

**Water Supply Reserve Fund
Water Activity Summary Sheet
May 16, 2019
Agenda Item 26(h)**

Applicant: Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project
Fiscal Agent: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
Water Activity Name: Rio Grande, Conejos River, & Saguache Creek Stream Management Plan
Water Activity Purpose: Multipurpose Study
County: Conejos, Alamosa, Rio Grande, Mineral, Hinsdale, San Juan, Saguache
Drainage Basin: San Luis Valley
Water Source: n/a
Amount Requested: \$28,000 Rio Grande Basin Account
Matching Funds: Applicant Match (cash & in-kind) = \$303,260

- 1083% of the basin request
- 91% of the total project cost of \$331,260

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$28,000 from the Rio Grande Basin Account to fund the project titled: Rio Grande, Conejos, and Saguache Stream Management Plans.
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Water Activity Summary: WSRF grant funds, if approved, will support development of the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plans (SMPs) for the following reaches of priority streams in the Rio Grande Basin:

- Rio Grande from Stony Pass to the Colorado state line
- Conejos River from Platoro Reservoir to the confluence with the Rio Grande, and
- Saguache Creek from Stone Cellar Campground to the Town of Saguache

The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable's SMP Committee prioritized these reaches, developed the project scope of work, and committed to assisting in a technical advisory team (TAT) capacity. The TAT, which guides the SMP process, includes partners from water user groups, local environmental and recreation interests, and state and federal agencies. Requested WSRF funds will support stakeholder engagement, quantifying flow recommendations, preparing the final SMP report, and grant management. This process will result in the development of recommendations to improve flows and physical conditions of priority streams for environmental, recreational, and community benefits.

Project objectives include:

1. Maintain and build on the coalition of community partners engaged in stream management planning through frequent and robust stakeholder engagement throughout the project.
2. Summarize and obtain information regarding the biological, hydrological, and geomorphological condition of identified stream reaches in the Rio Grande watershed.
3. Define and prioritize environmental, recreational, and community values.
4. Develop goals to improve flows and physical conditions needed to support values.
5. Outline actions to achieve measurable progress toward maintaining or improving goals.

6. Identify opportunities and constraints for implementation of projects, and additional data needed to inform project development

Discussion: As described in the Rio Grande Roundtable chair's recommendation letter, this project was supported and recommended for approval on March 18, 2019. This project aligns with the Colorado Water Plan objective of developing SMPs for 80 percent of locally prioritized streams by 2030 and aims to identify and implement projects to meet community and agricultural water needs while balancing the needs of the environment and recreation. This multi-objective and collaborative effort supports the following Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan goals: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, (BIP Section 3, pp 58-59).

Issues/Additional Needs: No additional needs have been identified.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components.

Evaluation Criteria: Staff has determined this activity satisfies the Evaluation Criteria.

Funding Summary / Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-Kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART program	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000
San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
American Whitewater	\$90,160	\$0	\$90,160
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	\$4,500	\$0	\$4,500
Conejos Water Conservancy District	\$0	\$5,000	\$0
Technical Advisory Team	\$0	\$10,600	\$0
Subtotal	\$169,660	\$15,600	\$169,660
CWCB Watershed Restoration Program	\$118,000	n/a	\$118,000
WSRF Rio Grande Basin Account	\$28,000	n/a	\$28,000
Totals	\$315,660	\$15,600	\$331,260

CWCB Project Manager: Chris Sturm

Rio Grande Basin Roundtable
623 Fourth Street
Alamosa, CO 81101
cwcd1971@hotmail.com

March 18, 2019

Becky Mitchell and CWCB Board of Directors
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Re: WSRF Application for the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plans

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

On behalf of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable (Roundtable), please accept this letter of support for the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plans (SMPs), sponsored by the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation (CRGRF). The Water Supply Reserve Fund Application for the SMPs was evaluated by the Roundtable and was unanimously approved by voting members at the March 12, 2019 Roundtable meeting.

The Roundtable recognizes that the SMPs address agricultural, environmental, recreation, and water administration needs facing the Rio Grande Basin. The project will result in the development of Stream Management Plans for the following stream reaches in the Rio Grande Basin: Rio Grande from Stony Pass to the Colorado state line, Conejos River from Platoro Reservoir to the confluence with the Rio Grande, and Saguache Creek from Stone Cellar Campground to the Town of Saguache. The prioritized stream reaches cover approximately 338 miles.

The Stream Management Plans build off previous studies and new data collection to identify projects that further collaborative efforts in the Rio Grande Basin. The SMPs will serve as a resource that communities in the Rio Grande Basin can use to improve stream conditions and function. The SMPs meet the following Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan Goals:

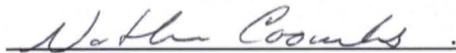
1. Protect, preserve, and/or restore the sustainability of the Rio Grande Basin watersheds by focusing on watershed health and ecosystem function.
2. Protect and preserve the doctrine of prior appropriation and vested water rights, and fully utilize Colorado's compact entitlements as specified under the Rio Grande and Costilla Creek Compacts.
4. Operate, maintain, rehabilitate, and create necessary infrastructure to meet the Basin's long-term water needs including storage.
5. Manage water use to sustain optimal agricultural economy throughout the Basin's communities.

