

**Water Supply Reserve Fund  
Water Activity Summary Sheet  
March 11-12, 2020  
Agenda Item 23(e)**

**Applicant & Grantee:** Grand Valley Audubon Society  
**Water Activity Name:** Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project  
**Water Activity Purpose:** Environmental Recreational - Implementation  
**County:** Mesa  
**Drainage Basin:** Colorado  
**Water Source:** Colorado River  
**Amount Requested:** \$25,000 Colorado Basin Account  
\$50,000 Statewide Account  
\$75,000 Total Request

**Matching Funds:** Basin Account Match = \$25,000

- 50% of statewide request (meets 10% min)  
Applicant Match & 3rd Parties = \$138,417
- 185% of the statewide request (meets 10% min)  
Total Match (Basin & Applicant) = \$163,417
- 218% of the statewide request (meets 50% min)

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Colorado Basin Account, and \$75,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project: Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project.

**Water Activity Summary:** WSRF Funds, if approved will assist the Grand Valley Audubon Society, Ducks Unlimited, and other partners to improve riparian and wetland habitat on the Audubon Nature Preserve property in Grand Junction. This publicly accessible, highly visible property is adjacent to the Colorado River mainstem, endangered fish habitat, a state park and public trail. It is located on the edge of the Central Flyway, a major migratory corridor for waterfowl and other birds. Currently, the property supports some populations of wetland birds and other wildlife. However, managers have no means to manage available habitats to maximize use by wildlife. Water quality is poor and anoxic. Wetland hydroperiods are driven by groundwater fluctuations, which are out of phase with migrating waterfowl needs. We will improve wetland habitat on 11.5 acres of former gravel pit ponds and semi-permanent wetlands by re-contouring ponds to create shallow wetlands. Additionally, 23 acres of riparian forest will be improved via removal of invasive phreatophytes and planting of native species. Water from the Grand Junction-Redlands tailrace will be used to optimize seasonal water levels and improve water quality.

**Discussion:** This effort will assist the Colorado Basin Roundtable achieve their goals to Protect and rehabilitate healthy rivers, streams, lakes and riparian areas and identify habitat restoration projects to benefit important recreational or natural values as called for in the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan, as well as assisting Colorado's Water Plan achieve the goal of enhancing environmental and

recreational economics, promote protection and restoration of water quality, and protect and restore critical watersheds as called for in Chapter 10.

**Issues/Additional Needs:** None.

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

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

<b>Funding Sources/Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-kind</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Status</b>
Grand Valley Audubon Society	\$55,000	\$13,706	\$68,706	Secured
CPW	\$30,427	\$0	\$30,427	Secured
Ducks Unlimited	\$15,000	\$5,184	\$20,184	Secured
National Audubon Society	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500	Secured
Audubon Rockies	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	Secured
RiversEdge West	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	Secured
Forever Our Rivers Foundation	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	Secured
Western Colorado Community Foundation	\$7,600	\$0	\$7,600	Secured
Sub-total	\$119,527	\$18,890	\$138,417	
WSRF Colorado Basin Account	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	Secured
Sub-total	\$144,527	\$18,890	\$163,417	
Statewide Account	\$75,000	n/a	\$75,000	
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$219,527</b>	<b>\$18,890</b>	<b>\$238,417</b>	

**CWCB Project Manager:** Chris Sturm

***THE COLORADO BASIN ROUNDTABLE***  
***C/O P.O. BOX 1120***  
***GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO 81602***

December 18, 2019

**Megan Holcomb**  
**Colorado Water Conservation Board**  
**Water Supply Planning Section**  
1313 Sherman Street  
Denver CO

Dear Megan:

The Colorado Basin Roundtable voted unanimously at its Nov. 25, 2019 meeting to support the Grand Valley Audubon Society with a \$25,000 grant from the CBRT WSRF Basin Fund and \$50,000 from the Statewide Fund. The original Basin request was \$75,00 but the Roundtable reduced the funding due to the grants' demand on its Basin funding reserve.

The Grand Valley Audubon Society and its partners want to improve wetland habitat on 11.5 acres of a former gravel pit along the Colorado River. This has implications for local riparian improvements on a historically stressed piece of the urban river corridor in Grand Junction. It also creates habitat for migratory birds, which creates a statewide significance for the project. Healthy rivers and streams (and that implication for wildlife) are an expressed emphasis in our Basin Implementation Plan.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Pokrandt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Pokrandt  
Chair, Colorado Basin Roundtable



Last Update: July 31, 2018

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**  
**Water Supply Reserve Fund**  
**Grant Application**

**Instructions**

All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current [2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#).

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

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

<p><b>Arkansas</b></p> <p>Ben Wade  <a href="mailto:ben.wade@state.co.us">ben.wade@state.co.us</a>          303-866-3441 x3238</p>	<p><b>Gunnison   North Platte            South Platte   Yampa/White</b></p> <p>Craig Godbout  <a href="mailto:craig.godbout@state.co.us">craig.godbout@state.co.us</a>          303-866-3441 x3210</p>	<p><b>Colorado   Metro   Rio Grande            Southwest</b></p> <p>Megan Holcomb  <a href="mailto:megan.holcomb@state.co.us">megan.holcomb@state.co.us</a>          303-866-3441 x3222</p>
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**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 <a href="#">2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines</a> .
	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the <a href="#">Standard Contract</a> . <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Application Documents</b>	
	Exhibit A: Statement of Work <sup>(2)</sup> ( <i>Word – see Template</i> )
	Exhibit B: Budget & Schedule <sup>(2)</sup> ( <i>Excel Spreadsheet – see Template</i> )
	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Commitments <sup>(2)</sup>
	Map <sup>(2)</sup>
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
	Letters of Support
<b>Contracting Documents<sup>(3)</sup></b>	
	Detailed/Itemized Budget <sup>(3)</sup> ( <i>Excel Spreadsheet – see Template</i> )
	Certificate of Insurance <sup>(4)</sup> ( <i>General, Auto, &amp; Workers' Comp.</i> )
	Certificate of Good Standing <sup>(4)</sup>
	W-9 Form <sup>(4)</sup>
	Independent Contractor Form <sup>(4)</sup> ( <i>If applicant is individual, not company/organization</i> )
	Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form <sup>(4)</sup>

(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.

