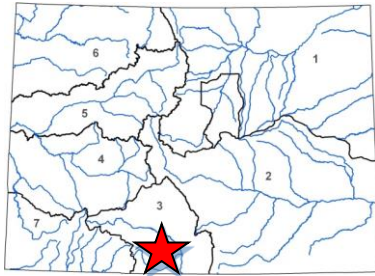


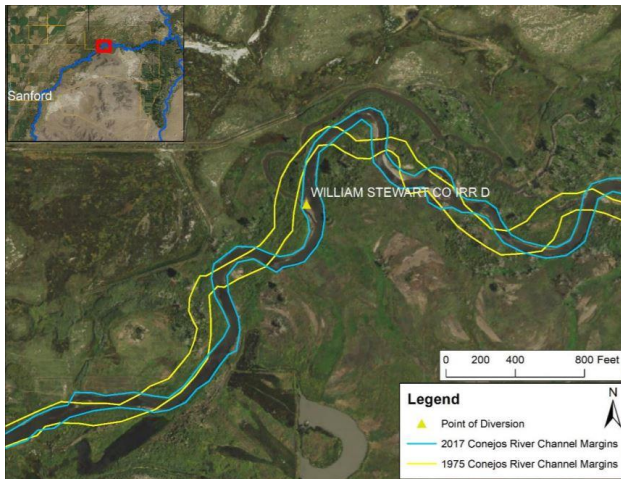


**Water Plan Grant Application**



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:	\$594,700
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$272,000
Recommended amount:	\$272,000
Other CWCB Funding (CWRP):	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$300,400
Applicant Match:	\$22,300
Project Type(s):	Construction
Project Category(Categories):	Environment & Recreation
Measurable Result:	Replacement of diversions and headgates, and enhanced aquatic habitat



The Mecitos and William Stewart Co. Irrigation (William Stewart) ditches divert water from the Conejos River to supply water to 2,440 acres of agricultural land. Both ditches rely upon aging and inefficient diversion infrastructure and adversely impacted bank and channel stability, aquatic habitat, and riparian areas. The project will address these identified issues by funding the rehabilitation of each diversion structure and surrounding river channel, providing multiple benefits to the Conejos River and its water users.

The project will include in the following activities:

1. Replacement of the diversions and headgates servicing the Mecitos and William Stewart ditches;
2. Enhancement of aquatic habitat adjacent to the two structures through channel shaping and the installation of habitat features;
3. Streambank stabilization, erosion reduction, and riparian restoration surrounding each diversion structure.

This project will directly benefit shareholders of the two ditches by improving diversion efficiency and reducing maintenance by replacing aging diversion dams and headgates. The project will also enhance water quality by reducing sediment input, and improve both aquatic and riparian habitats surrounding each structure. When complete, the project will help ensure the Conejos River continues to support diverse human, agricultural, and ecological communities.

The proposed project, through restoration of streambanks and riparian areas as well as fish habitat improvements, supports the Colorado Water Plan goal to protect, maintain, and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat for long-term resiliency.

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**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

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**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	Matthew.Stearns@state.co.us Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us Ben.Wade@state.co.us Alexander.Funk@state.co.us Chris.Sturm@state.co.us
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**FINAL SUBMISSION:** Submit all application materials in one email to [waterplan.grants@state.co.us](mailto: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	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
Name of Water Project	Conejos River Partnership Project – Phase 2
CWP Grant Request Amount	\$272,000
BOR WaterSMART CWMP Phase 2 (cash, pending)	\$285,000
Conejos Water Conservancy District (cash, committed)	\$10,000
CRPP Technical Advisory Team (in-kind, committed)	\$5,400
Applicant Funding Contribution: CRGRF (cash, committed)	\$22,300
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$594,700</b>



