

Last Updated: July 2019

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant Application

Instructions										
<p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Water Storage Projects</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Anna.Mauss@state.co.us</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conservation, Land Use Planning</td> <td>Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Engagement & Innovation Activities</td> <td>Ben.Wade@state.co.us</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agricultural Projects</td> <td>Alexander.Funk@state.co.us</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environmental & Recreation Projects</td> <td>Chris.Sturm@state.co.us</td> </tr> </table> <p>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.</p>	Water Storage Projects	Anna.Mauss@state.co.us	Conservation, Land Use Planning	Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us	Engagement & Innovation Activities	Ben.Wade@state.co.us	Agricultural Projects	Alexander.Funk@state.co.us	Environmental & Recreation Projects	Chris.Sturm@state.co.us
Water Storage Projects	Anna.Mauss@state.co.us									
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Environmental & Recreation Projects	Chris.Sturm@state.co.us									

Water Project Summary	
Name of Applicant	Estes Valley Watershed Coalition
Name of Water Project	Upper Big Thompson Assessment, Revegetation and Biostabilization
CWP Grant Request Amount	\$19,205
Other Funding Sources <u>Town of Estes Park</u>	\$9,720
Other Funding Sources <u>In-Kind</u>	\$9,625
Other Funding Sources _____	\$
Applicant Funding Contribution	\$



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Total Project Cost	\$38,550
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Applicant & Grantee Information	
Name of Grantee(s) Estes Valley Watershed Coalition	
Mailing Address: PO Box 4494, Estes Park, CO, 80517	
FEIN 47-2792100	
Organization Contact Wilynn Formeller	
Position/Title Program & Development Coordinator	
Email wilynn.formeller@evwatershed.org	
Phone 970-290-1829	
Grant Management Contact Same	
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).	



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Following the September 2013 flood, a small group of citizens volunteered to the Estes Valley Watershed Coalition. EVWC’s foundation is to bring together landowners, agencies, economic and environmental interests in order to restore and protect the natural resources in the Estes Valley. We facilitate collaboration across various jurisdictional and economic boundaries to implement resilient, sustainable solutions to our watershed.

The Town of Estes Park provides \$18,000 in base funding for EVWC every year. EVWC also received \$10,000 for 2020 capacity support from Northern Water as well. Award letters can be forwarded when received.

Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	Public (Government): Municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
	Public (Districts): Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
	Private Incorporated: Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: Private parties may be eligible for funding.
X	Non-governmental organizations (NGO): Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
	Covered Entity: As defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes .

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)	
X	Study
X	Construction
X	Identified Projects and Processes (IPP)
	Other

Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks)



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	<p>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..</p> <p><i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p>
	<p>Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.</p> <p><i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p>
	<p>Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.</p> <p><i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p>
	<p>Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency.</p> <p><i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p>
X	<p>Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.</p> <p><i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s): Re-vegetation and biostabilization along 1500 feet on the south side of the Upper Big Thompson River to support stream health and promote wildlife habitat.</i></p>
Other	Explain:

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	Larimer
Latitude	40° 22' 17.50631" N
Longitude	105° 31' 30.50807" W

Water Project Overview

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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.

The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.

The purpose of this project is to protect water quality for the greater Big Thompson water supply and for front range communities downstream. It will continue work that was started in 2017, following the 2013 flood in Estes Park. According to previous 30% design plans from AECOM, multiple reaches along the Big Thompson River corridor will benefit from re-vegetation and biostabilization. Native riparian vegetation will help improve bank stability, wildlife habitat and channel resiliency. The design plan recommends a combination of native seed mix broadcast, willow/hardwood stakes, nursery stock plantings and wildlife exclusion fencing along about 2500 linear feet of riverbank.

EVWC will work with contractors to collect vegetation data for the project. We also propose to update the design plan from 2017 to reflect current conditions. Over 1500 linear feet of this project is visible from Hwy 36/Moraine Avenue, which is the primary access to RMNP. Millions of visitors travel this highway every year and signage will identify the project, EVWC and CWCB as the primary funding source. By building on work that was started in 2017, EVWC can continue to support water quality and watershed health for one of Northern Colorado's major water supplies.