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



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<b>Schedule</b>		
<b>CWCB Meeting</b>	<b>Application Submittal Dates</b>	<b>Type of Request</b>
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

<b>Desired Timeline</b>	
Desired CWCB Hearing Month:	March 2020
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	April 2020

<b>Water Activity Summary</b>		
Name of Applicant	Grand Valley Audubon Society	
Name of Water Activity	Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project	
	Approving Roundtable(s)	Basin Account Request(s) <sup>(1)</sup>
	Colorado Basin Roundtable	\$ 25,000
	Basin Account Request Subtotal	\$ 25,000
	Statewide Account Request <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 50,000
	Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)	\$ 75,000
	Total Project Costs	\$ 213,417

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



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Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Grand Valley Audubon Society
Mailing Address	PO Box 1211, Grand Junction, CO 81502
FEIN	23- 7205741
Grantee's Organization Contact <sup>(1)</sup>	Cary Atwood
Position/Title	Board President, Grand Valley Audubon Society
Email	<a href="mailto:catwood814@gmail.com">catwood814@gmail.com</a>
Phone	(970) 712-9699
Grant Management Contact <sup>(2)</sup>	Meredith Walker, Ph.D.
Position/Title	Wetlands Improvement Project Coordinator, Grand Valley Audubon Society (volunteer)
Email	mwalker@birdpop.org
Phone	(970) 712-9699
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	Same as 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 Grand Valley Audubon Society (GVAS) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit based in Grand Junction, Colorado. We foster an appreciation for birds and other wildlife, preserve a diversity of habitats, and provide a sustainable healthy environment through community education, research and individual action. GVAS received its charter from the National Audubon Society in 1972 and is currently supported by the Audubon Rockies regional office, and over 800 members of the local community. Our organization owns and manages the 57-acre Audubon Nature Preserve in Grand Junction and provides birding field trips and educational programs for adults and students in Mesa County.



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

Type of Water Activity (check one)	
	Study
X	Implementation

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

Location of Water Activity	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in <b>decimal degrees</b> . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	Mesa
Latitude	39.07721°
Longitude	-108.605103°



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**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.

This collaboration between GVAS, Ducks Unlimited, and other partners will improve riparian and wetland habitat on the Audubon Nature Preserve property in Grand Junction. This publicly accessible, highly visible property is adjacent to the Colorado River mainstem, endangered fish habitat, a state park and public trail. It is located on the edge of the Central Flyway, a major migratory corridor for waterfowl and other birds.

Currently, the property supports some populations of wetland birds and other wildlife. However, managers have no means to manage available habitats to maximize use by wildlife. Water quality is poor and anoxic. Wetland hydroperiods are driven by groundwater fluctuations, which are out of phase with migrating waterfowl needs.

We will improve wetland habitat on 11.5 acres of former gravel pit ponds and semi-permanent wetlands by recontouring ponds to create shallow wetlands. Additionally, 23 acres of riparian forest will be improved via removal of invasive phreatophytes and planting of native species. Water from the Grand Junction-Redlands tailrace will be used to optimize seasonal water levels and improve water quality.

We can provide \$138,417 in match and seek \$75,000 in CWCB funding (\$25,000 CBRT, \$50,000 state-wide) for construction, and installation of water management infrastructure. Additionally, we will install interpretive signage about wetlands and watershed health.

**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)	
29	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved	
	Other	Explain:

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### Water Activity Justification

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

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

This project will result in the conversion of old gravel pit ponds with marginal habitat value to highly productive emergent wetlands while providing improved watershed health and opportunity for public engagement. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency:

"Wetlands play an integral role in the ecology of the watershed. The combination of shallow water, high levels of nutrients and primary productivity is ideal for the development of organisms that form the base of the food web and feed many species of fish, amphibians, shellfish and insects. Many species of birds and mammals rely on wetlands for food, water and shelter, especially during migration and breeding."

Chapter 7.1 of the Colorado Water Plan focuses on watershed management and the role that watershed health plays in water availability and quality (pg. 1.) Watershed health is comprised of ecosystem structure and function which includes species richness, habitat complexity and nutrient cycling (CO Water Plan, Ch. 7, pg. 3) Shallow water wetlands are hotbeds of species richness and nutrient cycling and contribute to a diverse and complex mix of habitats within the watershed. While much of Chapter 7.1 focuses on high elevation portions of watersheds, it notes that in lower elevations of the watershed "rangelands, **wetlands**, and riparian corridors play a substantial role in water storage, transport, sediment control, water quality, wildlife habitat, and stream flows (CO Water Plan, CH. 7, pg. 5.)" In particular it notes here that wetland complexes may "favorably influence lower elevation watershed health."

This project also relates to many of the goals identified in Chapter 6.6. of the CO Water Plan on page 6-157. These include: the restoration of imperiled plant communities, the enhancement of economic values to local economies that rely on environmental water uses, such as wildlife watching, and the protection and improvement of wetland habitat to promote long-term sustainability and resiliency.

Theme 1-A of the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan is defined as "Protect and rehabilitate healthy rivers, streams, lakes and riparian areas" with one of its short-term needs to "Identify habitat restoration projects to benefit important recreational or natural values (pg. 47)" This project fits that criteria nicely as it restores a valuable habitat type on a publicly accessible property in the heart of the largest city in western Colorado, providing wildlife watching recreational opportunities for a broad community.

In addition, wetlands are critical stopover habitat for migrating waterfowl and shore birds. The property is located on the western edge of the Central Flyway, a major migration corridor for North American birds. Due to development as well as diversions and management of flows in the Colorado River, naturally created wetland habitat is scarce in the lower elevations of the Basin where the project is located. Wetlands formed by agricultural irrigation and leakage from irrigation ditches substitute for natural wetlands in this portion of the Basin, but these may also become more scarce as land and



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### Water Activity Justification

water use/availability changes. Notably, the Basin Implementation Plan projects that about half of the urbanization in the Basin is expected to occur in the Grand Valley (pg. 30), where this project is located. Conversion of agricultural land to residential development, and more efficient irrigation practices will decrease the amount of these substitute wetlands in the Basin. Additionally, possible Demand Management related fallowing practices could reduce the number of wetlands currently supported by irrigated agriculture. This project will create wetlands that will help offset this loss to the watershed.

