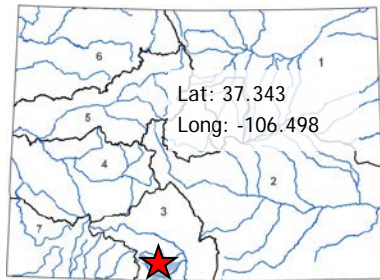




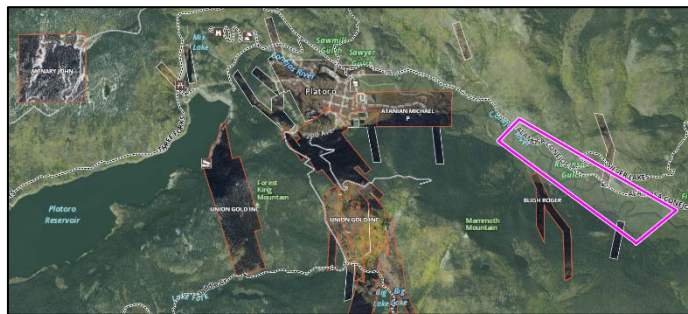
Water Plan Grant Application



L O C A T I O N	
County/Countries:	Conejos
Drainage Basin:	Rio Grande

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$239,729
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$108,594
Recommended amount:	\$108,594
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$110,635
Applicant Match:	\$20,500
Project Type(s): Construction	
Project Category(Categories): Environment and Recreation	
Measurable Result: 9,200 linear feet of restored and protected stream	

Trout Unlimited (TU) is the nation's largest cold-water conservation organization, with 300,000 members who are dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds.



This project will improve habitat to benefit a valuable recreational fishery and improve water conveyance for agricultural water deliveries below Platoro Reservoir in Conejos County. The project is the result of coordination between TU, CPW, and the Conejos Water Conservancy District. The San Luis Valley chapter of TU funded

engineered designs for the project following a site visit with CPW during the drought of 2018, when flows in this reach of river were sub-surface, leaving fish stranded to die in stagnant disconnected pools. Another result of the 2018 drought at this location was the difficulty of administering the delivery of irrigation water through this reach with disconnected surface flows and sections of dry streambed.

The Project dovetails with the Winter Flow Program, which is led by TU, and is an effort to improve stream flows on the Conejos River for 5 months during the non-irrigation season (typically November 1-March 31). Recently, a Stream Management Plan (SMP) was completed (Draft) for the Conejos River, and the SMP used the R2Cross method to identify target flows in this reach that would optimize available habitat during this time period. The SMP identified 41 cfs as the target flow, and this project incorporated that figure into the final design.

The project will take advantage of the alteration of the sediment transport regime on this reach due to the presence of Platoro Reservoir, to create a low flow channel designed for flows 41cfs and lower, which will improve in-channel habitat, connectivity to complex refuge habitat, and water delivery conveyance during low flow time periods such as the winter and during droughts. Additionally, the project will add habitat and stabilize stream banks by re-purposing 240 large rocks on site and adding (50) 15-25 ft. trees with root wads attached. This project has multiple benefits for ecosystem function and health, a valued self-sustaining recreational fishery, and will make this section of the Conejos River more resilient to variable flows into the future.



Last Updated: July 2019

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant Application

Instructions

To receive funding for a Water Plan Grant, applicant must demonstrate how the project, activity, or process (collectively referred to as “project”) funded by the CWCB will help meet the measurable objectives and critical actions in the Water Plan. Grant guidelines are available on the CWCB website.

If you have questions, please contact CWCB at (303) 866-3441 or email the following staff to assist you with applications in the following areas:

Water Storage Projects
Conservation, Land Use Planning
Engagement & Innovation Activities
Agricultural Projects
Environmental & Recreation
Projects

Anna.Mauss@state.co.us
Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us
Ben.Wade@state.co.us
Alexander.Funk@state.co.us
Chris.Sturm@state.co.us

FINAL SUBMISSION: Submit all application materials in one email to

waterplan.grants@state.co.us

in the original file formats [Application (word); Statement of Work (word); Budget/Schedule (excel)]. Please do not combine documents. In the subject line, please include the funding category and name of the project.

