



COLORADO
**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**
Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Kirk Russell, P.E., Chief, Finance Section

DATE: November 19-20, 2025 Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 23a. 2026 Projects Bill
(1-11) Non-Reimbursable Project Investments

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve funding for all of the Non-Reimbursable Project Investments listed below from the CWCB Construction Fund for inclusion in the 2026 Projects Bill.

Introduction/Background

The Finance Committee reviewed the Projects Bill - Non-Reimbursable Investment (NRI) applications on September 17, 2026. The Committee supported the projects listed below and recommended them for formal Board approval En-Bloc. If approved, these NRIs will be provided to the Projects Bill sponsors for inclusion in the 2026 CWCB Projects Bill. Data Sheets for each project are included. Presentations will be made for NRI's shown.

(1)	Satellite Monitoring/Maintenance Program (Continuation)	Statewide	\$380,000
(2)	Floodplain Risk Management (Continuation)	Statewide	\$500,000
(3)	Weather Modification Permitting Program (Continuation)	Statewide	\$500,000
(4)	Litigation Fund (May '25 Budget of \$1,992,000) (Refresh Increase) *	Statewide	\$6,000,000
(5)	Colorado Mesonet Enhancements (Continuation)	Statewide	\$200,000
(6)	Water Forecasting Partnership Project (Continuation)	Statewide	\$2,500,000
(7)	Colorado's Decision Support System (Continuation)	Statewide	\$750,000
(8)	Fish and Wildlife Resource Fund	Statewide	\$2,000,000
(9)	Water Plan Action Advancement	Statewide	\$1,350,000
(10)	Colorado Watershed Restoration Program *	Statewide	\$5,000,000
(11)	UCRC Planning *	Statewide	\$750,000
		Total	\$19,930,000

* Presentation will be made at this Board Mtg

Attachments: Data Sheets





This project entails the continued, long-term operational viability of the State Satellite Linked Monitoring System and Stream Gage Refurbishment Program, which is administered by the Division of Water Resources (DWR). This program currently encompasses over 750 satellite streamgaging stations that require continued replacement of outdated data collection platforms, upgrades to transmission components, and refurbishment of the associated infrastructure. In addition, many existing gaging stations need to be modified to provide critical stream flow data for both flood and low flow monitoring. Changes in technology, which will ultimately increase reliability and real time data transmission rates, will require the DWR to continue to upgrade the system in the future. In addition, this project provides annual maintenance for the Arkansas River Basin Compact Lysimeter Research Project. The costs associated with the continued refurbishment and operational viability of the Satellite Monitoring System is currently approximately \$330,000 per year. The cost associated with the Lysimeter Project is approximately \$50,000 per year. The total project cost is \$380,000.

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
Project Cost:	\$380,000
NRI Funding Request:	\$380,000
Funding Source:	Construction Fund
Project Type:	DWR Streamgaging
Type of Grantee:	State Agency

L O C A T I O N	
Benefits:	Statewide
Water Source:	Various
Drainage Basin:	All Basins



Figure 1 Hydrographer removing fallen tree from Streamgage Alamosa River below Terrace Reservoir



Figure 2 Hydrographers building a natural streamgage control South Boulder Creek above Howard Ditch



Figure 3-4 South Boulder Creek above Boulder Creek Confluence New Installation





Colorado has received over \$80 million in federal grant dollars for floodplain mapping activities as part of the floodplain Map Modernization/Risk Map Program (Program) initiated by FEMA since 2003. The FEMA funds are supplemented by CWCB and local cost-share dollars to perform the map update work to create updated digital floodplain maps and flood risk tools. The initial Program funds authorized in the 2003 and all subsequent Construction Fund Bills have provided past required non-federal matching dollars, as well as associated projects for leverage. The State funds are further leveraged by local cost share dollars and in-kind services from many communities to obtain additional related information and project assistance. The total funding amounts have been instrumental in keeping Colorado as a lead state within FEMA Region 8 and will continue to benefit Colorado communities in the future. It is expected that FEMA funding will continue as long as the Program exists. Program deliverables will become part of the Flood Decision Support System (DSS) to increase data capture and enhance Colorado's decision support tools.

