

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

Applicant & Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Water Activity Name: Lower Elkhead Creek Restoration Project, Phase 1

Water Activity Purpose: Environmental & Agricultural - Implementation

County: Routt & Moffat

Drainage Basin: Yampa/White/Green

Water Source: Lower Elkhead Creek

Amount Requested: \$50,000 Yampa/White/Green Basin Account
\$150,000 Statewide Account
\$200,000 Total Request

Matching Funds: Basin Account Match = \$50,000

- 300% of statewide request (meets 10% min)

Applicant Match & 3rd Parties = \$1,300,000

- 867% of the statewide request (meets 10% min)

Total Match (Basin & Applicant) = \$1,350,000

- 900% of the statewide request (meets 50% min)

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$50,000 from the Yampa/White/Green Basin Account, and \$150,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project: Lower Elkhead Creek Restoration Project, Phase 1.

Water Activity Summary: WSRF Funds, if approved will assist the Trout Unlimited restore 30 acres of riverine and riparian habitat, and will a) help stabilize the creek channel, b) increase resiliency to flooding, drought and human activity, c) protect local agriculture, d) provide tangible benefits to wildlife, and e) improve water quality. Trout Unlimited (TU) will partner with private landowners and a variety of agencies to restore the riparian corridor along Elkhead Creek, utilizing measures such as bank regrading, structural bank reinforcement, strategic plantings of native riparian species and adjusted land management. The Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) money requested from Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBCB) would be used to secure an adequate supply riparian vegetation (purchased and/or harvested locally), purchase additional restoration materials and complete project construction.

Discussion: This effort will assist the Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable meet the Goals and Measurable Outcomes #4, 5, 6, 7, 8, as identified in the application and in the Yampa/White/Green Basin Implementation Plan, as well as assist Colorado's Water Plan achieve the goal of enhancing environmental and recreational economic values, protect healthy environments, promote protection and restoration of water quality, and protect and restore critical watersheds as called for in Chapter 10.

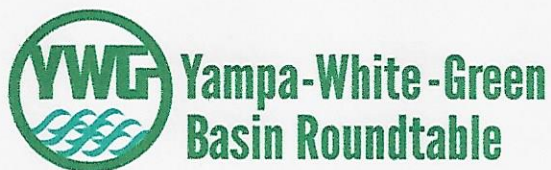
Issues/Additional Needs: The applicant shall submit all outstanding letters of matching commitment prior to entering into a grant contract with the state; otherwise, there are no issues or additional needs.

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

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

Funding Sources/Match	Cash	In-kind	Total	Status
Trout Unlimited	\$10,000	\$9,000	\$19,000	Secured
NRCS	\$46,000	\$105,000	\$46,000	Secured
NRCS	\$854,000	\$0	\$854,000	Pending
USFWS	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	Secured
CPW Wetlands Program	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	Secured
CWCB Watershed Restoration Program Grant	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	Secured
Colorado River Water Conservation District	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	Secured
Lorraine Kawcak	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	Pending
Laine O'Neal	\$8,000	\$3,000	\$11,000	Pending
Keith Pankey	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$20,000	Pending
Eric Hamilton	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$10,000	Pending
City of Craig	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	Pending
Yampa River Fund	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	Pending
Sub-total	\$1,171,000	\$129,000	\$1,300,000	
WSRF Yampa/White/Green Basin Account	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	Secured
Sub-total	\$1,221,000	\$129,000	\$1,350,000	
Statewide Account	\$150,000	n/a	\$150,000	
Total Project Costs	\$1,371,000	\$129,000	\$1,500,000	

CWCB Project Manager: Chris Sturm



December 10, 2019

Mr. Brian Hodge
Northwest Colorado Director, Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 770610
Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80477

Re; Lower Elkhead Creek Restoration Project, Phase 1

Dear Mr. Brian Hodge,

The YWG BRT is pleased to inform at the November 13, 2019 Yampa - White - Green Basin Roundtable (YWG BRT) meeting the round table unanimously approved the Lower Elkhead Creek Restoration Project Phase 1 Basin WSRF grant request for \$50,000 as was the State WSRF grant request of \$150,000 for recommendation to the CWCB. As summarized within the grant application the purpose is to address landowners' concerns by restoring more than 30 acres of riverine and riparian habitat, which will help to a) stabilize the creek channel, b) increase resiliency to flooding, drought and human activity, c) protect local agriculture, d) provide tangible benefits to wildlife, and e) improve water quality .

