



Water Plan Grant Application

Lat: 37.53 N
Long: 106.7 W



L O C A T I O N	
County/Countries:	Mineral & Rio Grande
Drainage Basin:	Rio Grande

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$53,786
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$25,800
Recommended amount:	\$25,800
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$19,636
Applicant Match:	\$8,350
Project Type(s): Construction	
Project Category(Categories): Environmental & Recreation	
Measurable Result: approx. 2 miles protected and enhanced stream miles	

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."

Park Creek is an important multi-use recreational area to the Rio Grande Basin, popular with campers, anglers, RVs, and OHVs. Dispersed camping and informal river access points have resulted in the removal of riparian vegetation and erosion of streambanks. Additionally, a well-used stream crossing and an OHV unloading area located near the stream have increased sediment inputs to Park Creek. Further, resource damage to the watershed could result in the USFS closing the area to camping, which would be devastating to the recreation community.

This project combines structural improvements and restoration efforts with an educational campaign geared towards area recreators. The partnership seeks CWP Grant funds to (1) increase education efforts, (2) construct barriers to focus camping away from eroded areas, (3) harden the Forest Service Road 390 crossing and approach to crossing of Park Creek, (4) harden the OHV unloading and parking area, and (5) stabilize banks and restore riparian vegetation.

This project follows the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment, funded in part by the CWCB. The assessment recommended the Park Creek Watershed Improvement as a top priority.





COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

**Water Plan Grant - Exhibit B
Budget and Schedule**

Prepared Date: 1/28/2019

Name of Applicant: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

Name of Water Project: Park Creek Improvement Project

Project Start Date: May 2019

Project End Date: December 2019

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	Design and Permitting	May 2019	July 2019	\$ -	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 3,850.00
2	Education and Outreach	May 2019	November 2019	\$ -	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,350.00
3	Concentration of Dispersed Recreation in Uplands	August 2019	October 2019	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 3,316.00	\$ 7,516.00
4	Construction of Hardened FS Road 390 Stream Crossing	August 2019	October 2019	\$ 12,400.00	\$ 10,200.00	\$ 22,600.00
5	Hardening of OHV Unloading and Parking Area at Fox Creek Bridge	August 2019	October 2019	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
6	Streambank Stabilization and Riparian Revegetation	August 2019	October 2019	\$ -	\$ 7,520.00	\$ 7,520.00
7	Project Management and Administration	May 2019	December 2019	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 5,950.00
Total				\$25,800	\$27,986	\$53,786

Last Updated: November 2018

Performance Measures

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 Water Plan Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the 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 purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per Water Plan 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 Water Plan 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 Updated: November 2018

Deliverable:

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

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.

Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports: The applicant 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.

Final Report: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant'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.

The CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the 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 purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

Payment

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and must include invoices for all work completed. 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.

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this contract are not reimbursable. The last 10% of the entire grant will be paid out when the final deliverable has been received. All products, data and information developed as a result of this contract must be provided to CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation.

Last Updated: November 2018

Method/Procedure:
<p>Just north of Fox Creek Bridge is a particularly problematic stretch of eroded streambank, which will be stabilized through a combination of channel shaping and the installation of rock barbs and willow transplants. Construction of the bank stabilization will be completed either in house by the RGNF crew or by a hired contractor.</p> <p>In addition, the RGNF staff leads will work with the RGHRP to organize volunteer work days to complete riparian and uplands revegetation at targeted locations throughout the watershed. Native revegetation will include the planting of willow transplants and reseeding areas where grass and vegetation has been removed.</p>
Deliverable:
Improved streambank stability and riparian vegetation condition. Reduced erosion and sediment inputs to Park Creek.

Tasks
Task 7 – Project Management and Administration
Description of Task:
Complete Project oversight, management, and partner and volunteer coordination. Complete all necessary contracts, status reports, and internal and external documents. Ensure tasks are completed within approved costs and timelines.
Method/Procedure:
The RGHRP will administer and manage the Park Creek Watershed Improvement Project. This includes completing contracts with Project funders and contractors; managing budgets and reimbursement requests; coordinating project partners and volunteers; and completing periodic reports. Additionally, the RGHRP will perform Project oversight, making certain Project design and implementation is timely and accurate.

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Deliverable:
A hardened rock and gravel stream crossing on FSR 390. Reduced streambank erosion and sediment inputs. Improved water quality and road quality.

Tasks
Task 5 – Hardening of OHV Unloading and Parking Area at Fox Creek Bridge
Description of Task:
Construct a hardened OHV unloading and parking area at Fox Creek Bridge.
Method/Procedure:
The OHV unloading area at Fox Creek Bridge is heavily used, but has minimal infrastructure. Its location directly adjacent to the stream, in combination with heavy use, has resulted in significant sediment input into Park Creek. RGNF road crew will harden the surface of this unloading area with gravel and define the parking area.
Deliverable:
A hardened gravel OHV unloading and parking area. Reduced sediment inputs and protected riparian vegetation.

Tasks
Task 6 – Streambank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration
Description of Task:
Implement streambank stabilization and habitat restoration at critical locations along Park Creek.

