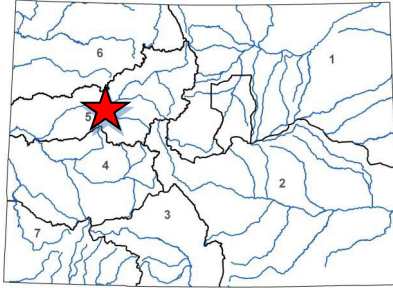




Water Plan Grant Application

Lat: 39.575881
Long: -107.447071



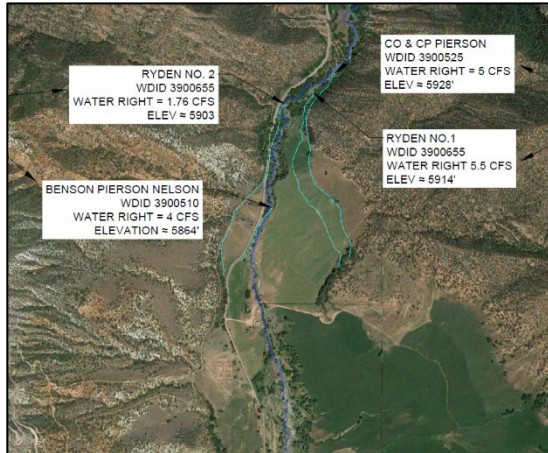
LOCATION

County: Garfield
Drainage Basin: Colorado

DETAILS

Total Project Cost:	\$500,000
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$375,000
Recommended Amount:	\$375,000
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$75,000
Applicant Match:	\$50,000
Project Type:	Study/Plans
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	Construction plans and permits for five water diversion upgrades for fish passage and improved irrigation efficiency on the Elk and Canyon Creeks.

The Middle Colorado Watershed Council completed an Integrated Water Management Plan for the Middle Colorado River which identified 25 different irrigation diversions that are fish barriers in the basin. Led by Trout Unlimited (TU), the goal of the Middle Colorado AG Collaborative is to continue opening Elk and Canyon Creeks to spawning and migrating fish from the Colorado River. TU works with agricultural water diverters to make their diversion structures fish friendly. To date, Trout Unlimited completed two successful projects on Elk Creek (Ware and Hinds Fish Passage-2018) and Canyon Creek (Fish Passage-2021).



The Middle Colorado AG Collaborative is a three-phase project to design and construct the identified infrastructure to improve fish passage and upgrade diversions as required in Elk Creek and Canyon Creek. The project team is now completing Phase 1 by acquiring agreements from irrigation diversion structure owners. Phase 1 was partially funded by a CWCB water plan grant (\$20,000).

This project will complete Phase 2 of the project. The funding will develop construction plans, obtain required permits and construction bids at five sites to modify irrigation infrastructure based on the Phase 1 concept plans.

Water Plan Support: *Action Areas*-Robust Agriculture- Rehabilitate infrastructure, Thriving Watersheds- Enhance streamflows and improve habitat; *BIP-IPP*: Coordinate agricultural infrastructure upgrade designs to benefit aquatic habitat and fish passage, Reconfigure barriers for fish passage on tributaries; *Middle Colorado IWMP*- CONS1 Infrastructure Upgrades

WPG Request: 75%

Matching Funds: Colorado River District: \$50,000; Main Elk Ranch (private): \$25,000; Unsecured: \$50,000 (expected in kind and cash from private owners)

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends Board approval of \$375,000 to Trout Unlimited-Montrose for the Middle Colorado AG Collaborative (Phase 2) project, contingent on TU's ability to secure the required match.



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

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
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
Grant Management Contact - Alternate: 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
 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.