In a 2012 article in the journal Restoration Ecology, Weisberg et al. note that a majority of riparian restoration efforts has focused on restoring riparian forests because they are more appealing for human recreation and require lower stream flows to maintain. However, the researchers point out that:

*"Reconstruction of a mosaic of plant communities including shallow-rooted wetland herbaceous plants and deep-rooted woody phreatophytes ... will ultimately lead to increased ecological function at the whole-watershed level (pg. 3)"*

They go on to conclude that herbaceous wetlands "should become a focus for active restoration efforts where passive restoration of watershed processes proves insufficient to generate ... missing community types that have historically been dominated by herbaceous plant species."

Finally, the project site is a priority for restoration and conservation. In a "Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Mesa County" prepared by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program in 2002, the project site was ranked number 3 out of 21 priority areas (see pg. 81) in the Colorado River Potential Conservation Area based on biodiversity, wetland types and other factors. In addition, it is included in the Grand Valley Riparian Corridor Important Bird Area identified by the National Audubon Society (2000) "due to the fact that nearly 300 bird species have used the lowland riparian vegetation in the Grand Valley over the last 15 years, including nearly 70 breeding species and over 70 wintering species."

Finally, this project fits public preferences. Public outreach surveys by the Basin Roundtable ranked "environmental health" as the second most common water issue concern among Basin residents following adequacy of supply (pg. 34.) Clearly a healthy environment- of which wetland habitat is an important component- is a top priority of Basin residents.

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



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Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests	
<p><b>Basin (only) Account</b> grant requests require a 25% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the Applicant or 3<sup>rd</sup> party and shall be accompanied by a <b>letter of commitment</b> as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines (submitted on the contributing entity's letterhead). Attach additional sheet if necessary.</p>	
Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind)
SEE TABLE BELOW	
<p>If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.</p>	

Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests	
<p><b>Statewide Account</b> grant requests require a 50% match as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. A minimum of 10% match shall be from Basin Account funds (cash only). A minimum of 10% match shall be provided by the applicant or 3<sup>rd</sup> party (cash, in-kind, or combination). The remaining 30% of the required match may be provided from any other source (Basin, applicant, or 3<sup>rd</sup> party) and shall be accompanied by a <b>letter of commitment</b>. Attach additional sheet if necessary.</p>	
Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):
Grand Valley Audubon Society	\$68,706 (\$55,000 cash, \$13,706 in-kind)
CO Parks and Wildlife (via Wetlands for Wildlife grant to GVAS)	\$30,427 cash
Ducks Unlimited	\$20,184 (\$15,000 cash, \$5,184 in-kind)
National Audubon Society	\$2,500 cash
Audubon Rockies	\$5,000 cash
RiversEdge West	\$3,000 cash
Forever Our Rivers Foundation	\$1,000 cash
Western Colorado Community Foundation	\$7,600 cash
<b>Total Match</b>	<b>\$138,417</b>
<p>If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).</p>	



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**Related Studies**

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

- The project is located in a Nonconsumptive Needs Assessment (NCNA) segment area with identified environmental and recreational risk as seen in the CO Basin Implementation Plan (Fig. 21, pg. 120)
- In a "Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Mesa County" prepared by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program in 2002, the project site was ranked number 3 out of 21 priority areas (see pg. 81) in the Colorado River Potential Conservation Area based on biodiversity, wetland types and other factors.
- The project is located in the Grand Valley Riparian Corridor Important Bird Area identified by the National Audubon Society (2000)

**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

The Grand Valley Audubon has not received any CWCB grants.

**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.

We have received a grant of \$32,998 from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Wetlands for Wildlife program. That is the only funding we have received from the State of Colorado for this project to this date. (\$30,427 of this funding remains as of February 2020.)



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<b>Colorado Water Conservation Board</b>	
<b>Water Supply Reserve Fund</b>	
<b><u>Exhibit A - Statement of Work</u></b>	
<b>Date:</b>	July 1, 2019
<b>Water Activity Name:</b>	Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project
<b>Grant Recipient:</b>	Grand Valley Audubon Society
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant
<b>Water Activity Overview:</b> (Please provide brief description of the proposed water activity (no more than 200 words). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRF funding will be used for.)	
<p>This project is part of a larger project to improve riparian forest and wetland habitat on the Audubon Nature Preserve in Grand Junction. Restoration tasks for the riparian forest have been completed. Current conditions in the property's former gravel pit ponds support some populations of waterbirds, as well as fish and amphibian habitat. However, water quality is poor and anoxic, and wetland hydroperiods are driven by groundwater fluctuations. Managers aren't able to manage habitats to maximize use by wildlife. The result is opportunistic habitats for wetland wildlife in this portion of the Colorado River basin.</p> <p>We are improving wetland habitat in these ponds by recontouring portions to create shallow, emergent wetlands. We have funding to recontour of two of the ponds (Osprey and Avocet Ponds) and that construction will begin this winter.</p> <p>We seek \$75,000 in WSRF-Basin account funding to do recontour and install water management infrastructure on a third pond (Traylor Pond) in order to maintain water quality and hydroperiods that benefit native wildlife. Funds will be used for strategic earth-moving to decrease water depth and create additional shallow wetlands and to install a water control structure and rehabilitate current irrigation water conveyance.</p>	
<b>Objectives:</b> (List the objectives of the project)	
<p>The objectives of the Audubon Nature Preserve Wetland Improvement Project are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convert 2 acres of Traylor pond to shallow, emergent wetlands that are beneficial to wildlife. (This is in addition to the approximately 3.5 acres of wetland construction that is already funded, and the 23 acres of riparian forest restoration that has been completed as part of the larger project.)</li> <li>• Install necessary water management infrastructure so that beneficial water levels and hydroperiods can be maintained in improved wetlands.</li> </ul>	



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<b>Tasks</b>
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<b><u>Task 1 – Feasibility, Survey and Design</u></b>
Description of Task: <p>GVAS, in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited, Inc., performed preliminary reconnaissance, topographic and bathymetric survey, site inspection and engaged with stakeholders to determine the best practices, methods and scope to achieve project objectives in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible.</p>
Method/Procedure: <p>Personnel visited the site and documented current conditions relative to desired wetland habitat. Geomorphology, hydrology, water chemistry and plant community condition were all assessed to determine baseline habitat condition and opportunity for wetland restoration and/or enhancement. GPS-based topographic survey and bathymetric surveys were performed to develop a surface model of the property allowing biological and engineering staff to conceive of proper restoration and construction practices.</p>
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
GVAS and DU will develop and approve a stamped construction planset detailing and specifying the structures, embankments and fill required to achieve desired wetland habitat conditions in the northern portion of Traylor Pond.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
The grantee has provided a conceptual plan pf the Traylor Pond portion of the project (Traylor Pond Schematic.png) as well as a construction plan set for the Osprey/Avocet portions of the project (GVAS Osprey Avocet Pond Plan.docx). When a construction plan set is finalized for the Traylor Pond portion of the project, we will provide it to CWCB.



