



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** CWCB Board Members

**FROM:** Jeannine Shaw, CWCB Grants Section Chief

**CC:** Lauren Duncan, Regional Grant Manager (Arkansas)

**DATE:** March 19, 2025

**CONSENT AGENDA: 6a: Water Plan Grant Change of Grantee**

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**Staff Recommendation**

CWCB staff is recommending the grant award for the Chaffee County Fourmile Creek Restoration project be changed from Chaffee County Community Foundation to Chaffee County.

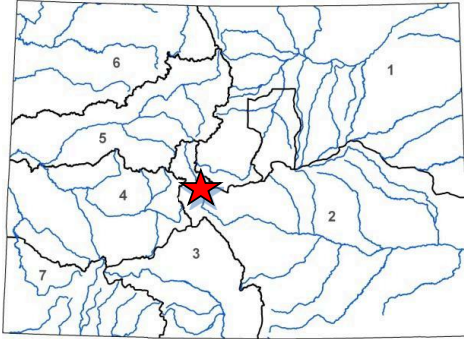
**Background**

This grant was originally awarded to the Chaffee County Community Foundation at the March 2023 CWCB Board meeting and has been successfully managed by the Chaffee County Community Foundation to date. To provide the project effort with additional County staff capacity and to align with County natural resource management priorities, this project Grantee is being transitioned from the Chaffee County Community Foundation to Chaffee County. County staff will administer and manage the remainder of the grant funds and successfully close out the remaining grant tasks. Both parties are in agreement with this proposed change. Data sheet attached for additional information.





## Water Plan Grant Program Application



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Chaffee
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$266,436.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$114,610.00
<b>Recommended amount:</b>	<b>\$114,610.00</b>
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$122,326.00
Applicant Match:	\$29,500.00
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	3,800 LF of Stream Restored, 14 acres of Habitat Restored and 2,500 Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

This project is focused on restoration treatment, monitoring, and adaptive management of the 0.7-mile, 14.2-acre reach of Fourmile Creek as a pilot project to demonstrate low-tech restoration of degraded stream-wetland beaver complexes to reestablish natural ecological processes that deliver multiple benefits.

By restoring Fourmile Creek to a naturally-functioning Stage-0 system through extensive, targeted willow plantings and installation of Beaver Dam Analogue structures, this project aims to mitigate high rates of sediment influx into the system, improve water detention in the system, improve floodplain connectivity and encourage (or mimic) sustained beaver activity. Upon completion, this project will be monitored to report on the effectiveness of this restoration strategy and to document hydrological changes to groundwater levels and streamflow. The resulting data will inform the effectiveness of restoration on Fourmile Creek while simultaneously providing a model with documented benefits that can be applied at landscape scale across the State.

The goals of this project are directly aligned with numerous components and action items associated with the Thriving Watersheds, Vibrant Communities and Resilient Planning focus area in the 2023 Water Plan, and is also integrated with the 2020 Chaffee County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative Upper Ark Thrives Project and the 2021 Chaffee County Outdoor Recreation Management Plan.

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### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board approve a change of grantee from the Chaffee County Community Foundation to Chaffee County for the Chaffee County Fourmile Creek Restoration project.