

Last Updated: July 2017

## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Water Plan Grant Application

#### Instructions

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

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

Supply and Demand Gap Projects: Gregory.Johnson@state.co.us

Water Storage Projects: Anna.Mauss@state.co.us

Conservation, Land Use Planning: Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us

Engagement & Innovation Activities: Mara.MacKillop@state.co.us

Agricultural Projects: Brent.Newman@state.co.us

Environmental & Recreation Projects: Linda.Bassi@state.co.us

Applicants interested in submitting an ‘Intent to Apply’ in the future are encouraged to check here ☐ and fill in all sections with the best information available at the time. Exhibits excluded.

This “Intent to Apply” will help CWCB prioritize Projects that are not ready for fully completed Water Plan Grant Application due to the initial timeframe and deadlines required.

#### Water Project Summary

|                                |  |           |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Name of Applicant              | City of Steamboat Springs  |           |
| Name of Water Project          | Fish Creek Critical Community Watershed Wildfire Protection Plan |           |
| CWP Grant Request Amount       |  | \$50,000  |
| Other Funding Sources          | <u>Mt. Werner Water</u>  | \$50,000  |
| Other Funding Sources          |  | \$        |
| Applicant Funding Contribution |  | \$50,000  |
| Total Project Cost             |  | \$150,000 |

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| Applicant & Grantee Information                  |  |
|--|--|
| Name of Grantee(s)                               | City of Steamboat Springs  |
| Mailing Address                                  | P.O. Box 775088  |
| FEIN   | 84-6000721   |
| Organization Contact                             | Kelly Romero-Heaney  |
| Position/Title                                   | Water Resources Manager  |
| Email  | <a href="mailto:kromeroheaney@steamboatsprings.net">kromeroheaney@steamboatsprings.net</a> |
| Phone  | 970-871-8205   |
| Grant Management Contact                         | <u>Ginger Scott</u>  |
| Position/Title                                   | Grants / PR Specialist   |
| Email  | <a href="mailto:gscott@steamboatsprings.net">gscott@steamboatsprings.net</a>               |
| Phone  | 970-871-8215   |
| Name of Applicant<br>(if different than grantee) | N/A  |
| Mailing Address                                  |  |
| Position/Title                                   |  |
| Email  |  |
| Phone  |  |

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| Description of Grantee/Applicant  |
|---|
| Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).  |
| <p>Steamboat Springs is located in Routt County in Northwest Colorado. The City of Steamboat Springs and Mount Werner Water Sanitation District provide water and sewer services to the community which has approximately 12,690 full time residents, and also includes a large population of part-time residents with second homes, and an even larger population of visitors.</p> <p>The average annual water use of the combined districts is approximately 3,000 AF per year. Annual usage is split roughly 50/50 between the City and Mt. Werner Water.</p> <p>The majority (approximately 93%) of the water that supplies the community comes from the Fish Creek drainage.</p> |

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| Type of Eligible Entity (check one) |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| X                                   | <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> Private parties may be eligible for funding.  |
|                                     | <b>Non-governmental organizations (NGO):</b> Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.   |
|                                     | <b>Covered Entity:</b> As defined in <a href="#">Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes</a> .  |

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

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



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### Location of Water Project

Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in **decimal degrees**. The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| County/Countries | Routt County |
| Latitude         | 40.476       |
| Longitude        | 106.783      |

### Water Project Overview

Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). Include a description of the project and what the CWP Grant funding will be used for specifically (e.g., studies, permitting process, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project, where applicable. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, and area of habitat improvements, where applicable. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain.

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

If funded, the City of Steamboat Springs (City) and the Mount Werner Water and Sanitation District (Mt. Werner Water) are proposing to develop a Critical Community Wildfire Watershed Protection Plan (CWP)<sup>2</sup> for the Fish Creek Basin. The primary objective is to develop a plan through an open and collaborative process with stakeholders that will clearly define and prioritize site specific measures within the watershed, and at the water treatment plant to implement before, during, and after a wildfire event to protect critical drinking water supply and infrastructure and watershed health.