The project meets multiple YWG Basin Implementation Plan Goals including but not limited to; protect decreed and pre-compact water rights, protect and encourage agricultural uses, improves water quality, remediate at-risk or lost infrastructure, provides public education and demonstration, and has multiple beneficiaries. The project demonstrates collaborative partnerships and letters of support showing strong community interest to move forward with the project that ultimately is for the benefit of many Yampa Valley water users.

For additional assistance please contact me at (970) 629-2525 or aldenvb@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alden Vanden Brink'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Alden' being the most prominent.

Alden Vanden Brink

Yampa - White - Green Basin Roundtable, Chair



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:

Arkansas

Ben Wade
ben.wade@state.co.us
303-866-3441 x3238

**Gunnison | North Platte |
South Platte | Yampa/White**

Craig Godbout
craig.godbout@state.co.us
303-866-3441 x3210

**Colorado | Metro | Rio Grande |
Southwest**

Megan Holcomb
megan.holcomb@state.co.us
303-866-3441 x3222

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

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

(2) Required with application if applicable.

(3) Additional documentation providing a Detailed/Itemized Budget maybe required for contracting. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate with the CWCB Project Manager to determine specifics.

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

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Schedule		
CWCB Meeting	Application Submittal Dates	Type of Request
January	December 1	Basin Account; BIP
March	February 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
May	April 1	Basin Account; BIP
July	June 1	Basin Account; BIP
September	August 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
November	October 1	Basin Account/BIP

Desired Timeline	
Desired CWCB Hearing Month:	March 2020
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	August 2020

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	Kaitlyn Vaux	
Name of Water Activity	Lower Elkhead Creek Restoration Project, Phase 1	
Approving Roundtable(s)	Basin Account Request(s) ⁽¹⁾	
Yampa/White/Green	\$50,000	
Basin Account Request Subtotal	\$50,000	
Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾	\$150,000	
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)	\$200,000	
Total Project Costs	\$1,500,000	

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



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Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Trout Unlimited
Mailing Address	1777 N Kent St., Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22209
FEIN	38-1612715
Grantee's Organization Contact ⁽¹⁾	Brian Hodge
Position/Title	Northwest Colorado Director, Western Water and Habitat Program
Email	bhodge@tu.org
Phone	(970) 846-0414
Grant Management Contact ⁽²⁾	Kaitlyn Vaux
Position/Title	Yampa-White River Basin Project Coordinator
Email	kvaux@tu.org
Phone	(970) 761-9701
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	

(1) Person with signatory authority

(2) Person responsible for creating reimbursement invoices (Invoice for Services) and corresponding with CWCB staff.

Description of Grantee
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
<p>Founded in 1959, Trout Unlimited (TU) today is a national non-profit organization with more than 300,000 members, supporters and staff dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Within its Western Water and Habitat Program (WWHP), TU partners with producers interested in improving agricultural operations and aquatic habitat. TU has had an on-the-ground presence in Northwest Colorado for nearly ten years, and projects to date have included irrigation infrastructure improvements and efficiency upgrades, riparian habitat restoration, instream flow and habitat improvements, and the protection of native fish habitat. In NW Colorado, TU has representation on the Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable, the Upper Yampa Watershed Group, the Yampa River Integrated Water Management Plan committee, the board of the Yampa River Water Fund and the White River technical advisor group.</p>



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

Type of Water Activity (check one)	
	Study
X	Implementation

Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)		
X	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)	
	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)	
X	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 decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Counties	Routt and Moffat Counties
Latitude	40.542560
Longitude	-107.388194



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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.

Lower Elkhead Creek, located northeast of the city of Craig, has experienced significant bank erosion, channel incision, fragmentation and reduction of the riparian corridor, and general habitat degradation. Private landowners have been actively seeking solutions to improve the creek's ecosystem and maintain agricultural ways of life. The proposed Lower Elkhead Creek Restoration Project, Phase 1, aims to address landowners' concerns by restoring more than 30 acres of riverine and riparian habitat, and will a) help stabilize the creek channel, b) increase resiliency to flooding, drought and human activity, c) protect local agriculture, d) provide tangible benefits to wildlife, and e) improve water quality. Trout Unlimited will partner with private landowners, community groups, NGOs and state and federal agencies to restore the riparian corridor along Elkhead Creek, utilizing measures such as bank regrading, structural bank reinforcement, strategic plantings of native riparian species and adjusted land management. A channel-spanning irrigation pipeline that washed out will also be designed and constructed, which will help protect decreed irrigation water rights for future water use. The WSRF funds requested will be used to secure an adequate supply of tree and plants (purchased and/or harvested locally), to purchase additional restoration materials, and to implement projects.

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)	
26,400 LF (5 miles)	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
30+ acres	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](#) ⁽¹⁾. The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers).