6. Support the development of projects and methods that have multiple benefits for agricultural, municipal and industrial, and environmental and recreational water needs.
7. Meet new demands for water, to the extent practicable, without impacting existing water rights and compact obligations.
9. Make progress towards meeting applicable water quality standards throughout the Basin.
10. Promote water management and administrative practices that are adaptive, flexible, and responsive to optimize multiple benefits.
11. Protect, preserve, and enhance terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitats throughout the basin.
12. Conserve, restore, and maintain wetlands and riparian areas for the benefit of a healthy watershed.
13. Work to sustain active river flows throughout the year in cooperation with water users and administrators to restore and sustain ecological function of the rivers and floodplain habitats within the context of existing water rights and compact obligations.
14. Maintain and enhance water dependent recreational activities.

In addition to meeting many of the Rio Grande BIP goals, this SMP project aligns with the Colorado Water Plan's objective of developing SMPs for 80 percent of locally prioritized streams by 2030. It also supports the Colorado Water Plan's aim to identify and implement projects to meet community and agricultural water needs, while balancing the needs of the environment, and recreation.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nathan Coombs", followed by a horizontal line.

Nathan Coombs
Chair, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable



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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>		
Arkansas Ben Wade ben.wade@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3238	Gunnison North Platte South Platte Yampa/White Craig Godbout craig.godbout@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3210	Colorado Metro Rio Grande Southwest Megan Holcomb megan.holcomb@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3222

WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)	
✓	I acknowledge this request was recommended for CWCB approval by the sponsoring roundtable.
✓	I acknowledge I have read and understand the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines .
✓	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract . ⁽¹⁾
Application Documents	
✓	Exhibit A: Statement of Work ⁽²⁾ (<i>Word – see Template</i>)
✓	Exhibit B: Budget & Schedule ⁽²⁾ (<i>Excel Spreadsheet – see Template</i>)
✓	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽²⁾
✓	Map ⁽²⁾ (<i>See attached map</i>)
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
✓	Letters of Support (<i>See attached letter</i>)
Contracting Documents ⁽³⁾	
	Detailed/Itemized Budget ⁽³⁾ (<i>Excel Spreadsheet – see Template</i>)
	Certificate of Insurance ⁽⁴⁾ (<i>General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.</i>)
	Certificate of Good Standing ⁽⁴⁾
	W-9 Form ⁽⁴⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽⁴⁾ (<i>If applicant is individual, not company/organization</i>)
	Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form ⁽⁴⁾

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

(2) Required with application if applicable.

(3) Additional documentation providing a Detailed/Itemized Budget maybe required for contracting.

Applicants are encouraged to coordinate with the CWCB Project Manager to determine specifics.



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(4) 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:	May 2019
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	June 2019

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	
Name of Water Activity	Rio Grande, Conejos, and Saguache Stream Management Plans	
Approving Roundtable(s)		Basin Account Request(s) ⁽¹⁾
Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable		Water Supply Reserve Fund
Basin Account Request Subtotal		\$ 28,000
Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾		\$ 0
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)		\$ 28,000
Total Project Costs		\$ 331,260

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

Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
Mailing Address	623 Fourth St, Alamosa, CO 81101
FEIN	75-3169057



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Grantee's Organization Contact ⁽¹⁾	Emma Reesor
Position/Title	Executive Director
Email	emma@riograndeheadwaters.org
Phone	(719) 589-2230
Grant Management Contact ⁽²⁾	Emma Reesor
Position/Title	Executive Director
Email	emma@riograndeheadwaters.org
Phone	(719) 589-2230
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).
The Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, a non-profit organization, is the fiscal agent for the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP). The mission of the RGHRP is "to restore and conserve the historical functions and vitality of the Rio Grande in Colorado for improved water quality, agricultural water use, riparian habitat, wildlife and aquatic species habitat, recreation, and community safety, while meeting the Rio Grande Compact." The RGHRP was formed to implement the recommendations of the 2001 Study. Since formed, the RGHRP has improved the condition of the Rio Grande by partnering with landowners, diverse stakeholders, and multiple ditch companies.

Type of Eligible Entity (check one)
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.
<input type="checkbox"/> Public (Districts): authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises
<input type="checkbox"/> Private Incorporated: mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations
<input type="checkbox"/> Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organizations: broadly, any organization that is not part of the government
<input type="checkbox"/> Covered Entity: as defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes



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Type of Water Activity (check one)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Study
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implementation

Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Municipal/Industrial	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Needs Assessment	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education & Outreach	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	Explain:

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	Conejos, Alamosa, Rio Grande, Mineral, Hinsdale, San Juan, and Saguache Counties
Latitude	37.599883
Longitude	-106.1127

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.



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The Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plans will result in the development of stream management plans (SMPs) for the following reaches of priority streams in the Rio Grande Basin: Rio Grande from Stony Pass to the Colorado state line, Conejos River from Platoro Reservoir to the confluence with the Rio Grande, and Saguache Creek from Stone Cellar Campground to the Town of Saguache. The Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable's SMP Committee prioritized the project reaches, developed the project scope of work, and is committed to assisting in the project by participating in the technical advisory team (TAT). The TAT, which guides the SMP process, includes partners from water user groups, local environmental and recreation interests, and state and federal agencies.

The SMPs are interdisciplinary and stakeholder-driven surface water plans. Using a combination of existing and newly collected remote sensing and targeted sampling data, the SMPs are characterizing the physical and biological condition of prioritized streams. The SMPs also utilize surveys and local knowledge to identify ecological, recreational, and community values. Requested WSRF funds will be used for stakeholder engagement, quantifying flow recommendations, preparing the final SMP report, and grant management. This process will result in the development of recommendations to improve flows and physical conditions of priority streams for environmental, recreational, and community benefits.