Last Updated: November 2018

Tasks	
Method/Procedure:	
	<p>RGNF staff leads will work with the RGHRP to coordinate the construction of a combination of boulders, split-rail fences, and u-channels that will be strategically placed to focus camping away from the riparian area. The RGNF roads crew will install large rock boulders at key locations to concentrate dispersed camping and ATV/vehicle usage in designated upland areas. The RGNF and RGHRP will coordinate a volunteer day in partnership with the San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited to construct at least 192 feet of split rail fence to further assist in protecting riparian areas and focusing dispersed camping and recreation activities in the uplands. Finally, u-channel posts will be installed to close social trails causing resource damage throughout the watershed.</p>
Deliverable:	
	<p>The protection of up to 2 miles of Park Creek from the impacts of dispersed recreation through the construction of 192 feet of split-rail fence, 20 u-channel posts, and 20 large boulders.</p>

Tasks	
Task 4 – Hardening of FSR 390 Stream Crossing	
Description of Task:	
	<p>Construct a hardened stream crossing where Forest Service Road 390 crosses Park Creek.</p>
Method/Procedure:	
	<p>The FSR 390 stream crossing of Park Creek is well used by motorists, but the streambed is finely grained, resulting in a muddy, rutted area. To avoid the mud, motorists go around the designated crossing, exacerbating impacts to the surrounding riparian area and increasing sediment input to the creek. A contractor will be hired to construct a rock and gravel stream crossing on FSR 390 to mitigate these problems. In addition, the stretches leading up to the stream crossing will be regraded and hardened with gravel to minimize sediment issues and improve road quality.</p>

Last Updated: November 2018

Tasks	
Task 2 – Education and Outreach	
Description of Task:	
Develop and implement an educational campaign to inform community members and recreators on restoration efforts and “Leave No Trace” principals.	
Method/Procedure:	
<p>Interpretive educational signage will be developed by project partners and installed at key locations along Park Creek. Signage will educate recreators on the restoration efforts included in this project and “Leave No Trace” principles and direct recreation away from the riparian area and into the uplands. Specifically, a large sign will be installed near the Hwy 160 turnoff, and smaller signs will be installed throughout the reach from the Fox Creek Bridge down to the south end of Trail Park. Potential key locations include the unloading area at the bridge, the FSR 390 road crossing, newly closed trails through the riparian area, and dispersed camping spots.</p> <p>In addition to signage, this task also includes outreach to local recreation user groups and the organization of a series of volunteer work days. Volunteers will aid in fence building and revegetation, as described in Tasks 3 and 6, and will be educated on the purpose of the restoration efforts.</p>	
Deliverable:	
The installation of 7 interpretive signs at key locations across the watershed. A community that utilizes sustainable recreation practices and is better informed of local efforts to protect watershed health.	

Tasks	
Task 3 – Concentration of Camping and Trails in Uplands	
Description of Task:	
Construct a combination of split-rail fence, u-channel, and boulder barriers along the Park Creek watershed.	

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Project Objectives:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Protect riparian habitat throughout the Park Creek Watershed by concentrating dispersed recreation access to designated upland areas. 2) Educate recreators about restoration efforts and “Leave no Trace” principles. 3) Improve stream condition, water quality, and aquatic habitat by reducing sediment input through the hardening the Fox Creek Bridge OHV unloading area and FSR 390 stream crossing. 4) Improve riparian condition through targeted streambank stabilization and riparian revegetation.

Tasks
Task 1 – Design and Permitting
Description of Task:
Complete designs, permitting, and NEPA compliance for the project elements, which include the hardening of the FSR 390 stream crossing, the hardening of the OHV unloading and parking area, and the streambank stabilization.
Method/Procedure:
Rio Grande National Forest staff will finalize designs for the construction elements of the project, including the hardening of the FSR 390 stream crossing, the hardening of the OHV unloading and parking area, and the streambank stabilization. RGNF staff will complete required NEPA compliance for all project elements. RGNF staff will work with the RGHRP to secure the necessary US Army Corps 404 Permit.
Deliverable:
Designs, required permits, and NEPA compliance for the hardening of the FSR 390 stream crossing, the hardening of the OHV unloading and parking area, and the streambank stabilization.

Last Updated: November 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Statement Of Work

Date:	2/1/2019
Name of Grantee:	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
Name of Water Project:	Park Creek Watershed Improvement Project
Funding Source:	Colorado Water Plan Grant, Environmental & Recreation Category
Water Project Overview:	
<p>Located within the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) Divide Ranger District, the Park Creek watershed has historically received a high amount of dispersed recreational use. In addition, the area is part of an active cattle allotment and has seen a relatively high amount of timber harvest in the past. The cumulative impacts of these activities have resulted in less than optimum watershed conditions, including high sediment input to the stream, compacting of soils, and degradation to riparian vegetation.</p> <p>This partnership project seeks to mitigate the effects of these activities through comprehensive efforts, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Education of area recreators through outreach efforts, volunteer work days, and the installation of education signage to explain restoration efforts and promote "Leave No Trace" principles throughout the project area; 2) Use of boulders, split-rail fences, and u-channels to focus camping in upland areas; 3) Hardening the Forest Service Road 390 crossing of Park Creek and the approach to the crossing; 4) Hardening the OHV unloading and parking area at Fox Creek Bridge; 5) Bank stabilization and riparian revegetation. <p>These actions will improve the condition of the watershed by concentrating recreational use to designated upland areas, restoring lengths of stream that have been degraded, and reducing sediment input by stabilizing streambanks and hardening key road surfaces close to Park Creek.</p>	



San Luis Valley

January 28, 2019

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

Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant Application for the Park Creek Watershed Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Sturm,

The San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is excited to support the Park Creek Watershed Improvement Project and the corresponding application to your program. As a supporter of recreation and watershed health, TU recognizes the importance of this Project in keeping a popular recreation area open while caring for and improving stream conditions and riparian health along Park Creek. We firmly believe this project will benefit both fish and wildlife and recreators.

We feel this project is directly in line with Trout Unlimited's mission "To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds." Many of our chapter members enjoy fishing in this particular area along Park Creek and have become concerned about the habitat degradation that has been increasingly occurring. Our chapter is excited to part of a project to protect and restore this area. We feel this project will improve the experience for all users of this area as well as improve and protect the habitat that is vitally important for stream health.

