



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Lauren Duncan, Regional Water Plan Grant Manager
Cole Bedford, Chief Operating Officer

DATE: September 18 & 19, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: CA8a Change of Water Plan Grant Project Budget - Colorado Trout Unlimited, South Boulder Creek-Watershed Restoration PH III

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends amending the budget for the Colorado Trout Unlimited, South Boulder Creek-Watershed Restoration PH III Water Plan Grant as shown in the attached Datasheets.

Background

Colorado Trout Unlimited, in partnership with the City of Boulder, City of Lafayette, Denver Water, City of Louisville, Boulder County and numerous ditch companies, will utilize Water Plan Grant funding to support final design and permitting for multiple in-stream diversion structures in South Boulder Creek, below Gross Reservoir, in Boulder, Colorado.

Water Plan Grant funding of \$1,000,000.00 for this planning effort was approved by the Board in March 2024. In the course of finalizing project match, Colorado Trout Unlimited became aware that they would not be awarded a \$250,000.00 grant from the Fish and Wildlife Service, as previously assumed when they developed their grant application. CWCB staff and the Grantee have worked together to adjust updated labor rates, update inflation rates and reassign project labor hours to streamline the total project budget.

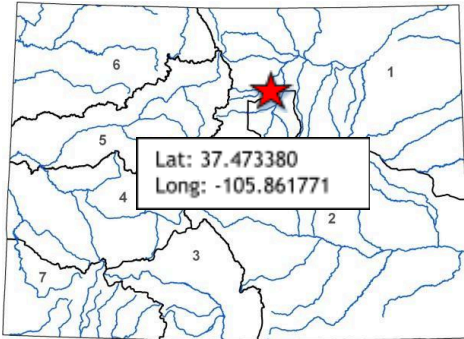
The recommended change does not modify the \$1,000,000.00 award, but only allows for a decrease of the Grantee's match commitment from 37.5% to 29.4%. Even at this reduced percentage, the Grantee is still supplying more match than required for a planning-type Water Plan Grant. The Colorado Trout Unlimited, South Boulder Creek-Watershed Restoration PH III project was highly competitive during the original review and the proposed budget modifications would not have changed the staff recommendation to approve the project in March 2024.

Attachments: Original March 2024 Datasheet, Updated September 2024 Datasheet





Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Boulder
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$1,417,912.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$1,000,000.00
Recommended amount:	\$1,000,000.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$417,912.00
Project Type:	Design & Engineering
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	36,600 LF of Stream Restored

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will build upon previous phases of this project to support final design and permitting for multiple in-stream diversion structures in South Boulder Creek, below Gross Reservoir, in Boulder, Colorado.

To build on South Boulder Creek Watershed Restoration Phase II accomplishments, Phase III will progress two structures through the permitting process required for construction; progress three structures from concept (one structure) and preliminary design (two structures) to construction ready designs and permitting; and advance bypass and measurement modifications at two structures. This project will also broaden stakeholder communications and education to gain project support from the local community.

The improvement of the diversion structures included in this project was recommended in the South Boulder Creek Stream Management Plan in September 2022. The primary goal of the improvements is to support the operation of an environmental pool created as part of the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project. The improvements will also reconnect up to seven miles of Boulder Creek, improve habitat, and improve ditch operations. Project partners include: City of Boulder, City of Lafayette, Denver Water, City of Louisville, Boulder County, and the five targeted diversion structures comprising 13 ditch company owners/users.

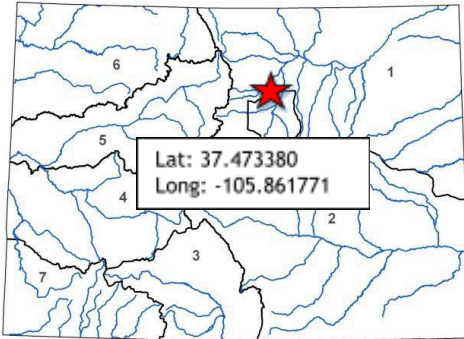
By supporting streamflow enhancement, improving fish passage and habitat, and protecting stream and lake levels for environmental needs, this project supports the Thriving Watersheds and numerous partner actions identified in the Colorado Water Plan. Further, by focusing on progressing engineering designs and permitting for aquatic species passage and ditch automation, this project will progress multiple environmental, collaboration, and water resource goals of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$1,000,000.00 to Colorado Trout Unlimited for South Boulder Creek-Watershed Restoration PH III.



Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County:	Boulder
Drainage Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$1,600,000.60
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$1,000,000.00
Recommended amount:	\$1,000,000.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$0
Applicant Match:	\$600,000.60
Project Type:	Design & Engineering
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	36,600 LF of Stream Restored

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