



Colorado Water Conservation Board

## Water Plan

### Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Trout Unlimited_Montrose	
Name of Water Project	Middle Colorado AG Collaborative	
Grant Request Amount		<b>\$20,000.00</b>
Primary Category		\$20,000.00
<i>Agricultural Projects</i>		
Total Applicant Match		<b>\$29,600.00</b>
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>		\$20,000.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>		\$9,600.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		<b>\$29,600.00</b>
<i>Colorado Trout Unlimited</i>		\$15,000.00
<i>Eagle Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited</i>		\$5,000.00
<i>Trout Unlimited</i>		\$9,600.00
Total Project Cost		<b>\$79,200.00</b>

### Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Trout Unlimited\_Montrose  
Mailing Address: 264 County Road 4 Montrose CO 81403  
FEIN: 381,612,715

Organization Contact: Richard VanGytenbeek  
Position/Title: Colorado River Outreach Coordinator      Email: richard.gytenbeek@tu.org  
Phone: 3076901267

Grant Management Contact: Richard VanGytenbeek  
Position/Title: Colorado River Outreach Coordinator      Email: richard.gytenbeek@tu.org  
Phone: 3076901267

### Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

### Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
- ☐ Public (District)
- ☐ Public (Municipality)
- ☐ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☒ Non-governmental Organization
- ☐ Covered Entity

☐ Other

### Category of Water Project

- ☒ **Agricultural Projects**  
*Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.*
- ☐ **Conservation & Land Use Planning**  
*Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.*
- ☐ **Engagement & Innovation Activities**  
*Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.*
- ☐ **Watershed Restoration & Recreation**  
*Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.*
- ☐ **Water Storage & Supply**  
*Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.*

### Location of Water Project

Latitude	39.575881
Longitude	-107.447071
Lat Long Flag	Stream location: Coordinates based on general location on stream
Water Source	Elk Creek, Canyon Creek and Mitchell Creek.
Basins	Colorado
Counties	Garfield
Districts	39-Rifle/Elk/Parachute Creeks

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Agricultural
Type of Water Project	Design
Scheduled Start Date - Design	8/1/2022
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	10/30/2023

**Description**

The primary objective is to conduct outreach to agricultural irrigation diverters to secure their support to modify or replace irrigation diversion structures that are fish barriers in the Elk, Canyon and Mitchell Creek drainages. Once their initial support is secured a conceptual construction plans and preliminary construction estimates will be completed for each diversion structure. Concept plans will then be vetted and approved by the owner of the structure. This process will be conducted during the summer, fall and early winter 2022.

By obtaining general support from irrigators and completing and approving initial conceptual designs and cost estimates, project partners will position themselves to make application to the Bureau of Reclamations WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) grant. This will be a planning grant enabling completion construction plans for projects that enhance their watershed. (CWMP) grant funds can be up to \$200,000 and do not require a match. Securing this additional funding will enable project partners to access CWCB and federal infrastructure dollars that require shovel ready projects.

## Measurable Results

	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
79,200	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
60	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

### Other

The project seeks to engage approximately 60 irrigators that divert water from Elk, Canyon and Mitchell Creeks. If all diversions become fish passable there will be approximately 15 miles of spawning and rearing habitat opened to native fish from the Co. River. Upgrades to irrigation infrastructure will likely increase efficiency savings but that number is unknown at this time.

## Water Project Justification

The goal of this project is to remove all in-stream barriers to fish passage in Elk, Canyon and Mitchell Creeks by working with willing irrigation diverters to upgrade or replace diversion structures. If the irrigation diverters are interested the project goal can be broadened to include agricultural water delivery and application efficiencies which have the potential to reduce overall diversions. The applicant believes that this project compliments and furthers the objectives, goals and actions identified in the Colorado Water Plan, as well as the themes, goals and strategies recently stated in the Colorado Basin Roundtable's updated Basin Implementation Plan.

### The Colorado Water Plan

The Colorado Water Plan identifies measurable objectives, goals and actions for numerous water use sectors within Colorado. This project addresses these efforts in the areas of Agriculture and the Environment and Recreation. They are:

### Measurable Objectives

Chapter 10.2, Obj. F-Watershed Health, Environment and Recreation-to cover 80% of prioritized streams and watersheds with management plans (SMP's or WSMP's).

Applicant Comment: This project is an outgrowth of the Middle Colorado IWMP process and addresses specific projects identified by that process and committed to the CBRT-BIP Projects List.

### Goals and Actions

Chapter 10.3, Goal D, Agriculture

- 1) Goal: Maintain Agricultural Viability.
- 2) Goal: Support AG Conservation and Efficiency
- 3) Action #3: Provide grants, loans, and technical support to upgrade aging infrastructure particularly for multiple benefit projects.

Applicant Comment: The project will engage and collaborate with willing irrigators to not only improve fish

passage but help maintain agricultural viability, conservation and efficiency by providing grant funding and technical support to upgrade or replace aging infrastructure.

#### Goals and Actions

Chapter 10.3, Goal F, Watershed Health, Environment and Recreation

- 1) Goal: Enhance Environmental and Recreational Economic Values.
- 2) Goal: Protect a Healthy Environment.
- 3) Goal: Protect and Restore Critical Watersheds.
- 4) Action: Develop SMPs or IWMPs.
- 5) Action: Provide Assistance to Local Stakeholder Groups to Create Watershed Plans.

Applicant Comment: As stated this project is a product of the Middle Colorado IWMP process. It was led by the Middle Co. Watershed Council and the GarPit Conservancy District. It is complete and the identified projects and goals have been committed to the CBRT-BIP-Projects List. This project will help restore critical perennial streams that provide spawning and rearing habitat for fish from the Colorado River main-stem. Their progeny migrate back to the Co. River to provide outstanding recreational opportunities for anglers on one of the state's most accessible rivers.

#### The CBRT-Updated Basin Implementation Plan

The Colorado Basin Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan Update continues to include the original "6 Themes" and associated goals. These themes and goals were further supported by identified strategies. This project supports specific goals within two of the six themes; "Protect and Restore Healthy Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Riparian Areas" and "Sustain Agriculture". They are:

- 1) Protect and maintain healthy and self-sustaining aquatic and riparian ecosystems, and rehabilitate damaged ecosystems. The project goal is to increase spawning and rearing habitat for native fish in the Colorado River.
- 2) Engage, educate, learn from, and collaborate with the agricultural community on Co. River Basin water issues, and increase awareness among the broader community about the importance of agriculture.

Applicant Comment: A successful project will require engaging and collaborating with the local agricultural community. Based on previous successful projects in these basins the community at large becomes better informed about the relationship between agriculture and a healthy environment.

The project further supports the following identified strategies:

- 1) Use the IWMP mechanism to reduce risks and enhance benefits across all sectors. This project largely originates from and was supported by the Middle Colorado IWMP process.
- 2) Implement projects on the Projects Database. The project is listed on the CBRT Projects Database as project CO-2020-0001 and is further supported by ancillary Middle Co. IWMP projects CO-2020-0014, CO-2020-0015 and CO-2020-0024 also listed on the Project Database.

Citations: CBRT BIP Update Pgs. 52-62 and Pgs. 153-155.

#### Related Studies

There are no known related studies at this time.

## Taxpayer Bill of Rights

There are no TABOR grant limitations on Trout Unlimited.