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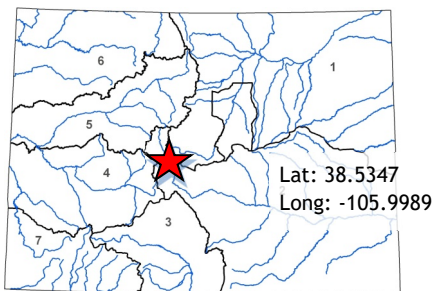
Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Upper Arkansas Conservation District Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

March 2021 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Application



L O C A T I O N	
County/Countries:	Chaffee
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$211,500
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$27,500
Recommended Amount:	\$27,500
Other CWCB Funding:	\$99,000
Other Funding Amount:	\$50,000
Applicant Match:	\$35,000
Project Type(s):	Planning/Study
Project Category(Categories):	Agricultural
Measurable Result:	Multi-benefit projects

The Upper Arkansas Conservation District is seeking Colorado Water Plan Grant funding to support community outreach to agricultural producers and stakeholders in developing an Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan. The Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan (UAWRP) is being developed by several organizations working together under the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership (UAWP). The UAWP is a newly formed partnership dedicated to fostering greater collaboration among agencies, organizations, governments, and landowners in the upper Arkansas Basin to build a healthy and resilient watershed. The planning process's broad objectives include increasing community understanding of important watershed health and water user challenges, combining existing studies to support strategic investments in multi-benefit projects, and assessing existing riparian/floodplain conditions to inform strategies.

The plan will also offer an opportunity to work with the agricultural community to identify the key issues, challenges, and opportunities that their operations face to develop multi-beneficial projects that mitigate risk, improve efficiency, and keep agriculture viable in Chaffee County. In particular, the planning process's key objectives include strengthening relationships with local agricultural water users, developing a better understanding of critical issues and priorities of agricultural producers in the region, identifying mutually beneficial projects to address those concerns, and providing education and outreach opportunities on agricultural water resource challenges.

This project furthers several Colorado Water Plan critical action goals, including advancing the Colorado Water Plan objectives of implementing stream management planning efforts. The project also furthers several Colorado Water Plan goals and objectives relating to agriculture, including encouraging multi-benefit irrigation infrastructure projects with significant regional and state impact. The project also supports collaboration, bringing a diverse group of stakeholders together to complete the project. The Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, Chaffee County Board of Commissioners, Trout Unlimited, the Central Colorado Conservancy, and other local stakeholders support the planning project.



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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

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

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	Upper Arkansas Conservation District	
Name of Water Project	Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan Phase 1 – Stakeholder Engagement, Agricultural Needs Assessment, and Riparian/floodplain Condition	
CWP Grant Request Amount		\$ 27,500.00
Other Funding Sources: <u>CWCB Watershed Restoration Program</u>		\$ 99,000.00
Other Funding Sources: <u>Chaffee County Common Ground (Cash)</u>		\$ 25,000.00
Other Funding Sources: <u>Central Colorado Conservancy (Cash)</u>		\$ 20,000.00
Other Funding Sources: Trout Unlimited (Cash)		\$ 5,000.00
Other Funding Sources: Coalition staff in-kind time		\$ 35,000.00



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Applicant Funding Contribution (see other funding sources above from CCC, TU, in-kind)	\$ 60,000.00
Total Project Cost	\$ 211,500.00

Applicant & Grantee Information
Name of Grantee(s): Upper Arkansas Conservation District (fiscal agent/applicant)
5575 Cleora Road, Salida, CO 81201
84-0677889
Organization Contact: Natalie Allio
Position/Title: Agriculture Projects Manager
Email: natalie@centralcoloradoconservancy.org
Phone: (719) 619-6457
Grant Management Contact: Natalie Allio
Position/Title: Agriculture Projects Manager
Email: natalie @centralcoloradoconservancy.org
Phone: (719) 619-6457
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).



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The Upper Arkansas Conservation District is one of 76 districts in the state of Colorado. For over 50 years, the Upper Arkansas Conservation District has cooperated with individuals, ditch companies, local, county, state and federal agencies/government departments to address natural resource concerns. The Upper Arkansas Conservation District serves landowners within district boundaries (covering approximately 670,000 acres) by developing and implementing collaborative programs for conservation and stewardship of natural resources through education and outreach, assistance with farm/ranch management, and securing cost-share funding to address landowner natural resource concerns.