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Trout Unlimited	
Name of Water Project	Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat Project	
CWP Grant Request Amount		\$108,594
Other Funding Sources <u>CWP Fishing is Fun Grant-Pending</u>		\$110,635
Other Funding Sources _____		\$
Other Funding Sources _____		\$
Applicant Funding Contribution		\$20,500
Total Project Cost		\$239,729

Applicant & Grantee Information



Last Updated: July 2019

Name of Grantee(s) Trout Unlimited
Mailing Address -1777 N. Kent Street., Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22209
FEIN- 38-1612715
Organization Contact- Kevin Terry
Position/Title- Rio Grande Basin Project Manager
Email- kevin.terry@tu.org
Phone-970-799-7682
Grant Management Contact- Danielle Typinski
Position/Title- Grants Compliance Coordinator
Email- Danielle.typinski@tu.org
Phone- (703) 284-9429
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)
Mailing Address
Position/Title
Email
Phone
Description of Grantee/Applicant
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
<p>MISSION: To conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.</p> <p>TU VISION: By the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure that robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish once again thrive within their North American range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters.</p>



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	Public (Government): Municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
	Public (Districts): Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
	Private Incorporated: Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: Private parties may be eligible for funding.
X	Non-governmental organizations (NGO): Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
	Covered Entity: As defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes .

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)	
	Study
X	Construction
	Identified Projects and Processes (IPP)
	Other

Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks)		
	Water Storage - 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.. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
X	Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Other	Explain:



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Location of Water Project

Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in **decimal degrees**. The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.

County/Countries	Conejos County
Latitude	37.34251
Longitude	-106.49840

Water Project Overview

Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). Include a description of the project and what the CWP Grant funding will be used for specifically (e.g., studies, permitting process, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project, where applicable. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, and area of habitat improvements, where applicable. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain.

The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.

The project will enhance habitat on 9,200 linear feet of the Conejos River below Platoro Reservoir to improve connectivity and habitat complexity during low flow time periods such as winter months (non-irrigation season Nov. 1- March 31) and during droughts. The habitat work involves creating a low flow channel that will maximize available habitat and water delivery conveyance when releases from Platoro are 40 cfs or less. Additionally, the project will add complexity and large wood to existing deep pool habitat features in the project area, improving winter and refuge habitat for a high value recreational fishery. The San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited contracted with Riverbend Engineering to produce designs for project work in coordination with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The project will dovetail with the Winter Flow Program led by Trout Unlimited and the Conejos Water Conservancy District, which is an effort to increase stream flows on this section of the Conejos River during the non-irrigation season. CWP grant funds will be used primarily for construction costs and TU indirect charges.

Please see the attached final project designs for more information.



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Measurable Results		
To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable:		
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)	
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive	
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)	
9,200	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms	
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning	
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity	
	Other	Explain:

Water Project Justification
<p>Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of Colorado's Water Plan, the most recent Statewide Water Supply Initiative, and the applicable Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan. The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers).</p> <p>The proposed water project shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;)</p> <p>This project aligns with the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan, the Colorado Water Plan, The Conejos River Stream Management Plan and the most recent SWSI update.</p> <p>The project relates directly to 6 of the 14 Goals in the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan, and the roundtable has voiced unanimous support for the project in the attached letter of support. The goals that are met in this project are listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Goal #2- Protect and preserve the doctrine of prior appropriation and vested water rights, and fully utilize Colorado's compact entitlements as specified under the Rio Grande and Costilla Creek compacts.• Goal #5- Manage water use to sustain optimal agricultural economy throughout the Basin's communities.• Goal #6-Support the development of projects and methods that have multiple benefits for agricultural, municipal and industrial, and environmental and recreational water needs. Ag M&I Env&• Goal #10-Promote water management and administrative practices that are adaptive, flexible, and responsive to optimize multiple benefits.• Goal #11- Protect, preserve, and enhance terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitats throughout the Basin.• Goal #14- Maintain and enhance water-dependent recreational activities



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The project makes progress towards goals identified in the Colorado Water Plan. To be more specific, there are 5 goals that are noted in Chapter 6.6 of the Water Plan, which are specific to Environmental and Recreation projects and methods. These goals are listed below.