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

Colorado's Water Plan (CWP)

The project will meet goals of Section 6.6 – Environmental and Recreational Projects and Methods – of the CWP by 1) restoring threatened and imperiled riparian plant communities, 2) promote long-term sustainability and resiliency of the Elkhead Creek ecosystem, 3) support both environmental and agricultural water needs, and 4) maintain and improve watershed health.

The project will meet goals of Section 7.3 – Water Quality – by creating riparian buffers and restoring habitat. These are two examples of nonpoint-source best management practices identified in Section 7.3 (pg. 378) which “will be critical to improving water quality for recreational, environmental and consumptive needs in the future”.

Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI)

The project will align with the SWSI's recommendation to:

“Support meeting Colorado's non-consumptive water needs by working with Colorado's water stakeholders to help “pursue projects and other strategies, including CWCB's Instream Flow Program, that benefit consumptive water users, the riparian and aquatic environments, and stream recreation.”

Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan (BIP)

The project addresses all seven out of eight goals of the Yampa/White/Green BIP:

1. While this project may not protect the basin from compact curtailment, it will protect decreed, pre-compact water rights for future water use – thereby addressing BIP goal #1. Current at-risk irrigation infrastructure associated with pre-compact water rights (i.e., headgates, pumps, and ditches) will be protected through erosion mitigation and channel stabilization measures. Additionally, there are water rights that have not been able to be utilized as a result of erosion and subsequent loss of creek-side infrastructure, so technical assistance will continue to be provided to landowners to ensure existing water rights on lower Elkhead Creek are maintained.
2. The project will address BIP goal #2 - protect and encourage agricultural uses of water - by addressing the current issues that irrigators have on lower Elkhead Creek and w#2, #3, #4, #5th their irrigation infrastructure.
3. The project will address BIP goal #3 - reduce agriculture water shortages - by replacing lost irrigation infrastructure and thereby allowing irrigators to utilize their pre-compact water rights.
4. Although this project does not directly address BIP goal #4 – identify and address Municipal and Industrial (M&I) water shortages – M&I water users (e.g., the City of Craig, Tri-State Power and Transmission Association, etc.) have water rights in Elkhead Reservoir, and lower Elkhead Creek is the conduit for that water to reach its intended users. The project will help improve lower Elkhead Creek's functionality and resiliency in terms of sheparding M&I water downstream, which is important now and



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Water Activity Justification

in the future as the YWG Basin's population and M&I water usage are projected to significantly increase.

5. The project will address BIP goal #5 – quantifying environmental and recreational water uses – by helping to restore riparian plant communities, floodplain connectivity and wildlife habitat. The YWG recognizes that:

“Floodplains, riparian areas, and wetlands are natural storage reservoirs, and implement restoration projects to maintain and improve these storage reservoirs. Rehabilitation of degraded riparian areas and reconnection of floodplains in degraded stream systems allows spring floods recharge groundwater tables for slow release to the stream system later in the summer which supports low flows and helps maintain non-consumptive benefits.”

6. This project will address BIP goal #6 – maintain and consider the existing natural range of water quality necessary for current and anticipated water uses –by improving water temperature, sediment-loading and other water quality parameters in order to support drinking water, agricultural and wildlife.

7. The project will address BIP goal #7 – restore, maintain and modernize water storage and distribution infrastructure – by addressing at-risk or lost infrastructure associated with several pre-compact water rights on lower Elkhead Creek. The infrastructure that enables the use of those water rights has been either washed out or is at risk due to erosion and habitat degradation. By reducing excessive erosion and improving the creek channel's condition, this project will help protect agricultural water use now and in the future.

8. The project will address BIP goal #8 – develop an integrated system to reduce water shortages and meet environmental and recreational needs – by restoring lower Elkhead Creek's riverine and riparian ecosystems. Floodplains and riparian corridors are natural water storage reservoirs and the restoration of degraded floodplain and riparian areas on lower Elkhead Creek will increase groundwater recharge, support low flow periods and help maintain non-consumptive benefits. Not only will this project help to address local community concerns, but it will contribute to improving watershed health and maintaining non-consumptive uses in Northwest Colorado and the great Colorado River Basin.

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

Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests

Basin (only) Account grant requests require a 25% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the Applicant or 3rd party and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment** as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines (submitted on the contributing entity's letterhead). Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind)
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.	



