stream system later in the summer which supports low flows and helps maintain non-consumptive benefits.*

The Yampa River Forest Restoration Project supports the Colorado Water Plan in Chapter (Environmental and Recreational Projects and Methods on page 6-157) and the GOAL of the State of Colorado to identify and implement environmental and recreational projects and methods to achieve the following statewide long-term goals:

- Promote restoration, recovery, sustainability, and resiliency of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic and riparian dependent species and plant communities.
- Protect and enhance economic values to local and statewide economies that rely on environmental and recreational water uses, such as fishing, boating, waterfowl hunting, wildlife watching, camping, and hiking.
- Support the development of multipurpose projects and methods that benefit environmental and recreational water needs as well as water needs for communities or agriculture.
- Understand, protect, maintain, and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat to promote long-term sustainability and resiliency.
- Maintain watershed health by protecting or restoring watersheds that could affect critical infrastructure and/or environmental and recreational areas.

**Issues/Additional Needs:** As noted above (and below), the applicant has identified \$150,000 in cash matching contributions, however written verification for these matches have as yet to be provided, therefore staff recommends a **conditional approval** of this grant for the requested \$25,000 contingent upon the applicant providing documentation verifying the matching contributions prior to entering into a grant contract.

**Eligibility Requirements:** The application meets requirements of all eligibility components: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, Water Activity Eligibility, and Eligibility Based on Match Requirements.

**Evaluation Criteria:** This activity has undergone review and evaluation and staff has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to Basin Roundtable Chair’s Recommendation Letter and the WSRF Grant Application for applicant’s detailed response.

**Funding Summary/Matching Funds:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Cash</u></b>	<b><u>In-kind</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>
City of Steamboat Springs	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	Pending
GOCO Habitat Restoration Grant	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	Pending
CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	Pending
<b>Sub-total</b>	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000	
WSRF Yampa/White/Green Basin Account	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	Secured
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>	

**CWCB Project Manager:** Chris Sturm



November 27, 2018

Craig Godbout  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Craig Godbout,

At the November 14th meeting, the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable (YWGBRT) voted unanimously to approve the Yampa River Forest Restoration and Temperature Mitigation Grant presented by Kelly Romero-Heaney in the amount of \$25,000.

This grant is part of the implementation of the City of Steamboat Springs' Stream Management Plan. The grant request meets four of the Basin Roundtable's goals: Identify and address municipal and industrial (M&I) shortages; Quantify and protect environmental and recreational water uses at locations identified in non-consumptive needs study; Maintain and consider the existing natural range of water quality that is necessary for current and anticipated water uses; Develop an integrated system of water use, storage, administration and delivery to reduce water shortages and meet environmental and recreational needs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

With Gratitude

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JB', is written over the words 'With Gratitude'.

Jackie Brown

Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable, Chair

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<b>Colorado Water Conservation Board</b>
<b>Water Supply Reserve Fund</b>
<b>Grant Application</b>

<b>Instructions</b>		
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All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current [2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#).

To receive funding from the WSRF, a proposed water activity must be approved by a Roundtable(s) **AND** the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for Roundtable consideration and recommendation is outlined in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. The CWCB meets bimonthly according to the schedule on page 2 of this application.

If you have questions, please contact the current CWCB staff Roundtable liaison:

<b>Arkansas</b>  Ben Wade <a href="mailto:ben.wade@state.co.us">ben.wade@state.co.us</a> 303-866-3441 x3238	<b>Gunnison   North Platte   South Platte   Yampa/White</b>  Craig Godbout <a href="mailto:craig.godbout@state.co.us">craig.godbout@state.co.us</a> 303-866-3441 x3210	<b>Colorado   Metro   Rio Grande   Southwest</b>  Megan Holcomb <a href="mailto:megan.holcomb@state.co.us">megan.holcomb@state.co.us</a> 303-866-3441 x3222
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<b>WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)</b>	
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X	I acknowledge this request for funding was recommended for CWCB approval by the sponsoring Basin Roundtable(s).
X	I acknowledge I have read and understand the <a href="#">2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines</a> .
X	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the <a href="#">Standard Contract</a> . <sup>(1)</sup>
Exhibit A	
X	<a href="#">Statement of Work</a> <sup>(2)</sup> (Word – see Exhibit A Template)
X	<a href="#">Budget &amp; Schedule</a> <sup>(2)</sup> (Excel Spreadsheet – see Exhibit A Template)
X	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Commitments <sup>(2)</sup>
Exhibit C	
X	Map <sup>(2)</sup>
X	Photos/Drawings/Reports
X	Letters of Support
X	Certificate of Insurance <sup>(3)</sup> (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.)
Contracting Documents	
	Certificate of Good Standing <sup>(3)</sup>
X	W-9 <sup>(3)</sup>
	Independent Contractor Form <sup>(3)</sup> (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
	Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form <sup>(3)</sup>

(1) Click "Grant Agreements". For reference only/do not fill out or submit/required for contracting

(2) Required with application if applicable.

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(3) Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.

Schedule		
CWCB Meeting	Application Submittal Dates	Type of Request
January	December 1	Basin Account; BIP
March	February 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
May	April 1	Basin Account; BIP
July	June 1	Basin Account; BIP
September	August 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
November	October 1	Basin Account/BIP

Desired Timeline	
Desired CWCB Hearing Month:	September
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	January 1, 2019

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	City of Steamboat Springs	
Name of Water Activity	Yampa River Forest Restoration Project & Temperature Mitigation Project	
Approving Roundtable(s)	Basin Account Request(s) <sup>(1)</sup>	
Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable	\$25,000	
Basin Account Request Subtotal	\$25,000	
Statewide Account Request <sup>(1)</sup>	\$0	
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)	\$25,000	
Total Project Costs	\$175,000	

(1) Please indicate the amount recommended for approval by the Roundtable(s)



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Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	City of Steamboat Springs
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 775088, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
FEIN	84-6000721
Grantee's Organization Contact <sup>(1)</sup>	Gary Suiter
Position/Title	City Manager
Email	<a href="mailto:gsuiter@steamboatsprings.net">gsuiter@steamboatsprings.net</a>
Phone	970-871-8240
Grant Management Contact <sup>(2)</sup>	Kelly Romero-Heaney
Position/Title	Water Resources Manager
Email	<a href="mailto:kromeroheaney@steamboatsprings.net">kromeroheaney@steamboatsprings.net</a>
Phone	970-871-8205
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	

