Exhibit A

Statement Of Work	
Date:	**5/7/24**
Name of Grantee:	**Northern Colorado Water Conservation District**
Name of Water Project:	**Kawuneeche Valley Restoration Collaborative (KVRC) Project Monitoring**

Water Project Overview:

At one time, Grand County's Kawuneeche Valley, with the Colorado River flowing through it, was one of the most significant wetlands in Colorado at more than 8 miles long and over a half-mile wide. Over the past 20-30 years, heavy browsing by elk and moose has reduced the cover of tall willow by over 90% and created a community of short, unhealthy willows unsuitable for beaver and other riparian species.
Without suitable food and building materials, beavers have been absent for several decades. This led to the drying of the valley and the continued loss of tall willow stands, converting the valley from a beaver-willow ecosystem to an elk-moose grassland. The Kawuneeche Valley Restoration Collaborative (KVRC) is working to reverse this trend and restore the willow-beaver ecosystem. Over the next 10-20 years, KVRC intends to increase tall willow stands, creating habitat islands for beavers throughout the valley. Project activities, including installation of in-stream structures and ungulate exclosure fences, planting of willows and other wetland species, and removal of invasive, exotic plants, aim to increase the water table, retain sediment, and inundate areas near the channels for the benefit of people, wildlife (primarily beaver, amphibians, and migratory birds), and the entire ecosystem.

KVRC is made up of Grand County, the Town of Grand Lake, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the Colorado River Water Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Conservancy, the National Park Service – Rocky Mountain National Park, and the United States Forest Service – Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest.

Project implementation at Beaver Creek began in the summer of 2023. Project design, compliance, and implementation for Upper Baker, Lower Baker, and Onahu Creeks will follow.

The KVRC Monitoring Strategy is intended to provide crucial information about geomorphology, hydrology, vegetation, and habitat components at wetland restoration sites in the valley. Data captured through this monitoring strategy is designed to assess the status of system indicators to establish recovery rates, identify potential limitations to recovery, and ultimately determine if the restoration objectives have been met.

Project Objectives:

KVRC aims to collect baseline and post-restoration effectiveness data at all four locations (Beaver, Upper Baker, Lower Baker, and Onahu Creeks). Baseline data will be used to design future restorations and will be the basis for understanding whether the restoration was effective in meeting project objectives. Post-restoration data will be compared to baseline to determine if additional restoration or adaptive management actions are needed.

Tasks

Task 1 – Monitor conditions at four restoration sites

Description of Task:

KVRC will implement the monitoring strategy at four restoration sites. The strategy will include baseline and continued data collection to track changes in conditions pre- and post-project implementation at Beaver, Upper Baker, Lower Baker, and Onahu Creeks. The data will inform future project phases and provide powerful insights for other groups implementing similar process-based restoration projects.

Method/Procedure:

1. Purchase and install monitoring equipment, including well loggers and stream gauges.
2. Implement monitoring protocols outlined in the near-final monitoring strategy.
    a. Geomorphology
        i. Qualitative assessment of in-stream structures and thalweg between structures for erosion/deposition *(annually)*
        ii. Channel cross-sections to determine aggradation *(annually)*
    b. Hydrology
        i. Map/quantify overbank flow areas at high and low flows *(2 times per year)*
        ii. Map/quantify the number and total surface area of beaver ponds using aerial imagery *(every 3 years)*
        iii. Track peakflow reduction and baseflow increases *(continuously and with periodic surveys)*
        iv. Monitor groundwater monitoring wells to quantify changes to the water table *(continuously)*
        v. Water quality sampling above and below project area *(quarterly)*
        vi. Collect electrical conductivity data above and below the project area to detect changing solute loads *(continuously)*
    c. Vegetation
        i. Monitor willow height and cover *(annually)*
        ii. Monitor willow recruitment *(every 5 years)*
        iii. Monitor native species richness and abundance *(every 3 years)*
        iv. Monitor non-native species richness and abundance *(every 3 years)*
    d. Habitat
        i. Monitor beaver activity by quantifying the number of dams and number of stems chewed *(every 3 years) (budgeted under Vegetation)*
        ii. Monitor songbird, waterfowl, and amphibian activity *(1 year pre-structure installation and then every 2 years)*
        iii. Monitor benthic macroinvertebrate species *(annually)*
        iv. Collect stream temperature data *(continuously) (budgeted under Hydrology)*
3. Data analysis and reporting
    a. Continuously review outcomes and adjust restoration activities accordingly.
    b. After year 1, look at pre-restoration baseline data and set monitoring objectives for years 2-5.
    c. Compare data from the project to data sets from other projects' monitoring efforts. (semi-qualitative)

4. Refine monitoring protocols as necessary
    a. Continuously review outcomes and adjust monitoring protocols and/or project activities as necessary.
    b. Attend conferences and use the feedback received to further refine monitoring efforts.

Deliverables:

1. Monitoring results report
2. 3 years of data from four restoration sites as outlined above.
3. KVRC will explore opportunities to share outcomes at conferences, public forums in the local communities, and publications.

Budget and Schedule

This Statement of Work is accompanied by a combined Budget and Schedule that reflects the tasks identified in the Statement of Work.

Prepared Date: 5/9/24

Name of Grantee: Northern Water

Name of Water Project: Kawuneeche Valley Restoration Collaborative (KVRC) Project Monitoring

Task No.	Task Description	Estimated Task Start Date	Estimated Task End Date	Grant Funding	Match Funding	Total
1	Monitor Conditions	5/1/2024	4/30/2029	$ 150,156.94	$ 151,104.60	$301,261.53
			Total	**$150,156.94**	**$151,104.60**	**$301,261.53**

Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports: The grantee shall provide the CWCB a progress report every six months, beginning from the date of issuance of the grant agreement. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Report: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report on the applicant's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

The CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the final report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the final report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the grant agreement will be closed without any further payment.

Payment

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and must include invoices for all work completed. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by task, an estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire project in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues, and proposed or implemented corrective actions.

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this grant agreement are not reimbursable. The last 10% of the entire grant will be paid out when the final deliverable has been received. All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant agreement must be provided to the CWCB as part of the project documentation.

Performance Measures

Performance measures for this grant agreement shall include the following:

(a) Performance standards and evaluation: Grantee will produce detailed deliverables for each task as specified. Grantee shall maintain receipts for all project expenses and documentation of the minimum in-kind contributions (if applicable) per the budget. Per grant guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the final report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the final report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the grant agreement will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per grant guidelines full documentation of project progress must be submitted with each invoice for reimbursement. Grantee must confirm that all grant conditions have been complied with on each invoice. In addition, per Grant Guidelines, progress reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A final report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

(c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each progress report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary.

(d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the grant agreement.