

Water Supply Reserve Fund – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
March 20-21, 2019
Agenda Item 24(h)

Applicant & Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Water Activity Name: Wilbur Ditch Diversion Improvement Project

Water Activity Purpose: Multipurpose (Ag/Env&Rec) - Implementation

County: Mesa

Drainage Basin: Gunnison

Water Source: North Fork Escalante Creek

Amount Requested: \$10,500 Gunnison Basin Account
\$10,000 Statewide Account
\$20,500 Total Request

Matching Funds: Applicant Match (cash & in-kind) = \$19,200

- 192% of the Statewide Account request (meets 10% min)

Basin Account Match = \$10,500

- 105% of the Statewide Account Match (meets 10% min)

Total Match (Applicant & Basin Account) = \$29,700

- 297% of the Statewide Account request (meets 50% min)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$10,500 from the Gunnison Basin Account, and \$10,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: Wilbur Ditch Diversion Improvement Project.

Water Activity Summary: WSRF grant funds, if approved, will assist Trout Unlimited, Escalante Ranch and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relocate and reconstruct an existing diversion structure and construct a barrier structure in the North Fork of Escalante Creek. The existing facilities suffered failure in 2011. The North Fork of Escalante Creek is home to Colorado River Cutthroat Trout. Construction activities will include installation of a rock weir diversion structure, a headgate and 1,000 feet of 12 diameter pipe. By completing this diversion modification project the lower several miles of this critical habitat for the Colorado River Cutthroat Trout will be accessible and irrigation water will be accessed by valuable senior water rights in a manner that mitigates impacts on native trout.

Discussion: The following goals established by the Gunnison Basin Roundtable in their Basin Implementation Plan will be met by the project:

1. Protect existing water rights in the Gunnison Basin
5. Quantify and protect environmental and recreational water uses.
7. Describe and encourage the beneficial relationship between agriculture and environmental and recreational uses.

8. Restore, maintain, and modernize critical water infrastructure including hydropower.

In addition, this project will help the State of Colorado meet the goals following goals which are listed on page 4 of Chapter 10 of the Water Plan.

1. A productive economy that supports vibrant and sustainable cities; viable and productive agriculture; and a robust skiing, recreation, and tourism industry.
2. Efficient and effective water infrastructure; and
3. A strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, river, streams and wildlife.

Issues/Additional Needs: The applicant needs to submit one additional letter demonstrating a matching commitment, otherwise no issues or additional needs have been identified.

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:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Status</u>
Trout Unlimited	\$0	\$2,200	\$0	Secured
USFWS	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	Secured
Escalante Ranch	\$0	\$7,000	\$7,000	Pending
Sub-total	\$10,000	\$9,200	\$19,200	
WSRF Gunnison Basin Account	\$10,500	\$0	\$10,500	Secured
Sub-total	\$20,500	\$9,200	\$29,700	
WSRF Statewide Account	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	
Total Project Costs	\$30,500	\$9,200	\$39,700	

CWCB Project Manager: Craig Godbout

*The Gunnison Basin Roundtable
210 West Spencer, Suite B
Gunnison, CO 81230*

February 4, 2019

Mr. Craig Godbout
Water Supply Management Section
COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Re: WSRF Grant Request: Wilbur Ditch Diversion Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Godbout:

This letter is presented to advise you that the grant application submitted by Trout Unlimited for \$10,000 from Statewide Account funds and \$10,500 from Basin Account funds from the Water Supply Reserve Fund for the Wilbur Ditch Diversion improvement Project was reviewed by the Gunnison Basin Roundtable and its Project Screening Committee. The request for funding was approved by a unanimous vote of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable during our meeting on January 21, 2019.

This water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes. The requirements/language from the statute is provided in Part 3 of the Criteria and Guidelines. In addition, this project meets Goals 1, 5, 7 and 8 of the Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan.

Thank you for your support of this grant application.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Kugel
Gunnison Basin Roundtable

cc: Kathleen Curry (email)
Tom Alvey (email)
Trout Unlimited, applicant (email)



Last Update: August 3, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application

Instructions		
<p>All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If you have questions, please contact the current CWCB staff Roundtable liaison:</p>		
<p>Arkansas</p> <p>Ben Wade ben.wade@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3238</p>	<p>Gunnison North Platte South Platte Yampa/White</p> <p>Craig Godbout craig.godbout@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3210</p>	<p>Colorado Metro Rio Grande Southwest</p> <p>Megan Holcomb megan.holcomb@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3222</p>

WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)	
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 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines .
x	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract . ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit A	
x	Statement of Work ⁽²⁾ (Attached)
x	Budget & Schedule ⁽²⁾ (Attached in Scope of Work)
X	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽²⁾
Exhibit C	
x	Map
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
x	Letters of Support- attached at the end of application- Pending
	Certificate of Insurance ⁽³⁾ (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) Pending
Contracting Documents	
	Certificate of Good Standing ⁽³⁾
	W-9 ⁽³⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽³⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
	Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form ⁽³⁾

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

(2) Required with application if applicable.