Because we believe in this project, our chapter of Trout Unlimited is also committed to participating in volunteer work days to support project implementation, including building fences and revegetating degraded sections of the stream. We are excited to partner in this way with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project and the Rio Grande National Forest to help bring this project to fruition.

The Park Creek Watershed Improvement Project is an investment in our community and our watershed. Thank you for your consideration and support

Whole Heartedly,

Mark Seaton

President, San Luis Valley Trout Unlimited



Figure 3. A dispersed camping site adjacent to Park Creek, demonstrating the compacting of soils and removal of riparian vegetation that exists throughout the area.



Figure 4. An example of social trails in the area, which cause significant resource damage in the watershed.

a)



b)



Figure 2. FSR 390 stream crossing that will be hardened with gravel (a) and the stretch of road approaching it (b).

PHOTOS



Figure 1. Eroding bank, exacerbated by overuse, along Park Creek.






Dispersed Recreation Sites
on Park Creek
Section 3

Section3


Park Creek



Legend

-  Dispersed Recreation Sites
-  Park Creek
-  South Fork Rio Grande
-  Road
-  Unidentified_Forest_Routes

N



0 500 1,000 Feet


parkcreeksec3.mxd
6/11/18


Dispersed Recreation Sites
on Park Creek
Section 2


Section 2





Legend


 Dispersed Recreation Sites

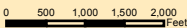
 Park Creek

 South Fork Rio Grande

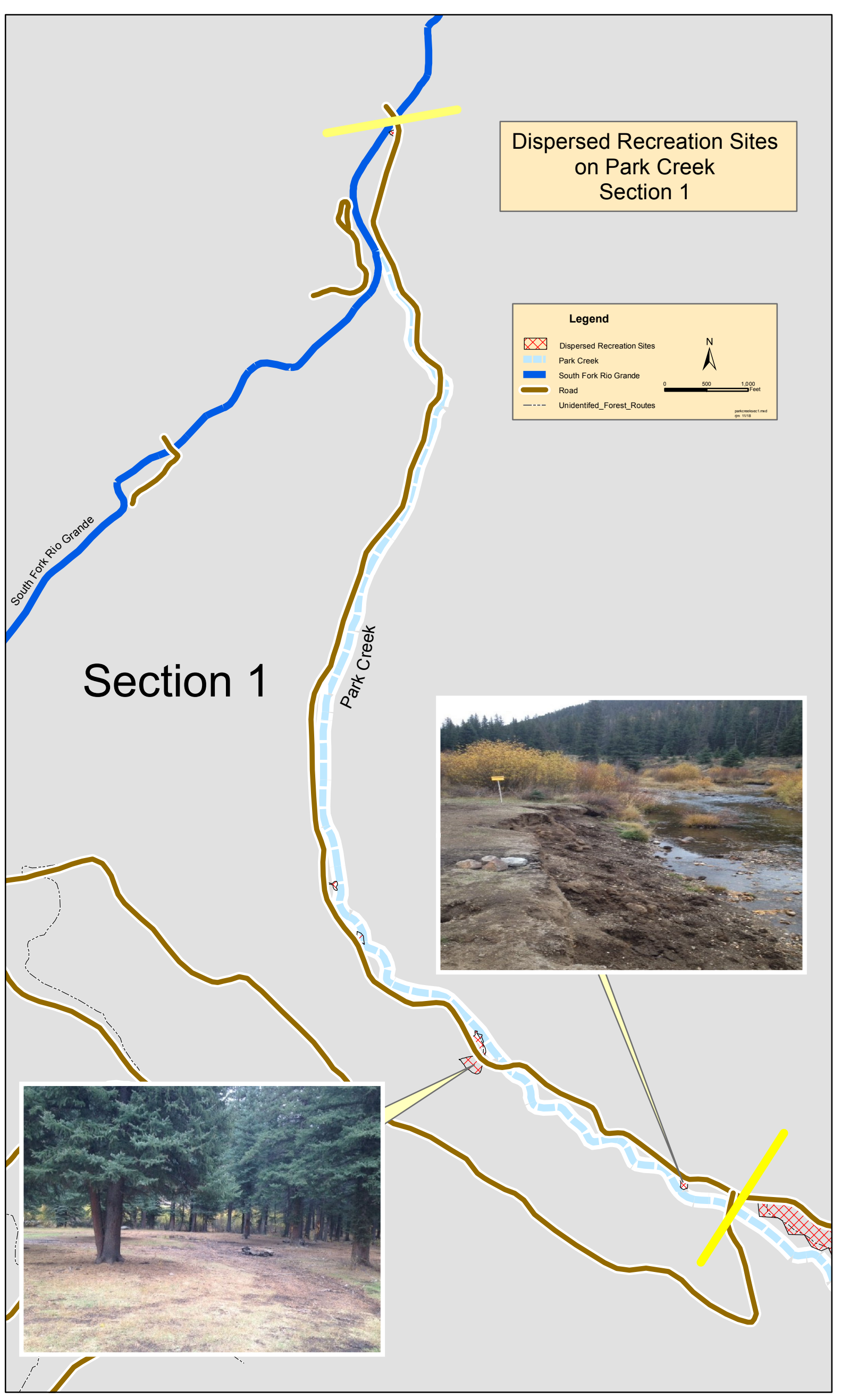
 Road

 Unidentified_Forest_Routes


N


0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

parkcreeksec2.mxd
(9m, 10/18)



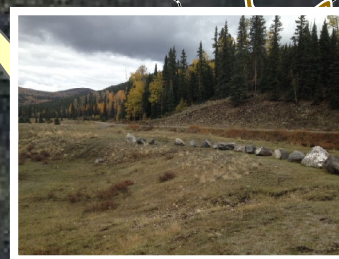
Dispersed Recreation Sites on Park Creek

(various logos, etc.)