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Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests	
Statewide Account grant requests require a 50% match as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. A minimum of 10% match shall be from Basin Account funds (cash only). A minimum of 10% match shall be provided by the applicant or 3rd party (cash, in-kind, or combination). The remaining 30% of the required match may be provided from any other source (Basin, applicant, or 3 rd party) and shall be accompanied by a letter of commitment . Attach additional sheet if necessary.	
Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):
Trout Unlimited	\$10,000 – approved (cash) \$9,000 – approved (in-kind)
NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) (FY2020-FY2021 EQIP funding)	\$46,000 – approved (cash) \$105,000 – approved (in-kind) \$854,000 – pending (cash)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	\$5,000 – approved (cash)
CPW Wetlands Program	\$50,000 – approved (cash)
CWCB Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant Program	\$100,000 – approved (cash)
Colorado River District	\$5,000 – approved (cash)
Private landowners: Lorraine Kawcak Laine O'Neal Keith Pankey Eric Hamilton	\$10,000 – pending (cash) \$5,000 – pending (in-kind) \$8,000 – pending (cash) \$3,000 – pending (in-kind) \$15,000 – pending (cash) \$5,000 – pending (in-kind) \$8,000 – pending (cash) \$2,000 – pending (in-kind)
City of Craig	\$10,000 – approved (cash)
Yampa River Fund	\$50,000 – pending (cash)
Total Match	\$1,300,000
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).	

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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.

Lower Elkhead Creek is a sub-basin in the Upper Yampa River Watershed Plan (2016), and this project aligns with identified priorities such as excessive erosion control and riparian habitat improvement. The project will also follow the “Best Management Practices for Riparian Areas” outlined in the Upper Yampa Watershed Plan (Appendix C, pg. 81), which prioritizes riparian area protection and restoration, improving watershed connectivity, and maintaining the ecological balance of riparian, wetland and aquatic biota.

The Upper Yampa River 2014 State of the Watershed Report recognizes channel incision, floodplain disconnection, soil compaction, increased erosion and sediment transportation, lowering of the groundwater table and reduced natural water storage as common attributes of unhealthy and degraded riparian areas.

This report also mentions that Elkhead Creek (in many areas) lacks riparian vegetation and has incised channels, which contribute to excessive streambank erosion. Restoration work has been planned for sections of upper Elkhead Creek, and as more funding is available, additional restoration work on Elkhead Creek is needed.

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

For list of TU projects receiving CWCB grants (2015-2019), see attached “TU-CWCB Grant Agreements” document.

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.

Trout Unlimited is not affected by TABOR.



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Colorado Water Conservation Board	
Water Supply Reserve Fund	
<u>Exhibit A - Statement of Work</u>	
Date:	01/29/2020
Water Activity Name:	Lower Elkhead Creek Restoration Project, Phase 1
Grant Recipient:	Trout Unlimited
Funding Source:	Water Supply Reserve Fund (Colorado Water Conservation Board)
Water Activity Overview: (Please provide brief description of the proposed water activity (no more than 200 words). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRF funding will be used for.	
<p>Lower Elkhead Creek, located northeast of the city of Craig, has experienced significant bank erosion, channel incision, fragmentation and reduction of the riparian corridor, and general habitat degradation. Private landowners have been actively seeking solutions to improve the creek's ecosystem and maintain agricultural ways of life. The proposed Lower Elkhead Creek Restoration Project, Phase 1, aims to address landowners' concerns by restoring more than 30 acres of riverine and riparian habitat, and will a) help stabilize the creek channel, b) increase resiliency to flooding, drought and human activity, c) protect local agriculture, d) provide tangible benefits to wildlife, and e) improve water quality. Trout Unlimited (TU) will partner with private landowners and a variety of agencies to restore the riparian corridor along Elkhead Creek, utilizing measures such as bank regrading, structural bank reinforcement, strategic plantings of native riparian species and adjusted land management.</p> <p>The Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) money requested from Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) would be used to secure an adequate supply riparian vegetation (purchased and/or harvested locally), purchase additional restoration materials and complete project construction.</p>	
Objectives: (List the objectives of the project)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Maintain or improve natural river form and processes.2. Promote floodplain connection.2. Reestablish a native riparian corridor.3. Increase resiliency to floods, droughts, human activity and further erosion.4. Create healthier working lands in the Elkhead Creek valley.5. Foster a culture of collaboration and shared values between Elkhead Creek landowners, the greater Craig community and local agencies and organizations.	



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Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<u>Task 1: Facilitate landowner meetings</u>
Description of Task:
Help facilitate landowner meetings in order to raise awareness of the issues on lower Elkhead Creek and to provide a platform for landowners to voice their own concerns and discuss solutions.
Method/Procedure:
Landowners on lower Elkhead Creek, with TU's assistance and facilitation, are currently in the process of forming a collective group centered around their shared concerns, issues, and visions for the creek. One landowner will be selected to represent the collective group of lower Elkhead Creek landowners and be the lead contact person regarding any information and decision-making pertaining to the Phase 1 project area and restoration work. Best management practices and engineering designs for restoration work will be reviewed with the group.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
A collective group statement from landowners that reflects the shared concerns, issues and visions for lower Elkhead Creek.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
A collective group statement from landowners that reflects the shared concerns, issues and visions for lower Elkhead Creek.

