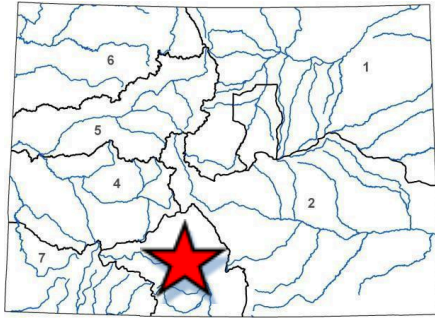




Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
<i>Counties:</i>	Alamosa; Rio Grande
<i>Basin:</i>	Rio Grande

DETAILS	
<i>Total Project Cost:</i>	\$1,011,503.52
<i>Water Plan Grant Request:</i>	\$503,778.20
<i>Recommended Amount:</i>	\$503,778.20
<i>Match Commitment:</i>	\$507,725.32
<i>Grant to Match Ratio:</i>	50/50
<i>Project Type:</i>	Design & Construction
<i>Primary Project Category:</i>	Watershed Health & Recreation
<i>Measurable Result:</i>	4,737 linear feet of stream restored or protected; 6 acres of habitat restored or preserved; 20 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity

The Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation (CRGRF) is seeking a Colorado Water Plan grant to support Phase 6 of the Rio Grande Bank Stabilization & Revegetation effort.

As the name suggests, this project is a long-standing watershed health effort along the Rio Grande river. In the late 1990s, local stakeholders commissioned a study which analyzed the condition of the riparian area and structures along a 91-mile reach of the Rio Grande. Completed in 2001, the study identified sediment input as one of the primary causes of degradation to the Rio Grande and provided recommendations to improve water quality, riparian areas, fish and wildlife habitat, and floodplain function.

CRGRF was created to implement the 2001 study's recommendations and launch the Riparian Restoration and Streambank Stabilization Program. In Phases 1-5, CRGRF worked with over sixty landowners to complete cost-share riparian stabilization projects on over fifty sites along the Rio Grande. This has allowed for 17 miles of Rio Grande's streambank to be stabilized. Since then, CRGRF has expanded beyond this core work to also encompass diverse restoration, infrastructure, and watershed stewardship projects, planning, and collaboration across the Rio Grande Basin.

Building on this foundation, Phase 6 aims to restore the health and resilience of the Rio Grande by stabilizing streambanks, restoring riparian wetlands, and enhancing aquatic habitat. In partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Ducks Unlimited, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, private landowners, and others, CRGRF will restore at least 4,737 feet of river and six acres of riparian area up- and downstream of the Alamosa-Rio Grande county line. The project also includes surveying and evaluating river conditions within the Shriver-Wright and Rio Grande state wildlife areas to inform future restoration work.



Photo 2. Additional erosion within Restoration Area 1

Grant dollars would be used to cover the costs of project engineering, permitting, construction management, stream restoration, habitat enhancement, education, outreach, and project monitoring. Funders include NRCS, Ducks Unlimited, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and private landowners.

This effort supports multiple Colorado Water Plan Action Areas and advances several projects identified in the Rio Grande Stream Management Plan. Specifically, the project aligns with water plan goals of Thriving Watersheds and Resilient Planning by restoring natural sediment transport processes, increasing alluvial aquifer storage, and mitigating potential impacts to infrastructure from high streamflow events. The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable supports this project as it aims to further objectives of the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$503,778.20 to Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation for the Rio Grande Bank Stabilization & Revegetation Phase 6 project.