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<b>Tasks</b>
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<b><u>Task 2 - Permitting</u></b>
Description of Task:
GVAS will obtain the necessary federal, state and local permits required for planned restoration work. We have already negotiated an agreement with the City of Grand Junction to lease water rights that will supplement groundwater supplies supporting desired wetland plant communities.
Method/Procedure:
GVAS in cooperation with DU will obtain permits for wetland restoration and enhancement projects. The type of work proposed here is regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. These activities are commonly permitted under Nationwide Permit No. 27 Aquatic Habitat Improvement Projects as allowed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. GVAS has secured a 40-year lease of a small portion of the City of Grand Junction's water right from the Grand Junction Redlands Tailrace which runs adjacent to the Audubon property. Water will be used to maintain beneficial hydroperiods in the wetlands constructed or improved on the Audubon property. Further, GVAS and DU will work with Mesa County to ensure that all county construction permits (e.g. erosion control plans) are secured.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
By 12/31/2019, GVAS and DU will have: 1.) Secured permission from the USACE to proceed under NWP27; and, 2.) Secured all local permits required of construction projects in Mesa County.  GVAS has developed a water-sharing framework agreement with the City of Grand Junction to allow supplemental surface flows to irrigate the restored wetlands and has the cooperative use agreement on file.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
The grantee will provide confirmation that permits were received during progress reports provided to CWCB every 6 months.



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Tasks
<b>Task 3– Riparian Forest Improvement</b>
Description of Task 3:
Improvement of riparian forest habitat via selective removal of invasive phreatophytes and planting of native riparian species.
Task 9 Method/Procedure:
GVAS will coordinate a two-day volunteer event with its partners Audubon Rockies and RiversEdge West. Volunteers will selectively remove Russian olive ( <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> ) from the mid-story of existing cottonwood galleries and plant native shrubs including three-leaf sumac ( <i>Rhus trilobata</i> ), woods rose ( <i>Rosa woodsii</i> ), New Mexico privet ( <i>Forestiera neomexicana</i> ), silver buffaloberry ( <i>Shepherdia argentea</i> ), and golden currant ( <i>Ribes aureum</i> ). Selective removal will preserve existing mid-story cover for birds until natives establish and further Russian olive can be removed. Volunteers will also cage existing cottonwoods to protect them from herbivory by beavers. Native trees including boxelder ( <i>Acer negundo</i> ) and netleaf hackberry ( <i>Celtis reticulata</i> ) will also be planted to increase tree species diversity on the property. New native plantings will be manually watered through the summer of 2018 and the spring/summer of 2019 or until sufficiently established.
Task 9 Deliverable:
By September 2019, Approximately 23 acres of riparian forest habitat on the property will be improved via the establishment of native species- including mid-story shrubs beneath a mature cottonwood gallery. Density of invasive phreatophytes will be reduced and additional native tree species will be established.
<b>Note: This task is complete.</b>

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<b><u>Task 4 – Project Bid, Contracting, Construction Management and Evaluation</u></b>
Description of Task:



Last Update: January 9, 2018

<b>Tasks</b>	
	<p>GVAS will employ DU to procure contractors able to deliver the wetland restoration project, manage construction of those restored wetlands and evaluate final project outcomes.</p>
	<p>Method/Procedure:</p> <p>Project delivery follows a regular pattern of bidding, contracting, construction and evaluation. DU performs all work under each stage of this project delivery pattern. When all required permits are secured, DU places the project out to bid. DU uses an online, competitive bid process to select the subcontractor(s) working on the project. Our procurement system is designed to meet the demands of Federal, State and local insurance, bonding, and wage-protection requirements. The lowest bidder for any given amount of work is awarded the contract, which is executed between DU and the winning contractor. These contracts are drafted to meet the requirements of Federal, State and local procurement law, rule, and administrative order. Upon execution of all required contracts for the workplan of the project, DU will schedule project construction. DU's engineering team performs construction management on our wetland conservation sites to ensure that all standards, specifications and details contained in the permitted plan are met during the construction phase. Change orders are evaluated by our bio-engineering team and, if consequential enough, are submitted to our funding partners for review and authorization. Upon completion of construction, but before demobilization, we perform a project evaluation with the contractor, our engineering team, the land owner or manager and any interested funding party to ensure that the completed work matches the expectations of those parties.</p>
	<p>Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)</p> <p>Contracts will be procured and executed, and a construction schedule will be agreed upon.</p>
	<p>CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)</p> <p>GVAS will provide progress reports every 6 months with contractor information and progress, and by 12/31/2020 will submit a final project completion report summarizing project accomplishments.</p>



Last Update: January 9, 2018

<b>Tasks</b>
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<b><u>Task 5 – Construction Mobilization and Site Preparation</u></b>
Description of Task: Selected contractors will mobilize construction equipment and purchase supplies required by project design planset. The project site will be readied for timely delivery of project components.
Method/Procedure: After a contractor is awarded a construction contract by DU, they will have at least four weeks to mobilize to the GVAC property and begin site preparations. Required materials and equipment will be purchased and brought to the site.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task) The grantee expects materials and equipment to be purchased, contractors to be mobilized to the GVAC property, and site preparation started. Invoices for materials and equipment will be provided.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task) GVAS will submit written notification to CWCB that project contractors have fully mobilized and restoration activities and construction work have commenced.