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



Last Update: August 3, 2017

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:	March, 2019
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	April, 2019

Water Activity Summary	
Name of Applicant	Trout Unlimited
Name of Water Activity	Wilbur Ditch Diversion Improvement Project
Approving Roundtable(s)	Basin Account Request(s) ⁽¹⁾
Gunnison Basin Roundtable	
Basin Account Request Subtotal ⁽¹⁾	\$10,500 (Approved)
Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾	\$10,000
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)	\$20,500
Total Project Costs	\$39,700

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



Last Update: August 3, 2017

Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Trout Unlimited
Mailing Address	1777 N. Kent Street Suite 100, Arlington VA 92001
FEIN	38-1612715
Grantee's Organization Contact ⁽¹⁾	Cary Denison
Position/Title	Project Manager
Email	cdenison@tu.org
Phone	970-596-3291
Grant Management Contact ⁽²⁾	Danielle Typinski
Position/Title	Grants Compliance Officer
Email	dtypinski@tu.org
Phone	(703) 284-9429
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>Trout Unlimited (TU) is the nation's largest coldwater conservation organization with approximately 150,000 volunteers and roughly 277 employees nationwide working to protect, reconnect, restore and sustain America's fisheries. TU's volunteers and their local chapter groups work on a variety of initiatives that meet the unique needs of their watersheds.</p> <p>TU's focus in the Gunnison Basin is to find win-win solutions to water supply and infrastructure issues by collaborating with water users.</p>



Last Update: August 3, 2017

Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	Public (Government): 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.
	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.
x	Non-governmental organizations: broadly, any organization that is not part of the government
	Covered Entity: as defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes

Type of Water Activity (check one)	
	Study
x	Implementation

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

Location of Water Activity	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	Mesa County
Latitude	38°.6286 N
Longitude	108°.4415"W



Last Update: August 3, 2017

Water Activity Overview

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.

North Fork of Escalante Creek, a tributary to the Gunnison River is home to one of, if not the, largest populations of Colorado River Cutthroat Trout in the Gunnison Basin. The Colorado River Cutthroat Trout (CRCT) occupy only 14% (309 streams) of their historical range in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Hirsch *et al.* 2006, Young 2008). Only 22 streams in the Gunnison Basin support conservation populations, or populations that are 99% pure CRCT lineage. North Fork of Escalante is one of those.

Habitat loss from fragmentation and introduction of non-native species are the largest contributing factors to the CRCT population decline. The population of CRCT on North Fork of Escalante have been protected since the late 1800's by an irrigation diversion structure Creek that serves as a partial barrier. Other factors including water temperatures have protected CRCT in their 18-mile range on North Fork of Escalante Creek.

Trout Unlimited with funding from USFS and Colorado Parks and Wildlife and assistance from Bureau of Land Management and Escalante Ranch will be completing a barrier in concert with a diversion modification before the spring of 2019 to completely protect this population of native trout from non-native species.

The Escalante Ranch owns the Wilbur ditch which has historically diverted water from North Fork of Escalante Creek approximately 3 miles upstream of the barrier that will be constructed. The Wilbur Ditch diversion, which was a sizeable earthen and rock structure, washed out in 2011. Escalante Ranch has made attempts at reconstructing the diversion and recently contacted Trout Unlimited about constructing a diversion that allow for access water for irrigation and reduce impacts on the stream.

Along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited and Escalante Ranch plan to move the diversion point of the ditch upstream approximately 400 feet, install a rock weir diversion structure along with a headgate and 1000 feet of 12-inch pipe.

By completing this diversion modification project; the lower several miles of this critical habitat for the CRCT will be accessible and irrigation water will be accessed by valuable senior water rights in a manner that mitigates impacts on native trout.



Last Update: August 3, 2017

Measurable Results	
To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRF funds please provide any of the following values.	
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
3 miles	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
Measurable Results	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
1000	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved
x	Other Protecting pre-compact water right

Water Activity Justification
<p>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 ⁽¹⁾. 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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>As emphasized in Chapter 1 of Colorado's Water Plan, this is a collaborative project that will compliment two of the three values listed in the same chapter; "Efficient and effective water infrastructure promoting smart land use; and a strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers and streams, and wildlife." (Chapter 1, page 6 CWP)</p> <p>This project will help the State of Colorado meet the goals following goals which are listed on page 4 of Chapter 10 of the Water Plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A productive economy that supports vibrant and sustainable cities; viable and productive agriculture; and a robust skiing, recreation, and tourism industry. 2. Efficient and effective water infrastructure; and 3. A strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, river, streams and wildlife. <p>The following goals established by the Gunnison Basin Roundtable in their Basin Implementation Plan will be met by the project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (1) Protect existing water rights in the Gunnison Basin 2. (5) Quantify and protect environmental and recreational water uses. 3. (7) Describe and encourage the beneficial relationship between agriculture and environmental and recreational uses. 4. (8) Restore, maintain, and modernize critical water infrastructure including hydropower.

