COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc.
Name of Water Project	Bakerville Flood Risk & Sediment Reduction Design
Grant Request Amount	**$110,188.00**
Primary Category	$110,188.00
Watershed Health & Recreation	
Total Applicant Match	**$0.00**
Applicant Cash Match	$0.00
Applicant In-Kind Match	$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	**$36,750.00**
National Forest Foundation	$5,000.00
Forever Our Rivers	$23,750.00
Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART	$5,000.00
City of Golden	$3,000.00
Total Project Cost	**$146,938.00**

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc.
Mailing Address: 2432 S. Downing Street Denver CO 80210

Organization Contact: Eric Isenhart
Position/Title: Watershed Coordinator
Phone: (720) 244-7591
Email: eric@clearcreekpartnership.org

Organization Contact - Alternate: Kelby Woodard
Position/Title: Forest & Mitigation Program Manager
Phone:
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Grant Management Contact: Eric Isenhart
Position/Title: Watershed Coordinator
Phone: (720) 244-7591
Email: eric@clearcreekpartnership.org

Description of Grantee/Applicant

COCO Inc is a non-profit and the fiscal sponsor of the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership for which this account is being created.

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
- ☐ Public (District)
- ☐ Public (Municipality)
- ☐

- [ ] Ditch Company
- [ ] Private Incorporated
- [ ] Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- [x] Non-governmental Organization
- [ ] Covered Entity
- [ ] Other

Category of Water Project

- [ ] Agricultural Projects
  Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- [ ] Conservation & Land Use Planning
  Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- [ ] Engagement & Innovation Activities
  Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- [x] Watershed Restoration & Recreation
  Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- [ ] Water Storage & Supply
  Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude	39.693688
Longitude	-105.787801
Lat Long Flag	Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project
Water Source	Clear Creek
Basins	South Platte
Counties	Clear Creek
Districts	

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Environmental
Type of Water Project	Design / Engineering
Scheduled Start Date - Design	6/1/2026
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	7/1/2028

Description

Project Overview

The current phase of the Bakerville Sediment and Flood Risk Reduction Project focuses on advancing approximately 3,000 linear feet of Clear Creek from conceptual alternatives into a fully developed design package that positions the project for construction funding. Building on the Alternatives Analysis 2 completed in 2024, this phase will refine and document the preferred restoration approach (Alternative 2: Low-Tech Restoration) using updated survey data, boundary verification, permitting requirements, and agency feedback.

The Contractor will prepare a constructable 60% design package that includes channel geometry, grading, PALS layout, bank stabilization details, revegetation plans, and preliminary specifications. This design effort will support long-term goals of restoring floodplain connectivity, reducing sediment imbalance, stabilizing eroding banks, and improving ecological resilience in a headwater reach identified as a high priority in the Upper Clear Creek Watershed Pre-Wildfire Planning Study.

Project Need and Rationale

Clear Creek is a critical municipal water source for numerous Front Range communities and provides important aquatic and riparian habitat. The Bakerville reach has experienced channel instability, sediment deposition, degraded floodplain function, and bank erosion following a beaver dam breach and upstream disturbances. Without advancing design toward implementation, erosion and sediment delivery will continue to affect downstream water quality, habitat, and infrastructure.

A complete design and permitting package is required before construction funding can be pursued. Advancing boundary survey, regulatory coordination, and 60% design work now removes uncertainty, resolves technical constraints, and ensures the project is ready for the 2027 construction cycle.

Project Goals and Objectives

- Develop a constructable 60% design package including engineering drawings, layouts for Post-Assisted Log Structures (PALS), grading plans, bank stabilization measures, revegetation plans, and preliminary specifications.
- Complete the U.S. Forest Service compliant boundary survey to confirm project limits and property interfaces, including coordination with CDOT at the I-70 right-of-way.
- Secure all required regulatory clearances for design advancement, including Section 404 Nationwide Permit 27 documentation, NEPA Categorical Exclusion support, Endangered Species Act consultation, Migratory Bird Treaty Act compliance, floodplain permitting, and SB-270 water rights exemption confirmation.
- Refine hydraulic and geomorphic modeling to validate design performance and meet permitting and agency requirements.
- Prepare pre-construction support materials, including RFP content and initial contractor procurement documentation.
- Strengthen readiness for full construction funding in a future CWCB cycle by aligning technical, regulatory, and design elements.