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<b>Applicant &amp; Grantee Information</b>	
Name of Grantee(s): Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	
Mailing Address: 623 Fourth St., Alamosa, CO 81101	
FEIN: 75-3169057	
Organization Contact: Emma Reesor	
Position/Title: Executive Director	
Email: <a href="mailto:emma@riograndeheadwaters.org">emma@riograndeheadwaters.org</a>	
Phone: (719) 589-2230	
Grant Management Contact: <i>Same as organization contact</i>	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	
<b>Description of Grantee/Applicant</b>	
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).	
<p>The Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, a non-profit organization, is the fiscal agent for the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP). The mission of the RGHRP is "to restore and conserve the historical functions and vitality of the Rio Grande Basin in Colorado for improved water quality, agricultural water use, riparian habitat, wildlife and aquatic species habitat, recreation, and community safety, while meeting the Rio Grande Compact." The RGHRP was formed to implement the recommendations of the 2001 Study. Since formed, the RGHRP has improved the condition of the Rio Grande by partnering with landowners, diverse stakeholders, and multiple ditch companies.</p>	



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	<b>Public (Government):</b> 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.
	<b>Public (Districts):</b> Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
	<b>Private Incorporated:</b> Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
	<b>Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors:</b> Private parties may be eligible for funding.
X	<b>Non-governmental organizations (NGO):</b> Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
	<b>Covered Entity:</b> As defined in <a href="#">Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes</a> .

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>
X	Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s): Tasks 1-5</i>
X	Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s): Tasks 1-5</i>
	Other      Explain:

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<b>Location of Water Project</b>	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in <b>decimal degrees</b> . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	Conejos County
Latitude	37.050034
Longitude	-106.158329

<b>Water Project Overview</b>
<p>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.</p> <p>The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.</p>
<p>The Mecitos and William Stewart Co. Irrigation (William Stewart) ditches divert water from the Conejos River to supply water to 2,440 acres of agricultural land. Both ditches rely upon aging and inefficient diversion infrastructure and adversely impacted bank and channel stability, aquatic habitat, and riparian areas. The proposed Colorado Water Plan (CWP) Grant request will address these identified issues by funding the rehabilitation of each diversion structure and surrounding river channel, providing multiple benefits to the Conejos River and its water users.</p> <p>The project will include in the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Replacement of the diversions and headgates servicing the Mecitos and William Stewart ditches;</li> <li>2. Enhancement of aquatic habitat adjacent to the two structures through channel shaping and the installation of habitat features;</li> <li>3. Streambank stabilization, erosion reduction, and riparian restoration surrounding each diversion structure.</li> </ol> <p>This project will directly benefit shareholders of the two ditches by improving diversion efficiency and reducing maintenance by replacing aging diversion dams and headgates. The project will also enhance water quality by reducing sediment input, and improve both aquatic and riparian habitats surrounding each structure. When complete, the project will help ensure the Conejos River continues to support diverse human, agricultural, and ecological communities.</p>

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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)
935	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
317 acre-feet	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)
2.5	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
2	Other Explain: Replacement of diversion dam and headgates for two ditches, the Mecitos Ditch and William Stewart Ditch

Water Project Justification
<p>Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of <a href="#">Colorado's Water Plan</a>, the most recent <a href="#">Statewide Water Supply Initiative</a>, and the applicable Roundtable <a href="#">Basin Implementation Plan</a> and <a href="#">Education Action Plan</a>. 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>The Conejos River Partnership Project – Phase 2 (Phase 2) will improve the ability of the Conejos River to meet consumptive and non-consumptive needs by replacing poorly functioning and inefficient diversions and headgates for two ditches, stabilizing streambanks, improving riparian and aquatic habitat, and improving the ability of water administrators to effectively administer water rights. As such, Phase 2 will address agricultural, environmental, recreational, and water administration needs facing the Rio Grande Basin and State of Colorado.</p> <p>Phase 2 meets several of the CWP Goals and Criteria in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By replacing multiple aging diversions and headgates on the Conejos River, Phase 2 supports CWP agricultural goals to “<i>maintain agricultural viability</i>” and “<i>support agricultural conservation and efficiency</i>” (CWP, Section 10.3, pp. 10-10). Further, these activities directly address the CWP’s critical agricultural action to “<i>update and improve Colorado’s aging agricultural infrastructure, especially where improvements provide multiple benefits</i>” (CWP, Section 10.3, pp. 10-10).</li> <li>• Through restoration of streambanks and riparian areas as well as fish habitat improvements, the project supports many of the <i>Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation</i> goals listed in Section 10.3, including the goal to “<i>Protect Healthy Environments: Understand, protect, maintain, and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote</i></li> </ul>