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.
X	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.
	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)	
X	Study
	Construction
	Identified Projects and Processes (IPP)
	Other

Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks)	



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	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):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Task 1: Agricultural and Community Outreach, Education, and Coordination - Task 2: Needs Assessment - Field Work - Task 3: Data Analysis and Project Identification - Task 4: Feasibility Analysis & Pre-Project Planning
	Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
Other	Explain:

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	Chaffee County
Latitude	38.5347N
Longitude	105.9989W

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.

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The Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan - Phase 1 includes six tasks: (1) Project management; (2) Stakeholder engagement; (3) Preliminary assessment of studies and data gaps; (4) Riparian/floodplain health assessment and fluvial hazard mapping; (5) Agricultural needs assessment and coordination; and (6) Development of Phase 2 work plan. The Upper Arkansas Conservation District and project partners are seeking funding from the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program to assist with implementation of *Task 5: Agricultural Needs Assessment & Coordination*.

Task 5 will be conducted with the support of 1-2 part-time local agricultural liaisons who will be responsible for coordinating meetings with landowners, performing site visits, hosting workshops, and providing reports to the planning team. The primary goal of Task 5 is to meet with at least 40 local irrigators/ranchers (16,464 total irrigated acres in Chaffee County – not all will be included in Phase 1) to better understand the key issues facing producers in the valley in relation to water infrastructure, hydrology, water rights, urban development, and long-term economic viability. Data collected will be summarized in individual and aggregated reports, represented spatially on issue maps, and identify multi-beneficial project opportunities that will be developed in Phase 2.

Funding from the CWCB will support paid agricultural specialists (liaisons), outreach strategies, GIS mapping and data analysis.

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)	
	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	
40 Landowners/irrigators	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity	
Chaffee County Community	Other	Explain: This project will also enhance long-term community education and support for projects that maintain agricultural viability in Chaffee County.



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Water Project Justification

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).

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;)

The Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan significantly furthers the goals of the Colorado Water Plan by engaging diverse water users and community stakeholders in developing a collaborative, integrated water resource planning process (CWP, Chapter 7, Sec. 7.1). This integrated water management plan will represent one of the first IWMP/SMPs in the upper Arkansas River Basin since the adoption of the Water Plan in 2015 – thereby helping the State move closer to its goal of 80% of locally prioritized streams having a planning process by 2030.

In the first phase of the plan, the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership will focus on six major tasks that support several other goals of the Colorado Water Plan, including:

Task 2: Stakeholder Engagement and Community Education (CWP, Chp. 9, pp. 9-59)

Task 3: Preliminary Assessment of Existing Studies and Data Gaps (CWP, Sec. 7.1)

Task 4: Riparian/floodplain Health Assessment and Fluvial Hazard Mapping (CWP, Sec. 7.2)

Task 5: Agricultural Needs Assessment and Coordination (CWP, Chp. 6, pp. 6-130, 6-138).

The project will specifically meet the objectives and conform to Section 9.4 (pp.9-43 to 9.44) of the Water Plan Framework by conducting critical “Pre-permitting work (initial studies and stakeholder involvement)”. The primary tasks listed above (and within Task 5 itself) will help water users and stakeholders in the Upper Arkansas Basin to assess existing needs and challenges by irrigators, which will help to identify future multi-beneficial projects that meet local and basin-wide needs (Task 5). Tasks 2-4 will also assemble and produce baseline environmental studies and stakeholder involvement that will facilitate more effective and collaborative projects in the future.

On November 11, 2020, the Arkansas Basin Roundtable voted by full consensus to support the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan. The Plan will help meet objectives of the basin roundtable and its BIP process by:

- Developing a robust stakeholder partnership in the upper basin to identify, develop, and implement projects on the updated BIP list;
- Supporting the integration of land use and water resource planning (Task 4);
- Supporting multiple uses at existing and new storage facilities (BIP Sec. 1.6.1);
- Protecting working agricultural lands and preventing permanent dry-up (BIP Sec. 1.6.2)
- Sustaining recreational and environmental activities that depend on habitat and open space associated with farm and ranch land (BIP Sec. 1.6.3)
- Maintaining or improving riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitat that would support environmental features and recreational opportunities (BIP Sec. 1.6.4)

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.

