COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Name of Water Project	South Arkansas River Restoration Concept Design
Grant Request Amount	**$62,709.00**
Primary Category	$62,709.00
Watershed Health & Recreation	
Total Applicant Match	**$10,902.00**
Applicant Cash Match	$9,252.00
Applicant In-Kind Match	$1,650.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	**$10,000.00**
Colorado Trout Unlimited	$10,000.00
Total Project Cost	**$83,611.00**

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Mailing Address: PO Box 1081 Salida CO 81201
FEIN: 521,491,897

Organization Contact: Chris Lamson
Position/Title: President
Phone: 720-233-4114
Email: corkandcaddis@gmail.com

Organization Contact - Alternate: Keith Krebs
Position/Title: Vice President
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Grant Management Contact: Chris Lamson
Position/Title: President
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Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Keith Krebs
Position/Title: Vice President
Phone:
Email: keithkrebsarchitect@gmail.com

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Non-profit conservation organization based in Chaffee County, Colorado.

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
- ☐ Public (District)
- ☐ Public (Municipality)

- [ ] Ditch Company
- [ ] Private Incorporated
- [ ] Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- [x] 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.
- [x] 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	38.522500
Longitude	-105.993300
Lat Long Flag	Stream location: Coordinates based on general location on stream
Water Source	South Arkansas River
Basins	Arkansas
Counties	Chaffee
Districts	

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Environmental
Type of Water Project	Design / Engineering
Scheduled Start Date - Design	7/1/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	

Description

Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited is requesting funds to acquire concept designs and cost estimates for re-naturalization of in-stream habitat and the riparian corridor along the 1.2-mile stretch of the South Arkansas River between County Road 107 and the confluence with the Arkansas River through Salida. The project is a collaboration between Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Southwest Conservation Corps, Central Colorado Conservancy, Colorado Trout Unlimited, Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, and others. There is a time-limited opportunity to re-naturalize and protect this corridor from impending development. The City of Salida owns a 0.35-mile portion of the targeted reach and is in the process of creating a development plan for their 100-acre property. The city and adjacent landowners are supportive of river re-naturalization and protection

on their properties. We envision an “Ecosystems Learning Center” that would be utilized for Trout Unlimited and other community education programs. The City of Salida supports including an environmental education focus along their section of river. Much of the South Arkansas River tributary area is identified as highest wildfire risk zone. A functional riparian corridor can act as a fire break and mitigate future fire-caused sedimentation.

Concept designs and cost estimates are a required component for almost any implementation funding request. The concept design and cost estimates acquired with this grant will be used to secure funding for final design, permitting, and construction of habitat improvements on the target reach of the South Arkansas.

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)
6,400	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)
	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

No additional measurable results provided

Water Project Justification

This project requires cooperation from many landowners, both public and private, with differing land use needs. The majority have already expressed support, and outreach to the remaining landowners is ongoing. Collaboration of this kind among diverse stakeholders aligns with CWCB’s goals of engaging communities and stakeholders to help achieve the state’s Colorado Water Plan goals.
The South Arkansas restoration project incorporates Partner Actions that will create a thriving watershed by furthering goals in multiple action categories identified in the Colorado Water Plan:

Meeting Future Water Needs: restoring eroding stream banks and improving in-stream habitat are primary goals of the project. This will improve resiliency to unpredictable flow regimes in the future. On the city-owned section, inclusive public access to the stream and the riparian corridor will be a focus of the design.

Healthy Lands: The South Arkansas restoration will directly improve riparian and aquatic habitat. A functional riparian corridor and reconnected floodplains will provide wildlife migration routes and habitat refuge as climate change threatens drier conditions. Significant wetlands occur adjacent to the floodplain and will likely enjoy added resilience to climate-caused unpredictability in flow regimes. Future wildfires in the upstream watershed are likely. Restoring the riparian zone and floodplain connectivity in the lower reach of the South Arkansas will be critical for post-fire resilience and mitigating sediment flows before they reach the main stem of the Arkansas.

Engagement and Education: Extensive public and landowner outreach will allow stakeholders to engage with the restoration process and witness the benefits of restoring the river corridor. The Ecosystems Learning Center envisioned on the SCC property and educational signage along the city-owned river section will instill an

understanding of and appreciation for the value of a healthy river ecosystem. Our hope is that citizens will come to cherish the river and will want to protect it and the larger watershed. We hope that by providing ecological education that is available to all, we will inspire youth to explore careers in environmental sciences.

This project advances the Arkansas Basin Roundtable's goals for improving Watershed Health as well as the Roundtable's Environment and Recreation goals.

Related Studies

This project advances the Colorado Water Conservation Board Water Plan, Arkansas River Basin Identified Project #00387: South Arkansas River Restoration Project–Lowest 1.2 mile reach

Multiple studies have been competed that demonstrate the importance and feasibility of this project. The following are included as appendices to this grant application:
The South Arkansas River Watershed Assessment (Goosmann, 2014), Appendix A
The South Arkansas River Stream Health Assessment (EcoMetrics, 2020), Appendix B
The Stream Corridor Hazard and Floodplain Connectivity Assessment (Round River Design, 2022), Appendix C
(This Fluvial Hazard Zone Mapping was funded by a CWCB grant through Central Colorado Conservancy)

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

No Tax Bill of Rights provided