**(1)** Person with signatory authority

**(2)** Person responsible for creating reimbursement invoices (Invoice for Services) and corresponding with CWCB staff.

Description of Grantee
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
<p>The City of Steamboat Springs is located in Northwest Colorado, in the small rural resort community of Steamboat Springs which has a population of 12,088 and is the county seat of Routt County. Within our organization, the Public Works Department has a Utilities Division that works with water rights, water distribution, sewer collection, and stormwater quality management. The City established a Stormwater Task Force to assess the effectiveness of the stormwater system and make recommendations on future management practices. The City implemented the recommendations from the task force by hiring a Water Resources Manager who implements the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Program to comply with the Clean Water Act, oversees drainage improvements, and manages the city's water portfolio to meet both the consumptive and non-consumptive needs of its community. The City has representation on the Yampa/White/Green River Basin Roundtable, the Yampa River Legacy Project, and the Upper Yampa Watershed Group and has successfully completed many grant funded planning and restoration projects including the recently adopted Yampa River Health Assessment &amp; Streamflow Management Plan, improvements at the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area south of Steamboat Springs, Rich Weiss Park (Town Run) in downtown, Bear River Park, and Fournier Open Space property. Projects at these sites have involved bank and channel stabilization, riparian rehabilitation, river channel grading and shaping, and improved public access points. The City recently completed the Yampa River Health</p>

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Assessment & Streamflow Management Plan (2018), and was involved in the creation of the State of the Watershed Report (2014), and the Yampa/White/Green Basin Implementation Plan (2015), and has systematically acquired open space parcels along the Yampa River, instituted conservation easements in riparian areas, and provided river access where appropriate.

Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
X	<b>Public (Government):</b> municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
	<b>Public (Districts):</b> authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises
	<b>Private Incorporated:</b> mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations
	<b>Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors:</b> are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
	<b>Non-governmental organizations:</b> broadly, any organization that is not part of the government
	<b>Covered Entity:</b> as defined in <a href="#">Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes</a>

Type of Water Activity (check one)	
	Study
X	Implementation

Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)		
X	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)	
	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)	
	Agricultural	
X	Municipal/Industrial	
	Needs Assessment	
X	Education & Outreach	
	Other	Explain:



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Location of Water Activity	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in <b>decimal degrees</b> . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	Routt
Latitude	40.4849769
Longitude	-106.8317158

Water Activity Overview
<p>Please provide a summary of the proposed water activity (200 words or less). Include a description of the activity and what the WSRF funding will be used for specifically (e.g. studies, permitting, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the activity. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, area of habitat improvements. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain. The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule.</p>
<p>The 2018 Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan (aka <i>The Stream Management Plan</i>) found that the riparian forest is degraded on the reach of the Yampa River above the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area, through town and to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and that improving the quality of the vegetation, particularly the shading canopy cover, will lead to improvements in stream temperature and water quality on the Yampa River. By restoring the river forest, this 3-year project that was identified as a top priority action item in the Stream Management Plan, will also help to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat and to stabilize the river channel thus making it more resilient to floods, droughts, or human impacts. The City intends to partner with the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council's (YVSC) ReTree program to restore the riparian forest through strategic plantings of willows, alders, cottonwoods and other native river plant species on public, open space parcels and other prioritized locations. This project will connect community members, especially youth, to the river through this locally established volunteer tree-planting program. The WSRF funds will be used to design and prioritize restoration projects, to secure an adequate supply of trees and plants that are purchased and/or harvested locally, to construct a seasonal riparian plant nursery if deemed necessary, to coordinate plantings on the prioritized areas, and to protect plants by installing temporary barriers and irrigation systems where identified in the design phase.</p>

Measurable Results		
To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRF funds please provide any of the following values.		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>New Storage Created (acre-feet)</td> </tr> </table>		New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)	

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	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive	
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)	
13,250 + linear feet Or 2.5 miles	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
246 + acres	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved	
	Other	Explain:

### Water Activity Justification

Provide a description of how this water activity supports the goals of [Colorado's Water Plan](#), the most recent [Statewide Water Supply Initiative](#), and the respective [Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan](#) <sup>(1)</sup>. The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers).

For applications that include a request for funds from the Statewide Account, the proposed water activity shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan criteria for state support (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;) (Also listed pp. 4-5 in [2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#)).

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The Yampa River Forest Restoration Project supports the Colorado Water Plan in Chapter 6.6 (Environmental and Recreational Projects and Methods on page 6-157) and the GOAL of the State of Colorado to identify and implement environmental and recreational projects and methods to achieve the following statewide long-term goals:

- Promote restoration, recovery, sustainability, and resiliency of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic and riparian dependent species and plant communities.
- Protect and enhance economic values to local and statewide economies that rely on environmental and recreational water uses, such as fishing, boating, waterfowl hunting, wildlife watching, camping, and hiking.
- Support the development of multipurpose projects and methods that benefit environmental and recreational water needs as well as water needs for communities or agriculture.
- Understand, protect, maintain, and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat to promote long-term sustainability and resiliency.
- Maintain watershed health by protecting or restoring watersheds that could affect critical infrastructure and/or environmental and recreational areas.

In addition, this project is in line with the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) recommendation to “Support meeting Colorado’s non-consumptive water needs by working with Colorado’s water stakeholders to help “pursue projects and other strategies, including CWCB’s Instream Flow Program, that benefit consumptive water users, the riparian and aquatic environments, and stream recreation.”

The project also supports the goals of the Yampa/White/Green Basin Implementation Plan which states that non-consumptive environmental and recreational needs require flows to sustain endangered native fish, riparian plant communities, sport fisheries, whitewater boating, and ecological integrity. The goal to “Quantify and protect environmental and recreational water uses at locations identified in the non-consumptive needs study of the YWG BRT” is addressed by this project as is noted on page 1-11 which encourages that people:

*Recognize that floodplains, riparian areas, and wetlands are natural storage reservoirs, and implement restoration projects to maintain and improve these storage reservoirs. Rehabilitation of degraded riparian areas and reconnection of floodplains in degraded stream systems allows spring floods recharge groundwater tables for slow release to the stream system later in the summer which supports low flows and helps maintain non-consumptive benefits.*

(1) Access Basin Implementation Plans or Education Action Plans from Basin drop down menu.

### Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests

**Basin (only) Account** grant requests require a 25% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the Applicant or 3<sup>rd</sup> party and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment** as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines (submitted on the contributing entity’s letterhead). Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind)
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City of Steamboat Springs 2019 Capital Improvements Budget	50,000 Cash (pending approval of budget)
GOCO Habitat Restoration Grant (applying August 31, 2018)	50,000 Cash (pending grant approval)
CWCB: Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant (applying November 2, 2018)	50,000 Cash (pending grant approval)
Total Match	\$150,000
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.	

Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests	
<p><b>Statewide Account</b> grant requests require a 50% match as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. A minimum of 10% match shall be from Basin Account funds (cash only). A minimum of 10% match shall be provided by the applicant or 3rd party (cash, in-kind, or combination). The remaining 30% of the required match may be provided from any other source (Basin, applicant, or 3<sup>rd</sup> party) and shall be accompanied by a <b>letter of commitment</b>. Attach additional sheet if necessary.</p>	
Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):
Total Match	
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).	

Related Studies
Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.



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Our project is identified specifically in, and will assist with the implementation of the Yampa River Health Assessment & Streamflow Management Plan, which was paid for with assistance from the CWCB Colorado Watershed Restoration Program, and adopted by Steamboat Springs City Council August 2018, by addressing several of the Plan's management objectives primarily "to maintain or improve riparian vegetation extent and condition" through Action Implementation RE-1 to "Establish a native riparian revegetation program for implementing the identified revegetation projects in areas historically disturbed along the Yampa River through Steamboat."

The State of the Watershed Report (2014) discusses how the Yampa River and its tributaries have been disconnected from their historic floodplains by streamside development and the resulting loss of riparian zones and wetlands, and makes suggestions to provide "riparian area improvements that will optimize the recreational benefits of the river while protecting its ecological integrity."

In addition, the project follows the Best Management Practices for Riparian Areas outlined within the Upper Yampa Watershed Plan, which lists riparian area protection and restoration, improving watershed connectivity, and maintaining the ecological balance of riparian, wetland, upland & aquatic biota as priorities (page 6).

#### Previous CWCB Grants

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order

##### **CWCB WSRF and Colorado Watershed Restoration Grants**

1)City of Steamboat Springs – 2)Yampa River Stream Management Plan – 3)Yampa-White-Green BRT – 4)CWCB Meeting Date – July 20, 2016 – 5) Purchase Order #: POGG1PDAA201700000361

##### **CWCB Water Plan Grants**

1)City of Steamboat Springs – 2)Fish Creek Watershed Wildfire Protection Plan – 3)Yampa-White-Green BRT – 4)CWCB Meeting Date – May 24, 2018 - 5) Purchase Order #: POGG1PDAA201900002120

1)City of Steamboat Springs – 2)Water Conservation Plan Development – 3)Yampa-White-Green BRT – 4)CWCB Meeting Date – 2009 - 5) Purchase Order #: OE PDA 1000000000108

#### Tax Payer Bill of Rights

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.

The City of Steamboat Springs "debruced" in 1997, so TABOR will not affect this project or grant.

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<b>Colorado Water Conservation Board</b>	
<b>Water Supply Reserve Fund</b>	
<b><u>Exhibit A - Statement of Work</u></b>	
<b>Date:</b>	8/31/18
<b>Water Activity Name:</b>	Yampa River Forest Restoration & Temperature Mitigation Project
<b>Grant Recipient:</b>	City of Steamboat Springs
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Water Supply Reserve Fund - Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable
<b>Water Activity Overview:</b> (Please provide brief description of the proposed water activity (no more than 200 words). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRF funding will be used for. <p>The 2018 Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan (aka <i>The Stream Management Plan</i>) found that the riparian forest is degraded on the reach of the Yampa River above the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area, through town and to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and that improving the quality of the vegetation, particularly the shading canopy cover, will lead to improvements in stream temperature and water quality on the Yampa River. By restoring the river forest, this 3-year project that was identified as a top priority action item in the Stream Management Plan, will also help to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat and to stabilize the river channel thus making it more resilient to floods, droughts, or human impacts. The City intends to partner with the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council's (YVSC) ReTree program to restore the riparian forest through strategic plantings of willows, alders, cottonwoods and other native river plant species on Public Open Space parcels and other prioritized locations. This project will connect community members, especially youth, to the river through this locally established volunteer tree-planting program. The WSRF funds will be used to design and prioritize restoration projects, to secure an adequate supply of trees and plants that are purchased and/or harvested locally, to construct a seasonal riparian plant nursery if deemed necessary, to coordinate plantings on the prioritized areas, and to protect plants by installing temporary barriers and irrigation systems where identified in the design phase.</p>	
<b>Objectives:</b> (List the objectives of the project) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain or improve natural river form and processes*</li> <li>2. Maintain or improve riparian vegetation extent and condition*</li> <li>3. Maintain compliance with State stream temperature standards*</li> <li>4. Establish and implement a long-term program for riparian vegetation restoration, protection, monitoring and stewardship</li> <li>5. Foster a culture of shared stewardship of the Yampa River among community members, especially youth</li> </ol>	
<p>*Objectives identified in the Stream Management Plan</p>	



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Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<b><u>Task 1 -Convene a project team</u></b>
Description of Task:  Description of Task: A Project Team will form that refines objectives and that engages throughout the life of the program. The City will engage YVSC to serve as the Project Manager by developing and overseeing the riparian restoration program and by coordinating volunteers.
Method/Procedure:  Methods/Procedure: The Project Team will include, the City's Water Resources Manager, the City's Parks & Recreation Open Space Supervisor, YVSC, Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW), Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS). Other Project Team members may be identified as a component of this task. The Project Team will meet to refine the objectives. The City will incorporate these objectives into a Scope of Work for the Project Manager.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)  N/A
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)  N/A





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Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<b><u>Task 2 - Develop and implement a short-term plan for current riparian vegetation protection and planting</u></b>
Description of Task:  With the publication of the Stream Management Plan, a new focus has emerged for tree planting along the Yampa - to reduce water temperatures and improve water quality by increasing shade along the river. Therefore, moving forward, riparian forest restoration and protection will focus on native shade trees in areas where there are no mature cottonwoods ( <i>Populus angustifolia</i> ) and/or the growth of cottonwood seedlings has been impacted by beaver activity. The short-term implementation plan will outline planting and protection methods and timeline for the next three years (2019 -2021) in the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area (SWA) and on City property near Rotary Park and Walton Creek (Map 1). The target for tree planting and protection are outlined in Objective 5.3 of the <i>Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan</i> : maintain or improve riparian vegetation extent and condition greater than or equal to 20% of mapped riparian area with woody vegetation cover by reach for Chuck Lewis and Rotary Park.
Method/Procedure:  Riparian forest restoration is an iterative process of site preparation, planting, long-term care, protection, and monitoring and evaluation. The project team will work with stakeholders to inventory current vegetation and identify specific planting locations, based on need, access and future river or wetland restoration projects. The project team will prepare an implementation plan, outlining the general approach for the planting, maintenance, protection and monitoring of the seedling trees. Before each planting season, the team will also prepare a project plan with detailed instructions for each site specific planting location. After each season, the team will evaluate the monitoring data and modify the following year's project plan accordingly as needed.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)  A short-term implementation plan outlining planting and protection activities for Chuck Lewis, Walton Creek, and Rotary Park and annual project plans and progress reports on Objective 5.3
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)  A short-term implementation plan outlining planting and protection activities for Chuck Lewis, Walton Creek, and Rotary Park and annual project plans and progress reports on Objective 5.3