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The Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan intends to compile, assess, and build on existing studies in the upper Arkansas River Basin through enhanced stakeholder facilitation and planning. Current and future studies that will be supported by this plan include:

- A Tale of Two Rivers: South Arkansas River Watershed Assessment (Goosman, 2013)
- Envision Chaffee County Water Quality Assessment (Hum, 2018)
- Chaffee County CDPHE Water Quality Pre-Planning Grant Report (Urbanos, 2019)
- Groundwater and Surface-Water Interaction and Potential for Underground Water Storage in the Buena Vista-Salida Basin (USGS, 2011)
- Upper Arkansas Wildfire/Watershed Assessment (JW Associates, 2011)
- City of Salida Source Water Protection Plan (Lady, 2018)
- Chaffee County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Chaffee County, 2020)
- Town of Buena Vista Source Water Protection Plan (Town of Buena Vista, 2016)
- Arkansas River Water Needs Assessment (BOR, USGS, USFS, 2000)

The Watershed Resiliency Plan and Task 5 (agricultural needs assessment) will also benefit ongoing planning efforts in the County that can enhance the long-term resiliency and economic viability of open space and working lands in the region. These efforts include:

- Chaffee County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update (2021-2022)
- Arkansas River Basin Implementation Plan and Colorado Water Plan Update
- Implementation of Envision Chaffee County community priorities
- Future water management planning efforts by private and public entities

The integration of environmental/riparian health assessments, fluvial hazard mapping, and agricultural needs assessments will not only inform current land and water planning - the corresponding projects developed through those processes will likely be more competitive for federal, state, and regional funding programs. By generating collaborative assessment of diverse stakeholder needs, this planning process will identify opportunities for investment in innovative, multi-beneficial projects that address multiple challenges and generate stronger resiliency against future challenges (climate change, water supply, urban development, drought, fire, etc.).

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.

CWCB Water Restoration Fund Grant Application submitted November 5, 2020

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.

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None.

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⁾
	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⁾
	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⁾

(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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ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATION GRANT FUND SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

Introduction & Purpose

Colorado's Water Plan calls for an outreach, education, public engagement, and innovation grant fund in Chapter 9.5.

The overall goal of the Engagement & Innovation Grant Fund is to enhance Colorado's water communication, outreach, education, and public engagement efforts; advance Colorado's water supply planning process; and support a statewide water innovation ecosystem.

The grant fund aims to engage the public to promote well-informed community discourse regarding balanced water solutions statewide. The grant fund aims to support water innovation in Colorado. The grant fund prioritizes measuring and evaluating the success of programs, projects, and initiatives. The grant fund prioritizes efforts designed using research, data, and best practices. The grant fund prioritizes a commitment to collaboration and community engagement. The grant fund will support local and statewide efforts.

The grant fund is divided into two tracks: engagement and innovation. The Engagement Track supports education, outreach, communication, and public participation efforts related to water. The Innovation Track supports efforts that advance the water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.

Application Questions

*The grant fund request is referred to as "project" in this application.

Overview (answer for both tracks)
In a few sentences, what is the overall goal of this project? How does it achieve the stated purpose of this grant fund (above)?
Who is/are the target audience(s)? How will you reach them? How will you involve the community?
Describe how the project is collaborative or engages a diverse group of stakeholders. Who are the partners in the project? Do you have other funding partners or sources?

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Describe how you plan to measure and evaluate the success and impact of the project?
What research, evidence, and data support your project?
Describe potential short- and long-term challenges with this project.

Please fill out the applicable questions for either the Engagement Track or Innovation Track, unless your project contains elements in both tracks. If a question does not relate to your project, just leave it blank. Please answer each question that relates to your project. Please reference the relevant documents and use chapters and page numbers (Colorado's Water Plan, Basin Implementation Plan, PEPO Education Action Plan, etc.).

Engagement Track
Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement measurable objective set forth in Colorado's Water Plan to "significantly improve the level of public awareness and engagement regarding water issues statewide by 2020, as determined by water awareness surveys."
Describe how the project achieves the other measurable objectives and critical goals and actions laid out in Colorado's Water Plan around the supply and demand gap; conservation; land use; agriculture; storage; watershed health, environment, and recreation; funding; and additional.
Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement goals set forth in the applicable Basin Implementation Plan(s).

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Describe how the project achieves the basin roundtable's PEPO Education Action Plans.