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)	
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved	
✓	Other	Explain: Completed Stream Management Plan documents on Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek.

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](#) ⁽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).

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 Rio Grande Basin Stream Management Plans (SMPs), which are underway, support goals of the Colorado Water Plan, Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan, and Statewide Water Supply Initiative. The SMPs support the Colorado Water Plan objective to “cover 80 percent of the locally prioritized lists of rivers with stream management plans” (CWP, Section 6.6, pp. 6-178). The Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable’s SMP Committee prioritized the Rio Grande Basin SMP project reaches, developed the project scope of work, and is participating in the SMP TAT.

The goals identified in the SMPs will further the collaborative efforts of San Luis Valley communities to improve flows and physical conditions of priority streams for environmental, recreational, and community benefits. This multi-objective and collaborative effort supports the following Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan goals: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, (BIP Section 3, pp 58-59). For example, the Rio Grande SMPs are quantifying recommended environmental and recreational flows within the project area while also preserving existing water rights. In doing so, the Rio Grande SMPs will directly support the BIP goals 6, 7, and 11 (BIP Section 3, pp 58-59). The Rio Grande Basin SMPs are being developed in collaboration with the TAT, which is made up of a diverse group of water users, environmental representatives, and state and federal agencies. The collaboration of this group will result in the development of multi-objective projects. For this reason, the SMPs directly support goal 6 of the BIP, to “support the development of projects and methods that have multiple benefits for agricultural, municipal and industrial, and environmental and recreational water needs” (BIP Section 3, pp 58). Additionally, by creating an inventory of surface water diversion structures and prioritizing repairs or improvements for each, the SMPs will directly address the 4th BIP goal, which is to “operate, maintain, rehabilitate, and create necessary infrastructure to meet the Basin’s long-term water needs, including storage (BIP Section 3, pp 58).

Finally, the Rio Grande Basin SMPs also support the updated Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI). The draft *SWSI Update Technical Memorandum on Proposed Environment and Recreation Methodology Development* recommends that “SMPs be incorporated into the revised NCNAdb,” or Nonconsumptive Needs Assessment database (SWSI draft Environment and Recreation Methodology Development, p 11). The Rio Grande Basin SMPs will help fill gaps in environment and recreation needs and can be incorporated into the NCNAdb, thereby meeting one of the updated SWSI goals.

(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)
CWCB Watershed Restoration Program	\$ 118,000
Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART program (cash)	\$ 35,000
San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative (cash)	\$ 30,000



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San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District (cash)	\$ 10,000
American Whitewater (cash)	\$ 90,160
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation (cash)	\$ 4,500
Conejos Water Conservancy District (in-kind)	\$ 5,000
Technical Advisory Team (in-kind)	\$ 10,600
Total Match	\$ 303,260
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.	

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):
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 complementary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.



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The Rio Grande Basin Stream Management Plans build off previous studies and reports, as well as new data collection to identify projects that further collaborative efforts in the Rio Grande Basin. The SMPs will serve as a resource that communities in the Rio Grande Basin can use to improve stream conditions and function, thereby assisting CWCB programs. Related studies include, but are not limited to, those listed below.

- Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (2001)
- Rio Grande Natural Area River Condition Assessment (2016)
- Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment (anticipated completion: 2019)
- Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan (2015)
- Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex (2014)
- Colorado State Wildlife Action Plan (2105)
- San Luis Valley Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (2012)

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				
Applicant Name	Water Activity Name	Approving RT	CWCB Board meeting date	Contract number
CRGRF	Del Norte Riverfront Project	n/a		Not contracted yet
CRGRF	Del Norte Riverfront Project – Phase 1	n/a	CWCB Severance Fund Grant	POGG1 PDAA 201800000980
CRGRF	Rio Grande, Conejos River and Saguache Creek SMP	n/a	Jan-18	POGG1 PDAA 201800000791
CRGRF	Five Ditches Project	Rio Grande	Sep-17	CTGG1 2018-971
CRGRF	Rio Grande State Wildlife Area Design Project	Rio Grande	May-17	POGG1 2017-0001
CRGRF	Upper Rio Grande Assessment	Rio Grande	May-16	POGG1 2017-268



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CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 3 – Prairie Ditch	Rio Grande	Feb-14	CTGG12015-295
CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 2 – McDonald Ditch	Rio Grande	Sep-13	C150492
CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 1 – Plaza Plan	Rio Grande		
CRGRF	2009 Rio Grande Riparian Stabilization Project – Phase 4	Rio Grande		C150486
CRGRF	2008 Rio Grande Riparian Stabilization Project – Phase 3 and Alamosa County Riparian Revegetation Project	Rio Grande		
CRGRF	Lower Rio Grande Assessment	CO Healthy Rivers Fund		POGG1 PDAA 201500000000000000 260
CRGRF	Rio Grande Project – Cooperative with Southwest Conservation Corps	CO Healthy Rivers Fund		

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 Applicant, The Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, is not subject to TABOR limitations, as it is a Colorado nonprofit organization operating under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code