Planned Improvements and Implementation Approach

The design and permitting phase includes:

- Hydraulic and geomorphic modeling refinements to support floodplain and 404 documentation.
- Channel geometry, grading plans, and cross-sections that reflect the selected low-tech restoration approach.
- Detailed design of PALS, bank stabilization features, and nature-based treatments.
- Riparian revegetation plans, willow staking details, and integration of wildfire mitigation tree thinning.
- Incorporation of permitting requirements directly into the design set.
- A preliminary construction schedule and engineer’s opinion of probable cost.

No physical construction will occur under this request. All improvements will be implemented following the next grant cycle once construction funding is secured.

Anticipated Benefits and Measurable Outcomes

This phase will produce:

- A complete 60% design package.
- Stamped design package, modeling documentation, and specifications.

- A preliminary construction cost estimate and implementation schedule.
- All required regulatory clearances needed for the next funding request.
- Supporting materials for contractor procurement and construction proposals.

Once constructed, the project is expected to restore floodplain connectivity, reduce sediment loading, stabilize eroding banks, and enhance habitat across a critical headwater reach serving both ecological and municipal water needs.

Partnerships and Collaboration

The project is led by COCO and CCWFHP with technical support from the Contractor. Coordination with USFS, CDOT, CPW, Clear Creek County, and the Standley Lake Cities ensures alignment on design expectations, permitting requirements, and resource management objectives. The U.S. Forest Service has issued a Formal Letter of Acceptance for this project as part of its 2026 program of work, confirming federal support for advancing the design toward construction.

Partners will participate throughout design development, reviewing drafts, providing technical guidance, and helping integrate permitting and construction considerations into the final package.

Match Funding and Sustainability

This request covers final design, boundary survey, and permitting activities, with CWCB supporting up to 25% of the project costs. Matching contributions will be provided through a combination of a Forever Our Rivers grant, staff time from the Watershed Coordinator and Forest & Mitigation Program Manager, funded respectively through the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Forest Foundation, along with additional partner support as needed.

Completing this phase significantly reduces uncertainty for the implementation stage by finalizing project boundaries, regulatory requirements, hydraulic refinements, and a constructable 60% design package which allows for additional Partner recommendations in the final design. Advancing these elements now ensures the project is fully prepared for construction funding in a subsequent grant cycle.

This design and permitting phase strengthens long-term sustainability by:

- Producing permit-aligned plans and technical documentation that reduce future permitting risk.
- Confirming boundary and jurisdictional constraints early to avoid downstream delays.
- Incorporating agency expectations directly into the design, ensuring that construction proceeds efficiently once funded.
- Providing the construction cost estimate and procurement materials needed to secure additional financing from federal, state, and philanthropic partners.

Conclusion

Advancing this phase of the Bakerville project will deliver the boundary verification, permitting, and 60% design package needed to move confidently into construction funding. Completing these elements now removes remaining uncertainties and ensures the project is fully prepared for the 2027 CWCB cycle. This work positions the project to restore floodplain function, reduce sediment risk, and strengthen watershed resilience once construction is funded.

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)

3,000	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
4	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
50	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

Approximately 4 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat will be improved through design of low-tech restoration treatments, bank stabilization features, and revegetation planning.

Water Project Justification

This project directly supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan, the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, and the Education Action Plan. By advancing design, permitting, and boundary survey work for approximately 3,000 feet of Clear Creek, the project strengthens watershed health, restores floodplain connectivity, and reduces sediment and erosion impacts that affect downstream municipal water supplies. These outcomes align with Water Plan priorities around source-water protection, resilient municipal supplies, and healthy rivers.

The South Platte BIP identifies source-water protection, forest health, and restoration of degraded stream systems as priority needs. This project addresses those by refining hydraulic and geomorphic modeling, developing low-tech restoration designs, and coordinating across agencies including USFS, CDOT, CPW, Clear Creek County, and regional municipal partners.

The project also supports the Education Action Plan through multi-agency involvement and by preparing design and permitting materials that create future opportunities for community education as the project advances toward construction.

Related Studies

Related studies include the Upper Clear Creek Watershed Pre-Wildfire Planning Study, which identified the Bakerville reach as a high-priority area for sediment reduction, floodplain reconnection, and ecological restoration. The project also builds directly on the 2024 Bakerville Alternatives Analysis, which established the preferred restoration approach that this phase will advance into a 60% design package.

This work is complementary to CWCB programs focused on watershed restoration, flood risk reduction, and source-water protection. Advancing design, survey, and permitting now positions the project to pursue future CWCB construction funding and aligns with state priorities around resilient headwater systems and reducing sediment and erosion impacts to downstream municipal users.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

There are no TABOR issues anticipated for this application.