The Program impacts the entire state, and the objective is to develop updated watershed-based and/or countywide floodplain maps using information based on high quality data and current engineering technology within a digital environment. The use of GIS technology will be employed for all new countywide studies for ease of distribution, updating and viewing. The table below summarizes funding expected to be approved by FEMA for Federal Fiscal Year 2025, pending a notice of funding opportunity is published by the Department of Homeland Security. Although this year's FEMA funding request is lower than in recent years, as requested by FEMA Region 8, over 50 active mapping and mitigation assistance projects continue to move forward across the state.

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$2,824,394
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$500,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	Leverage Funds for Grants
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	State Agency

L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Statewide
<i>Water Source:</i>	Various
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	All Basins

Grant Description	FEMA Funding
CTP Project Management	\$1,247,904
COMS	\$180,000
LOMR Review	\$995,495
Summit County Ph3 Add'l	\$56,925
Republican Basin BLE, Year 2	\$151,239
San Miguel PMR Ph3 Add'l	\$50,805
Costilla County Ph3 Add'l	\$38,520
Routt County BLE, Year 2	\$103,506
Total FEMA Funding:	\$2,824,394

The CWCB has had grants since 2004 for water district sponsored cloud seeding programs developed after the early 2000s drought. In 2007, State-to-State agreements were signed to provide grants in Colorado. CWCB distributes grants from the CWCB, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, and California Six Agency Committee. CWCB funding leverages pledged match funding from Lower Basin States water users. This funding helps meet CWCB goals to have industry standard equipment in operation for efficient and effective programs.

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$1.5M (matching from Lower Basin States and local sponsors)
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$500,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	Snowpack augmentation
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	State Agency
L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Statewide
<i>Water Source:</i>	Various
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	All Basins

In 2022, CWCB permitted the most recent weather modification program in the St. Vrain and Left Hand drainage, Colorado's first permitted weather modification program targeting the Front Range. Currently, CWCB is working with Desert Research Institute (DRI) on a feasibility study in the Arkansas Basin. Once this study is complete, the hope is to permit a new weather modification program in the coming year.

Since 2007, the Lower Basin Water Users (Southern Nevada Water Authority, California Six Agency Committee, Central Arizona Water Conservation District) as well as New Mexico, have funded weather modifications activities specifically to augment snow in the Colorado River Basin. Each year, including State funds, about \$1.5M is spent on supporting current operations, upgrading equipment, and financing various weather modification studies around the state. The Colorado agreement with the Lower Basin expires in 2026, but the stakeholders are currently working on a new 8 year agreement to continue funding for Colorado's weather modification programs.

Effective cloud seeding requires siting cloud seeders high onto ridges in areas of good airflow to ensure the silver iodide particles are regularly transported into clouds. We have had success at helping upgrade programs with new high elevation seeders at: Winter Park, St. Vrain, Grand Mesa, and the San Juan Mountains. Colorado has high elevation terrain and siting remote generators at high altitudes is vital for effective seeding.

The CWCB has been facilitating successful multi-state collaborations to benefit local water supplies and downstream compact obligations for years. Most recently, the Bureau of Reclamation awarded a \$2.4 million dollar grant to bolster cloud seeding programs in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. These funds have been fully allocated for two weather modification studies with NCAR in the Central Colorado Mountain River Basin (CCMRB) and St. Vrain programs, as well as the purchase of 3 new remote generators from DRI.



COLORADO

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Litigation Fund

Colorado Water Conservation Board November 2025 Board Meeting

Section 37-60-121(2.5) provides that the Colorado Water Conservation Board is authorized “to expend, pursuant to continuous appropriation and subject to the requirements of paragraph (b) of this subsection (2.5), a total sum not to exceed the balance of the litigation fund, which is created, for the purpose of engaging in litigation...to defend and protect Colorado’s allocations of water in interstate streams and rivers...” Paragraph (b) of section 121(2.5) provides: “pursuant to the spending authority set forth in paragraph (a) of this subsection (2.5), moneys may be expended from the litigation fund at the discretion of the board if (l) with respect to litigation, the Colorado Attorney General requests that the Board authorize the expenditure of moneys in a specified amount not to exceed the balance of the fund for the costs of litigation associated with one or more specifically identified lawsuits meeting the criteria set forth in paragraph (a) of this subsection (2.5).”