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)
3200	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)



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	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)
2.25	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
20,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
	Other Explain:

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;)

This water project supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan by:

- Improving watershed health along the Big Thompson River through the project. The 30% design plans were put together with flood and drought resiliency in mind and EVWC will update these to reflect the current terrain. Chapter 6 of the CWP says, "To determine resiliency levels, it is necessary to identify the baseline status of these characteristics and to monitor stream ecological functions and watershed processes on an ongoing basis CWP 6-158). EVWC is proposing to provide pre and post monitoring of water quality and can also provide a pre and post snapshot of vegetation success in the project area as well.
- This project will support riparian and aquatic habitat enhancement by using native riparian vegetation for biostabilization. In Chapter 6 of the Colorado Water Plan, "Projects and methods that maintain or improve Colorado's environmental and recreational values, and that achieve long-term sustainability and environmental resiliency, are an important part of Colorado's water future (CWP, 6-158)."
- EVWC will also use this as an opportunity to partner with landowners and other groups in Estes Park for volunteer and education. The Upper Big Thompson Master Plan was designed to facilitate cooperation among landowners, EVWC, the Town of Estes Park and other interested entities. EVWC has a history of working well with the local communities and expediting relationships between these groups and potential funders. This project was designed as a multipurpose project that will not only provide bank stabilization for local businesses, it will also provide habitat for many different fish and wildlife species that are in the Estes Valley. IN Chapter 6 the CWP also states that "...multipurpose projects or methods as desirable, and by working to associate a project with an environmental or recreational use, project proponents will garner support from a wider range of stakeholders (CWP, 6-159)."

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Since FEMA has designated this project area as a Special Flood Hazard Area, we feel that biostabilization and a cooperative project will benefit all parties involved.

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.

This project will be a continuation of and is similar to other projects conducted by EVWC along Fish Creek, other portions of the Upper Big Thompson and Fall River. CWCB funded and provides monitoring for these projects that were completed following the 2013 flood in Northern Colorado.

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.



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Current and Previous Grants:

1. Estes Valley Watershed Coalition, 2017
2. Estes 8
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. WI17-117
6. 12.5%

1. Estes Valley Watershed Coalition, 2017
2. Fall River
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. EVWCFR-2017
6. 12.5%

1. Estes Valley Watershed Coalition, 2017
1. Middle and Upper Fish Creek
2. N/A
3. N/A
4. EVWCFR-2017
5. 12.5%

1. Estes Valley Watershed Coalition, 2019
2. Watershed Health
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. POGG1,PDAA,201900002850
6. 50%

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.

None.



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Submittal Checklist	
	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract .
Exhibit A	
X	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⁾ Can forward letters when received but attached a 2020 base funding summary.
Exhibit C	
X	Map (if applicable) ⁽¹⁾
X	Photos/Drawings/Reports
X	Letters of Support (Optional)
	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⁾

(1) Required with application.

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

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Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Statement Of Work

Date:	January 27, 2020
Name of Grantee:	Estes Valley Watershed Coalition
Name of Water Project:	Upper Big Thompson Revegetation and Biostabilization
Funding Source:	Town of Estes Park, In-Kind

Water Project Overview:

EVWC is proposing to use native vegetation to provide biostabilization along with post project monitoring to promote watershed health along the Upper Big Thompson River in the Estes Valley. We will do this by planting both native seeds, hardwood stakes and nursery stock for bank stabilization and habitat. We also propose pre and post site visits for vegetation monitoring. EVWC will also use the revegetation to promote channel resiliency along the Upper Big Thompson reaches.

In 2016, the EVWC received funds from DOLA to put together a master plan for the Upper Big Thompson River Corridor and hired AECOM to do the master plan study. AECOM with their subcontractors completed the study and issued the master plan report in March 2017. The report title is "Upper Big Thompson Corridor Plan for Resiliency" (see attachment). Five critical areas were identified as the study began and these areas were immediately added to the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP). Design and construction of the five High Priority Projects occurred concurrently with completion of the Master Plan Report.

Other than the five EWP projects, none of the work recommended by the Master Plan has been completed. A total of 12 projects were proposed, with three of the projects on Aspen Brook, which is a tributary to the Big Thompson River. The other nine projects are on the main channel of the Upper Big Thompson River.

EVWC recently conducted a complete review of the 2017 report and selected five projects from that master plan that all involve biostabilization of riverbanks. They are identified in the Report as Project Areas 4, 6, 7, 9 and 11. Taken together, the five projects would cover 3200 feet of riverbank. Since the field work for the Master Plan was conducted in 2016, some natural revegetation has occurred. These changes need to be reassessed and the Master Plan updated before designs are finalized.