Last Update: January 9, 2018

<b>Tasks</b>
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<b><u>Task 6 – Traylor Pond Construction and Restoration</u></b>
Description of Task:
At least two acres of shallow-water wetlands in Traylor Pond will be restored to allow for plant communities preferred by foraging waterbirds to grow.
Method/Procedure:
Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of fill will be excavated and placed within the gravel pit boundary at elevations known to grow preferred wetland plant communities under normal hydrologic conditions on the property. One water control structure will be installed within an embankment isolating waters in Traylor Pond. This structure will allow for the management of water levels within the pond, benefitting wetland plant communities.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
By 12/31/2020, GVAS will certify that: 1.) at least two acres of shallow-water wetland have been constructed in the north end of Traylor Pond; and, 2.) Earthen embankments separating the pond from Osprey Pond and separating the north portion of Traylor Pond from the south will be constructed with a water-control structure.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
Photos documenting progress and engineering reports will be included in 6-month progress reports to CWCB.



Last Update: January 9, 2018

<b>Tasks</b>
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<b><u>Task 7 – Osprey and Avocet Ponds Construction and Restoration</u></b>
Description of Task: At least four (4) acres of shallow-water wetlands in Osprey and Avocet Ponds will be restored to allow for plant communities preferred by foraging waterbirds to grow.
Method/Procedure: Approximately 19,000 cubic yards of fill will be excavated and placed within the gravel pit boundary at elevations known to grow preferred wetland plant communities under normal hydrologic conditions on the property. In addition, a small portion of the northern end of Avocet Ponds will be filled to the aforementioned elevation and remaining areas of Avocet Pond will be enhanced via excavation of approximately 2,000 cubic yards of fill from the pond boundary to levels known to grow preferred wetland plant communities under typical local hydrologic conditions.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task) By 6/30/2020, GVAS will certify that: 1.) at least four acres of shallow-water wetland have been constructed along the margins of the ponds.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task) Photos documenting progress and engineering reports will be included in 6-month progress reports to CWCB.

<b>Tasks</b>
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Last Update: January 9, 2018

<b>Tasks</b>
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<b><u>Task 8 – Irrigation Water Conveyance Rehabilitation</u></b>
Description of Task: Existing irrigation infrastructure on the site will be rehabilitated, replaced and expanded to allow for the supplemental surface irrigation of desired wetland plant communities.
Method/Procedure: Based on engineered design water supply and conveyance to Traylor, Osprey and Avocet Ponds will be rehabilitated, replaced and/or expanded to allow for managed irrigation of wetland plant communities. Pump mechanical and electrical systems will be rehabilitated to ensure managers have a secure supply of water.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task) By 12/31/2020, approximately 2,000 linear feet of pipeline and appurtenant valves and outlets will be attached to a functioning pump allowing for the supplemental irrigation of wetland plant communities in three units on the GVAC property.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task) Photos documenting progress and engineering reports will be included in 6-month progress reports to CWCB.



Last Update: January 9, 2018

<b>Tasks</b>	
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:	
<b>Task 9 – Installation of Educational Signage</b>	
Description of Task:	
<p>One mission of GVAS is to provide a sustainable healthy environment through community education, research and individual action in order to foster greater community awareness and a better understanding of our natural resources. In light of that goal, we will install interpretive signage at the improved wetlands to educate the public on the importance of wetlands to watershed health and wildlife habitat.</p>	
Method/Procedure:	
<p>Install 4 interpretive signs, approximately 18" X 30" or larger, at improved wetlands to educate the public on the importance of wetlands to migratory birds, wildlife habitat, and overall watershed health.</p>	
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)	
<p>By 6/30/2020, GVAS will certify that: 4 interpretive signs have been installed.</p>	
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)	
<p>Photos documenting signs will be submitted to CWCB.</p>	

**Budget and Schedule**



Last Update: January 9, 2018

### Budget and Schedule

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

### Reporting Requirements

**Progress Reports:** The grantee shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues. The CWCB may withhold reimbursement until satisfactory progress reports have been submitted.

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

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

### Payments

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

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

### Performance Requirements

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

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

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

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

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



**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: 07/04/2019

Water Activity Name: Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project

Grantee Name: Grand Valley Audubon Society

<u>Task No.</u> <sup>(1)</sup>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Start Date</u> <sup>(2)</sup>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Matching Funds (\$)</u> (cash & in-kind) <sup>(3)</sup>	<u>WSRF Funds (\$)</u> (Basin & Statewide combined) <sup>(3)</sup>	<u>Total (\$)</u>
1	Feasibility, Survey and Design	6/30/2018	12/31/2019	18,000	-	18,000
2	Permitting	9/1/2019	3/1/2020	4,700	1,400	6,100
3	Riparian Forest Improvement	6/30/2018	9/30/2019	13,300	-	13,300
4	Project Planning & Construction Management	11/1/2020	6/30/2022	3,100	900	4,000
5	Construction Mobilization & Site Preparation	3/1/2020	6/30/2022	10,525	3,600	14,125
6	Traylor Pond Construction & Restoration	5/1/2020	6/30/2022	30,092	50,200	80,292
7	Osprey & Avocet Ponds Construction & Restoration	3/1/2020	6/30/2020	43,000	-	43,000
8	Irrigation Water Conveyance Rehabilitation	3/1/2020	6/30/2022	8,100	18,900	27,000
9	Installation of Educational Signage	1/31/2020	6/30/2020	7,600	-	7,600
<b>Total</b>				<b>138,417</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>213,417</b>

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

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

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

- Additional documentation providing a Detailed/Itemized Budget may be required for contracting. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate with the CWCB Project Manager to determine specifics.
- Reimbursement eligibility commences upon the grantee's receipt of a Notice to Proceed (NTP)
- NTP will not be accepted as a start date. Project activities may commence as soon as the grantee enters contract and receives formal signed State Agreement.