Innovation Track
Describe how the project enhances water innovation efforts and supports a water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.
Describe how the project engages/leverages Colorado's innovation community to help solve our state's water challenges.
Describe how the project helps advance or develop a solution to a water need identified through TAP-IN and other water innovation challenges. What is the problem/need/challenge?
Describe how this project impacts current or emerging trends; technologies; clusters, sectors, or groups in water innovation.



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Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Statement Of Work

Date:	December 1, 2020
Name of Grantee:	Upper Arkansas Conservation District
Name of Water Project:	Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan - Phase 1: Stakeholder Engagement, Agricultural Needs Assessment, and Riparian/floodplain Condition
Funding Source:	Colorado Water Plan Grant Program - Agriculture
Water Project Overview:	
<p>The Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan will enhance collaboration and project development within the Upper Arkansas Basin in Chaffee County, CO to build long-term watershed resilience and economic viability in the region. Phase 1 will build on pre-planning work developed with support from River Network that began in May 2020. The Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership (UAWP) will oversee the planning process and is a broad coalition of local organizations and water users (led by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District, Central Colorado Conservancy, and Trout Unlimited). UAWP intends to leverage preliminary stakeholder surveys, local resource management plans, and partner collaboration to protect and enhance water quality and quantity in the Upper Arkansas Basin. The primary objectives of Phase 1 of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase community understanding of diverse water uses and issues in the Basin and leverage local expertise to solve important watershed health and water user challenges.2. Combine and assess existing studies and plans related to ecosystem health, hydrology, geomorphology, wetland/riparian condition, water use, biology, and land use planning.3. Assess existing riparian/floodplain condition and identify strategies for increased protection and enhancement to mitigate potential impacts associated with flooding and urban development.4. Provide support for agricultural producers and water users to protect their water rights and identify multi-beneficial opportunities related to storage, conveyance, and application to mitigate challenges and bolster long-term economic viability of agriculture in the region. <p>To complete Phase 1 of this plan, the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership has created 6 primary tasks: (1) project management; (2) stakeholder and community engagement; (3) compilation of existing studies and gap analysis; (4) assessment of riparian/floodplain condition and fluvial hazard mapping; (5) agricultural needs assessment and coordination; and (6) creation of work plan for Phase 2.</p> <p>This application to the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program is seeking funds to support <i>Task 5: Agricultural Needs Assessment and Coordination</i>. The following project objectives, tasks, schedule, and budget are primarily focused on this task, which is a critical component of the planning effort and will ensure long-term agricultural viability in Chaffee County and the Upper Arkansas Valley.</p>	

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Project Objectives:

Chaffee County comprises several rural communities in central Colorado and is known for its long-standing agricultural history and access to recreational opportunities. Eighty-three percent (83%) of land in the county is public - including heavily visited areas like Browns Canyon National Monument and the Collegiate Peak Wilderness. In addition to tourism, agriculture is a key component of the community, representing over 25% of the remaining land (16,464 irrigated acres). By 2035, the population within the county is expected to increase by 33%, which will result in development of limited open space and continued encroachment on agricultural operations, riparian corridors and floodplains (as well as increased demand for municipal water supplies).

The Envision Chaffee County process and the resulting Chaffee County Community Action Plan demonstrate a high level of concern for the economic viability of agriculture in Chaffee County. While 97% of citizens say working rural landscapes are important to Chaffee County quality of life, 30% of agricultural lands have been lost since 1982. Nine out of ten local producers want to keep their lands in production but express concern around sustainability in the face of challenges related to maintaining water rights, ditch easements, and economic factors including ever-increasing time and financial resources required to resolve conflicts with a growing population. Additionally, there are the ongoing challenges of climate change, drought, and increased demand that intensifies risks such as buy and dry, and impact the long-term viability of agriculture in the Upper Arkansas River Basin.

Therefore, a critical component of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan is to work with the agricultural community to identify the key issues, challenges, and opportunities that their operations face in order to develop multi-beneficial projects that mitigate risk, improve efficiency, and keep agriculture viable in Chaffee County.

The key objectives of Task 5: Agricultural Needs Assessment and Coordination are to:

1. Strengthen relationships with local agricultural water users;
2. Better understand critical issues and priorities of agricultural producers and large landowners in the Valley;
3. Identify mutually-beneficial projects that can address those needs through a collaborative approach;

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4. Provide support for agricultural water users through education, future system optimization, and protection of existing water rights.

Information developed in this process will also help inform conversations at the basin and state level regarding supply, abandonment, infrastructure, augmentation, climate adaptation, and development.

