

Applicants & Grantee:	R&K Straheli Farms
Water Activity Name:	Vouga Reservoir Repair
Water Activity Purpose:	Agriculture
County:	Saguache
Drainage Basin:	Gunnison
Water Source:	Razor Creek
Amount Requested:	\$50,000 Gunnison Basin Account
Matching Funds:	Applicant & 3 rd Party Match (cash) = \$276,313 • 552% of the Basin Account request (meets 25% min)

Staff recommends approval of up to \$50,000 from the Gunnison Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Vouga Reservoir Repair.

Discussion: This effort will assist the Gunnison Basin Roundtable meet their goals of protecting existing uses and improving agricultural water supplies as identified in the Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan, and assist the state in maintaining existing water storage capacity as called for in the Colorado Water Plan.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, Water Activity Eligibility, and Eligibility Based on Match Requirements.

Funding Sources/Match	Cash	In-kind	Total	Status
R&K Straheli Farms	\$201,313	\$0	\$201,313	Secured
Upper Gunnison WCD	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	Secured
USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	Secured
Sub-total Matching Funds	\$276,313	\$0	\$276,313	
WSRF Gunnison Basin Account	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	Secured
Total Project Costs	\$326,313	\$0	\$326,313	

CWCB Project Manager: Craig Godbout

May 27, 2020

Mr. Craig Godbout
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Vouga Reservoir Project GBRT Grant Application Approval

Dear Mr. Godbout,

I am writing on behalf of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable to let you know that the membership has approved an application for funding improvements at Vouga Reservoir. This reservoir is located on Razor Creek, tributary to Tomichi Creek east of Gunnison. Vouga Reservoir is currently under a fill restriction from the State Engineer, causing a loss of over 250 acre feet of storage, due to poor conditions on the upstream slope of the reservoir.

This project would rehabilitate the upstream face at an estimated total project cost of \$370,000. The GBRT approved \$50,000 in basin funds to support the proposed improvements. Approximately 1500 acres are irrigated by this structure. Although this project was not included in the BIP it meets many of our Basin Goals, including maintaining existing infrastructure, helping existing agriculture and increasing storage. In addition, there are several environmental benefits connected with the project. Lower Razor Creek benefits from return flows later in the irrigation season which also benefits Tomichi Creek. The owner is working with the CPW and TU on plans to restore upper Razor Creek (above the reservoir) as a Cutthroat fishery, with the reservoir serving as a block to non native trout and a potential brood source for Cutthroat trout. This is a good example of our Basin emphasis on the environment benefitting from agricultural water use.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Best Regards,

Kathleen Curry

Kathleen Curry, Chair
Gunnison Basin Roundtable
54542 US Highway 50
Gunnison, CO 81230
kathleencurry@montrose.net
Cell 970-209-5537
Home 970-641-0699



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⁾
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
	Letters of Support
Contracting Documents⁽³⁾	
	Detailed/Itemized Budget ⁽³⁾ (<i>Excel Spreadsheet – see Template</i>)
	Certificate of Insurance ⁽⁴⁾ (<i>General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.</i>)
	Certificate of Good Standing ⁽⁴⁾
	W-9 Form ⁽⁴⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽⁴⁾ (<i>If applicant is individual, not company/organization</i>)
	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.

Last Update: July 31, 2018

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:	July 2020
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	September 2020

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	R & K Staheli Farms	
Name of Water Activity	Vouga Reservoir Rehabilitation	
Approving Roundtable(s)	Basin Account Request(s) ⁽¹⁾	
Gunnison	\$50,000	
Basin Account Request Subtotal	\$50,000	
Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾	\$	
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)	\$50,000	
Total Project Costs	\$326,313	

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

Grantee and Applicant Information



Last Update: July 31, 2018

Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	R & K Staheli Farms
Mailing Address	1525 P Road, Loma, Colorado 81524
FEIN	87-0443558
Grantee's Organization Contact ⁽¹⁾	Ralph Staheli
Position/Title	Owner
Email	Pearson.carson@gmail.com
Phone	1-435-673-3085
Grant Management Contact ⁽²⁾	Carson Pearson
Position/Title	Ranch Manager
Email	Pearson.carson@gmail.com
Phone	435-590-3897
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	Carson Pearson
Mailing Address	22501 CR 88, Ault, Colorado 80610
Position/Title	
Email	Pearson.carson@gmail.com
Phone	435-590-3897

(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).
Ralph Staheli owns and runs a small family farming and ranching operation in Loma, Colorado and Doyleville, Colorado. Operations include 700 acres of irrigated farm ground and a small feedlot, as well as 200 cow/calf pairs.

Last Update: July 31, 2018

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
X	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
	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)		
	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)	
	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)	
X	Agricultural	
	Municipal/Industrial	
	Needs Assessment	
	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	Saguache
Latitude	38.355375
Longitude	-106.664045

Last Update: July 31, 2018

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.