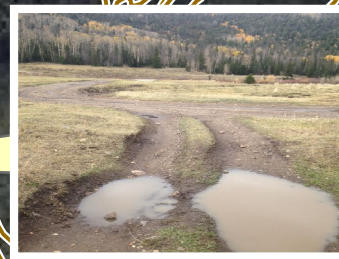
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Legend

- Dispersed Recreation Sites
- Park Creek
- South Fork Rio Grande
- Road
- Unidentified_Forest_Routes



0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

parkcreek.mxd
rjm 11/18

PROJECT MAPS

RIO GRANDE BASIN Location Map

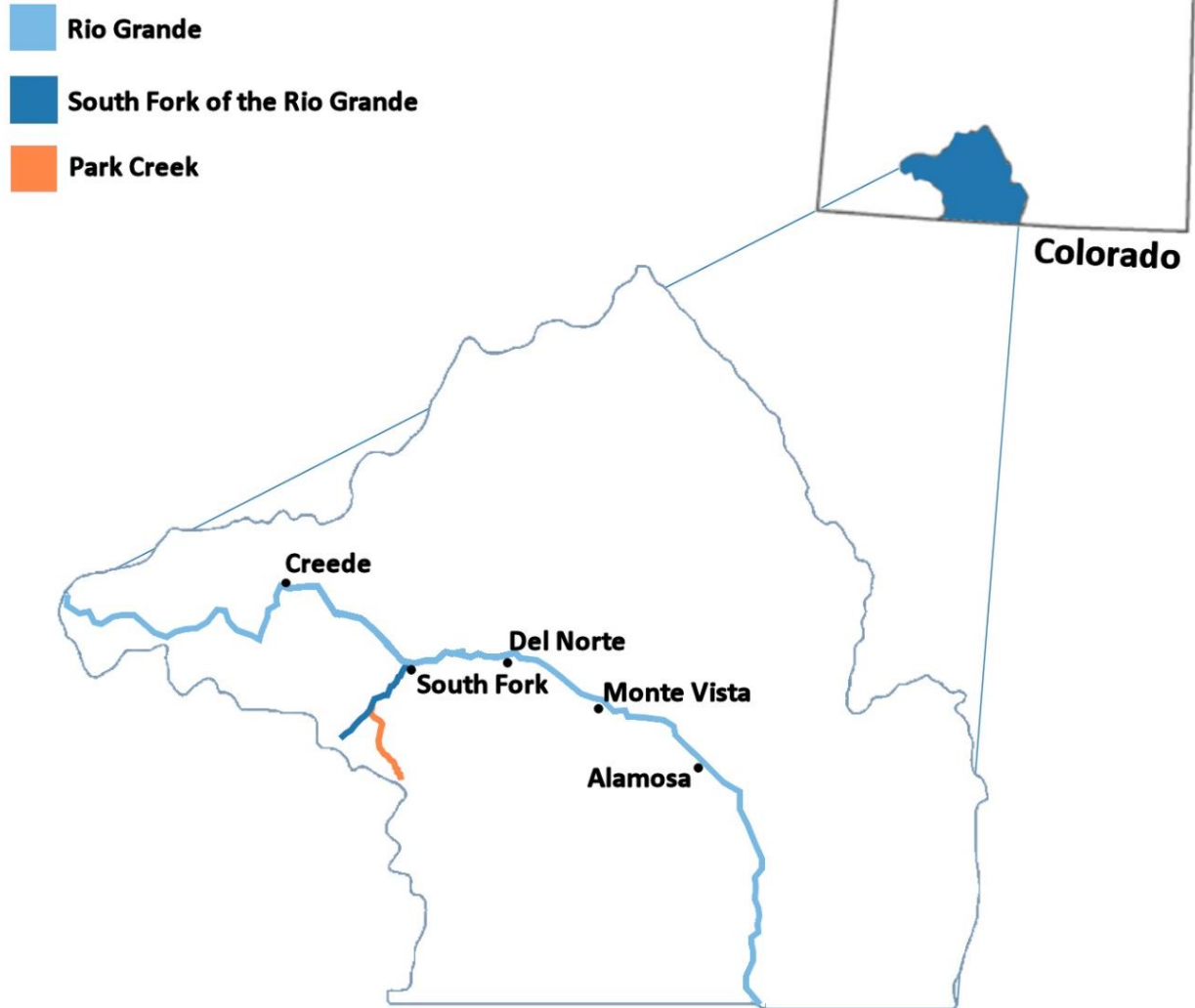


Exhibit C: Supporting Documents

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Last Updated: June 2018

(1) Required with application.

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

Last Updated: June 2018

	3 and Alamosa County Riparian Revegetation Project			
CRGRF	Lower Rio Grande Assessment	CO Healthy Rivers Fund		POGG1 PDAA 2015000000000000 0260
CRGRF	Rio Grande Project – Cooperative with Southwest Conservation Corps	CO Healthy Rivers Fund		

Taxpayer Bill of Rights	
The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect your application.	
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.	

