



Friends of Youth and Nature

To: Colorado Water Conservation Board
c/o: Ben Wade
1313 Sherman St., Rm 718
Denver, CO 80203

March 12, 2022

Dear Ben and the Colorado Water Conservation Board,

The overall goal for Friends of Youth and Nature's (FOYAN) watershed education project is to produce youth who are educated and informed about current water issues across Colorado and the arid Southwest, including climate change and how it is affecting our water supply, the historical perspective of the Colorado Water Compact and the political considerations of water management across multiple states and countries who rely on Colorado water sources.

To date we are proud to report that we have impacted 3184 Western Slope youth with the assistance of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) funding and other partners. We originally anticipated that all CWCB funding would be used by the fall of 2022 but did not have as many requests for trips to Eureka! Colorado River Watershed exhibit as anticipated, and the Delta Water Festival had found other funding for busing of Delta County 3rd graders to the Paonia River Park. We did have additional funding requests in December 2022, and January and February of 2023. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue to be able impact youth with the CWCB watershed education funding into 2023. More details here as our final report:

Deliverable 1: Water/Conservation festivals for Montrose, Delta, and Mesa Counties – offering busing assistance for underserved schools and youth for Delta and Mesa, and school contact assistance in all three counties.

- The Grand Junction Children's Water festival requested assistance for busing of area youth to their spring event. We assisted with the \$1000 designated CWCB funding, as well as \$2000 from FOYAN funds. In addition, over 200 presenters donated their time for this event, an equivalent of \$95,840 for the one-day event (200 x \$29.95 x 8hours x 2 days – one for the event and one for planning). This is down somewhat, from our original estimate, as Ute Water Project reduced the festival from two days to one and from 300 water professionals to 200. We impacted 1500 youth and 200 presenters with our assistance with this event.
- This completed the use of funding for Deliverable 1 of the CWCB grant.

Deliverable 2: Eureka! Science museum tour of the Colorado Watershed exhibit that was donated by the GBRT – transportation assistance and entry fee assistance available to participating schools

- Eight schools requested assistance for busing and entry fees to Eureka! Science Museum and the Colorado Watershed exhibit as of this final report. With the assistance from the CWCB and other funders we were able to meet these requests impacting 519 youth.



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- In addition, we were able to impact an additional 520 youth through support of the Delta Water Conservation Festival to be held at Paonia River Park (300 3rd graders), as well as an R-5 whole school water education outing (220 youth with outside funding) for this coming spring. This completes the use of the watershed education funding.

Deliverable 3: Water Quality education kit – waders, water testing kits, and D-nets will be purchased for teacher and Water Festival checkout and use. This education kit resides with the CPW-OUT kits for availability to all area teachers and other entities for use with local youth.

- FOYAN spent \$1480 on waders and water test kits for teacher checkout through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Education for Teachers materials. These materials have been used by over 200 middle schoolers to date. We anticipate continued use in the future.
- Ridgeway schools were able to find other funding for their Watershed education materials needed for their school, which allowed us to use this funding to partially cover our additional watershed education trips noted above in Deliverable 2 (WSCC/Paonia River Park water festival; Northside Elementary 3rd grade Eureka trip – partial coverage)

Deliverable 4: Watershed education on the river for at-risk youth – Sponsored by the Montrose Community Foundation for local youth who are identified as at-risk through participating organizations (Partners West, CASA7JD, Families Plus).

- With the use of Montrose Community Foundation, Gunnison Basin Round Table, and FOYAN funding we assisted 40 at-risk youth to experience rafting in the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area for the first time. Three groups were services with this funding: CASA7JD, Families Plus, and Haven House for the Homeless (Partners West was able to find funding for a river experience through Colorado Canyons Association). In addition, we assisted 20 3rd graders from the North Fork School of Integrated Studies to experience rafting the Gunnison Gorge. This makes a total of 60, double our target number for this deliverable.
- This deliverable is complete. We will continue to seek funding to offer this experience to our at-risk youth groups in 2023.

In conclusion, the Colorado Water Conservation Board grant of \$8330.00 entrusted to Friends of Youth and Nature for support of Watershed Education in the Gunnison and Colorado River basins served impacted 3184 youth. We are continuing to receive requests for funding of watershed education and will support as many as we are able in 2023 through other funding sources.

Thank you again for your valuable investment in educating our local youth about our local watersheds. Further details are available about the above deliverables upon request.

Sincerely,
Anita Evans, Chair of Friends of Youth and Nature