- Promote restoration, recovery, sustainability, and resiliency of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic- and riparian-dependent species and plant communities.
- Protect and enhance economic values to local and statewide economies that rely on environmental and recreational water uses, such as fishing, boating, waterfowl hunting, wildlife watching, camping, and hiking.
- Support the development of multipurpose projects and methods that benefit environmental and recreational water needs as well as water needs for communities or agriculture.
- Understand, protect, maintain, and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat to promote long-term sustainability and resiliency.
- Maintain watershed health by protecting or restoring watersheds that could affect critical infrastructure and/or environmental and recreational areas.

This project directly addresses 3 of the 5 goals and makes progress towards the goal to maintain watershed health. The only goal the project doesn't involve is the 1st goal to protect imperiled species and plants, and that is because there aren't any state or federally listed or sensitive taxa in the project area.

Following the guidelines for Water Plan Grants, this project touches on 5 of the 14 potential project types identified, including

- Projects that support water-related recreational activities, such as boating, fishing, waterfowl hunting, and wildlife watching
- Stream restoration and riparian habitat improvement projects
- Implementation of recommendations developed in stream management plans or watershed plans
- Extended stakeholder process to facilitate implementation of stream management plan recommendations or watershed plan recommendations
- Flow-related projects (e.g., split-season use of water - irrigation and instream flow use)

The project addresses the most recent technical update to the Colorado Water Plan (SWSI)

In the executive summary of the technical update, the "Key Results" section provides a summary of the findings relative to environmental and recreational attributes which include the four key points listed below.

- Climate change and its impact on streamflow will be a primary driver of risk to E&R assets.
- Projected future stream flow hydrographs in most locations across the state show earlier peaks and potentially drier conditions in the late summer months under scenarios with climate change.
- Drier conditions in late summer months could increase risk to coldwater and warmwater fish due to higher water temperatures and reduced habitat. The degree of increased risk is related to the level of stream flow decline.
- Instream flow rights and recreational in-channel diversion water rights may be met less often in climate-impacted scenarios.

The project addresses each of these concerns by creating better habitat, and connectivity to refuge habitat for cold-water fisheries specifically for low flow conditions, such as those predicted above.

Focusing on the Rio Grande, in Section 4.7 of the technical update (Rio Grande Basin Results), the key future water management issues in the Rio Grande for Environment and Recreation are stated as

- The Rio Grande Basin has an abundance of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife populations, rare and important habitats, diverse ecosystems, and exceptional recreational opportunities; however, the increasingly water-short nature of the Basin makes sustaining these attributes challenging.
- Flow magnitude in mountainous areas is not projected to significantly change under climate-impacted scenarios, but the annual hydrograph may shift with earlier snowmelt. Risks to riparian and fish habitat would remain low to moderate in most cases. Mid- and late summer streamflow is projected to drop



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substantially in mountainous regions represented in the Flow Tool. Risk to cold water fish may remain moderate but increase in July and/or dry years.

- Mid- and late-summer streamflow is projected to drop substantially in all locations, with July streamflow decreasing 40 to 60 percent on the Rio Grande and tributaries and up to 70 percent on the Conejos River under the “In-Between” and “Hot and Dry” climate projections. Risk to cold water fish due to decreasing streamflow may remain moderate in most years but could be higher in July and/or during dry years.

This project has been put forward for these very reasons. The project is trying to maximize habitat quality in a valuable recreational fishery specifically impacted by low flows, in order to sustain the fishery and provide refuge during extreme events.

The project is identified in the Conejos River Stream Management Plan (Draft), and data/recommendations on optimal stream flows that were derived from the Conejos River SMP were used in the final designs for the project. TU is grateful for the Conejos SMP effort and we believe this project was strengthened significantly by the SMP. The Conejos River SMP is in the draft stage currently, however, please see the attached letter of support from the SMP coordinator describing the project and its inclusion in the SMP.