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	Legal Support
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	State Government

L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Statewide
<i>Water Source:</i>	N/A
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	All Basins

The CWCB has received a letter from Attorney General Phil Weiser stating that a total of \$6,000,000 will be needed in FY26/27 to adequately: defend in negotiations; litigation; and other processes the State's apportionments under the Compacts. The funds will be allocated as follows:

- 1) Colorado River Basin: \$2,000,000
- 2) Republican River Basin: \$50,000
- 3) South Platte River Basin: \$1,500,000
- 4) Rio Grande Basin: \$1,500,000
- 5) Arkansas River Basin: \$950,000

The CWCB will request a refresh of the Litigation Fund up to \$6,000,000 this year in order for the Board to respond to potential legal challenges.

The Colorado Climate Center (CCC) was established by the state in 1974 through the Colorado State University Agricultural Experiment Station to provide information and expertise on Colorado's complex climate. Through its program of Climate Monitoring, Climate Research and Climate Services, the CCC is responding to many climate related questions and problems affecting the state today. One way the CCC monitors the climate is through Colorado Agricultural Meteorological Network (CoAgMET), a network of over 96 stations statewide tracking weather and Colorado's climate. The Climate Center is located at Colorado State University within the Department of Atmospheric Science.

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
Project Cost:	\$450,000
NRI Funding Request:	\$200,000
Funding Source:	Construction Fund
Project Type:	Data Collection/Maint.
Type of Grantee:	State Agency

L O C A T I O N	
Benefits:	Statewide
Water Source:	Various
Drainage Basin:	All Basins

This project builds on recent work that has improved the quality, accessibility, and usability of meteorological data collected by CoAgMET (also known as Colorado's Mesonet). The CoAgMET data are used for a broad range of applications, including irrigation planning, drought monitoring, water availability calculations, real-time weather monitoring, and much more. In recent years the network has expanded to 96 stations (6 of these measure temperature and humidity only in support of Colorado's wine industry). Nearly all stations now report data every 5 minutes, and that data is transmitted in real time to the public and a wide range of users including the National Weather Service. The current Mesonet contract ends in December 2025, and there has been great progress made thus far. Towers, sensors, all-season precipitation gauges, and barometers are ready to be deployed and installed this fall. Additionally, the new website is fully operational, with additional maps and capabilities added over the last year. For example, additional variables of interest such as the previous day's max/min temperature, precipitation, and reference ET have been added to the interactive maps on the homepage. This funding request and proposed project will further enhance CoAgMET data and will increase its uses for understanding the climate of Colorado, especially in relation to stakeholder needs in the water and agriculture sectors.

High-quality weather and climate data are often taken for granted, yet enhancing and maintaining a growing network requires sustained financial support. Support from CWCB over the past decade has enabled the development of CoAgMET from a small network of stations primarily used for agricultural research, to a top-quality state mesonet that continues to grow and advance. This includes incorporating the stations from the Colorado Regional Climate Reference Network, which were gifted to CSU by the National Weather Service; adding new measurements like all-weather precipitation and 10-meter wind speed at select stations and revamping the data dissemination platforms. In fact, CoAgMET was recently honored with a 30-year award from the American Association of State Climatologists. This award highlights the contributions and quality weather records that CoAgMET has made for more than 30 years in Colorado. CWCB funding will allow for further effective enhancements to the CoAgMET network, improved delivery of data and new products for water use planning and climate change monitoring. They will improve real-time monitoring capabilities to improve severe weather warnings and emergency management applications. ***Importantly, this grant funding will allow CoAgMET to continue to qualify for federal funds through the National Mesonet Program to support critical operations and maintenance needs.***



Water Forecasting Partnership Project

Colorado Water Conservation Board
November 2025 Board Meeting

The water forecasting partnership project began in the FY2016/2017 under SB 16-174. This original authorization appropriated \$300,000, and was reauthorized in both HB17-1248 and SB18-218 for \$800,000 each fiscal year. This project was most recently funded at \$450,000 in HB22-1316, \$1,000,000 in SB23-177, \$2,000,000 in HB24-1435 and \$2,000,000 in SB25-283. Staff requests \$2,000,000 be appropriated for continuation of this work in FY 2026/2027. The new funds will be used to complete the projects described under the blue heading. The goal of this program is to implement Section 2 of HB25-1115.