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*self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat to promote long-term resiliency*" (CWP, Section 10.3, pp. 10-12). The project also meets the goals to "*Enhance Environmental and Recreational Economic Values, Promote Protection and Restoration of Water Quality, and Protect and Restore Critical Watersheds*" (CWP, Section 10.3, pp. 10-12).

- Finally, by restoring riparian vegetation, stream shading will increase, thereby buffering water temperature and alluvial aquifer storage will be increased, thereby augmenting late summer streamflow. In these ways, the project will help meet the goal to "*Work on creating resilient watersheds to protect, restore, and enhance water quality in the face of climate change*" (CWP, Section 10.3, pp. 10-14).

Additionally, Phase 2 will help water users and administrators meet the agricultural water gap and environmental needs identified in the recent Technical Update to the 2015 Water Plan (Technical Update, formerly SWSI). The Technical Update quantified agricultural water needs and corresponding gaps in supply. Phase 2 will mitigate the agricultural water supply gap by improving individual diversion efficiency. The Technical Update also resulted in the Environmental Flow Tool, which assesses potential future risks associated with predicted changes in streamflow. Environmental Flow Tool results for the Conejos River suggest future impairments to aquatic life are likely as a result of low flow conditions. Phase 2 will mitigate potential impairment and stressors due to low streamflow by improving fish and aquatic invertebrate habitat through the creation of pools and woody habitat and by creating an improved low-flow channel.

In addition to meeting many of the Colorado Water Plan Goals and complimenting the Technical Update, Phase 2 meets many of the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan Goals and is supported by the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable.

Phase 2 was identified as a priority project through the Conejos River Stream Management Plan (SMP) and is a result of planning and collaboration between Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD), Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Bureau of Land Management (BLM, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District (SLVWCD), project landowners, and shareholders on the Mecitos Ditch and William Stewart Ditch. Participation from diverse stakeholders ensures that both consumptive and non-consumptive needs are being met through project design and implementation. In addition, requested CWP grant funds for Phase 2 be leveraged by significant federal funding through the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program. The requested CWP funds will help provide non-federal match required by the WaterSMART program. Without this funding project partners would likely not be able to raise sufficient dollars out of pocket or from other grant sources in time to meet the requirements of these federal dollars. As such, CWP funds are critical to complete Phase 2.

Additionally, Phase 2 is located in the management area for the San Luis Valley Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. In accordance with the HCP, the riparian restoration activities included in Phase 2 will improve habitat for these threatened species and help with recovery efforts. Currently, stream and riparian areas surrounding the two ditches, particularly the William Stewart, are in poor condition. Channel instability, degraded aquatic habitat, and lack of riparian vegetation adversely impact river health in these areas. Additionally, accelerated bank erosion and diversion dam maintenance at the William Stewart, which requires substantial in-channel work, generate significant fine sediment which impacts downstream water users as well as aquatic habitat. Through streambank stabilization, and riparian and aquatic habitat restoration, Phase 2 will have multiple environmental benefits including reduced sediment inputs and improved water quality, increased streambank stability, and enhanced riparian and aquatic habitat.

As the Rio Grande Basin faces water shortages and prolonged periods of drought, the need for accurate water management becomes increasingly crucial. Phase 2 will assist in administration of the Conejos River by improving diversion efficiency and measurement capabilities for two ditches.