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:



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<b><u>Task 3 - Develop a long-term plan for riparian forest restoration</u></b>
<p><b>Description of Task:</b></p> <p>Improving water quality and reducing water temperatures through riparian forest restoration is a long-term goal that will require active oversight of seedling planting and care as well as continual coordination and communication between stakeholder groups. Using monitoring results from the initial plantings and input from stakeholders and resource managers, the project team will develop a long-term implementation plan that defines and outlines the process to achieve the long-term targets for future conditions (Objective 5.3 of the <i>Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan</i>).</p>
<p><b>Method/Procedure:</b></p> <p>To begin the process of long-term planning, the project team will convene resource managers and stakeholders to develop a long-range forecast of construction and restoration work to be conducted along the full reach of the Yampa River, described in the <i>Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan</i>, over the next 10 years. With this input and the initial short-term planting results, the project team will prepare an implementation plan that includes a schedule for restoration, milestones to meet vegetation cover extent outlined in Objective 5.3, and contingencies, if these milestones are not met. The long-term implementation plan will also include suggestions to engage private landowners upstream of Chuck Lewis in riparian restoration and identify funding mechanisms for planning, implementation, long-term monitoring and oversight on public and private lands.</p>
<p><b>Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)</b></p> <p>Long-term plan with 10-year schedule of restoration work, milestones to meet vegetation cover objectives, recommendations for engaging private landowners and funding mechanisms for long-term implementation.</p>
<p><b>CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)</b></p> <p>Long-term plan with 10-year schedule of restoration work, milestones to meet vegetation cover objectives, recommendations for engaging private landowners and funding mechanisms for long-term implementation.</p>

<b>Tasks</b>
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<b><u>Task 4 - Develop a procurement plan for riparian vegetation materials</u></b>

Last Update: January 9, 2018

Description of Task:
<p>One important factor for ensuring effective riparian forest restoration is tree species and source. Past plantings at Chuck Lewis SWA have used riparian species procured from the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) nursery (some of which have been grown from local desired plant cuttings the previous year) and staged at the CPW seasonal nursery with success. The project team will work with CSFS nursery staff and CPW to secure both seedlings and use of a seasonal nursery for short-term implementation and will develop a procurement plan to ensure an adequate stock of seedlings for the length of the restoration program.</p>
Method/Procedure:
<p>The project team will develop both a short term (1-3 year) and long term (10+) procurement plan for vegetation materials. Currently the team purchases seedlings from the CSFS nursery, some of which is stock from other locations around the state. It would be preferable to use only seedling stock from the Yampa Valley. The project team will negotiate a contract with CSFS to purchase nursery stock for planting in the next 1-2 years and Yampa Valley stock for the duration of the project. For the seasonal care of the seedlings, the team will work with CPW on an agreement for the use or purchase of their seasonal nursery or will evaluate alternatives for the construction of a seasonal nursery. Finally, the team will prepare a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the harvest and care of the seedling stock to ensure consistent and long-term success of the program.</p>
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
<p>A contract with the CSFS nursery; either an agreement with CPW for the use of their seasonal nursery or options for construction of a seasonal nursery; and an SOP for harvest and care of Yampa Valley seedling stock.</p>
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
<p>Plant procurement plan.</p>



Last Update: January 9, 2018

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<b><u>Task 5 - Coordinate volunteer groups and educate about river health</u></b>
Description of Task:  Engaging community members in riparian forest restoration is not only important for the tree planting and care efforts, but it is also a way to connect people to their environment and raise awareness about river health. The project team will recruit volunteers for the planting, care, monitoring, and protection of the trees. They will also coordinate with other local nonprofits and resource managers to educate these volunteers and other community members about river health and environmental stewardship.
Method/Procedure:  The project team will recruit individuals, businesses, community groups and schools as volunteers to harvest, maintain, plant, and care for the seedlings. The team will organize and oversee the volunteers' work and use these events to educate the volunteers about the purpose of this work. To create additional educational opportunities, the project team will develop educational material and coordinate with nonprofits, resource managers, and other local partners to participate at other appropriate community events.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
Educational material to be shared with volunteers and community event participants, annual schedule for volunteer opportunities and tabling events
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
Educational materials available upon request.

<b>Budget and Schedule</b>
----------------------------



Last Update: January 9, 2018

**Exhibit B - Budget and Schedule:** This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined [Budget and Schedule](#) that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in [excel format](#). A separate [excel formatted](#) Budget is required for engineering costs to include rate and unit costs.

### Reporting Requirements

**Progress Reports:** The grantee shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status 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. The CWCB may withhold reimbursement until satisfactory progress reports have been submitted.

**Final Report:** At completion of the project, the grantee shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the grantee's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

### Payments

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures, must include invoices for all work completed and must be on grantee's letterhead. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by task, an estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire Project in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues, and proposed or implemented corrective actions.

The CWCB will pay the last 10% of the entire water activity budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the water activity and purchase order or contract will be closed without any further payment. Any entity that fails to complete a satisfactory Final Report and submit to CWCB within 90 days of the expiration of a purchase order or contract may be denied consideration for future funding of any type from CWCB.

### Performance Requirements

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

(a) Performance standards and evaluation: Grantee will produce detailed deliverables for each task as specified. Grantee shall maintain receipts for all project expenses and documentation of the minimum in-kind contributions (if applicable) per the budget in Exhibit B. Per Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the final deliverable is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the final deliverable has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per the Grant Guidelines full documentation of project progress must be submitted with each invoice for reimbursement. Grantee must confirm that all grant conditions have been complied with on each invoice. In addition, per the Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

(c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each Progress Report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary.

(d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the Grant Agreement.

Last Update: 10/17/17



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**Water Supply Reserve Fund**

**EXHIBIT B - BUDGET AND SCHEDULE - Direct & Indirect (Administrative) Costs**

**Date: 8/31/18**

**Water Activity Name: Yampa River Forest Restoration & Temperature Mitigation Project**

**Grantee Name: City of Steamboat Springs**

<u>Task No.</u> <sup>(1)</sup>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Start Date</u> <sup>(2)</sup>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u> (cash & in-kind) <sup>(3)</sup>	<u>WSRF Funds</u> (Basin & Statewide combined) <sup>(3)</sup>	<u>Total</u>
1	Convene a Project Team	3/1/19	5/1/19	0	0	\$0
2	Develop and implement a short-term plan for current riparian vegetation protection and planting	4/1/19	12/1/21	\$98,000	\$12,000	\$110,000
3	Develop and implement long-term plan for riparian forest restoration	10/31/19	12/1/2020	\$0	\$13,000	\$13,000
4	Develop and execute a procurement plan for riparian vegetation materials	5/1/19	12/1/21	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
5	Coordinate volunteer groups and educate youth about river health	5/1/19	12/1/21	\$25,000	\$0	\$27,000
						\$0
<b>Total</b>				\$150,000	\$25,000	\$175,000

**(1)** The single task that include costs for Grant Administration must provide a labor breakdown (see Indirect Costs tab below) where the total WSRF Grant contribution towards that task does not exceed 15% of the total WSRF Grant amount.