Related Studies

Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water project is complementary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

This project is included in the Conejos River Stream Management Plan (Draft), and the recommended flow target identified in the SMP was used in the design of the project.

Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order; 6) Percentage of other CWCB funding for your overall project.



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SEE ATTACHED TABLE- TU CWCB projects list

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect your application.

No TABOR issues

Submittal Checklist

	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract .
Exhibit A	
x	Statement of Work ⁽¹⁾
x	Budget & Schedule ⁽¹⁾
x	Engineer's statement of probable cost (projects over \$100,000)
x	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit C	
x	Map (if applicable) ⁽¹⁾
x	Photos/Drawings/Reports
x	Letters of Support (Optional)
	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) ⁽²⁾
	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State ⁽²⁾
	W-9 ⁽²⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽²⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
Engagement & Innovation Grant Applicants ONLY	
	Engagement & Innovation Supplemental Application ⁽¹⁾

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(1) Required with application.

(2) Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.



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Colorado Water Conservation Board	
Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A	

Statement Of Work	
Date:	
Name of Grantee:	Trout Unlimited
Name of Water Project:	Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat Project
Funding Source:	Colorado Water Plan Grant
Water Project Overview:	
<p>This project will improve habitat to benefit a valuable recreational fishery and improve water conveyance for agricultural water deliveries below Platoro Reservoir in Conejos County. The project is the result of coordination between Trout Unlimited, CPW, and the Conejos Water Conservancy District. The San Luis Valley chapter of TU provided \$20,500 for engineered designs for the project following a site visit with CPW during the drought of 2018, when flows in this reach of river were sub-surface, leaving fish stranded to die in stagnant disconnected pools. Another result of the 2018 drought at this location was the difficulty of administering the delivery of irrigation water through this reach with disconnected surface flows and sections of dry streambed.</p> <p>The Project dovetails with the Winter Flow Program, which is led by Trout Unlimited, and is an effort to improve stream flows on the Conejos River for 5 months during the non-irrigation season (typically November1- March 31). Recently, a Stream Management Plan (SMP) was completed (Draft) for the Conejos River, and the SMP used the R2Cross method to identify target flows in this reach that would optimize available habitat during this time period. The SMP identified 41 cfs as the target flow, and this project incorporated that figure into the final design.</p> <p>The project will take advantage of the alteration of the sediment transport regime on this reach due to the presence of Platoro Reservoir, to create a low flow channel designed for flows 41cfs and lower, which will improve in-channel habitat, connectivity to complex refuge habitat, and water delivery conveyance during low flow time periods such as the winter and during droughts. Additionally, the project will add habitat and stabilize stream banks by re-purposing 240 large rocks on site and adding 50 15-25 ft trees with root wads attached. This project has multiple benefits for ecosystem function and health, a valued self-sustaining recreational fishery, and will make this section of the Conejos River more resilient to variable flows into the future.</p>	
Project Objectives:	



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- Objective 1- Increase available in-channel habitat during low flow periods such as the winter and during droughts.**
- Objective 2- Increase connectivity and access for fish to migrate to complex refuge habitat during winter months and droughts.**
- Objective 3- Increase conveyance efficiency for irrigation water deliveries, when releases from Platoro Reservoir are less than 41 cfs.**
- Objective 4- Add large wood and rock to enhance habitat in the project area adding complexity and habitat diversity for refuge habitat.**
- Objective 5- Increase the reproductive success for the self-sustaining population of Brown Trout in the project area, by directing fish to select spawning sites that are more likely to remain wet during egg incubation over the winter months.**
- Objective 6- Increase the recreational value of the fishery in this section of the Conejos River.**

Tasks
Task 1 – Design, Permitting, and NEPA clearance
Description of Task: The first task is to submit the final designs (see attached) and application for a 404 permit to the Army Core of Engineers. Simultaneously, the USFS will perform the necessary NEPA clearance activities for the project. The 404-permit process should be streamlined due the Region General Permit #12, which covers fisheries projects for the project location, and gives CPW considerable discretion in regard to project review and approval. Since CPW is a partner in this project and has been integral to the design process, the CPW review component should be very efficient. The timeline for this task is 2-6 months, beginning upon completion of the project contracting.
Method/Procedure: Provide USFS with final designs and ingress egress locations for NEPA compliance Fill out ACOE regional general permit #12 application and submit to ACOE.
Deliverable:



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Tasks
404 permit NEPA clearance of project

Tasks
Task 2 – Construction
Description of Task: TU will work with Riverbend Engineering to hire contractors to gather and deliver tress and perform the in-channel construction. The project is estimated to take 3-4 weeks to complete. The timing for project construction will be in the fall, when the site remains accessible, but the flows are lower and more efficient to work in the stream channel. The project may be constructed in the fall of 2020 or 2021 depending on the time necessary for contracting and permitting.
Method/Procedure:



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Tasks
<p>The project plan is to use 2 excavators and 2 machine operators, in order to reduce the amount of time required to complete construction, and to be more efficient on certain tasks, such as the placement of large wood, which is best performed using two machines. The budget includes construction management services, which will be provided by the engineering firm that created the designs (Riverbend Engineering), delivering consistency in transition from design to construction phases of work.</p>
Deliverable:
<p>Trout Unlimited will submit a final report and all invoices to CWCB within 2 months upon completion of construction.</p>

Task 3 – Project Management
Description of Task:
<p>Task 3 includes managing the grant and project. Riverbend Engineering will be hired to oversee construction management, providing a seamless transition from design to construction phases of work. TU's Rio Grande Basin Project Manager Kevin Terry will manage the project and be responsible for grant deliverables through 120 hours of work on the project. This task also covers TU travel for 5 round trip site visits over the course of the project. Additionally, this task covers TU's indirect costs, which are calculated at 15.89% of the project total (excluding \$20,500 that TU paid for design and permitting). This rate is TU's current NICRA and our standard charge for In-Direct costs.</p>
Method/Procedure:

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Riverbend Engineering will oversee 3 weeks of on-site construction management for the project
TU will manage the grant contracting, invoicing, and project reporting

Deliverable: Invoices to CWCB, and Reporting

Budget and Schedule

This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined Budget and Schedule that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in excel format.

Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Report: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

The CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

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Payment

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and must include invoices for all work completed. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by task, an estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire Project in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues, and proposed or implemented corrective actions.

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this contract are not reimbursable. The last 10% of the entire grant will be paid out when the final deliverable has been received. All products, data and information developed as a result of this contract must be provided to CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation.

Performance Measures

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

(a) Performance standards and evaluation: Grantee will produce detailed deliverables for each task as specified. Grantee shall maintain receipts for all project expenses and documentation of the minimum in-kind contributions (if applicable) per the budget in Exhibit B. Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines full documentation of project progress must be submitted with each invoice for reimbursement. Grantee must confirm that all grant conditions have been complied with on each invoice. In addition, per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

(c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each Progress Report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary.

(d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the Grant Agreement.



Water Plan Grant - Exhibit B

Budget and Schedule

Project End Date: 12/31/2021

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	Design, NEPA Compliance and 404 permitting	ongoing	Jul-20	0	\$20,500	\$20,500
2	Construction	8/2020	11/2021	\$78,325	\$90,325	\$168,650
3	Project Management	ongoing	11/2021	\$30,269	\$20,310	\$50,579
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
Total				\$108,594	\$131,135	\$239,729





COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Monte Vista Office
0722 S CO RD 1 East
Monte Vista, CO 81144
P 719-587-6900 | F 719-587-6934

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

January 28, 2020

Dear Mr. Sturm,

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW) as a commitment of support for the, "Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat Project". The San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SLV TU) and CPW have been planning this project for several years, resulting in a shovel ready project with engineered designs for nearly 2 miles of habitat enhancement on the Conejos River, just downstream of Platoro Reservoir in Conejos County, Colorado. The project will dovetail with the Winter Flow Program, supported by CPW, and led by Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD), which is an effort to improve stream flows below Platoro Reservoir during the non-irrigation season (Nov.1 to March 31). The project will establish and maintain connectivity to refuge habitat during winter months, and droughts by creating a low-flow channel. This section of the Conejos River is a tremendous recreational fishery supported by a self-sustaining population of wild Brown Trout. The fishery draws anglers from all over the region and country, supports local anglers and outfitters, and bolsters tourist-based contributions to local economies.