The FY24/25 round of funding leveraged \$2,737,527 in total match. \$800,000 came from the Upper Colorado River Commission, \$1,937,527 came from local stakeholders. These stakeholders are participants in a central group called the Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement Group (CASM). \$1,800,000 from FY24/25 was used to support CASM activities, \$200,000 is being used to provide support for CWCB Staff to administer the program for the next 5 years. Staff anticipates similar match levels for FY26/27, and will be working to seek additional match.

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$5,100,000 (matching will be sought)
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$2,500,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	Data and Modeling Upgrades
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	State Agency

L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Statewide
<i>Water Source:</i>	Various
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	All Basins

FY 2026-27 Proposed Funding			
Location	Item	Cost	Notes
Statewide	Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement Group Pilot Project Support (continuation)	\$2,300,000	Partner with the stakeholders in the Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement group to conduct multiple LiDAR/Spectrometer flights in pilot basins to determine ideal flight numbers per season. Flights will be determined by a larger group representing areas across the State. This group includes Denver Water, Northern Water, Dolores Water, USGS, and the Colorado River District.
Statewide	Other Snow data/streamflow forecasting methods	\$200,000	The purpose of this fund is to cost share on implementing new technologies in snow data collection. There are currently strides being made in use of radar (both ground based and satellite mounted), snowtopography, and other methodologies that may be appropriate in basins where LiDAR might not be as feasible/useful.

Total Request: **\$2,500,000**



The Colorado's Decision Support Systems (CDSS) project began in 1992 and has played an integral role in water resource decision making in the past 30 years. This funding request is for ongoing operation and maintenance of CDSS, a joint effort of CWCB and DWR to provide data and modeling tools to assist in water resource planning and management in Colorado. Tools such as the HydroBase database, GIS databases, analytical tools, and consumptive use, surface water allocation, and groundwater models have been developed and implemented for all of the State, with the development of the Arkansas River DSS finishing in the next year. These CDSS components need periodic maintenance and operational revisions to protect the State's investment and keep the tools viable as water resource planning becomes more technical and data-driven in the future. CDSS data and tools are crucial in State planning, including the following:

- The Water Plan Technical Update
- Studies involving Compacts
- Water court engineering analysis
- Federal water accounting for endangered fish flow
- Protection of the State's interests when it comes to Compact allotment and negotiations of agreement

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$750,000
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$750,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	Decision Support System
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	State (CWCB)

L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Statewide
<i>Water Source:</i>	N/A
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	All Basins

FY 2026 Proposed Funding			
Location	Item	Cost	Notes
Statewide	Improve municipal representation in StateMod models, especially South Platte	\$50,000	Improve accuracy of surface water models
Statewide	GIS Irrigated Parcel WDID association	\$25,000	
Statewide	Update basin information reports	\$25,000	
Statewide	Update documentation and models for the Yampa, White, Colorado, Mancos, and Pine from BIPs	\$50,000	
Statewide	StateMod code cleanup	\$50,000	Calibration and cleanup of current code
Statewide	Ad-hoc software maintenance / bug fixes	\$30,000/year	
Statewide	StateCU GUI rewrite	\$250,000	Current GUI is outdated and unusable
Statewide	StateMod GUI rewrite	\$250,000	Current GUI is outdated and unusable
Statewide	Create scripts for running StateMod	\$20,000	
Statewide	Installers, Datastores, and Local HydroBase improvements	\$75,000	
Rio Grande	Finish RGDSS surface water model	\$300,000	
Rio Grande	Enhance CDSS StateDMI Software to Incorporate RGDSS Functionality	\$25,000	
Arkansas/ Statewide	Linked StateMod models after ArkDSS is complete	\$100,000	



The Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund (Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Fund) was established by the legislature in 1987 to help mitigate the impacts to fish and wildlife resources that are affected by the construction, operation, or maintenance of water diversion, delivery, or storage facilities, pursuant to C.R.S. Section 37-60-122.2. The statute was amended in 2002 to recognize the role instream flows in mitigating impacts, and authorized the Colorado Water Conservation Board as well as sponsors of existing facilities to use these funds. In May of 2023 the Board approved grant guidelines to be used for the consideration and approval of Fish and Wildlife Resources Fund grant applications pursuant to subsections 2-5 of 37-60-122.2, C.R.S.