**(2)** Start Date for funding under \$100K - 45 Days from Board Approval; Start Date for funding over \$100K - 90 Days from Board Approval.

**(3)** Round values up to the nearest hundred dollars.

• Reimbursement eligibility commences upon the grantee's receipt of a Notice to Proceed (NTP)

- NTP will not be accepted as a start date. Project activities may commence as soon as the grantee enters contract and receives formal signed State Agreement.

The CWCB will pay the last 10% of the entire water activity budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of the CWCB staff project manager.

Once the Final Report has been accepted, the final payment has been issued, the water activity and purchase order (PO) or contract will be closed without any further payment. Any entity that fails to complete a satisfactory Final Report and submit to the CWCB with 90 days of the expiration of the PO or contract may be denied consideration for future funding of any type from the CWCB.

- Additionally, the applicant shall provide a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of contract execution

- Standard contracting procedures dictate that the Expiration Date of the contract shall be 5 years from the Effective Date.



2019 Capital  
Improvements  
Project (pending  
approval)

## Yampa River Forest Restoration & Temperature Mitigation Project

General Fund  
Parks & Recreation

### SOURCE OF FUNDS

#### Revenue Sources

2018  
Projected

Project Type: Other

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Current Revenues/Reserves	50,000						50,000
Grants	25,000	50,000	50,000				125,000
Debt							-
Private							-
Other							-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>

### COST BREAKDOWN

#### Cost Description

2018  
Projected

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Construction	45,000	35,000	40,000				120,000
Design	25,000	5,000	5,000				35,000
Equipment	5,000	10,000	5,000				20,000
Land Acquisition							-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>

**Project Description:** The project includes the restoration of the riparian forest through strategic plantings of willows, alders, cottonwoods and other river plant species on City Open Space parcels and other prioritized locations to reduce stream temperatures on the Yampa River, to improve stream health and water quality, and to prepare the Yampa River through town for drought and climate change. This 3-year project will leverage existing partnerships and resources to design and prioritize restoration projects, to secure an adequate supply of trees and plants that are purchased and/or harvested locally, to construct a seasonal riparian plant nursery if deemed necessary, to coordinate plantings on the prioritized areas, and to protect plants by installing temporary barriers and irrigation systems where identified in the design phase.

2019 - Design and prioritize restoration project locations and secure plant supply, purchase, plant and maintain trees.

2020 - Purchase and plant trees per prioritization schedule and maintain 2019 projects. Construct riparian plant nursery if warranted.

2021 - Purchase and plant trees per prioritization schedule and maintain 2019 & 2020 projects.

**Project Need/Benefits:** The Yampa River through Steamboat Springs is on the State's 303d Impaired Waterbody List for stream temperature. The 2018 Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan found that the riparian forest is degraded on the reach of the Yampa River from the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and that improving that quality of the vegetation, particularly the shading canopy cover, will lead to improvements in stream temperature and water quality on the Yampa River. Restoring the river forest will also help to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat and to stabilize the river channel thus making it more resilient to floods, droughts, or other human impacts. This project will engage and educate community members through existing volunteer efforts and organizations and it will demonstrate to State regulatory agencies Steamboat's commitment to water quality. It also helps to meet City Council's Water Goal and the STAR Goals.

**Undesirable consequences if not approved:** The health of the Yampa River will be further degraded, stream temperatures could continue to rise, particularly during drought years, greater volumes of contracted water will need to be purchased to drive down stream temperatures, and the cost of wastewater treatment could increase significantly to account for the stricter permit limits associated with streams that are on the State's 303d Impaired waterbody list. Community resilience to floods, drought, and other disasters could be reduced.

### Options/Alternatives Considered:

Alt -1: Increase staff for Parks & Rec and/or Public Works to implement all restoration efforts in-house.

Alt -2: Address stream temperature impairments through large water storage contracts.

### Describe Revenue Sources (other than current revenue or reserves):

CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant, Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable WSRF (applications due in Fall 2018)

**Ongoing Operating Costs:** Plantings will require maintenance and monitoring that may exceed the 3-year project lifetime. This work can either be contracted to the entity that coordinates the plantings or could be performed by City Parks & Rec Staff that manage Open Space.

Contact:

Craig Robinson  
Director of Parks &  
Recreation

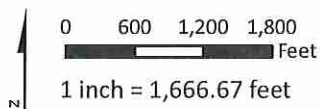
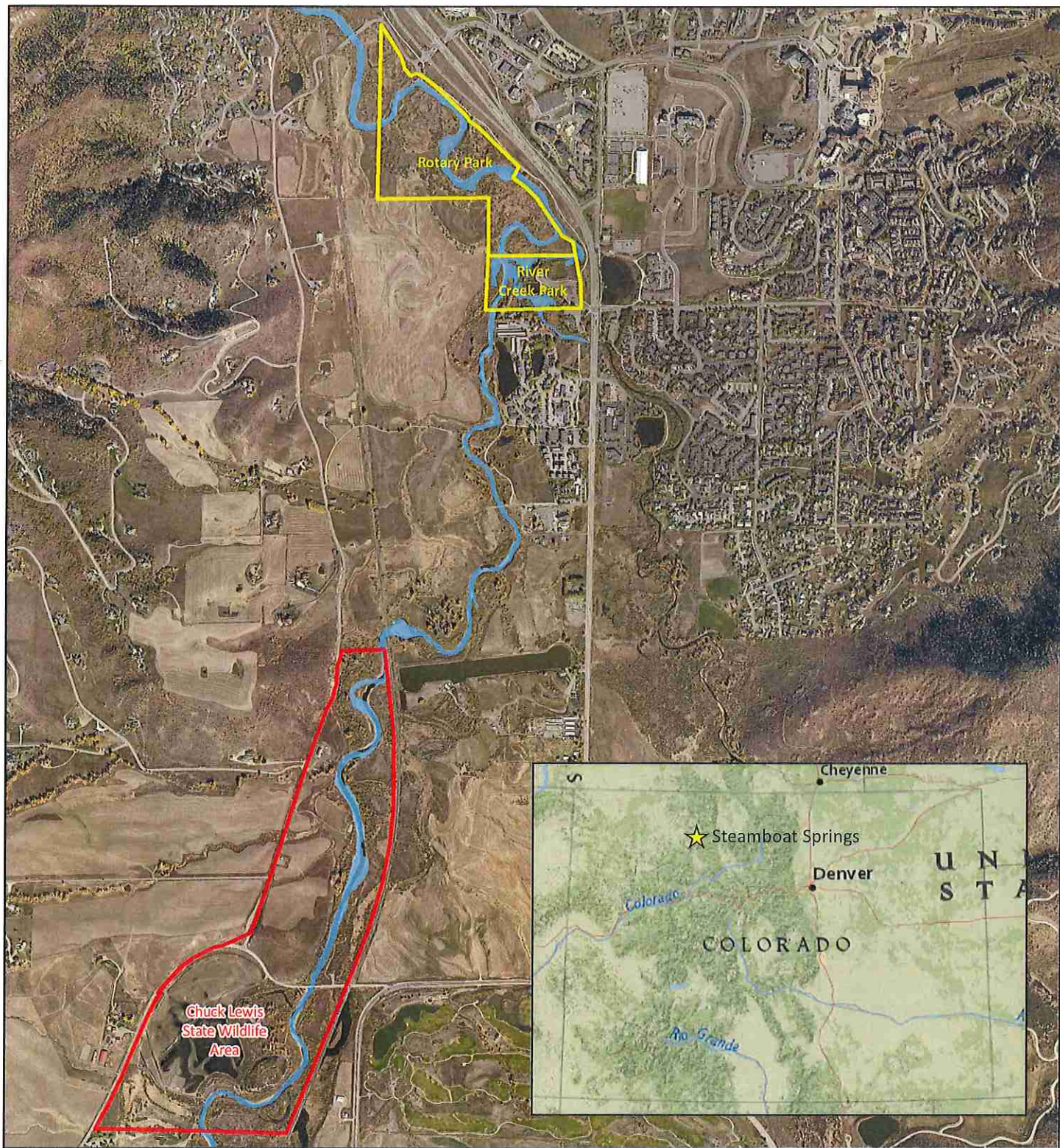
City of  
Steamboat Springs





# Yampa River Riparian Restoration Project

## Project Sites



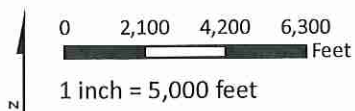
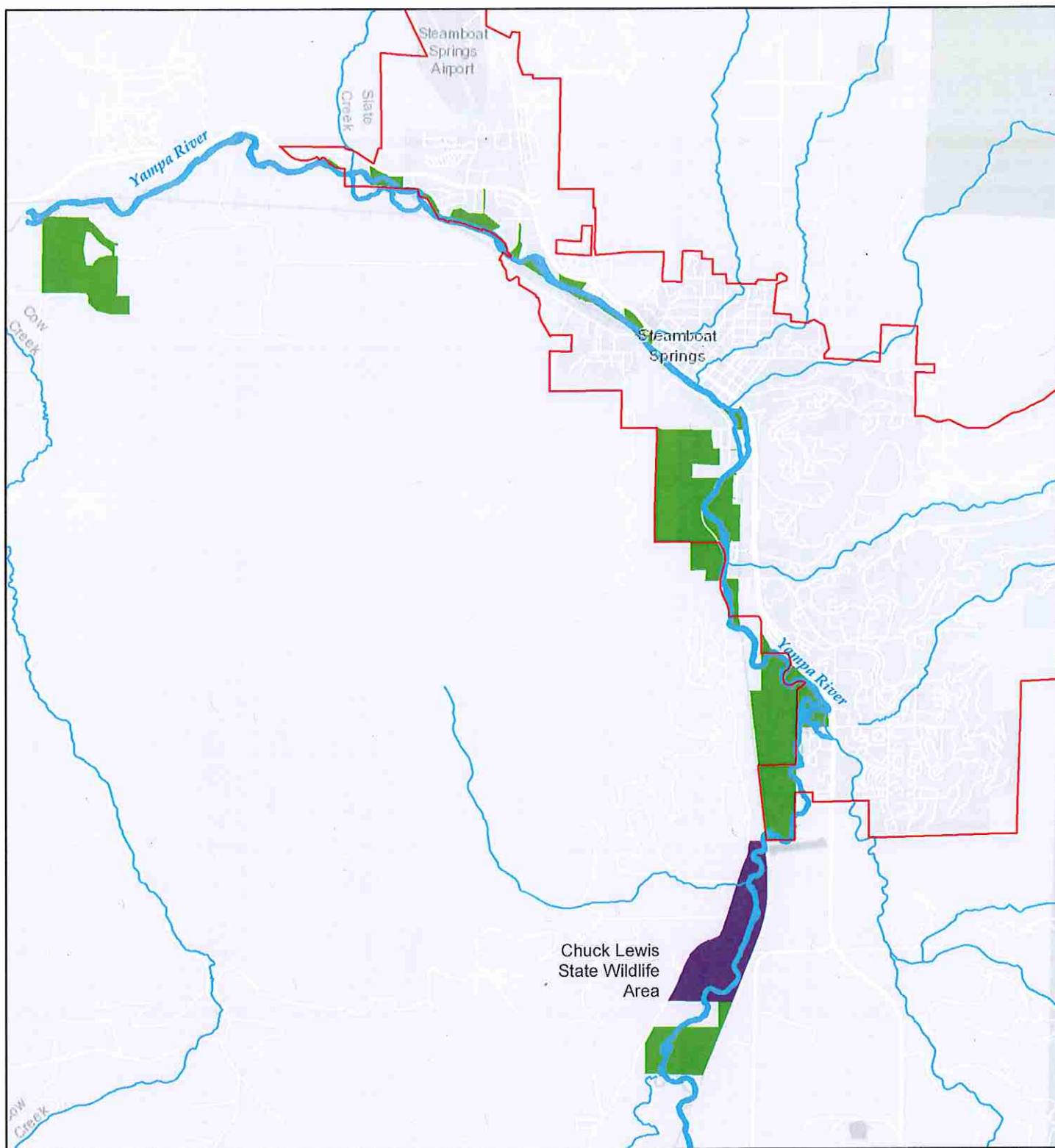



Future potential  
project sites



## Yampa River Management Plan Project Area

### Long Term Potential Sites



 Parks / Open Space within  
50 feet of Yampa River

Map Date: 8/31/2018  
Imagery Date: 10/2016



**COLORADO**

**Parks and Wildlife**

Department of Natural Resources

Steamboat Springs Service Center  
925 Weiss Dr.  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487  
P 970-870-2197 | F 970-871-2853

August 28, 2018

Yampa-White-Green Rivers Basin Roundtable  
c/o Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

Attn: Yampa-White-Green Roundtable Members

We would like to express our support for the City of Steamboat Springs' Riparian Restoration Project, and for their grant request to the Yampa-White-Green Rivers Basin Roundtable.