The Colorado Water Plan states that, "environment and recreation are too critical to Colorado's brand not to have robust objectives; a strong Colorado environment is critical to the economy and way of life." This project has been prioritized in the Conejos River Stream Management Plan, as well meeting 6 of the 14 Rio Grande Basin Implementation plan objectives. The project also addresses the criteria set forth for successful Colorado Water Plan Grant applications. The primary project goal is to increase ecological function and resiliency below a working reservoir, resulting in improved and well-connected habitat, and improved stream flow conveyance during low flow time periods. These benefits translate into improved recreational fishing opportunities and operations for agricultural water users downstream. This project is a result of local collaboration and provides a win-win solution for the environment and farms and ranches of the Conejos River.

CPW is an extremely supportive partner for this project. Utilizing the research efforts from the Conejos River Stream Management Plan, this project is enhancing habitat complexity and increasing connectivity between habitats, providing increased resilience and sustainability for a highly valued and self-maintaining recreational fishery. Thank You for your consideration of this multi-benefit project for a Colorado Water Plan Grant.

Sincerely,

Rod Ruybalid, District Wildlife Manager -Conejos
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Estevan Vigil, Aquatic Biologist
Colorado Parks and Wildlife



Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project
623 Fourth Street
Alamosa, CO 81101
(719) 589-2230
daniel@riograndeheadwaters.org



Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

January 30, 2020

Dear Mr. Sturm,

Please accept this letter as a commitment of support for the, "Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat Project". The San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SLV TU) and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW) have been planning this project for several years, resulting in engineered designs for nearly 2 miles of habitat enhancement on the Conejos River just downstream of Platoro Reservoir in Conejos County, Colorado. The project will dovetail with the Winter Flow Program, led by Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD), which is an effort to improve stream flows below Platoro Reservoir during the non-irrigation season (Nov. 1 to March 31). Additionally, the project will help maintain connectivity to refuge habitat during droughts and other low flow events. This section of the Conejos River is a tremendous recreational fishery supported by a self-maintaining population of wild Brown Trout. The fishery draws anglers from all over the region and country, supports local anglers and outfitters, and bolsters tourist-based contributions to local economies.

The Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP) has been spearheading the Conejos River Stream Management Planning effort. The Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat project has been prioritized in the draft Conejos River Stream Management Plan (SMP), which prioritizes projects that benefit multiple water users as well as Conejos River stream health and function. This project's primary goal is to increase ecological function and resiliency below a working reservoir, resulting in improved and well-connected habitat, and improved stream flow conveyance during low flow time periods. These benefits translate into improved recreational opportunities and operations for agricultural water users downstream. The project is a result of local collaboration and provides a win-win solution for the environment and farms and ranches of the Conejos River. The RGHRP is thrilled to expand its work in the San Luis Valley, including to the Conejos River watershed. We are very excited to support this project, which will have lasting benefits, including enhancing the effectiveness of downstream Conejos River SMP projects and objectives.

Sincerely,



Daniel Boyes
Stream Management Plan Project Coordinator, CRGRF



File Code: 2600
Date: January 30, 2020

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Sturm

Please accept this letter as a commitment of support on behalf of the Rio Grande National Forest Conejos Peak District (USFS) for the, "Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat Project". The San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SLVTU) and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW) have been planning this project for several years, resulting in a shovel ready project with engineered designs for nearly 2 miles of habitat enhancement on the Conejos River just downstream of Platoro Reservoir in Conejos County, Colorado. The project will dovetail with the Winter Flow Program, supported by CPW and led by Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD), which is an effort to improve stream flows below Platoro Reservoir during the non-irrigation season (Nov.1 to March 31). The project will establish and maintain connectivity to refuge habitat during winter months and droughts by creating a low-flow channel. This section of the Conejos River, located completely on USFS lands, is a tremendous recreational fishery supported by a self-maintaining population of Brown Trout. The fishery draws anglers from all over the region and country, supports local anglers and outfitters, and bolsters tourist-based contributions to local economies.