Tasks
Task 1 – Agricultural Outreach, Education, and Coordination
Description of Task:
Task 1 will support the overall objectives of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan and completion of <i>Task 5: Agricultural Needs Assessment and Coordination</i> by utilizing local agricultural liaisons to conduct outreach, facilitate workshops, and coordinate project management activities. The primary goals of this task are to: (1) strengthen relationships with agricultural water users and large landowners; (2) support those groups with topic-specific workshops; (3) facilitate the transfer of information on key issues to the larger planning team.
Method/Procedure:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop Agriculture Sub-committee responsible for overseeing Agriculture Liaisons who will act as the primary points of contact for conducting needs assessment site visits. 2. Leverage existing relationships to hire 1-2 part-time local agricultural liaisons that have strong connections to the agricultural community and knowledge of producer operations, water infrastructure, and key issues. These liaisons will work closely with the UAWP to develop materials, prioritize landowner outreach, host workshops, track budget and expenses, and report findings to the planning team. 3. Conduct educational workshops led by subject-matter experts that address the interests and concerns of local producers and water users. Topics may be solicited through continued user/partner surveys, producer interviews, and/or UAWP focus areas. Workshop topics may include, but are not limited to: CDSS reporting, stream management planning, demonstration projects and group site visits, and Ag Water NetWORK trainings. Notes and key takeaways from each workshop will be included in project reports.



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4. In addition to direct field visits and irrigator interviews (Task 2), this task will also include regular presentations to key agricultural groups in the Valley (i.e. Chaffee County Stockgrowers Association, Upper Arkansas Conservation District Board, Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District, etc.). Topics may include updates on the progress of the project, as well as direct solicitation of feedback on key issues identified in the outreach process.

Deliverable:

Deliverables from Task 1 include:

- Work plans for agricultural liaisons;
- Materials and meeting minutes generated for agricultural workshops and training events;
- List of key issues identified by agricultural water users and workshop participants during meetings and outreach events.
- At least (5) workshops/agriculture-specific presentations made to the UAWP stakeholder group and local agricultural water users/landowners over the grant period.

Tasks

Task 2 – Agricultural Needs Assessment - Field Work

Description of Task:

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Develop and Conduct a Needs Assessment to (1) identify issues, needs, and priorities of agriculture producers, (2) assess interest/willingness to participate in detailed infrastructure and/or environmental health assessment for the purpose of identifying multi-beneficial improvement projects, and (3) understand water rights issues and concerns.

Method/Procedure:

1. The Agriculture Sub-Committee (formed in Task 1) will develop a field worksheet to be completed at each assessment site. As a starting point the following basic information will be collected; total acreage of agriculture operation, land use (crops, grazing, riparian areas, etc.), water rights (irrigation – sprinkler, flood, center pivot, springs and stock water), agriculture production, land management practices, water use documentation practices, landowner questions, concerns, and interests.
2. Agriculture Liaisons will conduct needs assessments through on-site visits, completing field worksheets (including photos and basic mapping utilizing tablets/desktop GIS with landowner permission) and providing information (fact sheets and flyers) on educational workshops, funding, and other opportunities for engagement/involvement. The Agriculture Liaisons will complete on-site needs assessment for 40 local agriculture producers.
3. Identify and compile a list of priority issues and needs of agriculture producers. The Agriculture Sub-committee will compile information collected through the needs assessment process into a report including a prioritization matrix to identify key issues of concern and inform Phase 2 project planning and scope of work.

Deliverable:

- Minutes from Agriculture Sub-committee meetings
- Needs assessment field worksheet for use by Agriculture Liaisons
- Report identifying key issues of concern with prioritization matrix and assessment of willingness to participate in the next level of infrastructure assessment.
- List of interests, questions and concerns to inform educational workshop topics.

Tasks

Task 3 – Data Analysis & Project Identification

Description of Task:

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Identify and compile list of priority issues and needs of agriculture producers into a final report including a prioritization matrix to identify key issues of concern and inform Phase 2 project planning and scope of work

Method/Procedure:

Summary and Recommendations

The Agriculture Sub-committee will summarize the findings of the needs assessment into a final report. The report will rank issues and concerns identified based on frequency and weight assigned by participants. The report will also provide recommendations that could be implemented over a longer term, including recommendations for additional field work and data collection (i.e. a detailed assessment of infrastructure, riparian health, etc.). The results will be presented using mapping and photos. The report will be formatted to assist the Agriculture Sub-committee in presenting the information to the UAWP, BRT and stakeholders across the basin.