The Yampa River is currently on the State's 303d Impaired Water Body list for temperature. Colorado Parks and Wildlife worked with the City and other stakeholders, partners and community members to create the Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan in order to address this and other emerging threats to the river. Through this process, this Action Item to "establish a native riparian revegetation program for implementing the identified revegetation projects along the Yampa River through Steamboat" emerged as a priority to address and improve aquatic life, channel form and process and water quality conditions of the Yampa River.

A portion of the project will be conducted on Colorado Parks and Wildlife owned land at the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area. This property is conserved land, owned and managed by CPW, and we are in support of the project happening on this site.

CPW staff monitors water temperature through this corridor, as well as fish population dynamics and will be helpful in monitoring any changes or improvements in these areas.

Thank you for your consideration on this project.

Sincerely,

Kris Middledorf, Area Wildlife Manager  
Colorado Parks & Wildlife





August 29, 2018

Yampa-White-Green Rivers Basin Roundtable  
c/o Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Yampa-White-Green Roundtable Members,

This letter is to confirm that Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC) is committed to be a Project Partner in the activities of the City of Steamboat Springs' Yampa River Riparian Restoration Project.

As a Project Partner, YVSC will assist the City to identify priority restoration areas and develop plans for both short-term and long-term implementation of the project. YVSC will then work with the City and other partners and volunteers to purchase or harvest local tree stock and plant the seedlings in various locations. YVSC will be responsible for the long-term care, protection and mapping of the seedlings.

The work proposed as part of the City's Yampa River Riparian Restoration project is in alignment with YVSC's ReTree program. Since 2010, YVSC has engaged more than 3,000 volunteers ages 2 – 72 to plant, steward, monitor and map 25,950 native tree species at more than 10 upland and riparian forest sites throughout Routt and Moffat Counties in Northwest Colorado. Since 2014, at least one planting per year has been focused on riparian areas of the Yampa River.

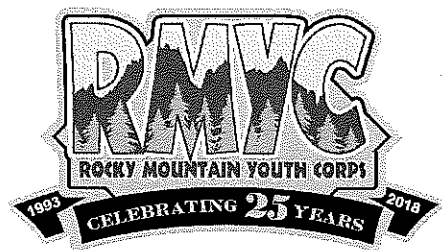
YVSC's engagement of volunteers in the long-term care of ReTree seedlings has resulted in exemplary tree survival rates, despite recent drought conditions. Thus, our organization is well-suited to partner with the City, and our past experience with ReTree will help ensure the success of the Yampa River Riparian Restoration Project.

We are convinced that the Yampa River Riparian Restoration Project, with the strategic planting of native riparian species, is critical to decrease temperatures and improve stream health and water quality of the Yampa River. It will also prepare the river for future drought and climate change conditions. We are eager to partner with the City on this watershed-wide restoration project and urge you to look favorably upon their request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Jones".

Sarah Jones  
Executive Director  
Yampa Valley Sustainability Council



**"Linking community, education and environment through service"**

Phone/Facsimile:

(970) 879-2135

Mailing & Physical Address:

991 Captain Jack Drive

Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

Website:

[www.rockymountainyouthcorps.org](http://www.rockymountainyouthcorps.org)

Yampa-White-Green Rivers Basin Roundtable  
c/o Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203  
Attn: Yampa-White-Green Roundtable Member

August 29, 2018

Dear Yampa-White-Green Rivers Basin Roundtable,

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter of support of the City of Steamboat Springs Yampa River Restoration Project. Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) believes that outcomes of this project are essential to enhance the environmental quality of the Yampa River while also helping ensure that current and future generations of residents and visitors are able to enjoy the area's natural beauty and recreational opportunities. RMYC has worked in partnership with the City of Steamboat Springs area for much of our 25-year history completing high priority trail maintenance, trail construction, habitat restoration, and many other conservation projects. We are excited about this opportunity to continue to collaborate with the City of Steamboat Springs.

The project includes the restoration of the riparian forest along the Yampa River, through strategic planting of willows, alders, cottonwoods, and other river plant species on City of Steamboat Springs owned parcels and other prioritized locations to reduce stream temperatures on the Yampa River, improve stream health and water quality, and prepare the stretch of river through downtown Steamboat Springs for future drought and climate change.

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crews are the perfect venue to assist in the completion of this high priority conservation project. RMYC crews consisting of local youth lead by adult leaders would plant native riparian plant species and install temporary barriers around the plants to protect them from wildlife. The outcomes of the work extend far beyond the obvious benefits to the environment to include the generation of committed environmental stewards of the land, the employment of a number of young adults who are interested in joining the field of environmental conservation, and the training of these young adults. The training encompasses the technical hard skills of trail work as well as independent living skills and leadership education.

RMYC is committed to recruiting competent and high-quality corps members and leaders for these crews. RMYC provides opportunities for long-lasting environmental education around Colorado's precious lands through these projects. This education includes the importance of protecting the unique recreational resources of Colorado, the rare and endangered plant and animal species, the importance of civic service and involving citizen volunteers in the stewardship of public lands, and the empowerment of these young adults to make a difference in these issues, and to lead the way. We give our full support to the City of Steamboat Springs in their endeavor to gain support from the Yampa-White-Green Rivers Basin Roundtable for this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Wertheimer

Associate Director

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps





Steamboat Springs District  
P.O. Box 773657  
Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80477-3657  
(970) 879-0475

August 29, 2018

Yampa-White-Green Rivers Basin Roundtable  
c/o Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

**REF: Yampa River Riparian Restoration Project**

Dear Yampa-White-Green Roundtable Members,

I am writing to you today in support of the Yampa River Restoration Project. Our project includes the restoration of the riparian forest along the Yampa River, through strategic planting of willows, alders, cottonwoods, and other native river plant species on City of Steamboat Springs owned parcels and other prioritized locations. This is work that is being done in partnership with the City, the Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council among others. The goal is to reduce stream temperatures on the Yampa River, improve stream health and water quality, and prepare the stretch of river through downtown Steamboat Springs for future drought and climate change. Research has proven that there has been significant loss of riparian vegetation due to varying urban and rural uses, and that the resulting reduced amount of shading is likely a cause of increased temperature in the river. This project will address these concerns.