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$2,000,000
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$2,000,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	Mitigation Grants
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	Varies

L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Statewide
<i>Water Source:</i>	Various
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	All Basins

The following projects have received approval for use of these funds over the years:

- 2008: \$30,000: Rio Blanco River Restoration Phase III, Lower Blanco Property Owners Association
- 2009: \$132,000: Rio Blanco River Restoration Phase IV, Lower Blanco Property Owners Association
- 2009: \$70,000: Clear Springs Ranch Fish Passage, Colorado Springs Utilities
- 2010: \$560,000: Reconstruction of the Hartland Diversion Dam, Painted Sky R C and D Council
- 2011: \$75,000: Upper South Platte Diversion Reconstruction Project, Coalition for the Upper South Platte
- 2012: \$50,000: Stream Mitigation Banking Protocols, Colorado State University
- 2014: \$100,000: Platte River Enhancement Phase II, South Suburban Park and Recreation District
- 2015: \$50,000: Stream Mitigation Protocol and Aquatic Habitat Mapping, Colorado State University
- 2017: \$450,000: South Platte Flood Hazard Mitigation, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
- 2017: \$814,270: Chatfield Reservoir Mitigation Company, Plum Creek Restoration
- 2017: \$550,000: Buckhorn Valley Metropolitan District, Abrams Creek Ditch Lining Project

This funding will support Water Plan Agency Actions 1.5, 1.6, 4.3, and 4.9. These efforts focus on promoting One Water strategies, expanding water reuse, launching and developing metrics for a statewide water messaging campaign, and kicking off Phase 1 of Colorado’s Water Innovation Challenges—all aligning with the Water Plan’s four Action Areas and fulfilling CWCB’s statutory responsibilities. Funding between these four tasks may shift as needed to best facilitate the thoughtful execution of these tasks.

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$1,350,000
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$1,350,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	Water Plan Actions
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	State Agency

L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Statewide
<i>Water Source:</i>	Various
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	All Basins

One Water & Reuse (Actions 1.5 & 1.6)

Actions 1.5 and 1.6 explore One Water and Water Reuse. These efforts build on existing efforts, such as the One Water Leaders team, CWCB-CDPHE reuse coordination, and the Colorado One Water Delegation. In collaboration with CDPHE and stakeholders, CWCB will deliver two reports:

- **The Water Reuse Progress Report**, documenting effective reuse projects, regulatory updates, equity considerations, and measurable benefits like reduced potable demand and increased climate resilience.
- **The One Water Report**, showcasing successful projects across Colorado, exploring municipal applications, and highlighting the social, environmental, and health benefits of green infrastructure.

Outreach & Innovation (Actions 4.3 & 4.9)

Actions 4.3 and 4.9 address the Action Area of Resilient Planning. Funds will support extending CWCB’s planned statewide messaging campaign including the development and implementation of survey tools to measure and optimize campaign effectiveness, consistent with Board feedback. Phase 1 of the **Water Innovation Challenges** will include a literature review and strategic planning to guide innovation across academia, communities, and the private sector. Details follow:

Agency Action 1.5

Water Reuse Progress Report \$150,000
Timeline: 2026-2028

Agency Action 1.6

One Water Report \$150,000
Timeline: 2026-2030

Agency Action 4.3

Extend statewide messaging campaign to communicate Colorado’s key water challenges and potential solutions. Include surveys to measure campaign impact \$1,000,000
Timeline: 2026-2030

Agency Action 4.9

Water Innovation Challenges - Phase 1 Literature Review \$50,000
Timeline: 2026-2027