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Increased diversion efficiency and more accurate measurements will enable DWR to administer water rights more efficiently and effectively, thereby assist the Division Engineer in water management and meeting the Rio Grande Compact. Increased efficiencies within the Conejos River system will allow water managers to maximize flows in the Conejos River, providing benefits for wildlife and water rights holders.

Finally, by replacing multiple aging diversion dams and headgates on the Conejos River, Phase 2 allows for agriculture demands to be met by increasing the ability of irrigators to divert their appropriated water rights when they are in priority. These actions will protect water users and landowners along the Conejos River from loss by replacing aging diversion and headgate infrastructure, repairing the river channel, and restoring habitat within the riparian corridor, thereby preserving the values inherent in the San Luis Valley's rural and agricultural communities.

### 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.

The projects and restoration needs included in Phase 2 were identified as priorities in the Conejos River Stream Management Plan (SMP) and is a result of planning and collaboration between the Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD), multiple ditches, RGHRP, the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and area landowners, farmers and ranchers. The two ditches included in Phase 2 were each listed as top priorities for improvement in the SMP. This multi-benefit project meets a number of the goals listed in the Conejos River SMP including the following:

- Goal A. Improve function and reduce maintenance of irrigation infrastructure, both for water users and river health.
- Goal B. Maintain or improve bank and channel stability, especially near important wildlife habitat and critical infrastructure such as homes, diversion structures, roads, and bridges.
- Goal C. Maintain and improve the function of floodplains, associated alluvial aquifers, and natural channel processes.
- Goal D. Maintain and improve the extent and condition of riparian areas.
- Goal F. Maintain or improve water quality, with a focus on mine reclamation projects and compliance with state water quality standards.
- Goal G. Maintain or improve long term sustainability of Conejos River fisheries and associated aquatic habitat.

Additionally, Phase 2 will build on the projects include in the Conejos River Partnership Project – Phase 1. Phase 1 activities will result in new fish habitat through the creation of fish passage at diversion structures as well as the restoration of riparian and aquatic habitat. Phase 2 builds upon these activities, and, together, these projects will provide lasting and systemwide benefits for the Conejos River.





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**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.

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Water Activity Name</b>	<b>Approving RT</b>	<b>CWCB Board meeting date</b>	<b>Contract number</b>
CRGRF	Conejos River Partnership Project – Phase 1	Rio Grande	Sept-20	Not contracted
CRGRF	Rio Grande Riparian Stabilization Project – Phase 5	n/a	Jan-20	CTGG1 PDAA 2021-0020
CRGRF	Rio Grande, Conejos, and Saguache Stream Management Plans (WSRF Grant)	Rio Grande	Jun-19	POGG1 PDAA 202000002065
CRGRF	Park Creek Watershed Improvement Project	n/a	May-19	POGG1 PDAA 202000002111
CRGRF	Del Norte Riverfront Project	n/a	Nov-18	POGG1 PDAA 201900002852
CRGRF	Del Norte Riverfront Project – Phase 1	n/a	CWCB Severance Fund Grant	POGG1 PDAA 201800000980
CRGRF	Rio Grande, Conejos River and Saguache Creek SMP (CWRP Grant)	n/a	Jan-18	POGG1 PDAA 201800000791
CRGRF	Five Ditches Project	Rio Grande	Sep-17	CTGG1 2018-971
CRGRF	Rio Grande State Wildlife Area Design Project	Rio Grande	May-17	POGG1 2017-0001
<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Water Activity Name</b>	<b>Approving RT</b>	<b>CWCB Board meeting date</b>	<b>Contract number</b>
CRGRF	Upper Rio Grande Assessment	Rio Grande	May-16	POGG1 2017-268
CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 3 – Prairie Ditch	Rio Grande	Feb-14	CTGG12015-295
CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 2 – McDonald Ditch	Rio Grande	Sep-13	C150492
CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 1 – Plaza Plan	Rio Grande		
CRGRF	2009 Rio Grande Riparian Stabilization Project – Phase 4	Rio Grande		C150486
CRGRF	2008 Rio Grande Riparian	Rio Grande		