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Colorado Water Conservation Board	
Water Supply Reserve Fund	
<u>Exhibit A - Statement of Work</u>	
Date:	3/7/2019
Water Activity Name:	Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plans
Grant Recipient:	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, fiscal agent for the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP)
Funding Source:	Water Supply Reserve Fund Basin Account
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.)	
<p>The Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plans will result in the development of stream management plans (SMPs) for the following reaches of priority streams in the Rio Grande Basin: Rio Grande from Stony Pass to the Colorado state line, Conejos River from Platoro Reservoir to the confluence with the Rio Grande, and Saguache Creek from Stone Cellar Campground to the Town of Saguache. The Rio Grande Interbasin Roundtable's SMP Committee prioritized the project reaches, developed the project scope of work, and is committed to assisting in the project by participating in the technical advisory team (TAT). The TAT, which guides the SMP process, includes partners from water user groups, local environmental and recreation interests, and state and federal agencies.</p> <p>The SMPs are interdisciplinary and stakeholder-driven surface water plans. Using a combination of existing and newly collected remote sensing and targeted sampling data, the SMPs are characterizing the physical and biological condition of prioritized streams. The SMPs also utilize surveys and local knowledge to identify ecological, recreational, and community values. Requested WSRF funds will be used for stakeholder engagement, quantifying flow recommendations, preparing the final SMP report, and grant management. This process will result in the development of recommendations to improve flows and physical conditions of priority streams for environmental, recreational, and community benefits.</p>	
Objectives: (List the objectives of the project)	



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1. Maintain and build on the coalition of community partners engaged in stream management planning through frequent and robust stakeholder engagement throughout the project.
2. Summarize and obtain information regarding the biological, hydrological, and geomorphological condition of identified stream reaches in the Rio Grande watershed.
3. Define and prioritize environmental, recreational, and community values.
4. Develop goals to improve flows and physical conditions needed to support values.
5. Outline actions to achieve measurable progress toward maintaining or improving goals.
6. Identify opportunities and constraints for implementation of projects, and additional data needed to inform project development.

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
Task 1 - (Name) Stakeholder Engagement
Description of Task:
Maintain existing interest and continually build engagement in stream management planning by facilitating frequent and open conversations with diverse interests in the Rio Grande Basin.
Method/Procedure:
The project coordinator established a technical advisory team (TAT), which includes the existing Rio Grande Roundtable SMP Committee, partners from water user groups, local environment and recreation interests, and state and federal agencies, including CWCB, CPW, USFWS, USFS, BLM, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The coordinator provides project status updates and seeks feedback at regular organization meetings including the regular meeting of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, and Conejos Water Conservancy District. The coordinator also seeks feedback from the diverse water user groups including the Rio Grande Water Users Association, Conejos Water Users Association, Saguache Creek Water Users Association, and San Luis Valley Trout Unlimited. The coordinator and TAT will hold periodic meetings to review data and seek recommendations and feedback. These meetings and other status updates will be shared on the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable website, in newspapers, and on the radio. The project coordinator will continue to provide status updates and seek feedback from the TAT and community stakeholders throughout the SMP process.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)



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A representative and diverse coalition of community partners working to ensure the stream management planning process is completed in an open, inclusive manner with clear, actionable goals to protect and improve prioritized ecological, recreational, and community values.

CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)

CWCB will receive minutes from TAT meetings and documentation of stakeholder engagement.

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
Task 2 - (Name) Summarize Existing Information
Description of Task:
Review and summarize existing relevant information regarding the physical condition of the reaches, existing watershed plans and assessments, and land management directives.
Method/Procedure:
The project coordinator compiled existing information in an annotated bibliography and spreadsheet that outlines the known physical conditions of the stream reaches. Relevant studies and documents include (but are not limited to) the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan, Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) Plan, the RGNF Federal Reserve Water Rights Decree, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Plan, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Refuge Management Plan, 2017 Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project 2001 Master Restoration Plan, 2016 Lower Rio Grande Study, Rio Grande Natural Area Plan, Habitat Conservation Plan, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) aquatic sampling and stocking information, Groundwater Management Plans, and the diversion structure inventory of the Rio Grande and Conejos River completed with funding from CWCB in 2006. The coordinator arranged interviews with technical experts and resource managers to gather additional subject matter and interpret the documents.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
A compilation of known data regarding the biological, hydrological, geomorphological, and physical conditions of the study reaches, in the form of an annotated bibliography. A spreadsheet outlining existing data and gaps in information where baseline or follow-up sampling is needed.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)



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Documentation of information summary, including annotated bibliography and spreadsheet summarizing existing information and identified data gaps where further study is needed.

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
Task 3 - (Name) Biology, Hydrology, Geomorphology, and Physical Conditions Assessment
Description of Task:
Use a combination of targeted sampling and remote sensing to assess current biological, hydrological, geomorphological, and physical conditions of the study reaches.
Method/Procedure:
<p>The condition of the Rio Grande from the headwaters at Stony Pass to the CO state line has been thoroughly documented through the 2018 Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment, the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project 2001 Master Restoration Plan (2001 Study), 2016 Lower Rio Grande Study, and other management plans (Attachment A). Task 2 informed the coordinator of updates to the 2001 Study and the project coordinator initiated remote sensing and targeted sampling accordingly. The RGHRP and San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District are facilitating access to and assisting with characterization of diversion, headgate, and channel condition on the Rio Grande. The condition of Conejos River and Saguache Creek is largely undocumented. Therefore, the project coordinator, with input from the technical advisory team, developed a sampling strategy for documenting the condition of these rivers. The sampling strategy includes using field data and aerial imagery to break the river into homogenous subreaches, completing sampling at representative locations in each subreach that includes channel cross sections, pebble counts, plant community identification, macroinvertebrate sampling, assessments of floodplain function and connectivity, flow readings, and notes on the condition of structures such as bridges, diversions, and headgates within the floodplain. The Conejos Water Conservancy District has facilitated access to and assisted with characterization of the Conejos River, and the Saguache Creek Water Users Association has facilitated access to and assisted with characterization of Saguache Creek. Streamflow data is currently being compiled and analyzed using tabular and graphical methods for select locations on all three prioritized streams. A description of temporal and spatial hydrologic trends will be prepared for each reach, and flow adequacy for nonconsumptive and consumptive needs will be assessed in concert with the biological and geomorphological observations. Flow targets for recreational purposes are being determined using a boatable days study developed by American Whitewater. Flow targets for aquatic habitat are being determined using a combination of R2-Cross data and the input and knowledge of local fisheries biologists. The project coordinator has completed sampling within his expertise and is coordinating contractors, committee members, and technical experts to complete the remaining data collection. The coordinator is compiling and summarizing the data for the SMPs. The technical advisory team is reviewing the data and providing feedback on the findings and presentation of results, in an ongoing manner.</p>