The City and Mt. Werner Water operate a joint water supply and treatment system to supply their respective service districts within the greater Steamboat Springs area. Within this service area there are a total of 5,530 residential and commercial taps. The majority of the raw water that supplies the community (over the last five years the average was 93%), comes from the 22 square mile Fish Creek Basin, a heavily forested watershed that sits primarily within the US Forest Service boundary. Two reservoirs – Long Lake Reservoir and Fish Creek Reservoir – supply the direct diversion at Fish Creek to a conventional filtration treatment plant near the City limits.

### Measurable Results

To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable:

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | New Storage Created (acre-feet)  |
|  | New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet),<br>Consumptive or Nonconsumptive |

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| Measurable Results   |  |          |
|--|--|----------|
| 4,563 acre-feet (4,167 at Fish Creek Reservoir and 396 at Long Lake Reservoir) | Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)   |          |
| 234,351 linear feet  | Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)                                       |          |
|  | Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)                               |          |
|  | Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)  |          |
|  | Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms                           |          |
|  | Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning |          |
|  | Other  | Explain: |

| Water Project Justification  |
|--|
| <p>Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of <a href="#">Colorado's Water Plan</a>, the most recent <a href="#">Statewide Water Supply Initiative</a>, and the applicable Roundtable <a href="#">Basin Implementation Plan</a> and <a href="#">Education Action Plan</a>. 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).</p> <p>The proposed water project shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;)</p> <p>The project supports the goals of the Colorado Water Plan by addressing the health of the Fish Creek watershed as discussed in section 7.1 – Watershed Health and Management, through identifying strategies to reduce risk of wildfire, and forming a post wildfire plan to protect the health of the area's drinking water supply. In addition the project will support the Watershed Wildfire Protection Group (p.7-7), whose vision is to "protect Colorado water supplies and critical infrastructure from catastrophic wildfire and other threats by maintaining healthy, resilient watersheds through collaboration, implementation, leveraging, and education." Our project conforms to the Colorado Water Plan's Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project as it aligns with Colorado's Water Values in the following ways: The project shows <b>commitment to collaboration</b> by having multiple contributing partners and stakeholders, <b>addresses an identified water gap</b> as it is a defined need listed in the local BIP, <b>demonstrates sustainability</b> by incorporating best management practices, and is <b>fiscally and technically feasible</b> because the City and Mt. Werner Water are sharing the costs and are committed to contributing the staff and resources needed to complete the project.</p> <p>The Statewide Water Supply Initiative's recommendation to "develop and support risk management strategies so that Colorado can fully use its compact and decree entitlements to best balance Colorado's diverse water needs" is supported by our project.</p> <p>In addition, the Yampa-White-Green Basin Implementation Plan goals align with our project as noted in the Executive Summary page E-2 - "Maintaining and considering the existing</p> |

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### Water Project Justification

natural range of water quality that is necessary for current and anticipated water uses,” and “Identifying and Addressing Municipal and Industrial Water Shortages”. In addition, the BIP states in section 4-3 that Fish Creek is one of the higher risk areas for wildfire, and is ranked the highest in the Yampa Basin for both drinking water importance areas and drinking water risk. This project is critical to address now given the importance of this watershed area, the high risk of wildfire, and the absence of strategic and focused recommendations. The project is also part of the Watershed Planning Process (ID#18) within the Environmental and Recreational IPP’s that were identified in the BIP.

The [2014 State of the Upper Yampa River Watershed Report](#) listed wildfires as a factor that influences water quality in the watershed as they can result in loss of upland vegetation and riparian habitat, increased erosion and sedimentation, chemical-loading, higher stream temperatures, and flooding from burned areas. With the threat of wildfire to the community’s drinking water supply and watershed health being identified as a high concern in this report, the 2016 Upper Yampa River Watershed Plan recommended several wildfire-related projects, including Fish Creek wildfire protection and preparedness planning and mitigation treatments that reduce burn severity within the watershed to avoid development of hydrophobic soils and related erosion.

