



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Supply Reserve Fund - Statewide & Basin

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative
Name of Water Project	The Upper Arkansas Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Project
Basin Account Request Subtotal	\$50,590.00
Statewide Request Amount	\$252,060.00
Statewide Project Category	Drought Resiliency
Applicant Cash Match	
Applicant In-Kind Match	
Basin Requests	
<i>Arkansas</i>	\$50,590.00
Sources of Funding	
<i>CDPHE</i>	\$67,750.00
<i>Lake County</i>	\$91,500.00
<i>Trout Unlimited</i>	\$5,000.00
<i>Other partners</i>	\$10,000.00
<i>US Forest Service</i>	\$29,000.00

Grant Details

Statewide Project Category Justification

This project focuses on restoring, rehabilitating, protecting, and enhancing areas of the Upper Arkansas basin within Lake County through a comprehensive strategy of watershed-based project implementation.

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative
Mailing Address: PO Box 726 Lake George CO 80827
FEIN: 823,840,102

Organization Contact: Jonathan Paklaian
Position/Title:
Phone: (719) 510-6373

Email: jonathan@arkcollaborative.org

Description of Grantee/Applicant

OUR MISSION IS TO SERVE COLORADO'S ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN COMMUNITIES BY ADDRESSING LOCALLY-IDENTIFIED WATERSHED ISSUES FOR ECONOMIC, ECOLOGICAL & SOCIAL BENEFIT.

ARWC is the nonprofit organization for the Arkansas Basin Roundtable, and Roundtable members serve as our Board of Directors. In 2017, ARWC became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and hired its first Executive Director and staff in early 2019. The Collaborative covers all 23,000 square miles of the Arkansas River Basin,

reaching from Leadville to the Colorado-Kansas border. Our work includes forest health and wildfire fuels mitigation, post-fire and flood recovery, stream management planning, water quality, stream restoration, collaborative development and stakeholder engagement.

Location of Water Project

Latitude	39.232080
Longitude	-106.348560
Lat Long Flag	Other: Coordinates based on other boundaries or locations
Water Source	Arkansas River Headwaters, Lake Fork Creek, Halfmoon Creek, Evans Gulch, California Gulch, Iowa Gulch, Tennessee Creek
Basins	Arkansas
Counties	Lake
Districts	11-Arkansas: Headwaters to Salida

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	
Type of Water Project	Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design	3/1/2023
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	6/1/2023
Description	<p>The Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative has received nearly \$4M in funding to manage and carry out a multi-component watershed project in Lake County, Colorado. This project is partially funded by the California Gulch Natural Resources Damages (NRD) fund and approved by Director Dan Gibbs and Attorney General Weiser. The project has multiple components: Overarching Capacity, Upland Water Protection, Mines & Habitat, and Crossings. Each of these components comes together to improve the health of the watershed and build resiliency in the Arkansas River headwaters.</p> <p>This is a five-year project with multiple partners including Trout Unlimited, U.S. Forest Service, Lake County, Colorado Springs Utilities, and more.</p>

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)
2,000	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (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
500	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
	6.88 ac of fluvial tailings/riparian restoration. 100 acres of forest restoration and wildfire risk reduction. At least 3 culverts replaced to with natural bottom and enhanced aquatic organism passage. Engagement with stakeholders through meetings and installation of 1 interpretive sign.

Arkansas Basin Roundtable

November 15, 2022

Via Electronic Mail: ben.wade@state.co.us

Mr. Ben Wade
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Colorado Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application: The Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) - Upper Arkansas Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Project.

Dear Ben:

At its November 9th, 2022 meeting, the Arkansas Basin Roundtable (ABRT) approved support of the Upper Arkansas Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Project request for \$50,590 from the Basin account and \$252,060 from the Statewide account. ARWC is also providing \$210,405 in matching funds.

This project supports the goals of the Colorado Water Plan and the Arkansas Basin Roundtable Implementation plan by: Improving water quality and in-stream habitat, improving upland watershed health, reducing wildfire risk, reducing flood risk, reducing legacy mine watershed impacts, restoring riparian habitat, and improving water infrastructure. This project aims to holistically increase the resilience of the watershed and water supplies. Additionally, this work translates to economic benefits including protecting and improving the health of the upper Arkansas River, on which the multi-million-dollar recreation industry relies.

The Arkansas Basin Roundtable approved supporting this application by consensus and there were no dissenting views.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me either by telephone, (719) 668-8028

Thank you,

MD Shea

Mark Shea
Chair

Copy via email: Applicant; Needs Assessment Chair



Jason Willis, P.E. – CO AML Program Manager
128 East 1st Street, Salida, CO 81201
jason.willis@tu.org – (719) 221-0411

August 20, 2021

Letter of Support regarding Upper Arkansas River – California Gulch Natural Resource Damages Proposal

Dear CWCB Board and Staff,

I am writing to express the support of Trout Unlimited (TU) towards the Upper Arkansas Comprehensive Watershed Restoration Project through the Natural Resources Damages Project Proposal. The Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) has been a great project partner of TU for several years and the concepts included in this project align with TU's goals of watershed-wide environmental health improvements. The ARWC is taking the initiative to look at a multitude of issues using a comprehensive approach that will build upon future reclamation and implementation efforts.

As one of the leading cold-water conservation organizations, TU strives to protect, restore, reconnect, and sustain our nation's waterways. Since TU was founded in 1959, on-the-ground restoration of streams, watersheds, and fisheries has been our hallmark, especially a Gold Medal water like the Arkansas. TU has been supporting project work across Colorado since the early 2000's. Specifically, TU has completed over 40 reclamation projects across the State since 2012 that focus on water quality improvement, abandoned mine land (AML) reclamation, non-point source contamination reduction, and revegetation of degraded landscapes. This comprehensive plan will focus on restoring, rehabilitating, protecting, and enhancing areas of the Upper Arkansas basin within northern Chaffee and Lake Counties where most of the damages associated with the California Gulch Superfund Site took place. This collaborative and targeted approach to environmental restoration projects is an effort that TU can support and be a part of.

TU is in support of the Grant because of our past and continued efforts to remediate AML sites in Lake County. While TU has successfully worked at the Tiger Mine, which was part of the 2010 Trustees RP/EA, we have also implemented a watershed plan and subsequent reclamation at three sites along Evans Gulch, which is one of the drinking water sources for Leadville and Lake County. TU looks forward to engaging partners to accomplish work identified in the Project that will ultimately safeguard and restore injured natural resources through environmental restoration.

With a strong work ethic, and a dedicated presence in the Arkansas River watershed, ARWC has the capacity necessary to manage and coordinate this type of comprehensive grant ranging from stream restoration, AML reclamation, fuel mitigation, and culvert replacements. In addition, the support of local government, Federal/State agencies, and other non-profits will ensure a collaborative approach to a quality finished product. TU also pledges \$16,000 of in-kind matching project management funds to help facilitate its proposed suite of projects focusing on habitat and abandoned mines.

Best Regards,

Jason Willis, P.E. - Trout Unlimited CO AML Program Manager

Trout Unlimited: America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization

www.tu.org