Last Update: January 9, 2018

Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
A written assessment and associated maps and tables of biological, hydrological, geomorphological, and physical conditions of the study reaches on the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
CWCB will receive documentation of the completed assessments, as well as the data, if requested.

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<u>Task 4 - (Name)</u> Identify and Prioritize Ecological, Recreational, and Community Values
Description of Task:
Utilize community feedback, stakeholder engagement, data from Tasks 2 and 3, and a partnership with American Whitewater to identify the extent of recreation opportunities within the study reaches, summarize distribution of and habitat needs for aquatic habitat and species, define priority ecological and floodplain functions, and determine community values.
Method/Procedure:
The project coordinator and American Whitewater (AW) are working with the technical advisory team, agency partners, water users, recreational boaters and fishermen, and environmental interests to identify the location and types of river based recreation opportunities within the study reaches. Project partners will collaborate with American Whitewater (AW) to complete a boatable days study on the Rio Grande between Rio Grande Reservoir and the Del Norte gage and the Conejos River between Platoro Reservoir and the Mogote gage. The boatable days study will identify the flows needed for whitewater boats, rafts, kayaks, paddle boards, and fishing crafts, the frequency with which those flows are present, and potential changes in boatable days due to climate change and water projects. The project coordinator is working with Trout Unlimited, outfitters, fishermen, and CPW to characterize distribution of fish species, locations of and flows to support different types of fishing, and desired flows and physical conditions to support aquatic management objectives. The project coordinator and community stakeholders will review field data and identify specific locations of importance within the stream reaches for flood protection, upland and aquatic habitat, water quality protection, agricultural water diversions, groundwater recharge, and sediment transport capacity. The data developed in Tasks 2, 3, and 4 will be used by the technical advisory group and stakeholders to identify and prioritize recreation, ecological, and community values within the study reaches.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)



Last Update: January 9, 2018

An inventory and understanding of the interplay between the types and location of river-based recreation, aquatic habitat and species distribution, fluvial and floodplain functions, groundwater recharge, and agricultural water use in the study reaches. Prioritized ecological, recreational, and community values with spatial and temporal considerations.

CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)

List of prioritized ecological, recreational, and community values as well as recommendations to meet flow requirements for recreation and aquatic species.

Tasks

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

Task 5 - (Name) Develop Goals and Identify Methods for Implementation

Description of Task:

Utilize the assembled data regarding the physical condition of the stream reaches to develop goals and potential methods to improve and protect the identified ecological, recreation, and community values.

Method/Procedure:

The project coordinator will present the data assembled in Tasks 2, 3, and 4 to the technical advisory team, project cooperators, and different stakeholder groups. Feedback from partners will help determine if information gaps exist and, if so, identify the best methods for obtaining missing information. Additional information may be collected in a future phase of the project. The project partners will utilize the physical data and prioritized ecological, recreation, and community values to quantify numeric flow ranges and physical conditions to support values within each reach and subreach. The partners will determine the types of multi-purpose projects that could improve physical conditions, such as in-river structure updates, headgate automation, additional measurement devices, fish passage construction, furthering cooperative flow programs, riparian restoration, floodplain connectivity, flood protection, and aquifer recharge. Partners will also identify temporal, geographical, legal, or administrative constraints and opportunities that may limit or assist in the ability to meet goals and utilize implementation methods.

Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)

Well defined goals and methods to protect and improve the ecological, recreation, and community values in each of the stream reaches, with an understanding of limitations, constraints, and opportunities.

CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)



Last Update: January 9, 2018

Minutes from community meetings and lists of goals and actions identified during these meetings.

Tasks

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

Task 6 - (Name) Report Preparation and Project Administration

Description of Task:

Prepare SMP report. Administer the project effectively by completing all necessary contracts, status reports, and internal and external documents. Ensure Tasks are completed within approved costs and timelines.

Method/Procedure:

The SMP coordinator will compile and organize data, maps, and reports from Tasks 1-5 into the final SMP report. The RGHRP will administer the project and oversee the project coordinator. This includes completing contracts with the CWCB, project partners, and contractors; managing invoices, budgets, and reimbursement requests; and completing reports. Additionally, the RGHRP will perform Project oversight; making certain implementation is timely and in accordance with the Scope of Work.

Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)

All appropriate contracts, external and internal reports, and Project activities completed within planned period and anticipated costs.

CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)

Documentation of all appropriate contracts, project activities and costs, and final SMP report.

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.