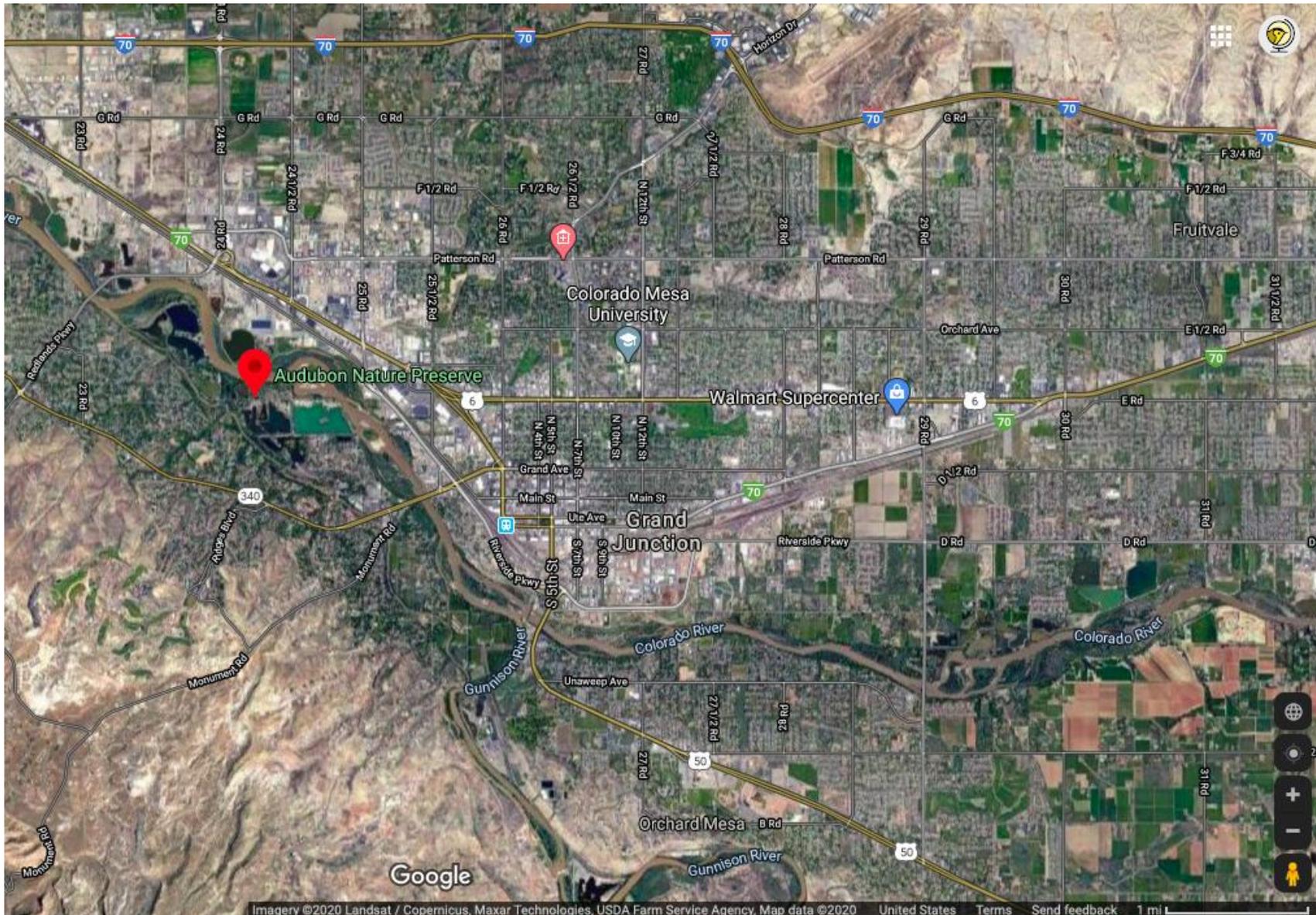
The CWCB will pay the last 10% of the entire water activity budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of the CWCB staff project manager. Once the Final Report has been accepted, the final payment has been issued, the water activity and purchase order (PO) or contract will be closed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

- Additionally, the applicant shall provide a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of contract execution
- Standard contracting procedures dictate that the Expiration Date of the contract shall be 5 years from the Effective Date.

# Maps for the Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project

February 23, 2020

Location of project in the city of Grand Junction



## Project Vicinity

Indicating proximity to Connected Lakes section of James M. Robb CO River State Park



### VICINITY MAP

SCALE: 1" ≈ 1000'

PAVED ROADS = YELLOW  
DIRT ROADS = ORANGE

**Project Location**  
with pond names indicated



**LOCATION MAP**  
SCALE: 1" = 625'

PAVED ROADS = YELLOW  
DIRT ROADS = ORANGE



**Rough sketch of work to be done on Traylor Pond**



STATE OF COLORADO
Department of Natural Resources

ORDER
Number: POGG1 PMAA 201800000759
Date: 03/07/18
Description: TERP - GRAND VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY WETLANDS
Effective Date: 03/15/18 Expiration Date: 06/30/20
BUYER
Buyer: Michelle Mills
Email: michelle.mills@state.co.us
VENDOR
GRAND VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
PO BOX 1211
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81502
Contact: MEREDITH WALKER
Phone: 970-712-9699
\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*
The order number and line number must appear on all invoices, packing slips, cartons and correspondence
BILL TO
FORT COLLINS OFFICE
317 WEST PROSPECT
FORT COLLINS, CO 80525
SHIP TO
FORT COLLINS OFFICE
317 WEST PROSPECT
FORT COLLINS, CO 80525
SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS
Delivery/Install Date:
F.O.B:
VENDOR INSTRUCTIONS:
ATTN: BRIAN SULLIVAN
EXTENDED DESCRIPTION
Vendor/Contractor liability policy(ies) shall list the State and DNR as an additional insured, have waivers of Subrogation in favor of the State and DNR, and be primary and noncontributory over any insurance/self-insurance covering the State and DNR
Line Item Commodity/Item Code UOM QTY Unit Cost Total Cost MSDS Req.
1 G1000 0 0.00 \$32,998.35
Description: Grant Commodity
Grand Valley Audubon Society Wetlands Program Project # WETL668T. Reference attached Scope of Work.
Service From: 03/15/18 Service To: 06/30/20
TERMS AND CONDITIONS
https://www.colorado.gov/osc/purchase-order-terms-conditions
DOCUMENT TOTAL = \$32,998.35



Matthew Reddy  
Regional Biologist  
Colorado & Wyoming

---

1825 Sharp Point Drive, #118 • Fort Collins, Colorado 80525 • (970) 381-2876 • [mreddy@ducks.org](mailto:mreddy@ducks.org)

February 20, 2020

Meredith Walker  
Grand Valley Audubon Society  
PO Box 1211, Grand Junction, CO 81502

Dear Ms. Walker:

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) is pleased to continue our work with Grand Valley Audubon on your **"Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project."** We believe that the work will have positive benefits to the populations of ducks and geese using the Grand Valley.

