



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Projects Bill Grants

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	City of Steamboat Springs
Name of Water Project	Yampa River/Walton Creek Confluence Restoration Project
Grant request Amount	\$3,950,000.00
Estimated Engineering Costs	\$900,000.00
Estimated Construction Costs	\$4,900,000.00
Other Costs	\$2,100,000.00
Total Project Cost	\$7,900,000.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: City of Steamboat Springs
Mailing Address: PO Box 775088 Steamboat Springs CO 80477

Organization Contact: Tom Leeson
Position/Title: City Manager
Phone: 9708718249
Email: tleeson@steamboatsprings.net

Organization Contact - Alternate: Ginger Scott
Position/Title:
Phone: 970-871-8215
Email: gscott@steamboatsprings.net

Grant Management Contact: Tom Leeson
Position/Title: City Manager
Phone: 9708718249
Email: tleeson@steamboatsprings.net

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Ginger Scott
Position/Title:
Phone: 970-871-8215
Email: gscott@steamboatsprings.net

Agency Information

Agency Type	Municipality
Current Assessment	
Number of Shareholders or Customers	13,000
Number of Shares	
Number of Taps	5,969
Average Monthly Water Bill	\$85
Annual Water Delivery (acre-feet)	3,230

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

Location of Water Project	
Latitude	40.452979
Longitude	-106.816844
Lat Long Flag	Stream location: Coordinates based on general location on stream
Water Source	Yampa River and Walton Creek
Basins	Yampa/White/Green
Counties	Routt
Districts	58-Upper Yampa River

Water Project Overview	
Major Water Use Type	Environmental
Type of Water Project	Design & Construction
Scheduled Start Date - Design	7/1/2025
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	3/1/2027
Description	This is a multi-benefit river and wetland restoration project at the Yampa River and Walton Creek confluence. It encompasses 105 acres of channel, floodplain, and riparian improvements on open space lands owned by the City of Steamboat Springs and protected by conservation easements. The complex river and wetland systems located at the confluence property and the adjacent Williams Preserve present a unique opportunity within Colorado for large-scale ecological restoration. The project will reduce non-natural ponds and backwaters remnant from mining that are significant sources of northern pike spawning, contributing to increased predation on native and sport fish throughout the Yampa River and on Colorado River endangered fish species. Additional project benefits include improving floodplain connectivity and river function, habitat and biodiversity, water quality and temperatures, and protecting downstream community property and infrastructure from flooding and geomorphic hazards. This project was prioritized in the Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan (2018). The 60% design plan (2024) engaged stakeholders to develop solutions that incorporate diverse needs. This final design-build phase will result in project construction and an adaptive management plan. It offers a valuable learning opportunity for implementing restoration that balances multiple objectives within the confines of present-day development.

Measurable Results	
7,089	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)
105	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
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

No additional measurable results provided

Explanation of Grant Request

The City of Steamboat Springs is requesting a grant due to the high cost of the project and because the project benefits transcend the local community and are significant to the larger region and Yampa River system.

Technical and Legal Consultants

The preliminary design plan and 60% design plan were led by Stillwater Sciences and Johnson Environmental Consulting and included several other sub-consultants. This grant request is for the final design-build phase, for which the City will conduct a competitive request for proposal process.

Related Studies or SOWs

- Ecological Restoration Concepts for the Williams Preserve, 2022
- Walton Creek/Yampa River Confluence Preliminary Design for Channel Restoration and Wetlands Creation, 2022
- Yampa River and Walton Creek Confluence Restoration Project 60% Basis of Design Report, 2024
- Yampa River and Walton Creek Confluence Restoration Project 60% Design Plan Set, 2024