Submittal Checklist	
X	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract .
Exhibit A	
	Statement of Work ⁽¹⁾
X	Budget & Schedule ⁽¹⁾
-	Engineer's statement of probable cost (projects over \$100,000)
X	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit C	
X	Map (if applicable) ⁽¹⁾
X	Photos/Drawings/Reports
X	Letters of Support (Optional) – Trout Unlimited
	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) ⁽²⁾
	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State ⁽²⁾
	W-9 ⁽²⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽²⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
Engagement & Innovation Grant Applicants ONLY	
	Engagement & Innovation Supplemental Application ⁽¹⁾

Last Updated: June 2018

Related Studies

Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water project is complementary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

The Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment (URGWA), funded in part by CWCB, sought to assess the conditions of the Upper Rio Grande Watershed from the headwaters to South Fork, CO and identify priority projects in this area, complementing the RGHRP's 2001 Study and the Lower Rio Grande Study. The URGWA included studies of the adjacent uplands, riparian habitat, geomorphology, infrastructure, recreation, water quality, flow regimes, and aquatic habitat within the Assessment area. Based on the results of the resource evaluations, the URGWA recommended the prioritization of projects that "protect and restore areas of overuse from dispersed recreation through restoration projects, educational campaigns, management of dispersed camping sites, and the closure of unauthorized trails" (URGWA, Chapter 1). Further, the URGWA found that "dispersed recreation is a top priority of concern in the Park Creek area," as campers and RVs compact the soil along the banks and degrade the area, and signage in the area is minimal (URGWA, Chapter 7.3).

In addition to the recommendations of the URGWA, the Park Creek Watershed Improvement Project is a priority of the RGNF and their planning efforts.

Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding

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; 6) Percentage of other CWCB funding for your overall project.

Applicant Name	Water Activity Name	Approving RT	CWCB Board meeting date	Contract number
CRGRF	Del Norte Riverfront Project	n/a	November 2018	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	January 2018	POGG1 PDAA 201800000791
CRGRF	Five Ditches Project	Rio Grande	September 2017	CTGG1 2018-971
CRGRF	Rio Grande State Wildlife Area Design Project	Rio Grande	May 2017	POGG1 2017-0001
CRGRF	Upper Rio Grande Assessment	Rio Grande	May 2016	POGG1 2017-268
CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 3 – Prairie Ditch	Rio Grande	February 2014	CTGG12015-295
CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 2 – McDonald Ditch	Rio Grande	September 2013	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	Rio Grande		

Last Updated: June 2018

Park Creek is an important multi-use recreational area to the Rio Grande Basin, popular with campers, anglers, RVs, and OHVs. Dispersed camping and informal river access points have resulted in the removal of riparian vegetation and erosion of streambanks. Additionally, a well-used stream crossing and an OHV unloading area located near the stream have increased sediment inputs to Park Creek. Further resource damage to the watershed could result in the USFS closing the area to camping, which would be devastating to the recreation community.

In order to maintain the area for recreation, while protecting and improving the condition of the watershed, the RGNF and RGHRP have partnered to develop comprehensive solutions to the impacts facing the watershed. The project combines structural improvements and restoration efforts with an educational campaign geared towards area recreators. In addition, the project will engage local recreational users from groups such as the San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited in a series of volunteer work days to assist with project implementation and further educate the community about sustainable recreation practices. This collaborative effort will address environmental, recreational, and educational needs facing the Park Creek watershed and broader Rio Grande Basin.

Project activities meet Colorado Water Plan Critical Goal F, "Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation," which seeks to enhance environmental and recreational economic values, protect healthy environments, promote protection and restoration of water quality, and protect and restore critical watersheds (Colorado Water Plan, Chapter 10). The Project also meets the following Colorado Water Plan goals (Colorado Water Plan, Chapter 10):

1. Colorado's Water Plan values a productive economy that supports vibrant and sustainable cities; viable and productive agriculture; and a robust skiing, recreation, and tourism industry
3. Colorado's Water Plan values a strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers, streams, and wildlife.

In addition to meeting Colorado Water Plan goals, the Project meets the following Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan goals (Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan, Chapter 3):

1. Protect, preserve, and/or restore the sustainability of the Rio Grande Basin watersheds by focusing on watershed health and ecosystem function.
6. Support the development of projects and methods that have multiple benefits for agricultural, municipal and industrial, and environmental and recreational water needs.
8. Establish a long-term education and outreach effort for water use and needs in the San Luis Valley/Rio Grande Basin.
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.
14. Maintain and enhance water-dependent recreational activities.

When complete, the project will not only improve and protect the health of the Park Creek watershed, but also encourage campers and recreators to act as stewards of the area's natural resources.

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Measurable Results		
To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable:		
	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)	
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms	
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning	
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity	
7	Other	Interpretive signs installed at key areas throughout the Park Creek watershed
1	Other	Hardened road crossing
1	Other	Hardened OHV unloading and parking area
2	Other	Miles of protected and enhanced streambanks and riparian areas

Water Project Justification
Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan , the most recent Statewide Water Supply Initiative , and the applicable Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan . 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).
The proposed water project shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;)

Last Updated: June 2018

Location of Water Project	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	Mineral, Rio Grande
Latitude	37°32'0.40"N
Longitude	106°41'59.70"W

Water Project Overview
<p>Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). Include a description of the project and what the CWP Grant funding will be used for specifically (e.g., studies, permitting process, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project, where applicable. 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, and area of habitat improvements, where applicable. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain.</p> <p>The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.</p>
<p>Located within the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) Divide Ranger District, the Park Creek watershed has historically received a high amount of dispersed recreational use. In addition, the area is part of an active cattle allotment and has seen a relatively high amount of timber harvest in the past. The cumulative impacts of these activities have resulted in less than optimum watershed conditions, including high sediment input to the stream, compacting of soils, and degradation to riparian vegetation.</p> <p>This partnership project seeks to mitigate the effects of these activities through comprehensive efforts, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Education of area recreators through outreach efforts, volunteer work days, and the installation of education signage to explain restoration efforts and promote "Leave No Trace" principles throughout the project area; 2) Use of boulders, split-rail fences, and u-channels to focus camping in designated upland areas; 3) Hardening the Forest Service Road 390 crossing of Park Creek and the approach to the crossing; 4) Hardening the OHV unloading and parking area at Fox Creek Bridge; 5) Bank stabilization and riparian revegetation. <p>These actions will improve the condition of the watershed by concentrating recreational use to designated upland areas, restoring lengths of stream that have been degraded, and reducing sediment input by stabilizing streambanks and hardening key road surfaces close to Park Creek.</p>

Last Updated: June 2018

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: Private parties may be eligible for funding.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-governmental organizations (NGO): Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Covered Entity: As defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes .

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Construction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identified Projects and Processes (IPP)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks)		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Storage - Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s): Tasks 1-7</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	Explain:

Last Updated: June 2018

Applicant & Grantee Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
Mailing Address	623 Fourth St, Alamosa, CO 81101
FEIN	75-3169057
Organization Contact	Emma Reesor
Position/Title	Executive Director
Email	emma@riograndheadwaters.org
Phone	719-589-2230
Grant Management Contact	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	
Description of Grantee/Applicant	
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).	
<p>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.</p>	

Last Updated: June 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant Application

Instructions

To receive funding for a Water Plan Grant, applicant must demonstrate how the project, activity, or process (collectively referred to as “project”) funded by the CWCB will help meet the measurable objectives and critical actions in the Water Plan. Grant guidelines are available on the CWCB website.

If you have questions, please contact CWCB at (303) 866-3441 or email the following staff to assist you with applications in the following areas:

Water Storage Projects
Conservation, Land Use Planning
Engagement & Innovation Activities
Agricultural Projects
Environmental & Recreation
Projects

Anna.Mauss@state.co.us
Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us
Ben.Wade@state.co.us
Alexander.Funk@state.co.us
Chris.Sturm@state.co.us

FINAL SUBMISSION: Submit all application materials in one email to

waterplan.grants@state.co.us

in the original file formats [Application (word); Statement of Work (word); Budget/Schedule (excel)]. Please do not combine documents. In the subject line, please include the funding category and name of the project.

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	
Name of Water Project	Park Creek Watershed Improvement Project	
CWP Grant Request Amount	\$ 25,800	
San Luis Valley Conservation Connection Initiative (February 2019 application) (Cash)	\$ 10,000	
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation (Cash)	\$ 8,350	
United States Forest Service (In-kind)	\$ 6,900	
Volunteer Support (In-kind)	\$ 2,736	
Total Project Cost	\$ 53,786	



San Luis Valley

January 28, 2019

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

Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant Application for the Park Creek Watershed Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Sturm,

The San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is excited to support the Park Creek Watershed Improvement Project and the corresponding application to your program. As a supporter of recreation and watershed health, TU recognizes the importance of this Project in keeping a popular recreation area open while caring for and improving stream conditions and riparian health along Park Creek. We firmly believe this project will benefit both fish and wildlife and recreators.

We feel this project is directly in line with Trout Unlimited's mission "To conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds." Many of our chapter members enjoy fishing in this particular area along Park Creek and have become concerned about the habitat degradation that has been increasingly occurring. Our chapter is excited to part of a project to protect and restore this area. We feel this project will improve the experience for all users of this area as well as improve and protect the habitat that is vitally important for stream health.

Because we believe in this project, our chapter of Trout Unlimited is also committed to participating in volunteer work days to support project implementation, including building fences and revegetating degraded sections of the stream. We are excited to partner in this way with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project and the Rio Grande National Forest to help bring this project to fruition.

The Park Creek Watershed Improvement Project is an investment in our community and our watershed. Thank you for your consideration and support

Whole Heartedly,

Mark Seaton

President, San Luis Valley Trout Unlimited



Figure 3. A dispersed camping site adjacent to Park Creek, demonstrating the compacting of soils and removal of riparian vegetation that exists throughout the area.



Figure 4. An example of social trails in the area, which cause significant resource damage in the watershed.

a)



b)



Figure 2. FSR 390 stream crossing that will be hardened with gravel (a) and the stretch of road approaching it (b).

PHOTOS



Figure 1. Eroding bank, exacerbated by overuse, along Park Creek.

Dispersed Recreation Sites
on Park Creek
Section 3

Section3

Park Creek



Legend

- Dispersed Recreation Sites
- Park Creek
- South Fork Rio Grande
- Road
- Unidentified_Forest_Routes

