



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	American Whitewater
Name of Water Project	Quantifying Recreational Impacts and Identifying Enhancement Opportunities Phase 2
Grant Request Amount	\$148,537.75
Primary Category	\$148,537.75
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$5,241.91
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$0.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$5,241.91
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$45,000.00
<i>Mighty Arrow Family Foundation</i>	\$15,000.00
<i>Walton Family Foundation</i>	\$30,000.00
Total Project Cost	\$198,779.66

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: American Whitewater	
Mailing Address: PO Box 1540 Cullwhee NC 28779	
Organization Contact: Hattie Johnson	
Position/Title:	Email: hattie@americanwhitewater.org
Phone: 970-456-8533	
Organization Contact - Alternate: Clinton Begley	
Position/Title: Executive Director	Email: clinton@americanwhitewater.org
Phone: 406-546-8337	
Grant Management Contact: Hattie Johnson	
Position/Title:	Email: hattie@americanwhitewater.org
Phone: 970-456-8533	
Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Heidi Heisler	
Position/Title: Finance Director	Email: fiscal@americanwhitewater.org
Phone: 970-456-8533	

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 39.402200
 Longitude 107.211200
 Lat Long Flag Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters
 Water Source
 Basins Arkansas; Colorado; Gunnison; Metro; Yampa/White/Green; Rio Grande; South Platte; Southwest; Nort...
 Counties
 Districts

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Environmental
 Type of Water Project Study
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 11/1/2024
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction
 Description
 Colorado's outdoor recreation industry depends upon healthy watersheds and rivers. The Colorado Water Plan indicates that diminished water supply and climate change could present a significant threat to the long-term viability of Colorado's water-based outdoor recreation economy. The risks to non-consumptive uses like recreation lack detail and quantification statewide. This project will identify priority recreation locations at risk to changing or diminished recreational opportunities, to plan for a way to address impacts, and to develop a process

for quantifying recreational water needs of the future statewide.

Phase I began the development of a water-based recreation GeoDatabase as a critical first step to understanding existing recreation use throughout Colorado. The GeoDatabase was developed state-wide using a consistent approach with input from a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) made up of the recreation representatives from each Basin Roundtable. Whereas the GeoDatabase is intended to be comprehensive for the entire state of Colorado and specifically useful to Basin Roundtable efforts, Phase II and subsequent phases are intended to focus on mitigation opportunities. This phase will use specific locations in each basin to understand risks due to growing population and climate-based changes in hydrology in places where sufficient information exists to assess those risks.

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

6,700,000 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

No additional measurable results provided

Water Project Justification

The 2023 update to the Colorado Water Plan (Update) repeatedly identified that drought and climate change are resulting in reduced streamflow around the state, posing risks to non-consumptive water needs like the environment and recreation. The plan recognizes the significant outdoor economy water-based recreation supports. This project, by quantifying recreational impacts and identifying enhancement opportunities, seeks to put recreational water use into terms consistent with other water uses and use those terms to begin to understand the state of water-based recreation under future modeled hydrologic scenarios. This project also seeks to develop water sharing opportunities that can head off negative impacts to recreation. The project includes all water related recreation, some of which is not affected directly by streamflow. These recreational uses are key to the study in thinking how uses of waterways in Colorado may shift yet still provide opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

The Update identifies using water plan grant funding to move recreational projects forward and that goal is central to this project's mission. The project team intends to understand recreational uses and visions from local watershed planning (SMPs, IWMPs, BIPs, etc.) in addition to state level efforts of other agencies (CPW, OREC, etc.) and local municipalities (i.e. parks and recreation plans). Through this, this project seeks to help achieve goals from Action 3.8 by evaluating local priorities into a single mapping effort. Recreational data collected in this project could also go to supplement data in the CWCB Focus Area Maps. The project will collate information on recreational water use locations and values and develop a scoring framework to quantify impacts to those resources which can help to achieve the goals of Action 3.9. Coordinated with a Technical Advisory Group (TAG), the project team will identify opportunities for new or updated collaborative water sharing agreements.

This project seeks to achieve progress towards Action 2.3 in the Update by focusing on collaborative water sharing projects that have a direct recreational benefit. The project team plans to work with a TAG throughout the data collection, evaluation and potential site selection to expand our ability to reach out to the community for local knowledge and ideas. As a part of the data collection phase to understand recreational value, we are proposing to work with municipalities to understand investments and plan to improve access to water-based recreation. This will help to move Action 2.5 forward by involving local governments in CWSA investigations. Overall, the project seeks to achieve progress towards water sharing goals included in the Water Plan and more collaboratively benefit water users across multiple sectors.

Related Studies

Colorado Water Conservation Board, 2013. Nonconsumptive Needs Toolbox
Complete Stream Management Plans or Integrated Watershed Management Plans: Many of these have included recreational flow needs (Rio Grande and Conejos SMP, St Vrain WMP, Upper Gunnison WMP, San Miguel River Partnership, Eagle River Community Water Plan, Yampa IWMP, other)
Wild and Scenic Alternatives (Upper Colorado and Dolores)
Other recreational flow studies (Roaring Fork, Crystal, South Platte, Cache la Poudre)
CPW Outdoor Regional Partnerships
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

None