



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**Water Plan**

**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Trout Unlimited
Name of Water Project	Smith Reservoir Storage Recovery Feasibility Study
Grant Request Amount	<b>\$86,250.00</b>
Primary Category	\$86,250.00
<i>Water Storage &amp; Supply</i>	
Total Applicant Match	<b>\$6,550.42</b>
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$0.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$6,550.42
Total Other Sources of Funding	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
<i>Moore Charitable Foundation</i>	\$25,000.00
Total Project Cost	<b>\$117,800.42</b>

**Applicant & Grantee Information**

Name of Grantee: Trout Unlimited  
Mailing Address: 1777 North Kent St., Suite 100 Arlington VA 22209  
FEIN: 1,612,715

Organization Contact: Kevin Terry  
Position/Title: Email: kevin.terry@tu.org  
Phone: (970) 799-7682

Organization Contact - Alternate: Cathy Purves  
Position/Title: Foundation Officer Email: cathy.purves@tu.org  
Phone: 307-349-2558

Grant Management Contact: Kevin Terry  
Position/Title: Email: kevin.terry@tu.org  
Phone: (970) 799-7682

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Cathy Purves  
Position/Title: Foundation Officer Email: cathy.purves@tu.org  
Phone: 307-349-2558

**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	37.392740
Longitude	-105.530440
Lat Long Flag	Reservoir location: Coordinates based on location of reservoir
Water Source	Ute Creek and Trinchera Creek
Basins	Rio Grande
Counties	Costilla
Districts	35-Trinchera Creek

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Environmental
Type of Water Project	Planning (e.g. watershed)
Scheduled Start Date - Design	11/1/2022
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	
Description	<p>Smith Reservoir is a multi-purpose reservoir near Blanca, Colorado located in Costilla County. While supplying irrigation water to 12,000 acres of farmland, the reservoir also serves the public as one of only three recreational fisheries in Costilla County which is made up of 99 % private lands. Costilla County is one of Colorado's poorest counties, elevating the importance of local and accessible water-based recreation.</p> <p>Through a long-standing partnership with the Trinchera Irrigation Co., Colorado Parks and Wildlife maintains a conservation pool of water in Smith Reservoir to sustain the fishery. Over 100 years, the 810 acre-feet conservation pool has silted in, due to sediment loading from the upper watershed. The identification of this project as a basin priority demonstrates a commitment to collaboration between irrigators and wildlife managers.</p>

The Smith Reservoir Storage Recovery Feasibility project will investigate methods and alternatives to recover the full decreed storage capacity in Smith Reservoir, assess options to mitigate future siltation, and generate cost estimates and permitting needs to complete the work.

This project (RG-2020-0071) is a tier 1 project in the 2021 Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan and demonstrates tier 1 alignment with the Colorado Water Plan. The project aligns with 8 of the 14 goals in the 2015 Rio Grande Bason Implementation Plan and touches on each of the 5 goals in the 2021 BIP. The project will identify methods to recover the loss of 810 acre-feet of decreed storage water that serves farms and the public in one of Colorado's poorest counties. The project is based on sustainability, focusing on restoring lost storage that benefits the environment and recreation and mitigating future impacts of siltation. The feasibility study will ensure that future phases of project work are cost-effective.

### Measurable Results

810	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)
810	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)
3,499	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	

please note that 810-acre-feet of decreed storage recovered to benefit fish and wildlife habitat, public recreation, and 12,000 acres of irrigated land. The metrics identified reflect the habitat that 810 acre-feet provides and the restoration of 810 af of decreed storage but neither fits perfectly in the category options provided. There are 3,499 residents in Costilla County, identified here as Coloradans that benefit, though that number is larger when considering the larger public benefit including other SLV counties.

### Water Project Justification

Smith Reservoir is a multi-purpose reservoir near Blanca, Colorado located in Costilla County. While supplying irrigation water to 12,000 acres of farmland, the reservoir also serves the public as one of only three recreational fisheries in Costilla County which is made up of 99 % private lands. Costilla County is one of Colorado's poorest counties, elevating the importance of local and accessible water-based recreation.

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#### **Related Studies**

No Related Studies provided

#### **Taxpayer Bill of Rights**

No Tax Bill of Rights provided