Tasks
<u>Task 2: Conduct pre-project monitoring activities</u>
Description of Task:
Conduct pre-project monitoring of riparian vegetation, bank stability and overall habitat (note: pre-project monitoring details be finalized at a later date, but may include riparian vegetation plots, remote sensing imagery, soil moisture sensors, riparian monitoring wells, wildlife surveys, cross section surveys, bank erosion estimation, etc.)
Method/Procedure:



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Tasks
Temperature loggers and/or riparian monitoring wells would be purchased and installed at several points along the creek (at least three sites within the Phase 1 project area and one outside the project area) to capture any in-stream temperature fluctuations and/or changes in the water table between pre- and post-project implementation. Photo point monitoring and use of remote sensing imagery would be used to compare pre- and post-project riparian vegetation (e.g., diversity, abundance, growth, photosynthetic activity). Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guides (WHEGs), cross section surveys and bank erosion estimates would be completed.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
A pre-project summary of the Phase 1 project area, installation and setup of monitoring efforts and initial pre-project data.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
TU will submit a pre-project summary of the Phase 1 project area, installation and setup of monitoring efforts and initial pre-project data.

Tasks
<u>Task 3: Complete Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) planning and contracting</u>
Description of Task:
Complete NRCS planning and contracting with individual landowners in the Phase 1 project area.
Method/Procedure:
Pending NRCS funding and application approvals, landowners will sign Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts that outline the proposed conservation activities, provide an engineering design and practice standards/specifications, and indicate how much NRCS will pay landowner per practice upon proper installation. Landowners will be made aware of their responsibilities as related to the contract.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
NRCS EQIP contract document with landowner signatures, Operation & Maintenance document signed, and other pertinent documentation signed (i.e., engineering design and conservation practice job sheets).
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
Final NRCS engineering designs and Operation & Maintenance sheets specifying NRCS conservation practices to be implemented.



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Tasks
<u>Task 4: Procure project materials</u>
Description of Task:
Procurement of riparian vegetation and other restoration materials.
Method/Procedure:
For riparian vegetation, willow and cottonwood cuttings will be harvested from on-site locations in the spring and sent to the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) nursery to grow and develop root stock. The cuttings would then be collected and planted in the fall. Other riparian plants will be purchased directly from CSFS. Additional project materials (e.g., rock, erosion control blanket, stakes, vegetation cages, etc.) will be purchased through local companies and sources, based on competitive prices and quality.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
TU will provide a report on procurement and installation of riparian vegetation, which will include how plants were collected/harvested, which species, planting procedures, and post-planting care (e.g., watering, installing caging, etc.). The procurement of additional materials will also be provided, including material type, quantity, and unit cost.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
TU will provide a report on procurement of riparian vegetation, which will include how plants were collected/harvested, which species, planting procedures, and post-planting care (e.g., watering, installing caging, etc.). The procurement of additional materials will also be provided, including material type, quantity, and unit cost.

Tasks
<u>Task 5: Complete project construction</u>
Description of Task:
Secure contractor(s) and complete project construction
Method/Procedure:

Last Update: January 9, 2018

Tasks
A contractor or contractors will be determined through a bidding process and attempts to secure contractors with significant river work experience will be made. Site visits to the project area will be made in advance of bidding, if needed. Pre-construction meetings will be held between the contractor(s) and the lead project engineer prior to on-the-groundwork. Construction is expected to start in summer/early fall of each year, depending on contractor availability. The lead project engineer will be on site for the beginning of projects to ensure that construction is according to final engineering designs.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
TU will deliver a report on the contractor bidding process and selection, construction progress (before, during and after construction site photos), and final as-builts for each project site.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
TU will deliver a report on the contractor bidding process and selection, construction progress (before, during and after construction site photos), and final as-builts for each project site.

Tasks
<u>Task 6: Conduct post-project monitoring and evaluation</u>
Description of Task:
Conduct post-project monitoring and evaluation
Method/Procedure:
TU will help to collect post-project data to directly compare with pre-project data. All monitoring data described in Task 2 (final details will be finalized at a later date) will be collected after project completion.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
TU will submit a post-project summary of the Phase 1 project area and include post-project data as compared with initial pre-project data (refer to Task 2 for described monitoring activities).
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
TU will submit a post-project summary of the Phase 1 project area and include post-project data as compared with initial pre-project data (refer to Task 2 for described monitoring activities).