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	Stabilization Project – Phase 3			
CRGRF	Lower Rio Grande Assessment	CO Healthy Rivers Fund		POGG1 PDAA 2015000000000000 0260
CRGRF	Rio Grande Project – Cooperative with Southwest Conservation Corps	CO Healthy Rivers Fund		

### 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.

The Applicant, The Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, is not subject to TABOR limitations, as it is a Colorado nonprofit organization operating under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

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

(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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<b>Colorado Water Conservation Board</b>
<b>Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A</b>

<b>Statement Of Work</b>
--------------------------

<b>Date:</b>	<b>December 1, 2020</b>
<b>Name of Grantee:</b>	<b>Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation</b>
<b>Name of Water Project:</b>	<b>Conejos River Partnership Project - Phase 2</b>
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<b>Colorado Water Plan Grant</b>

**Water Project Overview:**

The Mecitos and William Stewart Co. Irrigation (William Stewart) ditches divert water from the Conejos River to supply water to 2,440 acres of agricultural land. Both ditches rely upon aging and inefficient diversion infrastructure and adversely impacted bank and channel stability, aquatic habitat, and riparian areas. The proposed Colorado Water Plan (CWP) Grant request will address these identified issues by funding the rehabilitation of each diversion structure and surrounding river channel, providing multiple benefits to the Conejos River and its water users.

The project will include in the following activities:

1. Replacement of the diversions and headgates servicing the Mecitos and William Stewart ditches;
2. Enhancement of aquatic habitat adjacent to the two structures through channel shaping and the installation of habitat features;
3. Streambank stabilization, erosion reduction, and riparian restoration surrounding each diversion structure.

This project will directly benefit shareholders of the two ditches by improving diversion efficiency and reducing maintenance by replacing aging diversion dams and headgates. The project will also enhance water quality by reducing sediment input, and improve both aquatic and riparian habitats surrounding each structure. When complete, the project will help ensure the Conejos River continues to support diverse human, agricultural, and ecological communities.

**Project Objectives:**



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1. Improve diversion efficiency and reduced maintenance by replacing the aging diversions and headgates servicing the Mecitos and William Stewart Co. Irrigation ditches;
2. Improve aquatic habitat through bank stabilization structures, which will provide habitat complexity for fish species;
3. Improve riparian condition by stabilizing up to 935 feet of streambank and restoring riparian vegetation throughout the project area;
4. Enhance water quality by reducing erosion and sediment inputs;
5. Increase sediment transport capacity on the Conejos River.

## Tasks

### Task 1 – Project Engineering, Design and Permitting

#### Description of Task:

Complete designs and permitting for the project elements, which include:

- Mecitos Ditch diversion dam, headgate, and surrounding streambank stabilization;
- William Stewart Ditch diversion dam, headgate, and surrounding streambank stabilization.

#### Method/Procedure:

The Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation (CRGRF) will hire an engineer to complete site surveys, engineering, and final designs for the replacement of the headgates and diversion dams servicing the Mecitos and William Stewart ditches and the restoration of streambanks and riparian habitat surrounding each structure. The CRGRF will work with the project engineer and state and federal regulatory agencies to complete environmental compliance and secure permits required for project construction. Project designs will be reviewed by the CRPP Technical Advisory Team, which is made up of the following agencies: Conejos Water Conservancy District, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District, project landowners, and shareholders on the Mecitos Ditch and William Stewart Ditch.

#### Deliverable:

Final designs and required permits.