Deliverable:

- A draft report that provides a list of issues and concerns including a prioritization matrix and recommendations for next steps with respect to field work and data collection, as well as topics of interest to inform the educational efforts of the UAWP. UAWP key stakeholder committee will have two weeks to review and submit comments on the draft report.
- A final report that provides a list of issues and concerns including a prioritization matrix and recommendations for next steps with respect to field work and data collection, as well as topics of interest to inform the educational efforts of the UAWP and outlines implementable next steps.

Tasks

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Task 4 - Feasibility Assessments & Pre-Project Planning
Description of Task:
<p>Once the initial needs assessment (Task 2) and issue identification (Task 3) processes are complete, the UAWP and Agriculture Sub-Committee will begin the process of connecting irrigators with resources to help in the initial project development phase. The grantee will utilize funding from Chaffee County Common Ground and other matching technical resources (NRCS, etc.) to help landowners begin to scope and design prioritized projects. Because the initial Phase 1 funding is smaller than the estimated need, these efforts will likely be prioritized as demonstration projects that can be used to educate other irrigators and the community. This task will also ensure continued momentum (and reduce lag time) from the start of the needs assessment to project development and implementation. By helping irrigators receive pre-planning resources, one of the projected outcomes of this task will be to strengthen future project funding applications on behalf of water users in Chaffee County.</p> <p>This process will also identify similar projects within the region that may benefit from combined applications to programs such as EQUIP, NRCS, USDA, Chaffee County Common Ground, Basin Roundtables, and CWCB.</p>
Method/Procedure:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Agricultural Sub-Committee will review and prioritize the results of the completed needs assessment and initial regional analysis. Project prioritization criteria will be developed by the Sub-Committee and may include some of the following attributes: project size, type, location, feasibility, timeline/readiness, etc. Standards will also follow attributes included in the BIP IPP list. 2. With the consultation of irrigators, landowners, and project partners, the Agricultural Sub-Committee and Ag. Liaisons will work with project proponents to develop basic project work plans that will help identify required technical resources, feasibility assessments, timing, and potential funding sources. 3. The UAWP and UACD will contract with qualified technical experts (NRCS, private firms, etc.) to offer technical resources required for project scoping and pre-feasibility analysis to prioritized projects. This work may also include initial review of water rights to mitigate against potential harm to downstream water users. 4. Grant-writing and continued project development support may be provided by members of the Agricultural Sub-Committee or UAWP partners to ensure that projects continue to meet implementation goals and the objectives of the Colorado Water Plan and Basin Implementation Plan.
Deliverable:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project prioritization matrix - included with Task 3 project deliverable (list of issues and concerns). 2. Any preliminary designs, assessments, work plans developed for prioritized projects.

Budget and Schedule

Last Updated: June 2020

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.

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.

Last Updated: June 2020

(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.

UAWP Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan Phase 1 Budget and Timeline (Full)

Task	Description	Target Start Date	Target Completion Date
1	Project Management, Reporting	1-May-21	1-Nov-22
2	Stakeholder Collaboration & Community Education	1-May-21	15-Oct-22
3	Preliminary Assessment of Studies and Plans, Gap Analysis	1-May-21	1-Jul-22
4	Land Use Planning: Riparian and Fluvial Hazard Mapping	1-May-21	1-Jun-22
5	Agricultural Infrastructure Assessment & Collaboration	1-May-21	1-Jul-22
6	Development of Phase 2 Plan	1-Aug-22	15-Oct-22
	Sub-Totals		
	10% Administration Fee		
	Project Total		

UAWP Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan Phase 1 (Task 5) Budget and Timeline

Task	Description	Target Start Date	Target Completion Date
1	Agricultural Outreach, Education, and Coordination	1-May-21	1-Jul-22
2	Agricultural Needs Assessment - Field Work	1-May-21	1-Feb-22
3	Data Analysis & Project Identification	1-Dec-21	1-Apr-22
4	Feasibility Assessments & Pre-Project Planning	1-Apr-22	15-Oct-22
	Sub-Totals		
	10% Administration & Overhead		
	Project Total		

* In-kind funding provided by staff hours will help support this project through Tasks 1, 2, and 6 of the F

CWCB WRG Funds	CWCB WPG Funds	Cash	Other Funding In- Kind	Total
\$15,000		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$55,000
\$15,000		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
\$10,000			\$5,000	\$15,000
\$50,000				\$50,000
	\$25,000	\$25,000		\$50,000
			\$5,000	\$5,000
\$90,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$35,000	\$200,000
\$9,000	\$2,500			\$11,500
\$99,000.00	\$27,500.00	\$50,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$211,500.00

CWCB WPG Funds	Cash	Other Funding In- Kind*	Total
8,000			
11,150			
3,375			
2,475	25,000		
25,000	25,000		
2,500			
\$27,500.00	\$25,000.00		\$52,500.00

Full UAWRP Project.