Last Update: January 9, 2018

Tasks
<u>Task 7: Coordinate outreach events around demonstration projects</u>
Description of Task:
Hold demonstration events around completed projects on lower Elkhead Creek
Method/Procedure:
TU will work with NRCS and interested landowners to coordinate and organize outreach field days, to educate community members about watershed restoration and highlight projects that successfully demonstrate the multiple benefits of the project.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
TU will submit a summary of outreach events conducted and include who was in attendance, the highlights of what was discussed, and questions/issues raised by the audience.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
TU will submit a summary of outreach events conducted and include who was in attendance, the highlights of what was discussed, and questions/issues raised by the audience.

Tasks
<u>Task 8: Grant Administration</u>
Description of Task:
TU will administer the WSRF grant for the lower Elkhead Creek restoration project, Phase 1.
Method/Procedure:
TU will administer the WSRF grant by organizing invoices, gathering correspondences, and sending all pertinent information to CWCB.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
All pertinent invoices and correspondences will be sent to CWCB.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
All pertinent invoices and correspondences will be sent to CWCB.



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.

Last Update: July 31, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board						
Water Supply Reserve Fund						
EXHIBIT B - BUDGET AND SCHEDULE - Direct & Indirect (Administrative) Costs						
Date: 9/12/2019						
Water Activity Name: Lower Elkhead Creek Restoration Project, Phase 1						
Grantee Name: Trout Unlimited						
Task No. ⁽¹⁾	Description	Start Date ⁽²⁾	End Date	Matching Funds (cash & in-kind) ⁽³⁾	WSRF Funds (Basin & Statewide combined) ⁽³⁾	Total
<u>1</u>	Facilitate landowner meetings	August 2019	May 2020	\$500.00		\$500
<u>2</u>	Conduct pre-project monitoring activities	July 2020	October 2021	\$2,000		\$2,000
<u>3</u>	Complete NRCS planning/contracting	January 2020	May 2021	\$105,000		\$105,000
<u>4</u>	Procure project materials	August 2020	March 2023	\$271,000	\$141,846	\$412,846
<u>5</u>	Complete project construction	September 2020	October 2023	\$915,000	\$43,902	\$958,902
<u>6</u>	Conduct post-project monitoring and evaluation	July 2021	October 2024	\$2,000		\$2,000
<u>7</u>	Coordinate outreach events around demonstration projects	October 2020	October 2022	\$500		\$500
<u>8</u>	Grant administration	August 2020	March 2023	\$4,000	\$14,252	\$18,252
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
Total				\$1,300,000	\$200,000	\$1,500,000
(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 over \$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.						