This letter certifies that DU will provide at least \$5,184 of match to the project. This match is based upon DU hourly rate charges (i.e. personnel time), travel and other payables we have incurred in the planning, design and permitting of the project. We will also expend at least \$15,000 in cash match on feasibility, survey and design studies as well as project and construction management. This cash match is provided under contract with Colorado Parks & Wildlife and is disbursed under their Wetlands for Wildlife Program. Our total match contribution to the Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project is \$20,184.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding our contributions.

Sincerely,

Regional Biologist



ATTN: Colorado Water Conservation Board

The National Audubon Society's Western Water Initiative offers Western Water grants to Audubon chapters. This program funds projects in the Colorado River Basin, on Saline Lakes, and other priority geographies that focus on policy and advocacy, community science, and habitat restoration and enhancement. Grand Valley Audubon Society successfully submitted an application to support their riparian forest and wetland restoration and enhancement work on the Audubon Nature Preserve. They received \$2,500 for this work in early 2020.

The Western Water Initiative is happy to recommend Grant Valley Audubon Society's Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project for funding and encourage that the initial Western Water grant funds be used as match for future efforts.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Desiree Loggins".

Desiree Loggins  
Network Action Manager, Central and Pacific Flyway  
Western Water Grant Administrator  
[dloggins@audubon.org](mailto:dloggins@audubon.org)  
916-607-2847



Regional Office | National Audubon Society  
215 W. Oak Street, Suite 2C  
Fort Collins, CO 80521  
Phone: 970.416.6931  
rockies.audubon.org

February 19, 2020

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

**Re: Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project**

Dear Board of Directors,

On behalf of Audubon Rockies, a regional office of the National Audubon Society, I am providing this letter to express support for the Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project.

The Grand Valley Audubon Nature Preserve, a 60-acre parcel adjacent to the Colorado River and Connected Lakes State Park in Grand Junction, is located on the western edge of the Central Flyway. Specifically, the Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project will transform marginal wildlife habitat in the form of existing anoxic gravel pit ponds into productive, shallow-water emergent wetlands. Shallow-water wetlands are critical habitat, but limited in availability for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife along the Colorado River mainstem.

Currently, agricultural irrigation return flows and seepage from unlined irrigation ditches support substitute wetland habitat for birds like- American Avocet, Black-crowned Night Herons, and Sora. As Colorado and the Upper Basin states implement the Drought Contingency Plan and potential Demand Management practices, many of these substitute wetlands may dry up as we consider reform in irrigation water use, delivery, and locale.

The creation of quality wetlands on the Audubon Nature Preserve property -adjacent to the Colorado River mainstem- will help offset habitat loss, provide critical avian habitat, and offer remarkable bird-watching opportunities in the heart of Grand Junction.

Audubon Rockies supports the Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project, and has contributed \$5,000, cash match, to the direct on-the-ground restoration of the Audubon Nature Preserve in 2018.

This project will help forward the mission of Audubon Rockies to protect birds and the places they need by advancing the restoration of both riparian and wetland areas.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions by email [abby.burk@audubon.org](mailto:abby.burk@audubon.org) or by phone at (303) 656-6496.

Sincerely,

Abby Burk  
Western Rivers Regional Program Manager  
Audubon Rockies



February 14, 2020

Re: Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project

To Whom It May Concern,

RiversEdge West has been in support of the ongoing restoration efforts at the Audubon Nature Preserve in Grand Junction, CO. As such, RiversEdge West granted the Grand Valley Audubon \$3,000 in cash match to the Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 97-256-7400.

Sincerely,



Shannon Wadas  
Associate Director

FEIN 27-0007315

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

P.O. Box 1907 | Grand Junction, CO 81502

Advancing the restoration of riparian lands through collaboration, education, and technical assistance.

Forever Our Rivers Foundation – *Conserving, Protecting & Enhancing River Health*  
P.O. Box 3492, Grand Junction, CO 81502  
FEIN: 81-3496752

December 5, 2018



Grand Valley Audubon Society,

The Board of Directors of *Forever Our Rivers Foundation* is pleased to announce our first round of grant recipients. We appreciate your dedication to support healthy rivers by improving wildlife habitat and have included a check for \$1,000 towards your Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project. We hope this will further your efforts as a nonprofit organization working to increase the habitat and quality of the wetlands of the Colorado River. Our very best to you in this worthy cause.

Respectfully,

*Tim Carlson*

Tim Carlson, President  
Forever Our Rivers Foundation  
[tim@ForeverOurRivers.org](mailto:tim@ForeverOurRivers.org)  
970 260-9338



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

**WESTERN COLORADO  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

*Charitable Funds for Community Good*

February 11, 2020

Grand valley Audubon Society  
Via e-mail

To whom it may concern,

This letter documents that Western Colorado Community Foundation awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,600 (cash) for the Audubon Nature Preserve Wetlands Improvement Project. Please feel free to contact me if you need further information or have any questions about the grant.

Sincerely,

Chris Herrman  
Conservation, Outdoor Recreation and Environment Initiative Director

---

**MAIL**  
PO Box 4334  
Grand Junction, CO 81502

**OFFICE**  
225 North 5th St, Suite 505  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

**CONTACT**  
Phone 970.243.3767  
Fax 970.243.9767

**ONLINE**  
[www.wc-cf.org](http://www.wc-cf.org)



Colorado Riverfront Foundation, Inc.  
PO Box 2477  
Grand Junction, CO 81502  
Phone: 970.683.4333  
info@OneRiverfront.org  
OneRiverfront.org

January 22, 2019

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

One Riverfront (the Riverfront Commission and the Colorado Riverfront Foundation, Inc.) is pleased to support Grand Valley Audubon's wetlands improvement project on their property adjacent to the Riverfront Trail. Grand Valley Audubon has been a long-time partner in development of the Riverfront Trail and their property is open to the public and enjoyed by many trail users.

The Riverfront Trail system is an ongoing, 30+ year-old valley-wide project to provide an uninterrupted public trail system from the Garfield/Mesa county line to Colorado/Utah state border, while preserving valuable riparian habitat. The Audubon property is on the trail in the heart of the Grand Valley. Its unpaved trails, interpretive signs and bird blinds are an attraction for Riverfront Trail users. Improvement of ponds on this property will enhance wildlife viewing opportunities along the Riverfront Trail and provide needed habitat for ducks, wading birds and other wildlife.

