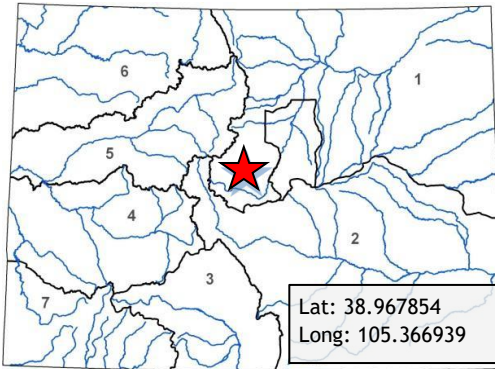




Lake George Diversion Structure Removal and River Restoration Coalition for the Upper South Platte

March 2023 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Application



L O C A T I O N

County/Countries:	Park
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

D E T A I L S

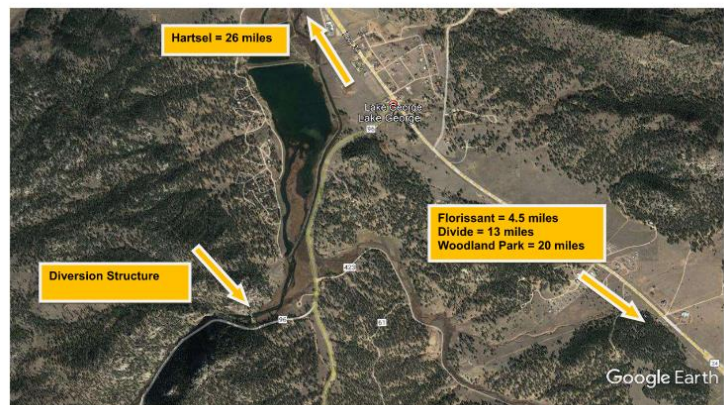
Total Project Cost:	\$3,632,000
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$350,000
Recommended amount:	\$350,000
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$3,282,000
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Watershed Health and Recreation
Measurable Result: 3 acres of restored habitat and 1,200 linear feet of restored stream	

Colorado Water Plan grant funding will be used to remove an obsolete diversion structure on the South Platte River, south of Lake George, Colorado. In collaboration with US Forest Service, Colorado Springs Utilities, Park County, Trout Unlimited, area residents, and the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, this project has been identified as a benefit to the watershed ecosystem and the community. Removal of the structure will restore aquatic species passage for approximately 35 miles of river and restore approximately 1,200' of river habitat and return the river to a natural river channel design. Wetland and riparian areas will be improved to encourage native species. The area is very popular for fishing, hiking, and wildlife watching. Access to the river will be improved with an ADA-compliant trail, improvements to the parking area, and relocation of the bathroom facility. This project will improve the ecosystem structure and processes. This project reflects the goals of The South Platte Basin Implementation Plan Strategic Plan for the Future and includes Channel Restoration: "projects can benefit both in-stream aquatic habitat and species as well as riparian species and vegetation." "Channel Restoration can benefit recreational uses such as fishing, flatwater boating, rafting, and kayaking." This project meets the Environment and Recreational vision to Protect and Enhance Watersheds.

The diversion structure removal was identified in the 2015 Roads to Rivers report for the US Forest Service, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Coalition for the Upper South Platte. Removal of the diversion structure is also recommended in the South Platte Baseline Study Completed in 2018.

Coalition for the Upper South Platte is requesting \$350,000 of Colorado Water Plan grant funding to complete the sediment disposal, reclamation, and revegetation tasks for this project. The applicant has secured 5 state and federal grants for a 90% match totaling \$3,282,000 and approximately 10% of this project will be funded by Colorado Water Plan grant funding. The applicant has received past CWCB grant awards and has a history and is familiar with what is required to successfully meet CWCB grant and project requirements.

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends Board approval of \$350,000 for full funding to the Coalition for the Upper South Platte for the Lake George Diversion Structure Removal and River Restoration project.



**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Name of Water Project	Lake George Diversion Structure Removal and River Restoration
Grant Request Amount	\$350,000.00
Primary Category	\$350,000.00
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$0.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$0.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$3,282,000.00
<i>US Forest Service-Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration</i>	\$1,500,000.00
<i>Fish and Wildlife Service-fish passage</i>	\$500,000.00
<i>Park County Land and Water Trust Fund</i>	\$500,000.00
<i>Colorado Springs Utilities</i>	\$750,000.00
<i>Hillsdale Foundation</i>	\$32,000.00
Total Project Cost	\$3,632,000.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Mailing Address: 40 Cherokee AVE Box 726 Lake George CO 80827
FEIN: 841,469,785

Organization Contact: John Geerdes

Position/Title:

Phone: 719-748-0033

Email: john.geerdes@cusp.ws

Organization Contact - Alternate: Jane Mannon

Position/Title:

Phone: 719-748-0033

Email: jane@cusp.ws

Description of Grantee/Applicant

CUSP is a watershed protection association that seeks to protect the water quality and ecological health of the Upper South Platte Watershed, through the cooperative efforts of watershed stakeholders, with emphasis placed on community values and economic sustainability.

CUSP is fiscally hosting this project for Denver Water in this application.

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 38.967854
 Longitude -105.366939
 Lat Long Flag
 Water Source
 Basins South Platte
 Counties Park
 Districts 23-Upper South Platte

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Environmental
 Type of Water Project Construction / Implementation
 Scheduled Start Date - Design
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction 7/1/2023
 Description
 This project will complete the removal of the Lake George Diversion Structure and restoration of the river above and below the existing structure. The diversion structure was built for Colorado Springs Utilities water diversion and was abandoned in the 1990s. The structure is a barrier to aquatic species passage and traps sediment above and below. Improvements will also be made for visitor access, parking, and restroom facilities.

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)
1,200	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet) Efficiency Savings (dollars/year) Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
3	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	
Opens up connectivity for approximately 45 miles of South Platte River, and another 35 miles of contributing tributaries.	

Water Project Justification
<p>This project will remove an obsolete diversion structure on the South Platte River, south of Lake George, Colorado. In collaboration with US Forest Service, Colorado Springs Utilities, Park County, Trout Unlimited, area residents, and the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, this project has been identified as a benefit to the watershed ecosystem and the community. Removal of the structure will restore aquatic species passage for approximately 35 miles of river and restore approximately 1,200' of river habitat. Wetland and riparian areas will be improved to encourage native species. The area is very popular for fishing, hiking, and wildlife watching. Access to the river will be improved with an ADA-compliant trail, improvements to the parking area, and relocation of the bathroom facility. This project will improve the ecosystem structure and processes. The South Platte Basin Implementation Plan Strategic Plan for the Future includes Channel Restoration: "projects can benefit both in-stream aquatic habitat and species as well as riparian species and vegetation." "Channel Restoration can benefit recreational uses such as fishing, flatwater boating, rafting, and kayaking." This project meets the Environment and Recreational vision to Protect and Enhance Watersheds.</p>

Related Studies
<p>The diversion structure removal was identified in the 2015 Roads to Rivers report for the US Forest Service, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Coalition for the Upper South Platte. Removal of the diversion structure is also recommended in the South Platte Baseline Study Completed in 2018.</p>

Taxpayer Bill of Rights
<p>N/A</p>