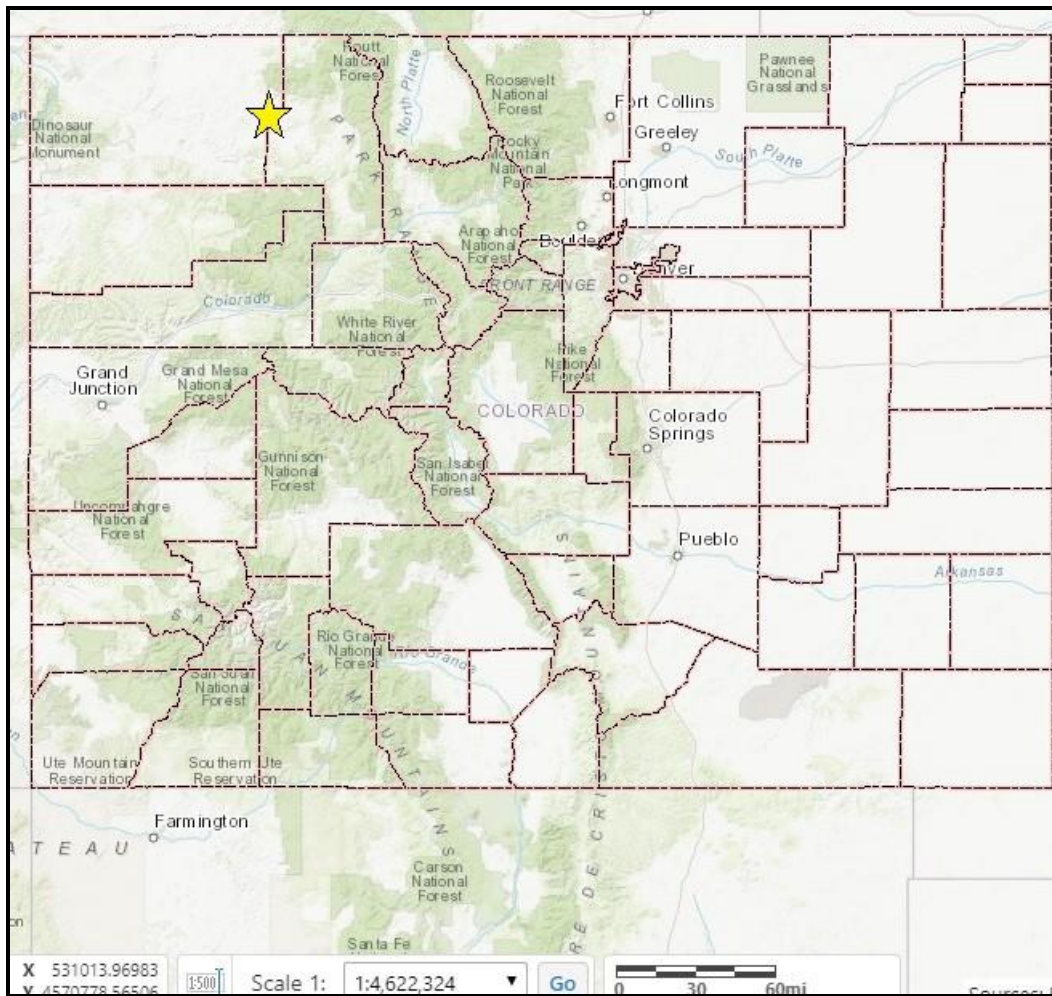


Photo 1. Location of Phase 1 project area within the state of Colorado.

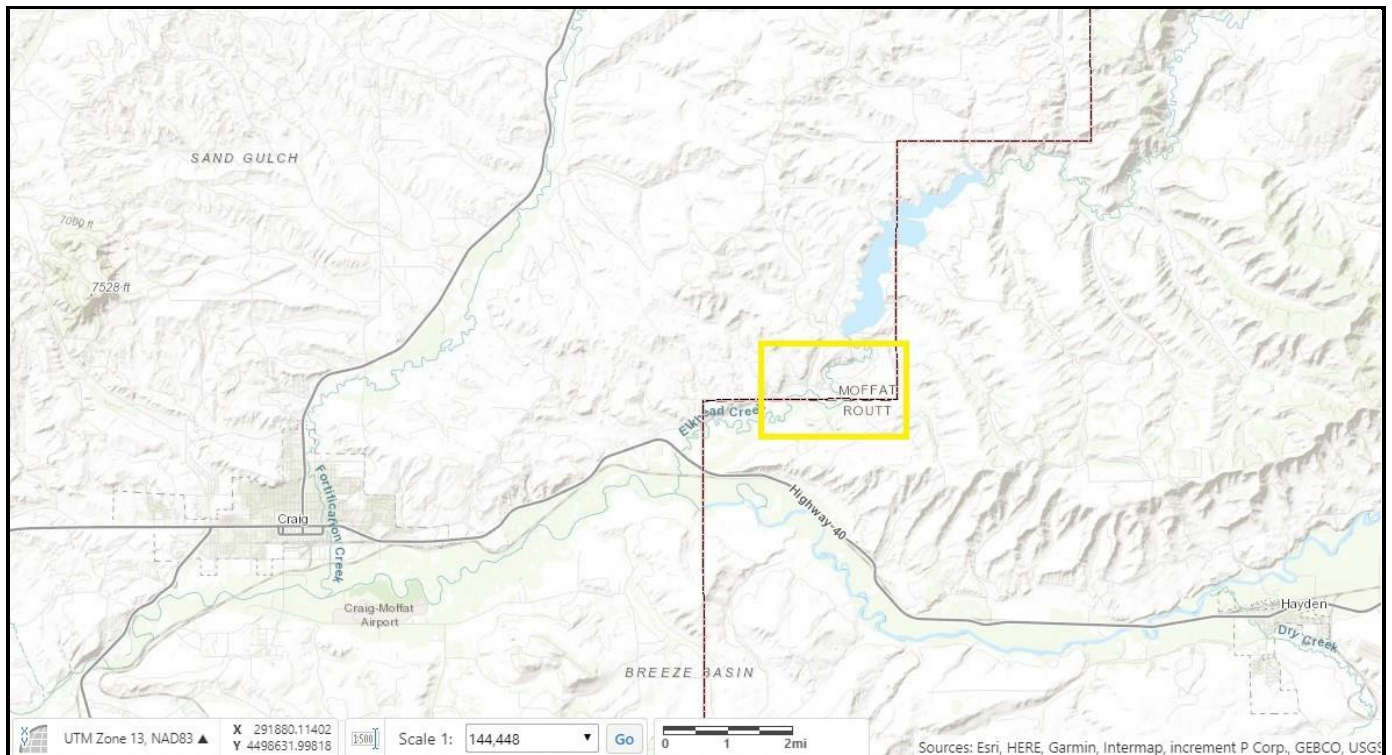


Photo 2. Location of Phase 1 project area, relative to the towns of Craig and Hayden, CO.