The upstream slope of the dam structure has taken a large amount of wave action erosion resulting in an unsatisfactory rating with the Colorado State Engineers Office. Due to this classification there has been a temporary action by the state requiring the reservoir does not reach over 46 feet of depth. Under this restriction storage is reduced by about 300 ac/ft each water year as well as causing issues with optimization of high water conditions. Requested funding will go towards the reconstruction of the upstream slope to remove the imposed restriction and bring storage back to full capacity. Vouga reservoir provides irrigation for an estimated 1500 acres in native grass hay production and livestock pasture.

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	
300 ac/ft	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)	
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved	
	Other	Explain:

Last Update: July 31, 2018

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](#)).

The restoration and rehabilitation of the Vouga Reservoir dam structure supports many of the Colorado's Water Plan and Gunnison Basin's goals. First and foremost by improving the amount of storage, which is an important part of meeting year-round needs. As stated in the CWP, updating existing storage structures is typically more practical than new construction and can commence without the hurdles of permitting and funding (CWP Ch. 4, 14-15). Additionally, this project aligns directly with the Basin goals of "protecting existing uses" and "improving agricultural water supplies". We are able to protect the existing uses by restoring the reservoir to its historic and maximum storage level, keeping water that is otherwise sent downstream with little to no benefit of direct users in the drainage. All water stored directly contributes to agriculture in the area and has allowed multiple operations to benefit by supplying water for meadow irrigation later in the water year when high water conditions aren't present. Additionally, the stored water of this structure keeps agricultural land in the area productive in what would be a semi-arid environment without supplemental irrigation. It is especially a concern to address agricultural water shortages in the Upper Gunnison Basin according to the CWP(CWP Ch. 3, 6). In this area if the basin there are not as many dams nor high producing drainages, which makes this particular structure valuable from a storage and irrigation standpoint. There are also many environmental factors that can be affected by the downstream flows of Vouga including; several public and private riparian areas, trout populations in Razor Creek, and Gunnison Sage Grouse habitat. Razor Creek is also a major tributary of Tomichi Creek which is known to have some of the best trout fishing in the area. This project is very important to the area both agriculturally and environmentally. Under direct instruction from the State of Colorado Dam Safety Engineer if the dam is not rehabilitated to original as-built specifications the current temporary restriction level will become permanent. The loss of about 300 ac/ft of storage will have significant impacts on not only the owners, but several downstream agriculture operations. This project aglins very well with the Gunnison Basin and State goals for keeping Colorado's water productive.

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



Last Update: July 31, 2018

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)
R&K Staheli Farms	\$201,313 (cash)
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservation District (secured)	\$50,000 (cash)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Partners for Fish and Wildlife (pending)	\$25,000 (cash)
Total Match	\$276,313
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.	

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 3rd 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):
Total Match	\$
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).	

Last Update: July 31, 2018

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.

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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

None Known

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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.

None Known

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This aerial map provides a detailed view of the mountainous terrain around Gunnison, Colorado. Key features include:

- Gunnison, CO:** Located in the upper left, showing the town and the Gunnison River.
- HWY 135 TO CRESTED BUTTE:** Indicated by a line extending north from Gunnison.
- HWY 50 TO MONTROSE:** Indicated by a line extending west from Gunnison.
- DOYLEVILLE:** Located in the lower right, near the intersection of HWY 50 and CO RD 45.
- HWY 50 TO SALIDA:** Indicated by a line extending east from Doyleville.
- CO RD 45:** A road running north-south near Doyleville.
- PROJECT LOCATION: VOUGA RESERVOIR:** Located in the lower right, south of Doyleville.
- North Arrow:** Located in the top right corner.

HWY 135
TO CRESTED BUTTE

GUNNISON, CO

HWY 50
TO MONTROSE

DOYLEVILLE

CO RD 45

HWY 50
TO SALIDA

PROJECT LOCATION:
VOUGA RESERVOIR

HWY 135
TO CRESTED BUTTE

GUNNISON, CO

HWY 50
TO MONTROSE

DOYLEVILLE

HWY 50
TO SALIDA

CO RD 45

PROJECT LOCATION:
VOUGA RESERVOIR

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- CO RD 45:** A road branching off from the main route near Doyleville.
- PROJECT LOCATION: VOUGA RESERVOIR:** Located in the lower right, with an arrow pointing to the reservoir.
- HWY 50 TO SALIDA:** Indicated by a line extending east from Doyleville.
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HWY 135
TO CRESTED BUTTE

GUNNISON, CO

HWY 50
TO MONTROSE

DOYLEVILLE

CO RD 45

HWY 50
TO SALIDA

PROJECT LOCATION:
VOUGA RESERVOIR

HWY 135
TO CRESTED BUTTE

GUNNISON, CO

HWY 50
TO MONTROSE

DOYLEVILLE

CO RD 45

HWY 50
TO SALIDA

PROJECT LOCATION:
VOUGA RESERVOIR



Vouga Reservoir
Association
Vouga Dam Resoration

#	Revision	Date	By:
1			

Project Milestone: Preliminary Not For Construction

Job No.	2019-428.001
Drawn by:	JS
Date:	06.22.2020
QC:	-- PE: JB
File:	Funding Vicinity Map

Title:

Vicinity Map

Dwg No.