Last Update: January 9, 2018

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: July 31, 2018



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:

Water Activity Name: Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plan

Grantee Name: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

<u>Task No.</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u>Description</u>	<u>Start Date</u> ⁽²⁾	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u> (cash & in-kind) ⁽³⁾	<u>WSRF Funds</u> (Basin)(3)	<u>Total</u>
1	Stakeholder Engagement	4/1/2018	10/31/2019	\$16,874	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 24,874.00
2	Summarize Existing Information	4/1/2018	6/31/2018	\$6,426	\$ -	\$ 6,426.00
3	Physical Conditions Assessment	6/1/2018	8/31/2019	\$130,000	\$ -	\$ 130,000.00
4	Identify and Prioritize Ecological and Recreation Value	1/1/2019	10/31/2019	\$76,260	\$ -	\$ 76,260.00
5	Develop Goals and Identify Methods for Implementation	3/1/2019	10/31/2019	\$48,200	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 56,200.00
6	Report Preparation and Project Administration	5/1/2018	12/31/2019	\$25,500	\$ 12,000.00	\$37,500
Total				\$303,260	\$28,000	\$331,260

(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

(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.

• Additional documentation providing a Detailed/Itemized Budget may be required for contracting. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate with the CWCB Project Manager to determine

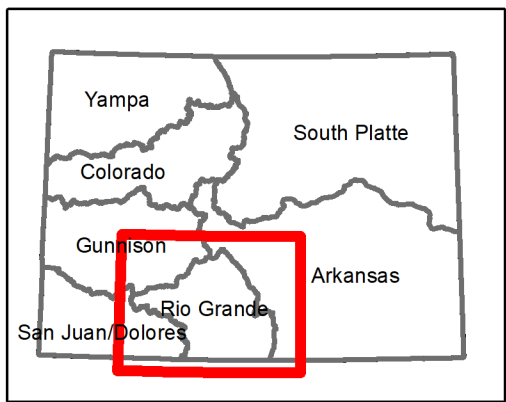
• Reimbursement eligibility commences upon the grantee's receipt of a Notice to Proceed (NTP)

• 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

• 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.

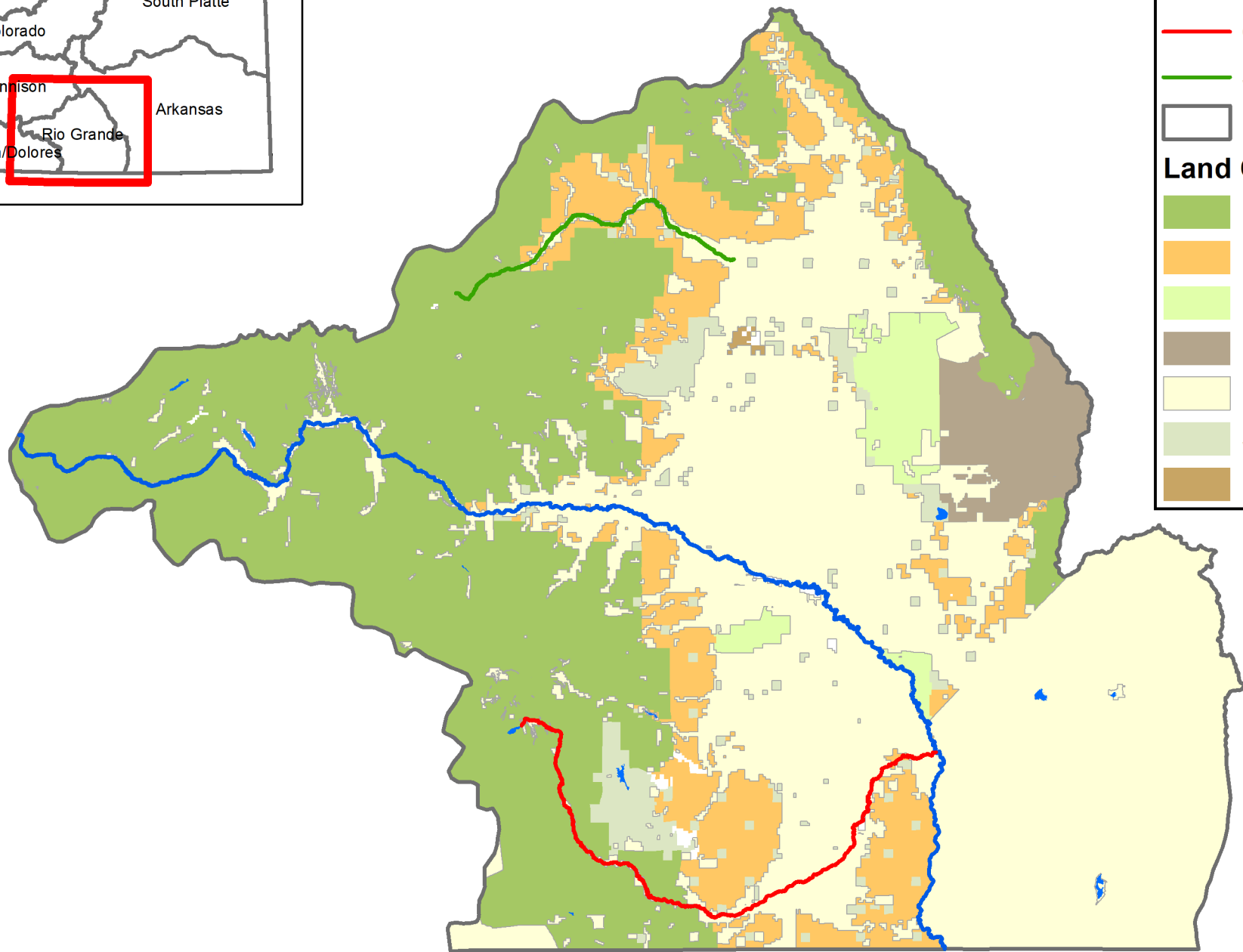


Legend

- Rio Grande
- Conejos River
- Saguache Creek
- Rio Grande Basin

Land Ownership

- USFS
- BLM
- USFWS
- NPS
- Private
- State
- BOR





March 20, 2019

Re: WSRF Application for the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plans