(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 3rd 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)

Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests

Statewide Account 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 3rd party) and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment**. Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):
Basin Account Request Subtotal	\$10,500 (cash)
Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾	\$10,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program	\$10,000 (cash)
Trout Unlimited	\$2,200 (in-kind)
Escalante Rach	\$7,000 (in-kind)
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)	\$20,500
Total Project Costs	\$39,700

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.

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

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.

Not applicable



Last Update: January 9, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Supply Reserve Fund

Exhibit A - Statement of Work

Date:	11/20/2018
Water Activity Name:	Wilbur Ditch Diversion Reconstruction
Grant Recipient:	Trout Unlimited
Funding Source:	WSRF Basin \$10,500, WSRF State \$10,000, USFWS Partners \$10,000, Trout Unlimited \$2,200, Escalante Ranch \$7,000

Water Activity Overview: (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.)

The Wilbur Ditch, which provided irrigation water to lands on the Escalante Ranch, suffered a diversion dam failure in 2011. The diversion is located on North Fork of Escalante Creek in an area that is home to Colorado River Cutthroat trout. The ranch is willing and interested in working with Trout Unlimited and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to rebuild the project in a way that is not an impediment to the trout.

Objectives: (List the objectives of the project)

1. Reconstruct diversion to allow for adequate diversion of irrigation water into the Wilbur Ditch.
2. Limit impacts on habitat of CRCT including allowing for fish passage and reducing entrainment in the canal.



Last Update: January 9, 2018

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<u>Task 1 - Survey</u>
Description of Task:
Hire a survey company to shoot elevations of the existing ditch and determine correct site for new diversion structure.
Method/Procedure:
Contact local surveying companies who can work on the project within budget. Contract with a surveying company to provide services
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
Site staking, and project plans showing location of pipe and diversion.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
Copies of survey report and site photos.



Last Update: January 9, 2018

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<u>Task 2 - Purchase of Materials</u>
Description of Task:
Purchase materials including pipe, headgate(s), rocks, geotextile fabric, concrete blocks, seed and erosion blankets and fabric.
Method/Procedure:
Locate materials from local vendors, create purchase orders and other payment arrangements, and arrange for delivery to job-site if necessary.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
Obtaining the necessary materials to complete the project.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<u>Task 3 - Installation/Construction</u>
Description of Task:
Installing materials to meet project goals and objectives set out for the project.
Method/Procedure:
Using the heavy equipment and hand labor, Escalante Ranch and Trout Unlimited will install rock, pipe and other materials.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
A cross stream riffle vane, diversion controlled by a headgate, a wasteway from gate to stream, and approximately 1000 feet of 80lb PIP pipe.
CWCB Deliverable:
Site photos and as-built drawings of completed project.



Last Update: January 9, 2018

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<u>Task 4 - Project Management</u>
Description of Task:
Managing project.
Method/Procedure:
Oversight and direction for all phases of survey, design, construction and grant reporting
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
Completed project and final and progress reporting.
CWCB Deliverable:
Final report including supporting documents and photos and single point of contact for granting agencies.



Last Update: January 9, 2018

Budget and Schedule

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.



CDSS

Colorado's Decision Support Systems

Map Viewer



Legend

- Surface Water
- County

Location



Notes

Wilbur Ditch Diversion

1,169 0 585 1,169 Feet



1: 7,016



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

Date Prepared: 12/2/2018 11:37:47 AM



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

COLORADO PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE
134 UNION BLVD.; SUITE 400C
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 80228
303-236-4341

December 10, 2018

Gunnison Basin Roundtable
Kathleen Curry, Chairwoman

Subject: North Fork Escalante Creek, Wilbur Ditch Diversion Restoration and Fish Screen Project

Dear Mrs. Curry:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (CO PFW) strongly supports the Wilbur Ditch Diversion Restoration and Fish Screen Project. CO PFW is actively working in partnership with the private landowner and Trout Unlimited in support of this project. This includes providing both technical assistance and committing financial assistance in order to eliminate entrainment and improve passage for native Colorado River Cutthroat Trout, while improving water delivery for the private landowner. Over the long-term this project will also reduce stream sediment, thus improving water quality, improve the landowner's ability to efficiently manage irrigation, as well as maintain conditions beneficial to the native fishery. This project is also bolstered by a barrier project occurring approximately one mile downstream that will ensure non-native fishes do not encroach upstream into this native fishery.

CO PFW expresses full support towards the success of this project and has verbally committed \$10,000 in matching funds, in anticipation of receiving grant funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Thank you for considering CO PFW's support and this project.

Sincerely,

Dominic Barrett
State Coordinator