EVWC is proposing to hire a landscape restoration consultant with expertise in native riparian vegetation to review current field conditions and modify the 30% design as appropriate. The consultant will also work with EVWC and landowners to select the highest priority areas. The goal is to select the most critical areas in the five identified projects that can be accomplished with available funding. It is anticipated that approximately 1500 feet of riverbank (one half of

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that in the five areas) will need biostabilization under this project.

After the plan has been updated, EVWC proposes to complete the design work and install the biostabilization treatments. This will involve consultants and contractors with the appropriate technical expertise. EVWC will use local volunteers to do much of the actual planting.

EVWC will also organize monitoring, maintenance and reporting.

Project Objectives:

- The primary objective of this watershed health project is to continue to restore the watershed areas impacted by the 2013 flood.
- Without proper mitigation this area is vulnerable to flood damage again and has been designated a Special Flood Hazard Area by FEMA.
- Secondary objectives are to provide habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife in the Estes Valley.
- The project will be deemed to be successful when we have determined that the water quality has not been impacted or has been improved by the project and that we have a planting success rate of at least 30%.



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Tasks
Task 1 – Review 30% Design Plans
Description of Task:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contractor and EVWC will review the 30% Design plans.• EVWC and contractor will visit the project sites and assess current state of sites against plans.• Selection of the highest priority stretches of riverbank from the 3200 feet in the five project areas identified by EVWC, for biostabilization in the project.• Update and design a build plan for a restoration expert to follow.
Method/Procedure:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hire a contractor• Site visit• Meet with landowners• Update plans
Deliverable:
An updated design build plan that can be implemented based on current needs and conditions and available funding.
Tasks

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Tasks
<p>Task 2 – Construction (Planting)</p>
<p>Description of Task:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring plantings tend to do best in Estes Park. • Hire design/build firm to conduct some of the plantings and to oversee volunteers for the remaining plantings. • Purchase native seed and hardwood nursery stock from local vendor. • Harvest hardwood stakes from local sites • Install wildlife exclusion cages on select, highly valued plantings. • Irrigate plantings as needed.
<p>Method/Procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native seed will be distributed by contractor • Under the direction of the design plan, contractor and EVWC we will utilize some volunteer work to plant hardwood nursery stock and stakes.
<p>Deliverable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Spring of 2022 we will have demonstrated a 20% success rate on our plantings and will provide that detail in a report.



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Task 3 - Reporting and Monitoring
Description of Task: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct semi-annual inspection of all work.• Continue water quality monitoring per task 2.• Report to EVWC Board and CWCB
Method/Procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hire botanist to assist with inspections
Deliverable: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report on survival rates and project success

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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.

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.

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Performance Measures

(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.

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant - Detailed Budget Estimate
Fair and Reasonable Estimate

Prepared Date: 31-Jan-20
Name of Applicant: Estes Valley Watershed Coalition
Name of Water Project: Upper Big Thompson Assessment, Revegetation and Biostabilization

Task 1 - Review & Update 30% Designs from 2017 Report for Selected Projects

Sub-task	Item	Hourly Rate	# Hours	Sub-total	Item		Sub-total	Total	CWCB Funds	Matching		
					Item Cost	Quantity				In-kind	Matching Funds	
Retain Ecological Landscape Design Consultant												
Prepare RFP	Watershed Staff	\$ 25.00	16	\$ 400.00			\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	
Review Proposals	Watershed Staff	\$ 25.00	12	\$ 300.00			\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00	
Selection & Contracting	Watershed Staff	\$ 25.00	32	\$ 800.00			\$ -	\$ 800.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	
				\$ -				\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Consultant Review and Update												
Review 2017 Report	Principal Ecologist	\$ 135.00	4	\$ 540.00			\$ -	\$ 540.00	\$ 270.00		\$ 270.00	
	Botany Technician	\$ 55.00	8	\$ 440.00				\$ 440.00	\$ 220.00		\$ 220.00	
Field Investigation	Principal Ecologist	\$ 135.00	6	\$ 810.00				\$ 810.00	\$ 405.00		\$ 405.00	
	Botany Technician	\$ 55.00	16	\$ 880.00				\$ 880.00	\$ 440.00		\$ 440.00	
Revise 30% Design	Principal Ecologist	\$ 135.00	8	\$ 1,080.00			\$ -	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 540.00		\$ 540.00	
	Botany Technician	\$ 55.00	20	\$ 1,100.00			\$ -	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 550.00		\$ 550.00	
Meet with Landowners	Principal Ecologist	\$ 135.00	4	\$ 540.00				\$ 540.00	\$ 270.00		\$ 270.00	
	Botany Technician	\$ 55.00	8	\$ 440.00				\$ 440.00	\$ 220.00		\$ 220.00	
	Watershed Staff	\$ 25.00	20	\$ 500.00				\$ 500.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	
Adjust Scope of Work to fit Project Budget and prepare Report	Principal Ecologist	\$ 135.00	8	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 150.00	1.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,230.00	\$ 615.00		\$ 615.00	
	Botany Technician	\$ 55.00	20	\$ 1,100.00			\$ -	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 550.00		\$ 550.00	
	Watershed Staff	\$ 25.00	20	\$ 500.00			\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	
TOTAL								\$ 10,660.00	\$ 5,330.00	\$ -	\$ 5,330.00	