UAWP UAWRP Task 5 Detailed Budget & Schedule		
Task	Description	# of Units
Task 1: Ag. Outreach, Education & Coordination		
	General coordination, community outreach, workshop planning Lead PT*	100
	Ag Workgroup Per Diem (\$45/person/day up to 5 people)	40
	General coordination, community outreach, workshop planning Asst. PT**	60
	Workshops and Presentations***	5
	Additional materials and supplies for community outreach and engagement	
	Sub-Total Task 1	
Task 2: Ag. Needs Assessments - Field Work		
	Development of field inventory form and prioritization of interviews (Combined Lead PT and Asst. PT time)	30
	Field assessments & landowner meetings (est. 5 hours/operator incl. travel and report write-up); Lead PT	25
	Field assessments & landowner meetings (est. 5 hours/operator incl. travel and report write-up); Asst. PT	25
	Mileage (\$0.58/mile)	1724
	Survey Equipment (hand-held tablet w/ GPS unit & software for in-person mapping of issues/structures)	2
	Sub-total Task 2	
Task 3: Data Analysis and Project Identification		
	Summary of Reports, meetings with Ag. Workgroup, planning team (combined PT Lead and Asst.)	60
	GIS Specialist time for report and map development	21
	Sub-total Task 3	
Task 4: Feasibility Analysis & Pre-Project Planning		
	Ag. Workgroup per diem (\$45/person/day)	15
	Project coordination (Lead PT)	60

	Technical Resource Consultant Costs Pool	
	Sub-total Task 4	
	Sub-Total Tasks 1-4	
	10% Administration Charge (CWCB)	
	Task 5 Project Total	

* Lead Agricultural Coordinator Position (\$30/hr) (Lead PT)