Evidence of excessive bank erosion and habitat degradation on lower Elkhead Creek (photos taken with permission from private landowners, Spring 2018)





COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

October 1, 2019

Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable
c/o Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Yampa/White/Green Roundtable Members:

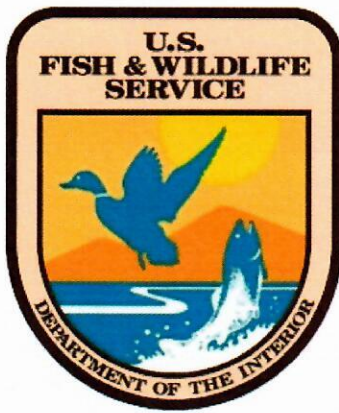
I am writing this letter on behalf of the Colorado River District in support of the Lower Elkhead Creek Restoration Project being undertaken by Trout Unlimited (TU) on behalf of landowners residing on lower Elkhead Creek. Elkhead Creek has experienced erosion and habitat degradation and implementing solutions to restore the riparian area will improve the watershed health and enable agricultural in Lower Elkhead Creek to thrive.

As one of the Elkhead Reservoir partners at the upstream terminus of the project, the River District supports this project as neighbors in the basin. Furthermore, addressing this issue clearly fits the mission of the Colorado River District, to lead in the protection, conservation, use, and development of the water resources of the Colorado River basin for the welfare of the District. Accordingly, the River District has committed \$5,000 of funding to the Lower Elkhead Creek Restoration Project.

Thank you for your leadership in addressing this pressing issue on Elkhead Creek.

Sincerely,

Andy Mueller
General Manager
amueller@crwcd.org



9/30/19

Dear Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable Members,

As the NW Colorado Coordinator and Biologist for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFW), it is my pleasure to support the Trout Unlimited Phase 1 Restoration Plan for Lower Elkhead Creek.

Working with private landowners on floodplain connection efforts that include the re-establishment of native riparian corridor and wildlife habitats are of particular interest.

The PFW Program has provided \$5,000 in cost share to one of the landowners involved in the effort thus far. Our intention is to continue to assist the other private landowners in Phase 1 efforts as they progress.

I strongly support this effort, and hope that you identify and support this project as a priority for NW Colorado.

Bob

Bob Timberman
NW CO PFW Biologist
(970) 846-5139
bob_timberman@fws.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service
[Craig] Service Center
[145 Commerce St.]
[Craig], CO [81625]

Lower Elkhead Creek Restoration: Letter of Support Project Summary

9/17/2019

Yampa/White/Green Basin Round Table
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718, Denver, CO 80203

Dear Yampa/White/Green Basin Round Table,

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps landowners to conserve working lands by helping people help the land. The NRCS has received request for assistance along Elkhead Creek for several years to address on going and worsening severe resource concerns. The primary resource concerns identified are bank erosion and habitat degradation. This has led to losses in prime agriculture production and access to water for historic irrigation practices.

Elkhead Creek is a large tributary to the Yampa River northeast of the town of Craig, with a drainage area of approximately 225 square miles. Since the late 19th century, Elkhead Creek's adjacent valley floor has been used for livestock grazing and hay production. Located downstream of Elkhead Reservoir, lower Elkhead Creek is a sediment-impooverished system and has experienced excessive bank erosion and channel incision. Water releases from the reservoir that help maintain minimum flows for endangered fish in the Yampa River alter lower Elkhead Creek's natural flow regime and result in sustained high flows. The creek's transition from a healthy floodplain-connected creek to an incised, disconnected one is evident by steep vertical banks, lack of a riparian corridor and a water table 3-5 feet lower than it historically used to be.

To date, NRCS has provided significant technical assistance and committed \$46,000 cash (as part of a 2019 EQIP contract) for bank stabilization/riparian restoration work on a section of lower Elkhead Creek. NRCS will continue to support future restoration actions that address identified resource concerns, and will continue to work with interested landowners residing on Elkhead Creek. Collaboration with additional project partners will further help address high priority sites along Elkhead Creek.

In cooperation with Trout Unlimited, NRCS is in full support of continuing assistance for the purpose of addressing identified resource concerns along Lower Elkhead Creek.

Respectfully,

Kendall A. Smith

Kendall Smith
District Conservationist

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