TOWN OF ESTES PARK

January 29, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant – Environmental & Recreation
Attn: Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm:

We are writing to express complete support for the Estes Valley Watershed Coalition (EVWC) and its proposed Upper Big Thompson Revegetation and Biostabilization Project. The present application for funding to address final design and implementation of this project is further proof of their sustained commitment to promoting stream health and encouraging wildlife habitat protection.

Town engagement with the EVWC has been ongoing with Public Works engineering staff attending monthly Board meetings, a partnership considered invaluable for communicating about local watershed issues and opportunities. We highly recommend the EVWC Board and its effective ideas for improving local natural resources.

The EVWC has also proven its ability to involve diverse stakeholders in the planning and implementation of restoration and recovery projects stemming from the Colorado 2013 Flood. We have confidence that the EVWC has taken necessary steps to engage with diverse stakeholders to strategically plan where watershed issues remain. Focusing on the tributaries and headwaters of the Big Thompson River is an appropriate direction as these waters contribute to the annual production of over 700 megawatts of electricity from the CB-T project. In addition, the area of revegetation and biostabilization identified in this grant application is highly visible and will provide enhanced visual appeal for all who inhabit or visit the Estes Valley. Visitors to RMNP may also observe the area that would be enhanced by this grant as they travel to the Beaver Meadows Entrance of the Park.

As the Town's floodplain managers, we strongly support the Watershed Coalition's proposal to engage in the Upper Big Thompson Revegetation and Biostabilization project. Completion of the project would enable the Coalition to continue efforts to strengthen and improve the health of Estes Valley watersheds.

Sincerely,

David Hook, PE
Engineering Manager
Public Works Department

January 31, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant – Environmental & Recreation
Attn: Mr. Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Chris Sturm:

This letter is to express Northern Water's support of the Estes Valley Watershed Coalition and their commitment to stream health and wildlife habitat through their Upper Big Thompson Revegetation and Biostabilization Project.

Northern Water is the administrator of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project (C-BT). The C-BT project collects and delivers water to 6 hydroelectric power plants, 640,000 acres of irrigated farm and ranch land, and over 1-million people in eight counties within Northern Water boundaries. The waterways that this project affects are almost entirely dependent upon snowmelt from high-elevation watersheds along the Continental Divide in Northern Colorado. Bank stability, watershed resiliency, and wildlife habitat have dramatic effects on the quality of watershed runoff and the ability of C-BT water supplies to meet municipal, industrial, and agricultural water needs. It is vital for Northern Water, other agencies, and private landowners to have the Estes Valley Watershed Coalition as a partner to restore and maintain riparian and surrounding watershed resources in the Estes Valley.

The Estes Valley Watershed Coalition has a proven ability of involving stakeholders in the planning and implementation of restoration and recovery projects stemming from the Colorado 2013 Flood. Northern Water feels the Estes Valley Watershed Coalition has taken necessary steps to engage with diverse stakeholders to strategically plan where watershed issues remain. Their focus on the tributaries and headwaters of the Big Thompson River is an appropriate direction to move towards.

Northern Water highly recommends the Estes Valley Watershed Coalitions proposal for the Upper Big Thompson Revegetation and Biostabilization Project. This grant provides a great opportunity for the Coalition to continue efforts to strengthen and improve the health of the Estes Valley Watersheds.

Sincerely,



Esther Vincent
Director of Environmental Services