



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

**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>\$375,000.00</b>
Primary Category	\$375,000.00
<i>Watershed Health &amp; Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	<b>\$50,000.00</b>
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$25,000.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$25,000.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	<b>\$75,000.00</b>
<i>Co. River District</i>	\$50,000.00
<i>Main Elk Ranch</i>	\$25,000.00
Total Project Cost	<b>\$500,000.00</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

Organization Contact - Alternate: Richard VanGytenbeek  
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Grant Management Contact: Richard VanGytenbeek  
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**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  
 Water Source Elk and Canyon Creeks  
 Basins Colorado  
 Counties Garfield  
 Districts 39-Rifle/Elk/Parachute Creeks

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Environmental  
 Type of Water Project Design / Engineering  
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 5/15/2023  
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction 10/20/2023  
 Description  
 Project Description

Utilizing grant funding from Colorado Trout Unlimited and CWCB project staff have worked throughout the summer and fall of 2022 to conduct outreach to agricultural irrigation diverters in the Elk and Canyon Creek basins. The intent of this effort is to secure their support to modify or replace irrigation diversion structures that present barriers to migrating fish and to increase the efficiency of water delivery. To date the project has agreements with three owners and is producing conceptual designs on five projects in the Elk and Canyon

Creeks.

This grant request is needed to further develop these conceptual designs into construction plans and specifications of sufficient detail to bid and construct each project. These plans will be completed in the spring and early summer of 2023. Plans will then go to bid later in the summer with field construction beginning in October 2023. Project proponents will continue to apply for additional funding through the Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart program and CWCB's WSRF program for construction funding.

Securing this grant will enable the project to bridge through the design phase and access CWCB and federal infrastructure dollars that require shovel ready projects.

#### Measurable Results

0	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
0	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
0	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
0	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
79,200	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
0	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
0	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
0	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
150	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
150	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

##### 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 goals and projects identified by that process and subsequently placed on the recently revised 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: Throughout the summer and fall of 2022 project staff have engaged and collaborated with willing irrigators to improve fish passage and help maintain agricultural viability, conservation and efficiency by providing conceptual designs to upgrade and/or replace aging infrastructure. This grant request seeks to further that effort by finalizing concepts designs into construction plans and details sufficient to bid and field construct the projects.

#### 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 direct outgrowth of the Middle Colorado IWMP (MCIWMP) process. The MCIWMP 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. Further, this additional habitat provides increased environmental resiliency in the face of climate driven aridification and devastating wildfires.

#### 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: To date the project has successfully engaged with the local agricultural community and

designed conceptual designs for diversion infrastructure that enable fish passage and upgrade irrigation infrastructure. These recent efforts and previously successful projects in the Elk and Canyon Creek basins continues to demonstrate to the community at large the nexus between viable 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.