The Colorado Water Plan states that, "environment and recreation are too critical to Colorado's brand not to have robust objectives; a strong Colorado environment is critical to the economy and way of life." This project has been prioritized in the Conejos River Stream Management Plan (SMP), and project designs are based on flow recommendations established in the SMP using R2Cross. The primary project goal is to increase ecological function and resiliency below a working reservoir, resulting in improved and well-connected habitat, and improved stream flow conveyance during low flow time periods. These benefits translate into improved recreational opportunities as well as operations for agricultural water users downstream. Experiencing the drought of 2018, when flows in this reach were sub-surface, stranding fish in a few stagnant pools, this project provides a solution with multiple benefits on public lands. The USFS is extremely supportive of this effort to increase habitat complexity, connectivity, and population resiliency on this beautiful section of the Conejos River. TU has advised the USFS on the conceptual and final designs for the work and we support the project fully. The USFS will complete the necessary NEPA process for the project in a timely manner, providing in-kind services and project efficiency. Thank you for considering this project for a Colorado Water Fund grant.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea M. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

ANDREA JONES
District Ranger

cc: william.remshardt@usda.gov, dan.dallas@usda.gov



San Luis Valley

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

January 9, 2020

Dear Mr. Sturm,

Please accept this letter as a commitment of support on behalf of the San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SLV TU) for the, "Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat Project". SLV TU and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW) have been planning this project for several years, resulting in engineered designs for nearly 2 miles of habitat enhancement on the Conejos River just downstream of Platoro Reservoir in Conejos County, Colorado. The project will dovetail with the Winter Flow Program, led by Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD), which is an effort to improve stream flows below Platoro Reservoir during the non-irrigation season (Nov.1 to March 31). This section of the Conejos River located completely on USFS lands, is a tremendous recreational fishery supported by a self-maintaining population of wild Brown Trout. The fishery draws anglers from all over the region and country, supports our local anglers and outfitters, and bolsters tourist-based contributions to local economies.

The Colorado Water Plan states that, "environment and recreation are too critical to Colorado's brand not to have robust objectives; a strong Colorado environment is critical to the economy and way of life." This project has been prioritized in the Conejos River Stream Management Plan, as well meeting 6 of the 14 Rio Grande Basin Implementation plan objectives. The project also addresses the criteria set forth for successful Colorado Water Plan Grant applications. The primary project goal is to increase ecological function and resiliency below a working reservoir, resulting in improved and well-connected habitat, and improved stream flow conveyance during low flow time periods. These benefits translate into improved recreational opportunities and operations for agricultural water users downstream.

SLV TU is extremely supportive of this effort to increase habitat complexity, connectivity, and population resiliency on this beautiful public section of the Conejos River. SLV TU has committed \$20,500 to this project which paid for conceptual designs, final designs and permitting. SLV TU stands ready with volunteers and resources to ensure this project is a success. Projects that benefit our communities and our fisheries are what we strive for in our volunteer based service to the San Luis Valley that we call home. Thank you for your consideration of this important project for a Colorado Water Plan Grant.

Sincerely,

Mark Seaton



Conejos Water Conservancy District

P. O. Box 550

Manassa, CO 81141

Cwcd1971@hotmail.com

Phone 719-843-5261 fax 5452

January 27, 2020

Jim Guthrie

Program Coordinator

1313 Sherman, 6th Floor

Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Mr. Guthrie,

Please accept this letter as a commitment of support on behalf of the Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD) for the, "Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat Project". The San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SLVTU) and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW) have been planning this project for several years, resulting in a shovel ready project with engineered designs for nearly 2 miles of habitat enhancement on the Conejos River just downstream of Platoro Reservoir in Conejos County, Colorado. The project will dovetail with the Winter Flow Program, supported by CPW and led by Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD), which is an effort to improve stream flows below Platoro Reservoir during the non-irrigation season (Nov.1 to March 31). The project will establish and maintain connectivity to refuge habitat during winter months, and droughts by creating a low-flow channel. This section of the Conejos River is a tremendous recreational fishery supported by a self-maintaining population of wild Brown Trout. The fishery draws anglers from all over the region and country, supports local anglers and outfitters, and bolsters tourist-based contributions to local economies.

