

# YAMPA VALLEY STREAM IMPROVEMENT CHARITABLE TRUST

a 501(c)(3) charitable organization  
EIN: 84-1018137

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December 6, 2021

Andrea Harbin Monahan, Watershed Scientist  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Rm 721  
Denver, CO 80203  
Via Email to: [andrea.harbinmonahan@state.co.us](mailto:andrea.harbinmonahan@state.co.us)

Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant  
Order No. POGG1, PDAA, 202100002116  
Yampa River Habitat and Recreation Improvement Project at Pleasant Valley Grant

Dear Ms. Harbin Monahan:

A Final Report generated by FlyWater is attached, including the before and after photos of various sections of project. The Final Report of the Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Charitable Trust with respect to the Pleasant Valley Project is found below.

FINAL REPORT – 12/2/21

## A) PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Pleasant Valley Project commenced in the Fall of 2014. Western Rivers Conservancy had purchased the property in December 2013, with the purpose of transfer to BLM for preservation. The transfer to BLM occurred in December 2014. The property had special characteristics, both historical and natural, uniquely situated between Stagecoach Reservoir and Lake Catamount, including 4400 linear feet of the Yampa River which could be dedicated to public use and enjoyment by its transfer to BLM.

A meeting on site with BLM, Western Rivers and representative of the YVSICT occurred in 2013, followed by an agreement to pursue the Project. YVSICT engaged an initial design team to perform surveys and create an initial design in the summer of 2014. Several meetings, initial designs, and negotiations with the landowner (BLM), our engineers, and representatives of CPW followed resulting in creation and execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and the Trust on July 9, 2019. The project was officially underway. YVSICT entered into a Design/Build Contract with FlyWater, inc. the following day.

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## B) SUMMARY

From inception of the project in 2013, it was recognized this reach of river was of particular importance to CPW in terms of trout rearing, studies, and development of research relating to whirling disease resistant rainbow trout. This, in part, was a cause of the extended period of development.

The project was intended and designed by the FlyWater/Stillwater Team to improve the health and function of 4,400 linear feet of the Yampa River, improving areas of the reach which exhibited low overall functionality, minimal habitat and width to depth concerns.

Over the 3-year design build process, several on site meetings occurred with representatives, biologists, and engineers of BLM, CPW, FlyWater, and Stillwater. These meetings analyzed and further refined the project goals of restoring river function and habitat, general river health, providing increased cover for the trout population, and enhanced fishing opportunities and access for public use. These goals we believe have been accomplished.

This Project increased stream complexity, stabilized/protected banks, increased pool depth for overwintering habitat for fish, increased sediment transport, improved juvenile trout habitat, and overall cover for all fishes. Our biologists, hydrologists and engineers, working in conjunction with those of CPW and BLM, have achieved those goals.

Placement of structures was intended to fit into the natural environment with a “do no harm” mentality. For example, river access for humans is naturally directed by placement of vegetation. Parking issues are designed with boulder placement versus signage. On site materials were used and naturally repurposed.

Some increased access (an additional scope of work) for those persons with disability, became an additional goal incorporated into the design in the late stages as work progressed.

The FlyWater Team was in the river performing construction on 8/22/21, after having received all necessary permits and performing a walk through with CPW, BLM, Routt County Road & Bridge and YVSICT on 8/17/21. The Project (but for post construction monitoring) was successfully completed on 9/20/21.

## ACTIVITIES

The staging of the Project's construction was done after consultation with BLM at the parking area of the Hubbard Cabin. The heavy equipment accessed through designated areas, now reclaimed with alders and willows. The Yampa River was graded, increasing depth and overall definition and complexity. Cover for the

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fish was accomplished with use of boulders, downed trees, and plantings. All of the material resulting from excavation was repurposed. Rock and trees with rootwads were imported, but once again, compatible with the surroundings. Environmental concerns were a priority.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As noted above, we believe all intended goals referenced above have been successfully accomplished. We now have a healthier river, benefiting not only the trout population, but better access and an enhanced experience for us all. The river looks undisturbed. The fish population will be healthier and more abundant. A critical and guarded reach of tremendous value has been enhanced.

### FUNDING LEVERAGE

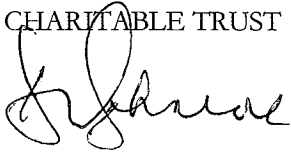
Those funds awarded by The Colorado Water Plan Grant were utilized to leverage donations from Yampa Valley Fly Fishers, our local TU chapter (\$20,000), grants from CPW (\$70,000), The Yampa River Fund (\$34,560) and Colorado Healthy Rivers (\$20,000).

Thanks to all who contributed to the successful completion of this project.

If anything additional is required, please let me know.

Yours Truly,

YAMPA VALLEY STREAM IMPROVEMENT  
CHARITABLE TRUST



Drew Johnroe, President



Enclosures

Cc: Board via email