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Tasks	
<b>Task 2 – <u>Mecitos Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration</u></b>	
Description of Task:	
Replace the Mecitos Ditch diversion with a grouted rock diversion that allows for fish passage. Replace the Mecitos Ditch headgate with a new steel headgate. Implement streambank stabilization and riparian and aquatic habitat improvements upstream and downstream of the Mecitos Ditch diversion and headgate structures.	
Method/Procedure:	
The Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD) and CRGRF will hire contractors to remove the current diversion dam and headgate, clear and shape the channel, and enact pollution control. Contractors will then complete grade preparation, build grouted rock diversion, and install the new headgate. The contractor will implement channel and streambank stabilization measures, which may include, bank shaping, channel reconfiguration, rock or log structure installation, and riparian habitat improvements. Riparian improvements may include, but are not limited to willow clump plantings and grass and forb seeding. Upland areas disturbed during onsite activities will be reseeded with appropriate species.	
Deliverable:	
Improved water diversion efficiency and riparian and aquatic habitat. Reduced maintenance, increased riparian vegetation, and improved water quality resulting from streambank stabilization measures.	

Tasks	
<b>Task 3 – <u>William Stewart Company Irrigation Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration</u></b>	
Description of Task:	
Replace the William Stewart Ditch diversion with a grouted rock diversion that allows for fish passage. Replace the William Stewart Ditch headgate with a new steel headgate. Implement streambank stabilization and riparian and aquatic habitat improvements upstream and downstream of the William Stewart Ditch diversion and headgate structures.	
Method/Procedure:	



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Tasks
<p>The Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD) and Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation (CRGRF) will hire contractors to remove the current diversion dam and headgate, clear and shape the channel, and enact pollution control. Contractors will then complete grade preparation, build grouted rock diversion, and install the new headgate. The contractor will implement channel and streambank stabilization measures, which may include, bank shaping, channel reconfiguration, rock or log structure installation, and riparian habitat improvements. Riparian improvements may include, but are not limited to willow clump plantings and grass and forb seeding. Upland areas disturbed during onsite activities will be reseeded with appropriate species.</p>
<p><b>Deliverable:</b></p>
<p>Improved water diversion efficiency and riparian and aquatic habitat. Reduced maintenance, increased riparian vegetation, and improved water quality resulting from streambank stabilization measures.</p>

Tasks
<p><b>Task 4 – Project Monitoring</b></p>
<p><b>Description of Task:</b></p>
<p>Monitor each project site for five years using the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project’s (RGHRP) Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP).</p>
<p><b>Method/Procedure:</b></p>
<p>Monitoring will consist of several assessments that include documenting streambank locations with cross sections, photographic documentation, visual stream assessments, and structure assessment. Pre-construction, post-construction, and long-term surveys will map locations and features of the streambanks, diversion, and headgate over time. Photographic documentation will be used to track conditions of the riparian and shoreline plant communities, bank stabilization, and overall visual condition of the Project area. The United States Department of Agriculture’s Stream Visual Assessment Protocol II (SVAP II) will be used to assess the sites. Project engineers will complete an annual check sheet that assesses the condition and function of the headgate and diversion structure. This monitoring strategy is used in other RGHRP projects. The CRGRF staff will be responsible for monitoring.</p>
<p><b>Deliverable:</b></p>
<p>Annual Reports which summarize monitoring data and condition of the sites in order to demonstrate diversion efficiency improvements, relative stability of streambanks, and to evaluate the degree of improvement in the riparian condition.</p>

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Tasks	
<b>Task 5 – Project Management and Administration</b>	
Description of Task:	Complete project oversight, management, and partner coordination. Complete all necessary contracts, status reports, and internal and external documents. Ensure tasks are completed within the approved costs and timelines.
Method/Procedure:	The CRGRF will manage and administer the Conejos River Partnership Project – Phase 2 in partnership with the Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD). The CRGRF will complete contracts with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and other project funders, project partners, landowners, and contractors; obtain the necessary environmental permits; manage project budgets, and reimbursement requests; and complete semi-annual and final reports. The CRGRF and CWCD will perform project oversight, ensuring project design and implementation are timely and accurate. Additionally, the CRGRF will work closely with the CRPP Technical Advisory Team to plan and implement all project tasks.
Deliverable:	All appropriate contracts, external and internal reports, and on-site project activities completed within planned period and anticipated costs.

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
<b>Progress Reports:</b> 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.



