

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Roaring Fork Water Conservancy
Name of Water Project	Impact Reporting on the Crystal River Restoration Project
Grant Request Amount	\$43,141.88
Primary Category	\$43,141.88
<i>Engagement & Innovation Activities</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$14,380.63
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$14,380.63
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$0.00
Total Project Cost	\$57,522.51

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Roaring Fork Water Conservancy
Mailing Address: 22800 Two Rivers Road Basalt CO 81621

Organization Contact: Heather Lewin
Position/Title: Email: heather@roaringfork.org
Phone: (970) 710-9023

Organization Contact - Alternate: Rick Lofaro
Position/Title: Executive Director Email: rick@roaringfork.org
Phone: 9709271290

Grant Management Contact: Heather Lewin
Position/Title: Email: heather@roaringfork.org
Phone: (970) 710-9023

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Rick Lofaro
Position/Title: Executive Director Email: rick@roaringfork.org
Phone: 9709271290

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Since 1996, Roaring Fork Conservancy has inspired people to explore, value, and protect the Roaring Fork Watershed. We bring people together to protect our rivers and work hard to keep water in local streams, monitor water quality, and preserve riparian habitat.

As one of the largest watershed organizations in Colorado, Roaring Fork Conservancy serves residents and visitors throughout the Roaring Fork Valley through school and community-based Watershed Education programs and Watershed Science and Policy Projects including regional watershed planning, water resource policy initiatives, stream management, and restoration.

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	39.384600
Longitude	-107.206590
Lat Long Flag	
Water Source	Crystal River
Basins	Colorado
Counties	Pitkin; Garfield
Districts	38-Roaring Fork River Basin

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Education
Type of Water Project	Education
Scheduled Start Date - Design	1/1/2025
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	
Description	Since 1996, Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC) has been championing the protection of rivers, monitoring water quality and preserving healthy riparian habitats in the Roaring Fork Watershed (RFW). As a result of multiyear integrated projects, RFC is focused on measuring impact to understand successes and

failures, share knowledge, and understand how impactful these multistakeholder endeavors are in their mission to educate the community and benefit the RFW. Therefore, RFC is applying for funding to produce an impact report on the Crystal River Restoration and Efficiency Project at Riverfront Park, an 8-year multistakeholder collaboration to remediate the degradation of Carbondale’s Crystal River and direct outcome of the Crystal River Management Plan.

This project will engage and educate the community, inform policy makers, share lessons learned and knowledge with peers, illustrate the work done by RFC in partnership with organizations including the CWCB, and guide future endeavors.

This project and the programs the reports will address support the goals of the Colorado Water Plan and the Colorado Round Table Basin Implementation Plan. The project will look at different levels of impact including ecological and social with the result of creating change within the water community.

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)
 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
 45,000 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

No additional measurable results provided

Water Project Justification

According to the 2023 version of the Colorado Water Plan, “an educated public is necessary for developing sustainable grassroots solutions and gaining public and political support for implementing water solutions.” (pg 164) RFC strongly believes in an educated community and the Crystal River Restoration and Efficiency Project at Riverfront Park (“Crystal River Project”) has a direct component demonstrating this value. The project has an education and outreach component and stakeholder engagement so our community has greater “public awareness of policies and processes” (pg 164) as a driver towards public engagement. Our hope is by involving monitoring & evaluation specialists, we can find new ways to reach an already engaged public within the Roaring Fork Valley.

The Crystal River Project has a focus on “incorporate[ing] conditions of forests, streams, wetlands, and wildlife habitat” (page 187) and thus is mainly addressing the “thriving watersheds” action areas as part of the Colorado Water Plan. The project supports the following partner actions (pg 187):

- Meeting Future Water Need – RFC’s Crystal River Project is improving “stream health and infrastructure” and would enhance “the environment and recreation opportunities”
- Healthy Lands – RFC’s Crystal River Project is an example of “shared stewardship” as a multistakeholder collaboration improving “watershed health and resilience across multiple jurisdictions”
- Wise Water Use – RFC’s Crystal River will have a positive impact on “social, ecological, and economic connections” of these streams and the funding we’re applying for will be able to illustrate this impact

The project addresses the vibrant communities action area with partner action focused on engaged partners and wise water use and the resilient planning action area with partner action focused on healthy lands and engaged partners.

RFC utilizes many of the tools specified in the 2023 version of the Colorado Water Plan while investing in collaboration and agrees that this is a “vital component to successfully approaching...multi-scale efforts.” (pg 167) All of RFC’s projects involve different partners and resources, constantly seeking ways to share lessons learned and knowledge with peers to create a collaborative environment to affect change.

The measurable goals for watershed health, environment and recreation and conservation are addressed through this project as the focus is the health of the Crystal River, which joins the Roaring Fork River to become a major tributary to the Colorado River. It is important that RFC be able to obtain funding to measure impact, so the organization has the quantitative data on of its’ impact on these two goals. This specific project does not deal directly with the supply-demand gap, land use, agriculture, storage, or funding but the project is focusing on the health of the Colorado River Basin which has an indirect effect of these measurable objectives.

According to the 2022 Colorado River Basin Implementation Plan (BIP), the first theme listed is to “protect and restore healthy streams, rivers, lakes and riparian areas” (pg 2) which this project addresses through collaboration, outreach, and data collection. RFC’s programs are collecting watershed data and using knowledge sharing to promote information gathering, fostering collaboration, and engaging both peers in the water space and public. The project’s value lies in its be ability to communicate organizational achievement and the ability for programs/studies to benefit stream systems in a digestible and academic manner.

The Colorado River BIP highlights the importance of “support[ing] water awareness and broad scale participation of diverse water dependent communities” (pg 46) and this project is focused on being inclusive and supportive of the Roaring Fork community engaging with their watershed basin and sharing beneficial, replicable programs statewide.

RFC is a named existing partner for the 2021-2022 Colorado River Basin Education Action Plan (EAP). The organization is aligned with many of the points under vision/goals, especially plans which “facilitate awareness, educational and diverse public engagement opportunities about Colorado and Colorado Basin water subjects” (pg 2). The project is focused on developing outreach and education materials that will address both the public and peers in the water community which ties directly in with some of the concepts of interest around knowledge sharing, capacity building, collaboration, education & outreach resources, and water planning.

Related Studies

The following studies/reports will be used to support the Crystal River Restoration and Efficiency Project at Riverfront Park: 2016 Crystal River Management Plan, Stream Health Initiative, Crystal River Aquatic Delineation Report, Crystal River Riparian Restoration Plan and Ecological Integrity Assessment, as well as significant stakeholder outreach. All reports available on RFC’s website and/or upon request.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

There are no TABOR issues relevant to this application.