N

0 500 1,000 Feet

parkcreek3.mxd
6/11/18

Dispersed Recreation Sites
on Park Creek
Section 2

Section 2

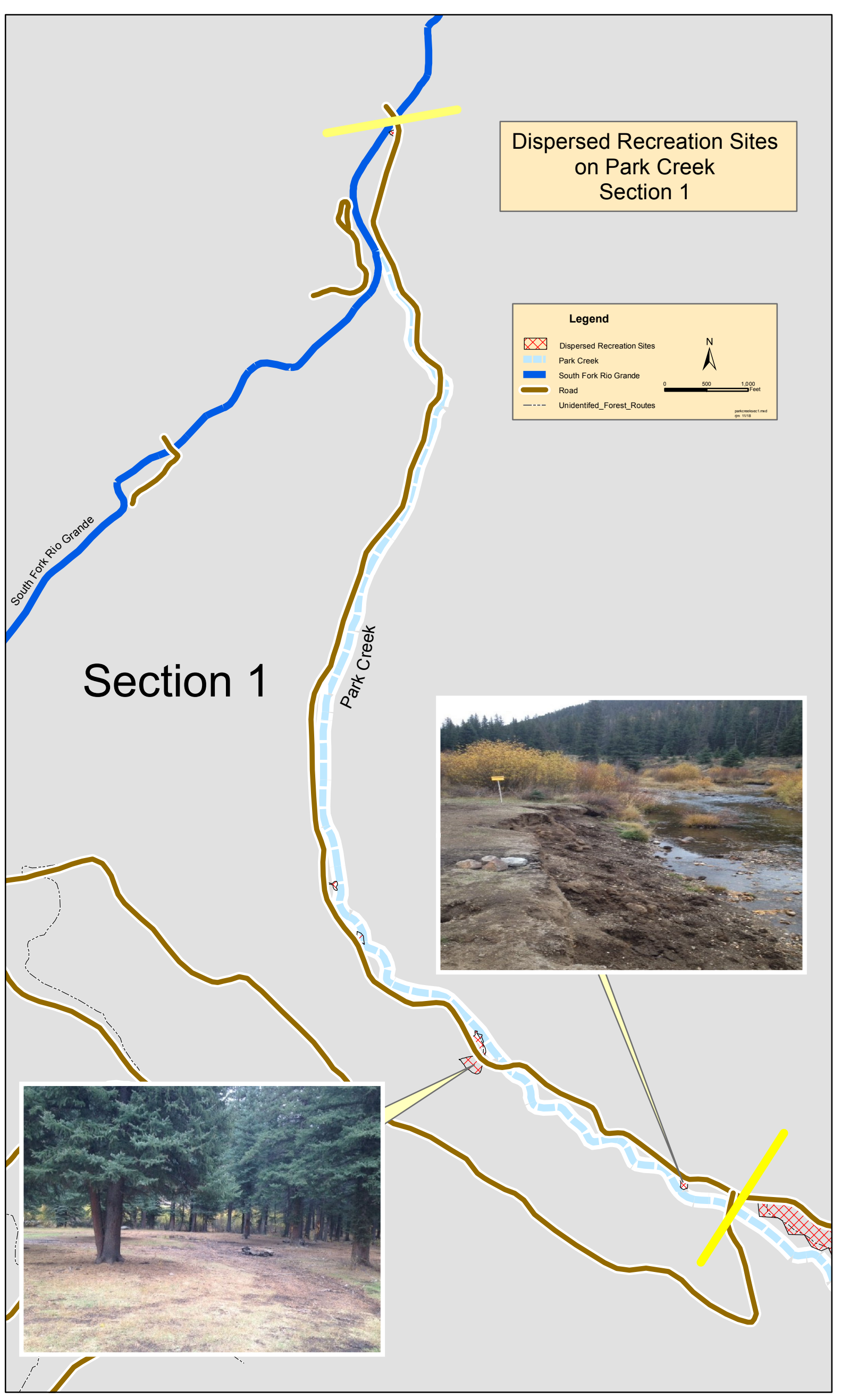


Legend

- Dispersed Recreation Sites
- Park Creek
- South Fork Rio Grande
- Road
- Unidentified_Forest_Routes