Last Updated: June 2020

## Reporting Requirements

**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.

## 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.



**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**Water Plan Grant - Exhibit B  
 Budget and Schedule**

**Prepared Date: December 1, 2020**

**Name of Applicant: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation**

**Name of Water Project: Conejos River Partnership Project: Phase 2**

**Project Start Date: 5/1/2021**

**Project End Date: 8/1/2024**

<b>Task No.</b>	<b>Task Description</b>	<b>Task Start Date</b>	<b>Task End Date</b>	<b>Grant Funding Request</b>	<b>Match Funding</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Project Design, Permitting, and Environmental Compliance	5/1/2021	5/1/2022	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 30,400.00	\$ 55,400.00
2	Mecitos Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration	10/1/22	4/1/2023	\$ 113,500.00	\$ 131,600.00	\$ 245,100.00
3	William Stewart Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration	10/1/22	4/1/2023	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 145,800.00	\$ 270,800.00
4	Project Monitoring	8/1/22	8/1/2024	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 2,025.00
5	Project Management and Administration	5/1/21	8/1/2024	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 13,875.00	\$ 21,375.00
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
<b>Total</b>				\$272,000	\$322,700	\$594,700



**Colorado Water Conservation Board**  
**Water Plan Grant - Detailed Budget Estimate**  
**Fair and Reasonable Estimate**

**Prepared Date:** 12/1/2020  
**Name of Applicant:** Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation  
**Name of Water Project:** Conejos River Partnership Project - Phase 2

	Personnel Expenses		Contractual Expenses (fixed fee)		Materials and Construction Expenses				Total	CWCB Funds	Matching Funds
	CRGRF Staff (\$45/hour)	Technical Advisory Team (in-kind)	Design & Engineering	Subtotal	Unit	Estimated Quantity	Estimated Cost per Unit	Subtotal			
<b>Task 1 - Project Engineering, Design, and Permitting</b>											
Survey, engineering, design, and permitting of tasks 2 and 3			\$ 50,000.00	<b>\$50,000.00</b>					\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Design review by CRPP Technical Advisory Team (120 hours valued at \$45 per hour)	\$ 5,400.00								\$5,400.00	\$0.00	\$5,400.00
<b>TASK 1 TOTAL</b>									<b>\$55,400.00</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,400.00</b>
<b>Task 2 - Mecitos Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration</b>											
Rock and gravel riprap placed					CY	1025	\$120.00	<b>\$123,000.00</b>	\$123,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$68,000.00
Grouted riprap rock and grout placed					CY	100	\$360.00	<b>\$36,000.00</b>	\$36,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Steel fabrication and installation					Lbs	8000	\$4.00	<b>\$32,000.00</b>	\$32,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
Channel shaping and earthwork					CY	1000	\$10.00	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	\$10,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$6,000.00
Riparian revegetation					Acre	0.5	\$5,000.00	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	\$2,500.00	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
Equipment and labor					Hour	104	\$400.00	<b>\$41,600.00</b>	\$41,600.00	\$20,000.00	\$21,600.00
<b>TASK 2 TOTAL</b>								<b>\$245,100.00</b>	<b>\$245,100.00</b>	<b>\$113,500.00</b>	<b>\$131,600.00</b>
<b>Task 3 - William Stewart Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration</b>											
Rock and gravel riprap placed					CY	1100	\$120.00	<b>\$132,000.00</b>	\$132,000.00	\$57,000.00	\$75,000.00
Grouted riprap rock and grout placed					CY	110	\$360.00	<b>\$39,600.00</b>	\$39,600.00	\$22,600.00	\$17,000.00
Steel fabrication and installation					Lbs	7000	\$4.00	<b>\$28,000.00</b>	\$28,000.00	\$11,400.00	\$16,600.00
Channel shaping and earthwork					CY	1400	\$10.00	<b>\$14,000.00</b>	\$14,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$8,000.00
Riparian revegetation					Acre	2	\$5,000.00	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Equipment and labor					Hour	118	\$400.00	<b>\$47,200.00</b>	\$47,200.00	\$23,000.00	\$24,200.00
<b>TASK 3 TOTAL</b>								<b>\$270,800.00</b>	<b>\$270,800.00</b>	<b>\$125,000.00</b>	<b>\$145,800.00</b>
<b>Task 5 - Project Monitoring</b>											
Staff time for project monitoring (45 hours)	\$ 2,025.00								\$2,025.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,025.00
<b>TASK 5 TOTAL</b>									<b>\$2,025.00</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,025.00</b>
<b>Task 6 - Project Management and Administration</b>											
Staff time for project management and administration staff time (475 hours)	#####								\$21,375.00	\$7,500.00	\$13,875.00
<b>TASK 6 TOTAL</b>									<b>\$21,375.00</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>	<b>\$13,875.00</b>
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>									<b>\$594,700.00</b>	<b>\$272,000.00</b>	<b>\$322,700.00</b>