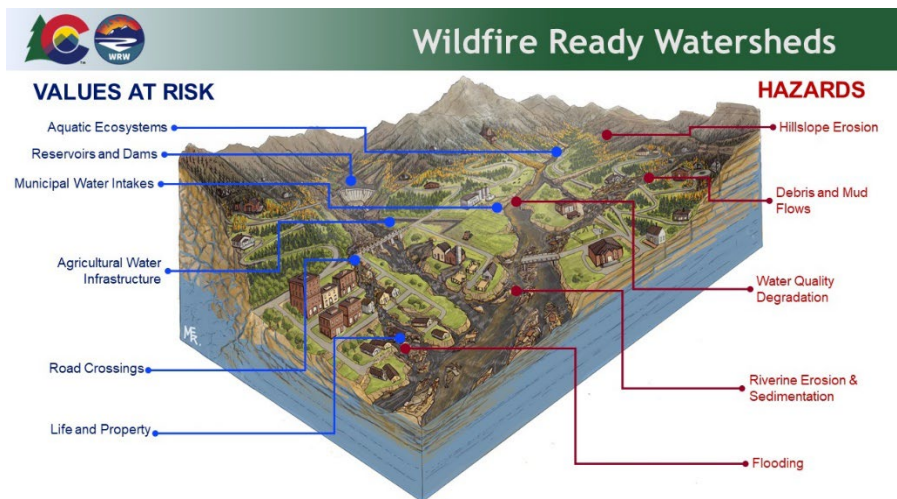
The Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (CWRP) was established through Board action in September 2008. Its objective is to provide planning, engineering, and construction services for watershed and stream restoration and protection. The services come as direct technical support from CWCB staff and consultants and grant funding support for plans, designs, and projects. The CWCB supports stakeholders that demonstrate:

- ✓ Commitment to collaborative approaches, involving locally and/or regionally based diverse interests within the watershed, with participation open to all interested parties in the watershed.
- ✓ Commitment to restoring or protecting ecological processes that connect land and water while protecting life and property from flood hazards
- ✓ A strategy to plan and implement for projects intended to restore and/or protect the water and lands within the watershed, mitigate flood hazards, or integrate a multi-objective approach.
- ✓ Broad support for the project, including support from relevant local, state, and federal agencies
- ✓ Ability to provide match support (in-kind and cash)

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$18,000,000
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$5,000,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	Plans and Projects
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	State Agency

L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Statewide
<i>Water Source:</i>	Various
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	All Basins

The purpose of CWRP in this instance is to support capacity, planning, engineering, and implementation of projects designed to protect values at risk from post wildfire hazards such as debris flow, increased runoff, hillslope erosion, flooding, and fluvial hazards (erosion, deposition, and channel migration). There is great need to continue planning by completing Wildfire Ready Action Plans in priority areas. As the plans are finished, the need increases as mitigation actions, i.e. implementation projects, are scheduled for design and construction. These projects oftentimes serve multiple objectives to protect values at risk from post-wildfire hazards, protect flow regimes, impart resiliency at landscape scales, enhance ecological structure and function, and protect water quality.



Currently there are four completed Wildfire Ready Action Plans and eighteen in progress. The plans will identify dozens of mitigation projects with implementation timelines of near (3-7 years), mid (7-15 years), and long term (>15 years).

If grant funding is approved, CWCB staff will develop amended guidelines for Board approval before releasing the funds under the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program.



The General Assembly has authorized the Colorado Water Conservation Board to fund projects and programs to “assure that the state of Colorado protects its allocation of interstate waters” and “to achieve efficient and effective management of river systems for recognized beneficial purposes” with projects “including but not limited to development of river basin models within and without the state, policy formulation, interstate negotiations, and water management within the state” (C.R.S. 37-60-115 (1)(b)).

The Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) was established with the enactment of the 1948 Upper Colorado River Basin Compact. As part of that compact, the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming work together through the UCRC on multiple technical issues related to streamgaging and streamflow, runoff forecasting, consumptive use, reservoir operations, evaporation and drought contingency planning throughout the Upper Colorado River Basin. The CWCB provides technical support to the UCRC and Colorado’s Commissioner.

The Colorado River Basin faces several significant challenges for which the states and the UCRC will conduct technical work, including extensive modeling and data analysis. Historic drought continues to impact water users throughout the Colorado River Basin, and drought contingency planning activities are being implemented basinwide. The 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead will expire December 31, 2026, as will the Upper Basin and Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plans. Formal discussions regarding post-2026 water resources management for the Colorado River will continue in 2026.

This project will help fund the necessary modeling and data analyses to support Colorado and UCRC interstate planning and negotiation efforts.

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	\$750,000
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$750,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	Technical Support
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	State Agency

L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Statewide
<i>Water Source:</i>	CO River tributaries
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	Colorado River Basin