0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet


parkcreeksec2.mxd
9/11/18

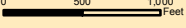


Dispersed Recreation Sites
on Park Creek
Section 1

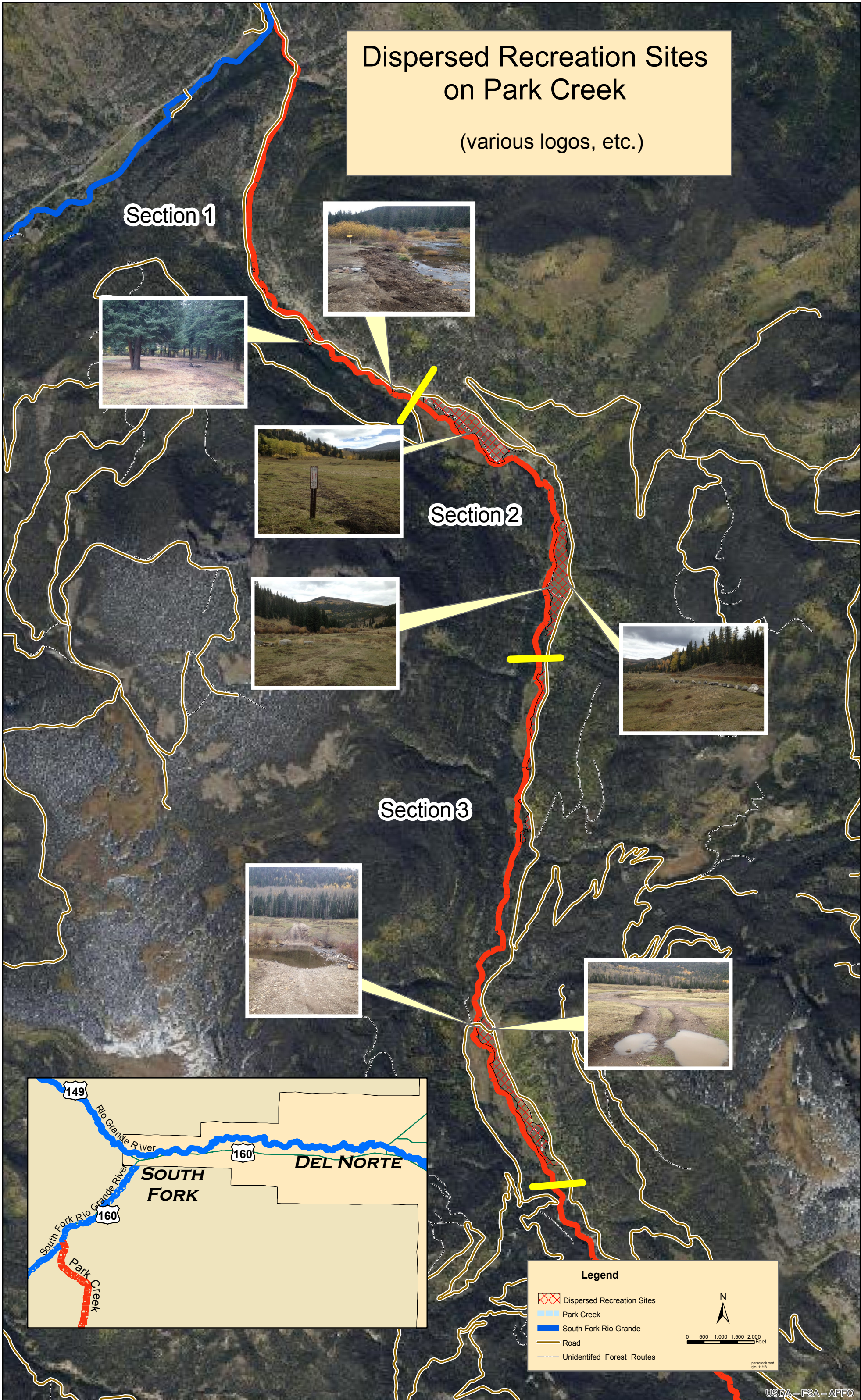
Legend

-  Dispersed Recreation Sites
-  Park Creek
-  South Fork Rio Grande
-  Road
-  Unidentified_Forest_Routes

 N

 0 500 1,000 Feet

parkcreeksec1.mxd
gms 11/18



PROJECT MAPS

RIO GRANDE BASIN Location Map

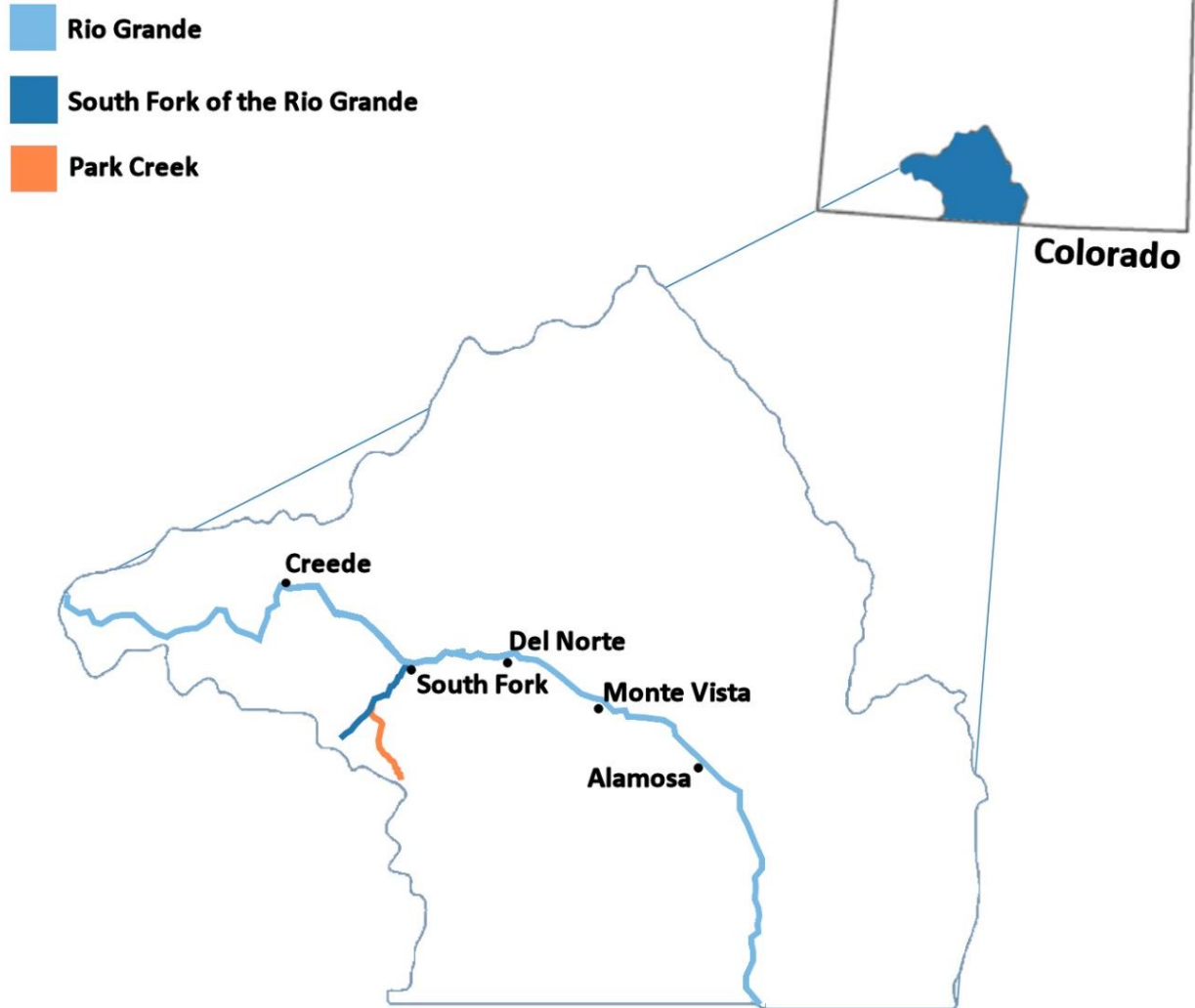


Exhibit C: Supporting Documents

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