COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Mount Werner Water and Sanitation District
Name of Water Project	Mount Werner Water District: Yampa River Streambank Restoration Project
Grant Request Amount	**$403,620.00**
Primary Category	$403,620.00
Watershed Health & Recreation	
Total Applicant Match	**$403,620.00**
Applicant Cash Match	$380,120.00
Applicant In-Kind Match	$23,500.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	**$0.00**
Total Project Cost	**$807,240.00**

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Mount Werner Water and Sanitation District
Mailing Address: 3310 Clearwater Trail Steamboat Springs CO 80487

Organization Contact: Beau Cahill
Position/Title:
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Organization Contact - Alternate: Frank Alfone
Position/Title: General Manager
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Grant Management Contact: Beau Cahill
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Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Frank Alfone
Position/Title: General Manager
Phone: 970-879-2424
Email: falfone@mwwater.com

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Title 32 - Title 32 special district. Water and Sanitary collection service provider in Steamboat Springs, Colorado

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.
- [x] 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	40.442760
Longitude	-106.819240
Lat Long Flag	Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project
Water Source	Yampa River (Routt County, upstream of Steamboat Springs)
Basins	Yampa/White/Green
Counties	Routt
Districts	58-Upper Yampa River

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type

Type of Water Project	Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design	11/1/2023
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	5/1/2025

Description

The Yampa River has been eroding 5 to 8 feet annually, encroaching into a Mount Werner Water District-owned parcel of land. This parcel serves as an infiltration gallery, providing a critical water source to the District and the City of Steamboat Springs. In the event of a wildfire in the Fish Creek watershed, it would become the primary water supply, highlighting its vital role in regional water security.

This project aims to protect this critical property by addressing erosion with ecologically sound designs and techniques to ensure long-term riverbank stability and ecological improvements. The restoration will mitigate sediment loss, safeguard the infiltration gallery, and enhance the overall health of the Yampa River system.

Erosion starts on a southern neighbor's property and extends the entire length of the District's parcel. To address this, we've partnered with the southern neighbor to tackle erosion comprehensively across both properties. Additionally, the project will connect with a 2023 restoration effort completed on the northern neighbor's land, creating a contiguous, erosion-resistant riverbank across all three parcels. This collaboration ensures a holistic and lasting solution that benefits the Yampa River ecosystem and the community's water resources.

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)
615	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)
1	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
500,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	

Improvements to the riverbank that protect critical property, a water source and infiltration gallery, from the effects of erosion. This water source and infiltration gallery would become the primary source of drinking water for the District and City of Steamboat Springs in case of a wildfire within the Fish Creek watershed. In addressing the erosion this project is multi beneficial and improves habitat, water quality, and resiliency of the Yampa River, upstream and downstream of the project location. The number of Coloradans impacted number (500,000) is the estimated number of recreational visits per year. This number could be expanded on even more as many Coloradans, and citizens of other US states depend on the Yampa River for purposes other than strictly recreational.

Water Project Justification

The Mt. Werner Water District's Yampa riverbank restoration project in Steamboat Springs is a direct partner action in line with the visions, action areas, and goals outlined in Colorado's Water Plan and the Yampa/White/Green Basin Implementation Plan (BIP)

Thriving Watersheds - The District's riverbank restoration project is a multi beneficial and identified tool for action that serves to fulfill the visions of the Colorado Water Plan by supporting a thriving watershed and helping meet future water needs. The project location serves as an infiltration gallery, providing a critical water source to the District and the City of Steamboat Springs. In the event of a wildfire in the Fish Creek watershed, it would become the primary water supply, highlighting its vital role in regional water security.

The project will safeguard the infiltration gallery by stabilizing eroded sections and enhancing the health of the Yampa River system by reducing sedimentation and creating improvements in riparian habitat and water quality. The project will utilize design and construction techniques that complement and produce positive effects to the river system upstream and downstream. The District is utilizing a "soft solution" approach consisting of anchoring the streambank with trees, root wads, natural material, and revegetation that aligns with the riparian environment. This approach contributes to habitat two-fold, by creating habitat and providing natural structure, and eliminating

habitat loss and degradation from continued erosion.

The construction of J-hook rock vanes protruding into the river will direct stream energy to the center of the channel and away from the streambank, reducing erosion and helping with water temperature and navigability in times of low flow. In times of high flow, the "soft solution" approach and regrading of the current vertical banks will allow the river to reach its natural floodplain. The project directly contributes to a thriving watershed by sustaining biodiversity, improving water quality, creating a more resilient ecosystem, improving habitat and helping mitigate impacts from drought and low flow. (Chapter 1, Pg. 6, Chapter 6, 204-207)

Integration across action areas of resilient planning and thriving watersheds - In motivation, initial planning and design of the Districts project, a collaborative and multi purpose approach and solution was prioritized. The District partnered with, upstream and downstream neighbors, a local natural resource consultant, and a qualified local engineering firm that share the District's ethic and vision for stewardship. Furthermore, the project has gained the support and incorporated feedback from the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. This projects mitigation and restoration efforts will compliment the completed projects upstream at the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area, and downstream connecting to the the northern neighbors restoration project completed in 2023. (Chapter 6 Pg. 216-217)

The Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable’s Basin Implementation Plan has a stated goal of “quantifying and protecting environmental and recreational water uses”. One of the Basin Roundtable’s strategies in achieving their goals is supporting projects that are appropriately located and sized to protect water uses and the environment, particularly during drought. The Districts streambank restoration project serves to help achieve this goal by the previously stated benefits to navigability, habitat, and improvements in water quality, which all increase the resiliency of the river, especially during times of low flow. (Yampa-White-Green BIP; Section 4 Pg. 13, 22,23)

Under the guidance of the Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable. A group of 27 volunteers representing agricultural, municipal, industrial, environment and recreational interests came together to inform the Yampa Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP). Across all stakeholder groups negative effects to the river system from bank erosion and streambank instability was a common concern. Of the three prominent issues facing the Yampa identified in the IWMP. The District's project is an opportunity for action to directly address the bank stability issue by protecting water infrastructure in safeguarding the infiltration gallery, while also increasing riparian habitat. (IWMP, Pg. 3,8,15)

Related Studies

N/A

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A