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The project has obvious benefits to the fishery and public recreation. Less obvious are the benefits to water users and water administration. The Conejos Water Conservancy District operates Platoro Reservoir, providing irrigation and livestock water for hundreds of farmers and ranchers on the Conejos River. This effort will be beneficial to stream-flow conveyance at flows

less than 40 cfs, which will improve water administration and delivery efficiency to downstream irrigators in addition to the habitat benefits. This project is a result of local collaboration and provides a win-win solution for the environment and farms and ranches. Thank you for considering this project for a Fishing is Fun grant!

Sincerely,


Nathan Coombs



Conejos Water Conservancy District

P. O. Box 550

Manassa, CO 81141

Cwcd1971@hotmail.com

Phone 719-843-5261 fax 5452

January 27, 2020

Chris Sturm

Colorado Water Conservation Board

1313 Sherman St., Room 718

Denver, CO 80203

January 9, 2020

Dear Mr. Sturm,

Please accept this letter as a commitment of support on behalf of the Conejos Water Conservancy District for the, "Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat Project". The San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SLV TU) and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW) have been planning this project for several years, resulting in a shovel ready project with engineered designs for nearly 2 miles of habitat enhancement on the Conejos River just downstream of Platoro Reservoir in Conejos County, Colorado. The project will dovetail with the Winter Flow Program, led by Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD), which is an effort to improve stream flows below Platoro Reservoir during the non-irrigation season (Nov.1 to March 31). This section of the Conejos River is a tremendous recreational fishery supported by a self-maintaining population of wild Brown Trout. The fishery draws anglers from all over the region and country, supports local anglers and outfitters, and bolsters tourist-based contributions to local economies.

The Colorado Water Plan states that, "environment and recreation are too critical to Colorado's brand not to have robust objectives; a strong Colorado environment is critical to the economy and way of life." This project has been prioritized in the Conejos River Stream Management Plan, as well meeting 6 of the 14 Rio Grande Basin Implementation plan objectives. The project also addresses the criteria set forth for successful Colorado Water Plan Grant applications. The primary project goal is to increase ecological function and resiliency below a working reservoir, resulting in improved and well-connected habitat, and improved stream flow conveyance during low flow time periods. These benefits translate into improved recreational opportunities and operations for agricultural water users downstream.

The Conejos Water Conservancy District operates Platoro Reservoir, providing irrigation and livestock water for hundreds of farmers and ranchers on the Conejos River. We believe that this effort will be beneficial to stream-flow conveyance at flows less than 40 cfs, which will improve water administration and delivery efficiency to downstream irrigators in addition to the habitat benefits. This project is a result of local collaboration and provides a win-win solution for the

environment and farms and ranches. Thank you for your considering this project for funding under a Colorado Water Plan Grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Coombs".

Nathan Coombs



The Rio Grande Inter-Basin Roundtable
623 4th Street, Alamosa, Colorado 81101

January 27, 2020

To:

Colorado Water Conservation Board

1313 Sherman, 6th floor

Denver, CO 80203

Please accept this letter as a commitment of support for the, "Conejos Meadows Resilient Habitat Project". The San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SLV TU) and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW) have been planning this project for several years, resulting in engineered designs for nearly 2 miles of habitat enhancement on the Conejos River just downstream of Platoro Reservoir in Conejos County, Colorado. The project will dovetail with the Winter Flow Program, led by Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD), which is an effort to improve stream flows below Platoro Reservoir during the non-irrigation season (Nov.1 to March 31). Additionally, the project will help maintain connectivity to refuge habitat during droughts and other low flow events. This section of the Conejos River is a tremendous recreational fishery supported by a self-sustaining population of wild Brown Trout. The fishery draws anglers from all over the region and country, supports local anglers and outfitters, and bolsters tourist-based contributions to local economies.

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The Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, through unanimous support, strongly encourages the CWCB board to fund this important project on the priceless Conejos River!

Sincerely,

Nathan Coombs, Chair