In addition to providing the majority of the drinking water for the Steamboat Springs community, Fish Creek provides key habitat for mountain whitefish, one of the few remaining native fish species in the Upper Yampa Basin. The 2017 Yampa River Health Assessment Report (a technical memo that will be incorporated into the in-progress Steamboat Springs Stream Management Plan) identified Fish Creek as a place of thermal refuge for whitefish during late-season, low-flows in the Yampa River.

When this project is complete, the final published plan will be shared with partners on the Yampa White Green Roundtable, and communicated online via their website at [www.yampawhitegreen.com](http://www.yampawhitegreen.com). The City and Mt. Werner Water will begin evaluating the prioritized recommendations and action plans, and begin planning for the staffing and budget needed to implement these action items.

### Related Studies

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

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### Related Studies

The Fish Creek Critical Community Watershed Wildfire Protection Plan will be informed by and complement the following existing plans with more specific recommendations and details on watershed and protection:

Routt County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (December 2010)  
Routt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (September 2010)  
Fish Creek – Sanctuary Community Wildfire Protection Plan (May 2007)  
Upper Yampa State of the Watershed Report (2014)  
Upper Yampa River Watershed Plan (May 2016)  
Medicine Bow Routt National Forest – Forest Plan (1998)  
Steamboat Springs Yampa River Management Plan (In progress)

### Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order; 6) Percentage of other CWCB funding for your overall project.

The City of Steamboat Springs is in the process of completing a Yampa River Stream Management Plan update and has one open grant with the CWCB – Colorado Watershed Restoration Program and one open grant with the Water Supply Reserve Account for this project. Details are as follows:

1. Applicant: City of Steamboat Springs
2. Water Activity Name: Yampa River Management Plan
3. Approving RT: Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable
4. CWCB Board meeting date – July 2016
5. WSRF Purchase Order # POGG1 2017-361
6. CWCB Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Grant - \$51,875 and CWCB Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant - \$21,000

The City completed a Water Conservation Plan with the assistance of a CWCB Water Efficiency Grant Program Fund grant. This grant is completed and closed out. Details are as follows:

1. Applicant: City of Steamboat Springs
2. Water Activity Name: Water Conservation Plan
3. Approving RT: Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable
4. Division of Water Conservation Purchase Order # OE PDA 10000000108
5. CWCB Water Efficiency Grant - \$15,358

In addition, the City collaborated with Mt. Werner Water on a grant to implement the Water Conservation Plan as noted above.

1. Applicant: Mount Werner Water Sanitation District
2. Water Activity Name: Water Conservation Implementation Measures
3. Approving RT: Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable
4. Division of Water Conservation Purchase Order # 12000000070
5. CWCB Water Efficiency Grant - \$49,500



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### Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding

### Taxpayer Bill of Rights

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

The City of Steamboat Springs “debruced” in 1997, so our project will not be affected by TABOR.



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| Submittal Checklist                           |  |
|---|--|
| X   | I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the <a href="#">Standard Contract</a> . |
| Exhibit A                                     |  |
| X   | Statement of Work <sup>(1)</sup>   |
| X   | Budget & Schedule <sup>(1)</sup> ( <i>Spreadsheet</i> )  |
| X   | Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Commitments <sup>(1)</sup>                        |
| Exhibit C                                     |  |
| X   | Map (if applicable) <sup>(1)</sup>   |
| X   | Photos/Drawings/Reports  |
| X   | Letters of Support (Support letter from Basin Roundtable encouraged)                                       |
| Will Provide During Contracting               | Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) <sup>(2)</sup>                                  |
| Will Provide During Contracting               | Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State <sup>(2)</sup>                               |
| X   | W-9 <sup>(2)</sup>   |
| N/A   | Independent Contractor Form <sup>(2)</sup> (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)          |
| Engagement & Innovation Grant Applicants ONLY |  |
| N/A   | Engagement & Innovation Supplemental Application <sup>(1)</sup>  |

(1) Required with application.

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



## ***Upper Yampa River Watershed Group***



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March 6, 2018

Linda Bassi  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Fish Creek Critical Community Wildfire Watershed Protection Plan Grant – Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Bassi,

Please accept this letter from the Upper Yampa River Watershed Group (UYRWG) in support of the water plan implementation grant application by the City of Steamboat Springs and Mount Werner Water and Sanitation to develop the Fish Creek Critical Community Wildfire Watershed Protection Plan.