1.0

Of: 1.0



Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B • Gunnison, Colorado 81230
(970) 641-6065 • www.ugrwcd.org

March 23, 2020

R&K Staheli Farms
Carson Pearson
22501 County Road 88
Ault, CO 80610

Re: Vouga Reservoir Dam Restoration and Rehabilitation

Dear Carson,

This letter is to acknowledge the approval of your grant request submitted to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD). You have been approved for **\$50,000** in UGRWCD Grant monies for the above referenced project.

The program received grant requests for over \$340,000 for a wide range of well-qualified proposals, with requests ranging from \$3,000 to \$50,000. The total of the grant requests was well over the \$200,000 amount appropriated for 2020.

The release of these grant funds is subject to entering into a Funding Agreement which must be signed by both the UGRWCD and the awarded party. Please contact our office at 970-641-6065 to proceed with the Funding Agreement.

Congratulations,

Sonja Chavez
General Manager



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

COLORADO PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE

134 UNION BLVD.; SUITE 400C
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 80228
303-236-4341

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Craig Godbout
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Subject: Vouga Reservoir Dam Restoration and Rehabilitation

Dear Mr. Godbout,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (CO PFW) strongly supports the Vouga Reservoir Dam Restoration and Rehabilitation Project. CO PFW is actively working in partnership with R&K Staheli Farms, Trout Unlimited, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District to restore the Vouga Reservoir Dam. This reservoir provides irrigation water important for brood rearing habitat within Critical Habitat for Gunnison Sage-Grouse (GUSG) along the sagebrush interface for over 1,000 acres of working wet meadows. Once repairs to the dam is complete, the reservoir is slated to become a brood pond for native Colorado River cutthroat trout (CRCT) that will contribute to native fish recovery above the reservoir in Razor Creek, as well as provide a source for new reintroductions in other drainages historically endemic to CRCT. In addition to GUSG and CRCT, CO PFW recognizes the complexity and critical importance that flood irrigation practices have on keeping private ranch lands viable, as well as benefits to a myriad of other wildlife species.

CO PFW expresses full support towards the success of this project and has secured \$25,000 in matching funds. Thank you for considering CO PFW's support and this project. If you have any questions regarding the CO PFW program or details of this project, please contact Brandon Miller, CO PFW Private Lands Biologist, 307 N. Main St., Suite 2C, Gunnison, CO 81230; 970-615-0119; or brandon_miller@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Dominic Barrett
State Coordinator



August 16, 2019

Mr. Ralph Staheli
Vouga Reservoir Association
333 W. Mill Creek Circle
Washington, UT 84780

VIA EMAIL c/o Carson Pearson
pearson.carson@gmail.com

When replying, please refer to:
VOUGA DAM, DAMID 280109
Water Division 4, Water District 28

SUBJECT: Engineer's Inspection Report

Dear Mr. Staheli,

On July 22, 2019, our office inspected Vouga Dam in accordance with Section 37-87-107 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, which assigns the State Engineer responsibility to determine the amount of water which is safe to impound in the reservoirs of all dams in the state of Colorado. Enclosed is a copy of the Engineer's Inspection Report for your use, which includes an owner's signature block on page 3 to acknowledge your receipt of the report. Please sign the signature page and return a copy to the Division 4 office via mail or email.

As you are aware, unacceptable conditions exist on the upstream slope of the dam. As a result, the reservoir is currently under a restriction of storage not to exceed gage height 46.0 feet, or 4.0 feet below the crest of the morning glory service spillway. Results of the current inspection confirm that the seepage and freeboard conditions are acceptable at the restricted level, but the overall conditions remain rated Unsatisfactory.

If you wish to have the restriction lifted, you must engage a professional engineer registered in the State of Colorado with dam design and construction experience to design a satisfactory repair for the dam. Plans and specifications regarding this work must be submitted to our office for our review and approval prior to any construction. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated. If you have any questions concerning this inspection report or any other dam safety related matters, please do not hesitate to contact me in the Montrose office at (970) 249-6622.

Sincerely,



Jason Ward, PhD, PE
Dam Safety Engineer

Enc: Engineer's Inspection Report

ec: Bill McCormick, Chief, Colorado Dam Safety
Jack Brazinsky, District 28 Water Commissioner