Dear Grant Committee,

American Whitewater is writing to express support for the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plan (SMP). Founded in 1954, American Whitewater (AW) is a national non-profit organization with a mission “to conserve and restore America’s whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely”. American Whitewater represents the interests of over 80,000 direct and affiliate club members that reside in, or visit, Colorado and place high value on the state’s rivers and creeks. We are writing in support of efforts to develop a long-term vision for these valued rivers and confirm our commitment of matching funds for the project.

American Whitewater has met with members of the Rio Grande Roundtable SMP committee and is coordinating the recreational flow needs assessment for the SMP. Together, the committee and AW will identify the focus areas and priorities of the assessment, which will include recreation reaches on the Rio Grande and Conejos Rivers. The committee and AW will work closely throughout the project.

American Whitewater and the SMP project coordinator are seeking public input and encouraging engagement from water users and residents in communities throughout the San Luis Valley in Colorado. We received a Colorado Water Plan Implementation grant totaling \$39,200 for a portion of the recreation assessment, of which we are matching with conditional financial support, in the amount of \$39,200 from Foundations and partner support in the amount of \$11,760. The total project budget for the recreation assessment is \$90,160.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Hattie Johnson, Interim Director
Colorado River Stewardship Program
American Whitewater
276 N 10th St Apt. A
Carbondale, CO 81623
hattie@americanwhitewater.org



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

P.O. Box 25007

Denver, CO 80225-0007

IN REPLY REFER TO:

84-27814

July 9, 2018

1.3.11

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

Attn: Emma Reesor

623 Fourth Street

Alamosa, CO 81101

Subject: Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) No. BOR-DO-18-F005 – WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018– Application Review Status, Your Application Titled, “Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plan” CWMP-023

Dear Ms. Reesor:

Thank you for submitting a Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I application under the WaterSMART program. The Bureau of Reclamation is pleased to inform you that your application was among those receiving the highest scores and is now being considered for award of a financial assistance agreement. Reclamation anticipates awarding Federal funds in the amount of \$35,000 for your proposed project this year. In working with you to develop your financial assistance agreement, Reclamation will closely review the activities outlined in your proposal to ensure that they are eligible for funding and that the proposed costs are allowable under financial assistance regulations. If some costs or activities are determined to be ineligible or unallowable, Reclamation will work with you to refine the scope of work and budget for the project.

Please note that this letter is not a final commitment of funding. A financial assistance agreement will not be executed and funds will not be awarded until all statutory and regulatory requirements have been met as described in Section E.2.5 - Pre-Award Clearances and Approvals of the FOA. No funding for implementation of the project will be made available until all necessary environmental compliance measures have been completed.

In addition, please note that in order for costs, including pre-award costs, to be eligible for inclusion in the agreement, the cost must meet the applicable administrative and cost principles criteria established in 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200. In particular, the procurement of goods and/or services must be compliant with the Procurement Standards (2 CFR §200.317 through §200.326) and contract costs must be compliant with 2 CFR §200.323 – Contract Cost and Price. A copy of the Procurement Standards, which include the contract cost and price regulations, and Appendix II from 2 CFR Part 200, which identifies mandatory

contract content, are attached for your reference. The Federal financial assistance regulations can be found online at www.ecfr.gov.

Also please be advised that as stated in Section F.4 of the FOA, we intend to post copies of successful applications as examples on Reclamation's website. While this generally does not raise any issues, we find it prudent to provide successful grant applicants with an opportunity to redact any sensitive information from their proposals prior to posting them on our website. As a rule, we remove the SF-424s; however, if there are any other items you would like redacted, please let me know by Wednesday, August 8, 2018. Should we not hear from you by this date we will assume that there are no objections to posting the full application.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Cooperative Watershed Management Program. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Ms. Avra Morgan, Program Coordinator, at 303-445-2906 or aomorgan@usbr.gov. The Grants Management Specialist responsible for awarding and administering your agreement will contact you to discuss the timeframe for the completion of your award. If you have questions concerning the next steps in awarding this agreement, please contact Mr. Darren Olson at 303-445-3697 or dolson@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,



Irene M. Hoiby
Grants Officer



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

February 14, 2018

Emma Reesor
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
623 Fourth Street
Alamosa, CO 81101

Dear Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation:

We are pleased to inform you that the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has approved your application, Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plan – Phase I, for funding pursuant to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (CWRP) in the amount of \$118,000.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Schmit
Administrative Assistant II
O 303-866-3441 ext. 3223
1313 Sherman Street, Rm. 718, Denver, CO 80203
Elizabeth.Schmit@state.co.us / cwcb.state.co.com



Conejos Water Conservancy District

P. O. Box 550

Manassa, CO 81141

Cwcd1971@hotmail.com

Phone 719-843-5261 fax 5452

February 8, 2018

Re: Letter of In-kind Support for the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek SMP
San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative

Dear Grant Review Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD) to express our support and commitment to participate in the creation of the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plan.