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



November 16, 2020

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

1313 Sherman St., Rm. 721  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant Application for the Conejos River Partnership Project - Phase 2

Dear CWCB Board of Directors,

I am writing to confirm the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation's (CRGRF) financial contribution of \$22,300 to the Conejos River Partnership Project – Phase 2 (Phase 2). These funds will be composed of a combination of contributions from project landowners, ditch shareholders, and community partners. In addition, the CRGRF submitted a grant of \$285,000 through the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program to fund Phase 2 project activities. The requested Colorado Water Plan grant will provide critical non-federal matching funds to leverage these pending federal funds. In-kind support totaling \$5,400 will be provided by the Phase 2 Technical Advisory towards project design and implementation. The CRGRF will track these contributions for grant reporting purposes. By partnering with diverse stakeholders and funders, the CRGRF will ensure the project components are completed as described in our grant application.

As the project lead, the CRGRF will work closely with the project partners, engineers, and contractors to ensure that Phase 2 project elements are designed and constructed in an environmentally sustainable way and will contribute to the resiliency of the Conejos River and surrounding riparian areas. Phase 2 will result in improved river health and diversion efficiency, benefiting the human, agricultural, and ecological communities that depend on the Conejos River.

Thank you for your consideration of this valuable project.

Signed,

Emma Reesor  
Executive Director, CRGRF



**Conejos Water Conservancy District**  
**P. O. Box 550**  
**Manassa, CO 81141**  
**cwcd1971@hotmail.com**  
Phone 719-843-5261 fax 5452

November 20, 2020

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**  
1313 Sherman St., Rm. 721  
Denver, CO 80203

**Re: Conejos River Partnership Project – Phase 2**

Dear CWCB Board of Directors,

I am writing on behalf of the Conejos Water Conservancy District (CWCD) to express our support and commitment to participate in the Conejos River Partnership Project – Phase 2. This project was born out of the Conejos River Stream Management Plan (SMP), a process in which CWCD has played an active role. The project is a partnership between the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, Division of Water Resources, private landowners, ditch companies, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and other local stakeholders. The project will result in the completion of irrigation infrastructure improvements and river restoration projects on the Conejos River in the southern San Luis Valley.

The projects included in the Conejos River Partnership Project – Phase 2 will directly benefit the shareholders of each ditch by improving diversion efficiency and reducing maintenance by replacing aging diversion dams and headgates. The project will also enhance water quality by reducing sediment input, improve riparian condition, and improve aquatic habitat.

The project will work in concert with CWCD's past and present work with landowners, water rights holders, and state and federal agencies on Conejos River. Ultimately, this project works toward the larger goal of improving river health and function for multiple uses, including aquatic species and agricultural producers. CWCD is excited to work with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project as a partner on this project and will provide in-kind support throughout the project for design review and project implementation. ***In addition, the CWCD has committed \$10,000 in cash match to the success of this project. We hope this contribution speaks to our investment in the project and its benefits to the Conejos River.***

Sincerely,

  
Nathan Coombs, Manager