The UYRWG is an organization comprised of representatives from local government, water suppliers, environmental organizations, the US Forest Service, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, industry, agriculture, and other stakeholders in the Upper Yampa Basin. The UYRWG recently published the [2014 State of the Upper Yampa River Watershed Report](#) and [2016 Upper Yampa River Watershed Plan](#) which identifies and prioritizes projects and strategies that will help support the health of the watershed.

Specifically, the Plans listed above identify potential wildfire impacts to water quality which could include loss of upland vegetation and riparian habitat, increased erosion and sedimentation, undesired chemical-loading, higher stream temperatures, and flooding from burned areas. With the threat of wildfire to the community's drinking water supply and watershed health being classified as a high concern, the Watershed Plan recommends several wildfire-related projects including Fish Creek wildfire protection and preparedness planning and mitigation treatments that reduce burn severity within the watershed to avoid development of hydrophobic soils and related erosion.

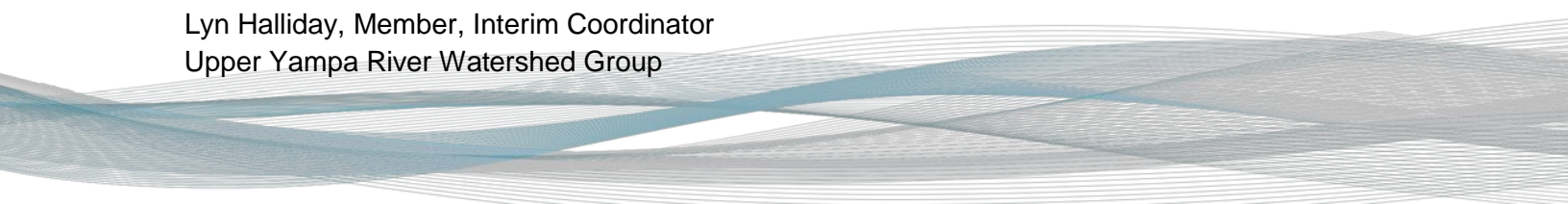
**The UYRWG strongly supports the aforementioned request for funding as vital to the current and future health of our watershed.**

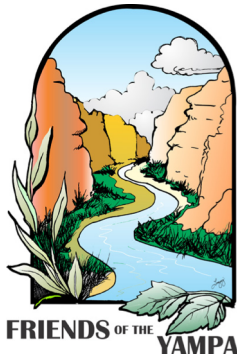
Thank you for your serious consideration of this important project. I can be reached at 970.879.6323 or [lhalliday@environmentalsolutionllc.com](mailto:lhalliday@environmentalsolutionllc.com) should you have questions or additional needs.

Sincerely,

*Lyn Halliday*

Lyn Halliday, Member, Interim Coordinator  
Upper Yampa River Watershed Group





## Friends of the Yampa

[www.friendsoftheyampa.com](http://www.friendsoftheyampa.com)

PO Box 771654, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

*Mission: To protect and enhance the environmental and recreational integrity of the Yampa River and its tributaries thru stewardship, advocacy, education and partnerships.*

March 9, 2018

Linda Bassi  
CWCB  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Fish Creek Critical Community Wildfire Watershed Protection Plan

Hello Linda,

We at Friends of the Yampa would like for this letter of support to be added to the packet for the City of Steamboat Springs' and Mount Werner Water and Sanitation District's Colorado Water Plan Implementation Grant application for their **Fish Creek Critical Community Wildfire Watershed Protection Plan**.

Friends of the Yampa believe that in protecting our headwaters from wildfire we will be protecting the environmental integrity of the Yampa River. Currently there is no clearly defined and prioritized plan to deal with wildfire around Fish Creek Reservoir. This grant application will work to do so and we believe that the CWCB should support this by helping with the requested funding.

Thank you Linda for all you do. Miss you and hope to see you on the river some day.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Sincerely yours,

Kent Vertrees  
President  
Friends of the Yampa  
970-846-7933