

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	American Whitewater
Name of Water Project	Quantifying recreational impacts and identifying enhancement opportunities
Grant Request Amount	\$180,937.50
Primary Category	\$180,937.50
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$5,000.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$0.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$5,000.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$60,312.50
<i>Walton Family Foundation</i>	\$30,000.00
<i>Mighty Arrow Family Foundation</i>	\$5,000.00
<i>Walton Family Foundation</i>	\$20,000.00
<i>LOR Foundation</i>	\$5,312.50
Total Project Cost	\$246,250.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: American Whitewater
Mailing Address: PO Box 1540 Cullwhee NC 28779
FEIN: 237,083,760

Organization Contact: Hattie Johnson
Position/Title:
Phone: 970-456-8533

Email: hattie@americanwhitewater.org

Organization Contact - Alternate: Clinton Begley
Position/Title: Executive Director
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Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Clinton Begley
Position/Title: Executive Director
Phone: 406-546-8337

Email: clinton@americanwhitewater.org

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 39.400215
Longitude -107.209901
Lat Long Flag
Water Source
Basins Arkansas; Colorado; Gunnison; Metro; Yampa/White/Green; Rio Grande; South Platte; Southwest; Nort...
Counties
Districts

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Environmental
Type of Water Project Planning
Scheduled Start Date - Design 3/15/2023
Scheduled Start Date - Construction
Description
Colorado's outdoor recreation industry depends upon healthy watersheds and rivers. The Colorado Water Plan indicates that diminished water supply and climate change present a significant threat to the long-term viability of

Colorado's water-based outdoor recreation economy. The risks to non-consumptive uses like recreation lack detail and quantification. Additionally, high stream temperatures and low water flows are impacting recreation and the associated economies today. Some data exists to identify current recreational needs. This project seeks to identify those high priority reaches, plan for a way to address those current needs, and identify a process for quantifying recreational water needs of the future statewide.

Flow Preference and Boatable Days studies provide data on recreational water needs and can be used to understand the demand side of the equation for some recreational water use. We propose to use these existing analyses in addition to other available data such as economic impacts of river recreation, popular fishing reaches, waterfowl hunting, recreational closure data, locations of river hazards, locations of river and river corridor amenities, public access locations, and other local and statewide planning efforts to identify high priority reaches for flow enhancement for recreation.

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

1.6M Coloradans who participate annually in water sports in Colorado

Water Project Justification

The recent draft update to the Colorado Water Plan (Update) repeatedly identifies that drought and climate change are resulting in reduced streamflows around the state, posing risks to non-consumptive water needs like the environment and recreation. The plan recognizes the significant outdoor economy water-based recreation supports. This project, quantifying recreational impacts and identifying enhancement opportunities, seeks to collect data across diverse water-based recreation types, to quantify current and potential risks to those activities, and begin to investigate opportunities to address impacts from low streamflows on up to three recreation locations.

The Update identifies using water plan grant funding to move recreational projects forward in Agency Action 3.6, that goal is central to this project's mission. The project team intends to understand recreational uses and visions from local watershed planning (SMPs, IWMPs, BIPs, etc.) in addition to state level efforts of other agencies (CPW, OREC, etc.) and local municipalities (i.e. parks and recreation plans). Through this, this project seeks to help achieve goals from Action 3.8 by evaluating local priorities into a single mapping effort. Recreational data collected in this project could also go to supplement data in the CWCB Focus Area Maps. The project will collate information on recreational water use locations and values and develop a scoring framework to quantify impacts to those resources which can help to achieve the goals of Action 3.9. Coordinated with a Technical Advisory Group (TAG), the project team will identify up to three locations to move forward into a scoping phase for collaborative water sharing agreements.

This project seeks to achieve progress towards Action 2.3 in the Update by focusing on collaborative water sharing projects that have a direct recreational benefit. The project team plans to work with a TAG throughout the data collection, evaluation and potential site selection to expand our ability to reach out to the community for local knowledge and ideas. As a part of the data collection phase to understand recreational value, we are proposing to work with municipalities to understand investments and plan to improve access to water-based recreation. This will help to move Action 2.5 forward by involving local governments in CWSA investigations. Overall, the project seeks to achieve progress towards water sharing goals included in the Water Plan and more collaboratively benefit water users across multiple sectors.

Related Studies

Colorado Water Conservation Board, 2013. Nonconsumptive Needs Toolbox
Complete Stream Management Plans or Integrated Watershed Management Plans: Many of these have included recreational flow needs (Rio Grande and Conejos SMP, St Vrain WMP, Upper Gunnison WMP, San Miguel River Partnership, Eagle River Community Water Plan, Yampa IWMP, other)
Wild and Scenic Alternatives (Upper Colorado and Dolores)
Other recreational flow studies (Roaring Fork, Crystal, South Platte, Cache la Poudre)
CPW Outdoor Regional Partnerships
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A