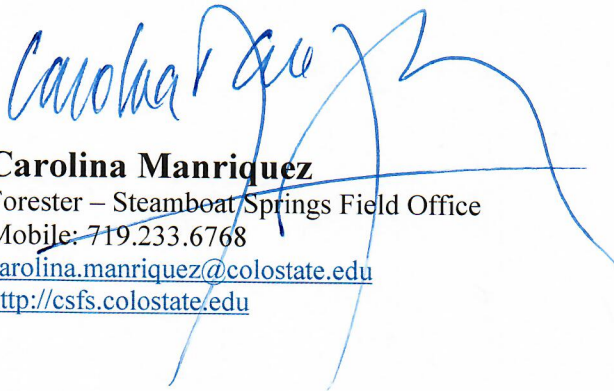
This grant request is for a project that will leverage partnerships and resources to design and prioritize restoration projects. This includes the purchase and/or harvest of local trees for planting, the construction a seasonal riparian plant nursery, the coordination of plantings on the prioritized areas, and the protection of plants by installing temporary barriers and irrigation systems where necessary.

This project is urgent to the community and critical to the sustained health of the river and came about as a priority in the recently adopted Yampa River Health Assessment &

Streamflow Management Plan which was created to identify and implement a long-term strategy for protecting and improving the health and resiliency of the Yampa River near Steamboat Springs. Serious drought events over the past 16 years have depleted the river flow and raised the temperature of the river which is having a serious effect on water quality, aquatic habitat, and recreation. As proof, the section of the Yampa River close to downtown Steamboat Springs, has been placed on the Colorado State 303d Impaired Water Body list for temperature.

With funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, CSFS will continue to partner with the City on all aspects of the Yampa River Restoration Project. I may be reached at (970) 879-0475, if you have any questions or would like to discuss this project. I respectfully urge you to fully fund this proposal.

Sincerely,



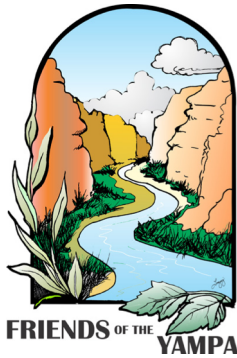
**Carolina Manriquez**

Forester – Steamboat Springs Field Office

Mobile: 719.233.6768

[carolina.manriquez@colostate.edu](mailto:carolina.manriquez@colostate.edu)

<http://csfs.colostate.edu>



## Friends of the Yampa

[www.friendsoftheyampa.com](http://www.friendsoftheyampa.com)

PO Box 771654, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

*Mission: To protect and enhance the environmental and recreational integrity of the Yampa River and its tributaries thru stewardship, advocacy, education and partnerships.*

August 27, 2018

Yampa-White-Green Rivers Basin Roundtable  
c/o Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203  
Attn: Yampa-White-Green Roundtable Members

RE: Letter of Support for the Yampa River Riparian Restoration Project

Hello Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable Members,

We at Friends of the Yampa (FOTY) would like for this letter of support to be added to the grant packet for the City of Steamboat Springs' Yampa River Riparian Restoration Project.

This project will not only help enhance and protect the environmental and recreation integrity of the Yampa River, which is part of the FOTY mission, but it will also help all things Yampa River community, including all users and uses of water.

We have been part of this project from its inception with granting from the Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable and by participating in the Yampa River Health Assessment & Streamflow Management Plan subcommittee so we are intimately familiar with what this project entails.

It is FOTY's belief that this project will help solve some of the drought and climate change impacts to the Yampa that are currently happening today and will inevitably be with us in the future.

Please let me know if you need anything else and thank you in advance for supporting this project

Sincerely yours,

Kent Vertrees  
President  
Friends of the Yampa  
970-846-7933

August 29, 2018

Yampa-White-Green Rivers Basin Roundtable  
c/o Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203  
Attn: Yampa-White-Green Roundtable Members

Dear Yampa-White-Green Roundtable Members,

I am writing you to voice my support, and the support of the Yampa Valley Fly Fishers (Trout Unlimited Chapter 929), for City of Steamboat Springs grant request to help fund the Yampa River Riparian Restoration Project. This project will work to restore the riparian forest along the Yampa River through plantings of Cottonwoods, Alders, Willow, and other native riparian species, in order to increase riparian shading, improve water quality and help reduce water temperatures. This project will work to prioritize optimal locations for plantings and will include a seasonal riparian plant nursery, temporary beaver resistant barriers, and irrigation where necessary. The City will coordinate plantings with various local partners in the area, including the Yampa Valley Fly Fishers.

The Yampa River is a vital resource for our area and has suffered recently from low flows and elevated temperatures. The recently completed Yampa River Health Assessment and Stream Management Plan recommends tree plantings and increased riparian vegetation as one of the most cost effective ways to improve the health of this river system. The Yampa Valley Fly Fishers contributed funding to this study and would like to see funding made available to implement its recommendations.

Please consider the City's grant request and help us preserve and enhance this vital resource to our community and all downstream water users.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Chovan', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Chovan  
President

Yampa Valley Fly Fishers  
[dchovan@comcast.net](mailto:dchovan@comcast.net)  
970 846 4922





DATE: August 28, 2018

TO: Yampa-White-Green Rivers Basin Roundtable  
c/o Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203  
ATTN: Yampa-White-Green Roundtable Members

FROM: Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Commission  
Alan Koerner - Chair, Doug Tumminello - Vice Chair, Sarah Floyd – Commission Member, Craig Keefe – Commission Member, Kady Kocik – Commission Member, Mark VonSchondorf – Commission Member, and Holly Wiek – Commission Member.

RE: Yampa River Riparian Restoration Project

Dear Yampa, White, Green Rivers Basin Roundtable Members,

This letter serves as an endorsement from the Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Commission to support the grant application from the City of Steamboat Springs for the Yampa River Riparian Restoration Project. We collectively believe that the project will provide an opportunity for better river health which is instrumental to the well being of our riparian areas and our community as a whole. It is the Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Commission's hope that you identify this project as a priority for the state of Colorado.

The recently adopted Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan has identified the riparian corridor of the Yampa River in Steamboat Springs as an area in need of implementation of a long-term strategy to protect and improve river health. By restoring the vegetation and riparian forest along this stretch of the Yampa River, our community has an opportunity to attempt and ensure river health and recreational enjoyment for future generations. Not only does the condition of the Yampa River affect water quality, aquatic habitat, and wildlife – it is also integral to the livelihood of our community and a main attraction for summer visitors to Steamboat Springs as well as local residents.

Obtaining this grant will have a positive outcome for the Yampa River, Routt County, the City of Steamboat Springs and Northwestern Colorado. By restoring the riparian forest with strategic planting of river tree and plant species along the Yampa River, there is hope that water temperatures will be reduced, and this section of the river has a chance of remaining resilient during periods of drought, low stream flow and below average winter snowfall seasons. We appreciate the consideration.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Koerner". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Alan Koerner  
Chairman – Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Commission  
On Behalf of the Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation Commission