COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	National Forest Foundaton
Name of Water Project	California Park Mesic Meadow Restoration
Grant Request Amount	**$49,749.00**
Primary Category	$49,749.00
Watershed Health & Recreation	
Total Applicant Match	**$0.00**
Applicant Cash Match	
Applicant In-Kind Match	
Total Other Sources of Funding	**$50,800.00**
National Forest Foundation - Staff Time	$4,800.00
Bell's Brewing	$3,000.00
Walton Family Foundation	$25,000.00
National Forest Foundation - Site Travel	$2,000.00
Volunteers	$16,000.00
Total Project Cost	**$100,549.00**

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: National Forest Foundaton
Mailing Address: Building 27, Suite 3, Fort Missoula Road Missoula Montana 59804
FEIN: 521,786,332

Organization Contact: Joe Lavorini
Position/Title:
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Organization Contact - Alternate: Joe Lavorini
Position/Title:
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Grant Management Contact: Joe Lavorini
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Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Adde Sharp
Position/Title: Colorado Watershed Project Coordinator
Phone:
Email: asharp@nationalforests.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	40.725475
Longitude	-107.124229
Lat Long Flag	Stream location: Coordinates based on general location on stream
Water Source	California Park Basin, Yampa River Watershed
Basins	Yampa/White/Green
Counties	Routt
Districts	58-Upper Yampa River

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	
Type of Water Project	Design & Construction
Scheduled Start Date - Design	9/30/2023
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	6/1/2024

Description

The National Forest Foundation, alongside the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council and Hahn’s Peak/Bear’s Ears Ranger District of the Routt National Forest and other partners, will restore mesic meadows on U.S. Forest Service and surrounding lands in California Park by installing low-tech structures within wet meadow ephemeral

streams to capture sediment and reconnect the streams to their historic floodplains.

The wet meadows in California Park have faced increased degradation from both natural and human-made causes. Channel incision and headcutting within these wet meadows have led to ephemeral streams disconnecting from their floodplains, causing groundwater to dry up and surrounding wetland vegetation to die out. As a result, wildlife habitat has diminished, base flows of streams have declined, increased sedimentation threatens downstream reservoirs and infrastructure, and there is a marked reduction in the carbon sequestration potential of the wetlands. Ephemeral stream channel incision tends to increase over time. Thus process-based stream restoration practices become essential to reviving these critical ecosystems.

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)
15,850	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
16	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
25,091	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
50	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	

Coloradans Impacted by Engagement- Youth Corps members, roughly 50 over the course of the grant lifecycle.
Coloradans Impacted by Water Saving - Population of Routt County, but this extends well beyond this number to the Coloradans who live in the Yampa River Basin.
Area of Restored Habitat - Roughly 5.5 acres per 1.5 miles of stream, or 16.5 acres rewetted per year
Length of Stream - Roughly 3 miles annually, or 15, 850 linear feet

Water Project Justification

The California Park Mesic Meadow Restoration project (project) supports the following goals of the Colorado Water Plan(plan). It meets a variety of challenges and goals set by the plan set for the Yampa River Basin. They include addressing the issues of water quality and watershed concerns (plan, p. 136). The project addresses the goal of “quantify and protect environmental and recreational water uses” (plan, p. 137). The project will restore three miles of ephemeral streams and incised channels annually to increase 11 acres of mesic meadows and critical riparian habitat, which meets the “demand, supply, and water needs” subcategory “environment and recreation” (plan, p. 139). The project contributes to alleviating the overall BIP cost of $667,300,000 estimated for the Yampa-White-Green River basins by resourcing other private cash funding sources and in-kind funding sources (plan, p.143). The project is applicable to the tools for “stream/watershed restoration and enhancement,” “flow enchantment and maintenance,” “funding,” “collaboration groups,” “watershed planning,” and “climate adaptation” (plan, p. 153-172).

Related Studies

N/A

Taxpayer Bill of Rights
N/A