



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Lauren Duncan, Chris Sturm, Andrea Harbin-Monahan, and Jeannine Shaw, Grants Section

**DATE:** September 16, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM:** Consent Agenda CA3a, Water Plan Grant, Change of Grant

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Board approve a change of grant match funding for Trout Unlimited's Enhancing River Stewardship and Recreation Water Plan Grant.

**Background:**

At the March 2025 Board meeting, the Board approved a \$150,000.00 Water Plan Grant to Trout Unlimited for the Enhancing River Stewardship and Recreation project. This grant has yet to be contracted. Grant funds will be used to fund the development of a roadmap for equitable, safe, and sustainable river recreation in Colorado. The initiative will involve forming a technical team, analyzing gaps and opportunities, and hosting engagement workshops to design a comprehensive program.

Trout Unlimited is requesting a change in matching funds due to overlapping matching funds between the Grantee's budget and an existing Water Plan Grant, issued to another Grantee. Trout Unlimited had originally included these funds in order to highlight the partnership they plan with the existing Grantee, their project and both Grantees' shared goals. However, CWCB grant guidelines do not allow utilizing funds from an existing CWCB grant as match for another CWCB grant within CWCB's grant programs. Trout Unlimited will plan to remove these overlapping match funds from their project budget, but all project goals and deliverables will remain the same, despite the budget change.

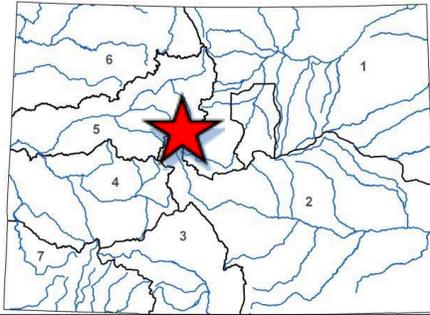
Despite this change in matching fund sources, Trout Unlimited is providing 64% of the project total as matching funds, exceeding the required 25% match for this type of planning project. Trout Unlimited will continue with this collaborative, stakeholder-led project as initially proposed.

The updated datasheet is included for reference.





**Water Plan Grant Program**



LOCATION	
County/Countries:	Statewide
Basin:	Statewide

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$421,268.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$150,000.00
Recommended Amount:	\$150,000.00
Match Commitment:	\$271,268.00
Grant to Match Ratio:	36/64
Project Type:	Planning
Primary Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	100 Coloradans impacted by engagement activities

Colorado Water Plan Grant funding will support the development of a roadmap for equitable, safe, and sustainable river recreation in Colorado. The initiative will involve forming a technical team, analyzing gaps and opportunities, and hosting engagement workshops to design a comprehensive program.

Colorado's rivers are vital for recreation, ecology, and local economies. With growing pressures on river resources, there is a need for a strategic, statewide plan to support stewardship and sustainability. This project builds on previous risk-assessment work by American Whitewater and basin-level watershed planning efforts. Key deliverables include the formation of a technical team, stakeholder engagement workshops, a gap analysis, and the development of a strategic plan to guide sustainable river recreation efforts across the state.

This project supports the Colorado Water Plan's goals by fostering collaboration, promoting sustainable recreation, and ensuring that river stewardship is integrated into water planning and management. It will also support community-driven water conservation efforts.

Funding partners include the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Great Outdoors Colorado, Foundation for America's Public Lands, American Whitewater, and additional local and regional stakeholders. The majority of CWCB funds will support planning, stakeholder engagement, and coalition-building efforts. Workshops and stakeholder meetings will ensure diverse perspectives are included.

This grant was originally approved by this Board in March of 2025. The Grantee is requesting a change to the total matching funds and project budget. The Grantee had originally intended to use grant funds from another ongoing CWCB Water Plan Grant as match for this project to demonstrate partnership with the existing Grantee and project; however CWCB grant guidelines do not allow existing CWCB grant funds to be utilized in another CWCB grant's project budget as match.

After removing these matching funds, the revised total project cost is \$421,268.00; the Water Plan Grant request of \$150,000.00 is unchanged. This budget adjustment reduces the total match provided by the Grantee from 68% to 64%, which still exceeds the required match contribution for this type of project. The project goals remain the same and measurable results are unchanged.

**Funding Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the Board approve a new grant to match ratio of 36% grant to 64% match.