One Riverfront has worked with Grand Valley Audubon successfully on past restoration efforts and we are happy to support them in their pursuit of a CWCB Water Plan grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Nelson".

Paul Nelson  
Colorado Riverfront Foundation, Inc., Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Jefferson".

Karen Jefferson  
One Riverfront, Co-chair



September 9, 2019

Re: Colorado Basin Roundtable Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant

Dear Colorado Basin Roundtable,

RiversEdge West is pleased to partner with Grand Valley Audubon for their wetlands improvement project. RiversEdge West is a non-profit focused on riparian forest and floodplain health in the American West to address impacts from invasive plants, climate change and habitat fragmentation, and stressors that may result in diminished biodiversity and ecosystem services.

We worked closely with Grand Valley Audubon on the first phase of this project which included selective removal of invasive shrubs and native revegetation establishment on 23 acres of riparian forest. The next phase-improvement of their ponds to create emergent, shallow wetlands- will enhance the habitat value of this property immensely. There are many deeper, former gravel pit ponds in the Grand Valley, but shallow water wetlands are in short supply. Now that the Colorado River is highly managed, it no longer creates this type of wetland habitat naturally.

By converting these gravel pit ponds to shallow wetlands we can create this much needed riparian habitat type on a property that is managed and preserved for wildlife conservation purposes. This area is also adjacent to the Connected Lakes Section of James M. Robb Colorado River State Park where RiversEdge West has completed extensive invasive species and revegetation work through support from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Continued habitat improvement on Grand Valley Audubon's property will add to the landscape scale approach of restoring riparian lands.

RiversEdge West has worked with Grand Valley Audubon successfully on many restoration efforts for over 10 years and we are happy to support them in their pursuit of a Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant.

Sincerely,



Shannon Wadas  
Associate Director

FEIN 27-0007315

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

P.O. Box 1907 | Grand Junction, CO 81502

Advancing the restoration of riparian lands through collaboration, education, and technical assistance.

Dear Colorado Basin Roundtable,

Audubon Rockies, a regional office of the National Audubon Society, is pleased to support Grand Valley Audubon's Wetlands Improvement Project through this Colorado Water Plan Implementation grant. Audubon believes in a world where people and wildlife both thrive and this project is an exemplar of the value. Specifically, this project will transform marginal wildlife habitat in the form of old gravel pit ponds into productive, shallow-water wetlands. Shallow-water wetlands are critical habitat, but limited in availability for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife along the Colorado River mainstem.

Currently, agricultural irrigation return flows and seepage from unlined irrigation ditches support substitute wetland habitat for birds like- American Avocet, Black-crowned Night Herons, and Sora. As Colorado and the Upper Basin states enact the Drought Contingency Plan and potential Demand Management practices, many of these substitute wetlands may dry up as we consider reform in irrigation water use, delivery, and locale.

The creation of quality wetlands on the Audubon Nature Preserve property -adjacent to the Colorado River mainstem- will help offset this loss, provide critical avian habitat, and offer remarkable bird-watching opportunities in the heart of Grand Junction. We have partnered with Grand Valley Audubon Society on previous Preserve restoration projects because we believe this property is a valuable resource for both the human and wildlife communities of the Grand Valley. Audubon Rockies is a steadfast partner now and in future technical and financial support for enduring restoration practices on the Grand Valley Audubon Preserve.

Audubon Rockies is eager to partner with Grand Valley Audubon Society on this project, and we enthusiastically support their efforts to secure this WSRF Grant.

Sincerely,



Alison Holloran  
Audubon Rockies, Executive Director  
VP National Audubon Society



Abby Burk  
Western Rivers Regional Program Manager  
Audubon Rockies



January 30, 2019

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board Water Plan Grant Committee,

The City of Grand Junction is pleased to partner with Grand Valley Audubon Society in their wetland habitat improvement efforts on the Audubon property in Grand Junction, CO. The City has worked with Grand Valley Audubon Society successfully on past restoration efforts and we are happy to support them in their pursuit of a Colorado Water Plan grant.

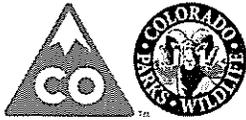
Aspects of Audubon's proposed wetland improvement project will require access to water. These include seasonal filling of the ephemeral pond and addition of limited water to the wetlands when necessary to maintain habitat value. Currently Grand Valley Audubon Society has no water rights, but the City of Grand Junction has water rights on the Grand Junction Redlands Tailrace which runs adjacent to Audubon's property.

The process of developing a method to provide water for this project will take time to prepare and introduce the topic to the city council. We cannot ensure an outcome at this time, but hope the council consider this a worthy project. Our original parameters will include sufficient water if and when water is available for wildlife habitat improvement for a reasonable length of time. We have similar lease agreements for similar purposes in the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Ritterbush".

Mark Ritterbush  
Water Services Manager



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

James M. Robb-Colorado River State Park  
P.O. Box 700; 361 32 Rd  
Clifton, CO. 81520  
P 970.434.3388 | F 970.434.6878

January 23, 2019

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is pleased to support Grand Valley Audubon's wetlands improvement project. The Audubon Nature Preserve property is adjacent to the Connected Lakes Section of the James M. Robb Colorado River State Park. We have long worked with Grand Valley Audubon Society, sharing riparian restoration expertise and other resources. The Audubon Property and the Connected Lakes State Park property are very similar in that both have ponds formed by old gravel pits. The ponds on the state park property are popular for fishing and some boating and we have means to maintain their water levels and quality. However, the ponds on the Audubon property are filled by groundwater only and there is no means to maintain their water levels or quality. As such, they are frequently anoxic and unproductive.

The Audubon property provides an uncommon opportunity to create valuable wildlife habitat by converting the unproductive Audubon ponds to shallow, emergent wetlands greatly enhancing their value to birds and other wildlife. While we have taken steps to improve the habitat value in the state park our ability to provide shallow wetlands for forage is limited and as mentioned the primary uses of fishing and boating are not compatible with a shallow wetland. However, the property is contiguous with the 120-acre state park and improving these wetlands will boost habitat quality and diversity on a much larger swath of the riparian corridor.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is happy to support Grand Valley Audubon in their pursuit of a CWCB Water Plan grant.

Sincerely,

Pete Firmin  
Park Manager

James M. Robb-Colorado River State Park

