

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan**Water Project Summary**

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| Name of Applicant | Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District |
| Name of Water Project | Water Quality Analysis in the Upper Yampa River Watershed and Stagecoach Reservoir |
| Grant Request Amount | \$40,000.00 |
| Primary Category | \$40,000.00 |
| <i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i> | |
| Total Applicant Match | \$10,000.00 |
| <i>Applicant Cash Match</i> | \$10,000.00 |
| <i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i> | \$0.00 |
| Total Other Sources of Funding | \$10,000.00 |
| <i>Colorado River District CFP</i> | \$10,000.00 |
| Total Project Cost | \$60,000.00 |

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District
Mailing Address: PO Box 775529 Steamboat Springs CO 80477
FEIN: 840,776,538

Organization Contact: Andy Rossi

Position/Title:

Phone: (970) 819-3002

Email: arossi@upperyampawater.com

Grant Management Contact: Andy Rossi

Position/Title:

Phone: (970) 819-3002

Email: arossi@upperyampawater.com

Description of Grantee/Applicant

District - Water conservancy or water conservation district

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 | 40.281456 |
| Longitude | -106.848201 |
| Lat Long Flag | Reservoir location: Coordinates based on location of reservoir |
| Water Source | Yampa River |
| Basins | Yampa/White/Green |
| Counties | Garfield; Routt |
| Districts | 58-Upper Yampa River |

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type

Type of Water Project Planning (e.g. watershed)

Scheduled Start Date - Design 7/15/2022

Scheduled Start Date - Construction

Description

The purpose of the Water Quality Analysis in the Upper Yampa River Watershed and Stagecoach Reservoir project is to analyze and quantify the human and environmental factors that may contribute to detrimental algal blooms in the Upper Yampa River Watershed above Stagecoach Reservoir. The proposed program is a new effort derived from the Upper Yampa Watershed Plan (Halliday, 2016), a collaborative effort of the Upper Yampa River Watershed Group (UYWG). The USGS (Day, 2021) reported findings of streamflow and water quality in a study based on the same watershed plan and confirms the need for more analysis of factors influencing algal growth. Public education and stakeholder group engagement are important components of the proposed project methodology.

One major facet of the study is the engagement of stakeholders potentially affected or interested in the project. This working group will be a sub-group of the UYWG and will include landowners, land and water managers, and land and water users in collaboration with scientists and subject matter experts. This will be a non-regulatory program centered on collaboration and inclusion and will be a multi-year endeavor.

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)
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
Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

No additional measurable results provided

Water Project Justification

One of the stated findings of the Draft 2023 Colorado Water Plan (CWP) update is: “Colorado’s watersheds are impacted by the complex interactions of forest, wetland, and headwater stream health, along with human impacts to those systems. Protecting our watersheds helps ensure high-quality water resources are available for all uses. There are several successful models of managing water resources in ways that provide for development and protection of other resources and species.” The emerging concerns of the potential impacts of harmful algal blooms in Colorado’s West-Slope lakes and reservoirs have yet to be integrated into existing water resources management models and practices in the Yampa River Basin.

The Colorado-specific research that will be supported and completed by the proposed efforts will be technically sound, professionally conducted water quality studies in the Yampa River Basin that will provide water users and managers necessary information required to make informed decisions about water quality conditions that may influence detrimental algal blooms in area lakes and reservoirs.

Furthermore, one of the findings included in the CPW’s Yampa-White-Green Basin assessment is that “stream temperatures and increasing nutrient loads are emerging water quality concerns. Increasing stream temperatures on the Yampa River have resulted in a 303(d) impaired stream listing.” There is a potential for near future 303(d) impaired lake and reservoir listings in the basin with the pending Regulation 93 Rulemaking Hearing in May 2025. Water quality concerns have a clear potential to impact the Yampa River Basin’s water resources.

One of the Yampa-White-Green Roundtable’s stated goals is to “maintain and consider the existing natural range of water quality that is necessary for current and anticipated water uses.” The proposed project is in alignment with this stated goal and is included as one of the final recommendations in the soon to be published Yampa-White-Green Roundtable’s Integrated Water Management Plan.

Related Studies

No Related Studies provided

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

No Tax Bill of Rights provided