CWCD operates Platoro Reservoir, which provides water for the farms and ranches and an augmentation program on the Conejos River. We have also facilitated projects to improve the condition of gaging and diversion structures throughout the river with the result of improved flow management. In recent years, we have partnered with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Trout Unlimited to find opportunities to increase the winter flows from Platoro reservoir for the benefit of downstream fisheries.

Strategic restoration plans and goals have not yet been established for the Conejos River. As such, the CWCD is eager to work with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable's Stream Management Plan committee, and the community to assess the physical condition of the river, develop goals to improve the flows and riparian condition, and prioritize implementation projects. The CWCD will commit in-kind support through facilitation of community and stakeholder feedback, participation in planning meetings, and coordination of access for physical conditions assessments. We estimate this commitment as \$5,000.

The creation of a stream management plan for the Conejos will be a great accomplishment and resource for future projects. I encourage your support on this request for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nathan Coombs".

Nathan Coombs, Manager

SAN LUIS VALLEY CONSERVATION & CONNECTION INITIATIVE

A Community Re-Granting Program of

COLORADO OPEN LANDS LOR  FOUNDATION



RIO GRANDE
HEADWATERS LAND TRUST



WESTERN RIVERS
CONSERVANCY

April 17, 2018

Emma Reesor
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
623 Fourth St
Alamosa, CO 81101

Re: Grant Request for "2018 RGHRP Capacity and Stream Management Plan Project"

Dear Emma,

On behalf of the San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative, it is our pleasure to inform you that a grant has been awarded to the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation in the amount of \$50,000.

Please note that this is a single grant award for the project and purposes outlined in your grant application. In order to proceed with the grant, we ask that you sign and submit the Grant Agreement found on your online application dashboard within 14 days of this letter. Funds will be released within 15 business days of your grant agreement submission. Note that we will send grant funds to the address above. **If the funds should be sent to a different address, please notify us immediately.** By endorsing and depositing the check, you confirm your organization's intent to use these funds for the purpose designated in your grant application (and updated via email on 4/10/2018) namely, 2018 RGHRP Capacity and Stream Management Plan Project. Additionally, you affirm that no goods or services have been provided in exchange for the grant award.

Also please note that per the Initiative guidelines, you will be required to submit an interim grant report by **September 30, 2018**. We also require a final grant report by **May 31, 2019**. These reports can be found on your online dashboard. Please login to complete and submit your reports in a timely manner.

In addition, we invite you to provide any input you may have regarding the application process to: atattam@westernrivers.org, so that we can continue to improve our process for the future.

Finally, we will appreciate your recognition of the "San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative" in any of your outreach, press and communications regarding your project. **Please be sure to review your Grant Agreement for further information on press communications.**

All of us at the Initiative are excited to partner with Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation and look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

The Grantmaking Committee of the San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative:

Judy Lopez, Colorado Open Lands

Jake Caldwell, LOR Foundation

Rio de la Vista, for Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust

Dieter Erdmann, Western Rivers Conservancy

PS: Please note: If you are interested in applying to the Initiative in 2019, we will be reaching out to all applicants and interested parties with updated application date and deadline information in late 2018. Keep an eye on your email and www.westernrivers.org/slvcci for updates.

623 Fourth Street
Alamosa, CO 81101
(719) 589-2230
Heather@slvwcd.org



March 28, 2019

Heather R. Dutton - Manager

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

Re: WSRF Application for the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek SMPs

Dear CWCB Board of Directors,

I am writing to express the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District's (SLVWCD) support for the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation's (Foundation) application to the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF). The SLVWCD operates an augmentation program within five counties in the San Luis Valley. Through our operations, we replace injurious depletions to the Rio Grande caused by pumping of domestic, commercial, and municipal wells. Additionally, the SLVWCD works with partners in the local and state water communities to address timely issues such as groundwater sustainability, compliance with the Rio Grande Compact, and water supply protection. The SLVWCD partnered with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) almost 20 years ago to complete the 2001 Study, a restoration master plan for 91 miles of the Rio Grande. Since that time, the District has remained committed to implementation of the 2001 Study and supported efforts by the Foundation to improve river health in the Rio Grande Basin.

The Foundation's proposed project provides an opportunity to build on existing data to assess the condition of the Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek, to work with the community to develop goals to protect the important values associated with those river systems, and to finalize the Stream Management Plans for these rivers. Of critical importance is the identification and implementation of projects to protect the quality and quantity of Colorado's water supply in the Rio Grande Basin. The SLVWCD is an active partner in the stream management planning efforts by providing staff time for the technical advisory team. The SLVWCD will also contribute \$10,000 to the project and will continue to partner on implementation of efforts to protect the priorities recognized through the project.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Foundation's application for funds to continue to the important effort to develop SMPs .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather R. Dutton".

Heather Dutton

Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project
623 Fourth Street
Alamosa, CO 81101
(719) 589-2230
emma@riograndeheadwaters.org



March 19, 2019

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

Dear CWCB Board of Directors,

I am writing this letter to confirm the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation's (CRGRF) financial contribution to the Rio Grande, Conejos River and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plan (SMP). The CRGRF is the fiscal agent for the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP), which has a proven track record of successfully managing projects to improve the condition of the Rio Grande through collaboration with local, state, and federal partners. The RGHRP is managing the Rio Grande Basin SMPs.

The CRGRF has committed to contributing \$4,500 cash match towards the completion of the SMP. These types of watershed planning efforts are vital to our ongoing success as an organization and will result in the identification, development, and implementation of projects that improve habitat, recreation, water quality, irrigation infrastructure and water management.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Emma Reesor
Executive Director, CRGRF