** Assistant Agricultural Coordinator Position (\$20/hr) (Asst. PT)

*** Workshop and meeting costs may include speaker costs, venue rental, food, materials, printing, etc.

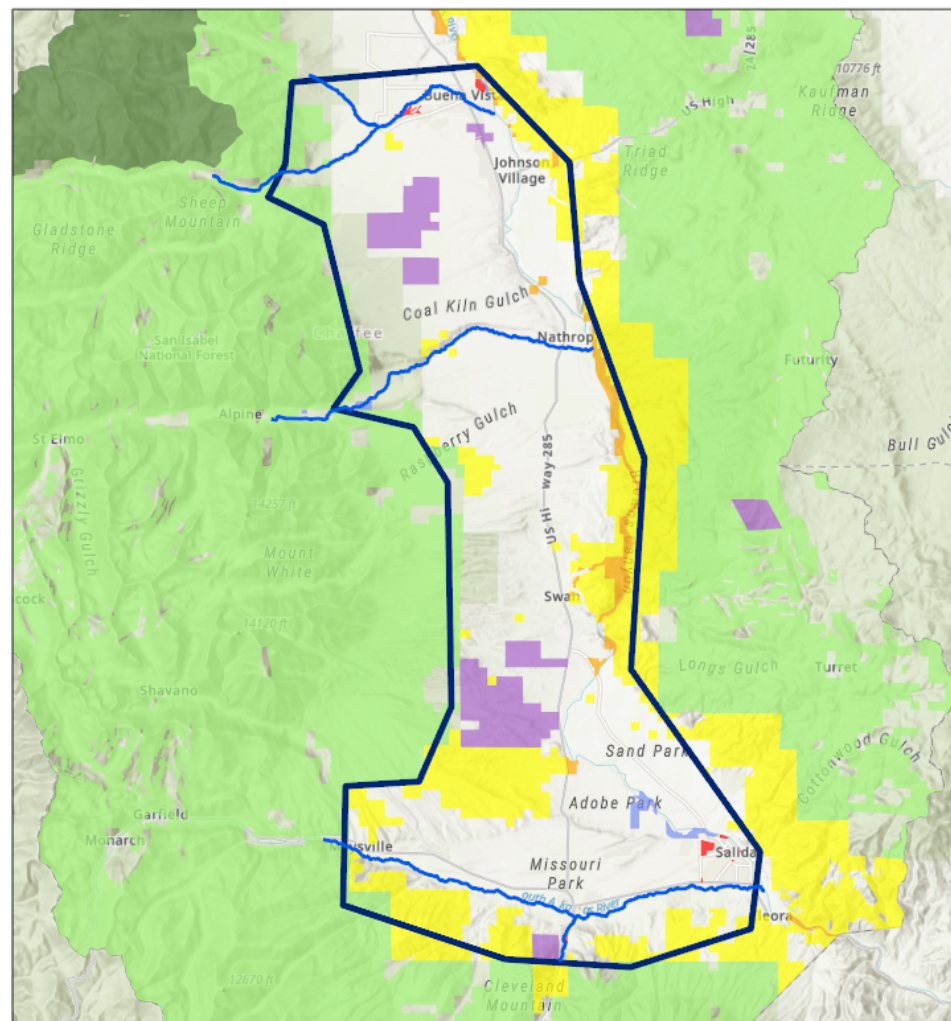
\$/Unit	Total Cost	Est. Start Date	Est. End Date	Funding Source
		1-May-21	1-Jul-22	
\$30/hr.	\$3,000			CWCB Water Plan Grant
\$45/day	\$1,800			CWCB Water Plan Grant
\$20/hr.	\$1,200			CWCB Water Plan Grant
\$300.00	\$1,500			CWCB Water Plan Grant & Partner funds
	\$500			CWCB Water Plan Grant
	\$8,000			
		1-May-21	1-Feb-22	
\$30/hr.	\$900			CWCB Water Plan Grant
\$30/hr.	\$3,750			CWCB Water Plan Grant
\$20/hr.	\$2,500			CWCB Water Plan Grant
\$0.58/mi.	\$1,000			CWCB Water Plan Grant
\$1,500	\$3,000			CWCB Water Plan Grant
	\$11,150			
		1-Dec-21	1-Apr-22	
\$30/hr.	\$1,800			CWCB Water Plan Grant
\$75/hr.	\$1,575			CWCB Water Plan Grant
	\$3,375			
		1-Apr-22	15-Oct-22	
\$45/day	\$675			CWCB Water Plan Grant
\$30/hr.	\$1,800			CWCB Water Plan Grant

	\$25,000			Chaffee County Common Ground + Additional Matching Funds as Available
	\$27,475			
	\$50,000			
	\$2,500.0			
	\$52,500.0			

All meeting costs will meet CWCB expense guidelines - matching funds may be used to cover costs th

at are not allowed under exisitng CWCB guidelines.

UAWP CWCB Project Map



November 3, 2020



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatasynthesen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community. Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Standards and Support Team, wetlands_team@fws.gov | Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land

PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Project Title: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan – Phase 1: Stakeholder Engagement, Needs Assessment, and Riparian/Floodplain Condition

Project Location: The project focuses on the primary tributaries and mainstem of the Arkansas River as it flows south from Buena Vista to Salida within Chaffee County, Colorado. These tributaries include: the South Arkansas River (Maysville, CO to Salida, CO); Chalk Creek (Chalk Lake to Nathrop, CO); and Cottonwood Creek (USFS Boundary to Town of Buena Vista, CO). The mainstem of the Arkansas River from Buena Vista to Salida is already included in a handful of cooperative management plans (Voluntary Flow Management Program – UAWCD; Browns Canyon National Monument Management Plan – BLM; and the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Management Plan). Therefore, the primary focus of Phase 1 will be on the major tributaries listed above, as well as agricultural lands and urban areas that are not covered in the current cooperative management plans.

Grant Type: Stream Management Plan Grant, under the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program

Grant Request/Amount: \$99,000.00

Cash Match Funding: \$77,500.00 (Water Plan Grant: \$27,500; UAWP funds: \$50,000)

In-Kind Match Funding: \$35,000.00

Project Sponsor(s): Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership (UAWP), Upper Arkansas Conservation District (UACD, Fiscal Agent), Central Colorado Conservancy (CCC), Trout Unlimited (TU)

Contact Person: Natalie Allio, UACD District Manager, natalie@centralcoloradoconservancy.org

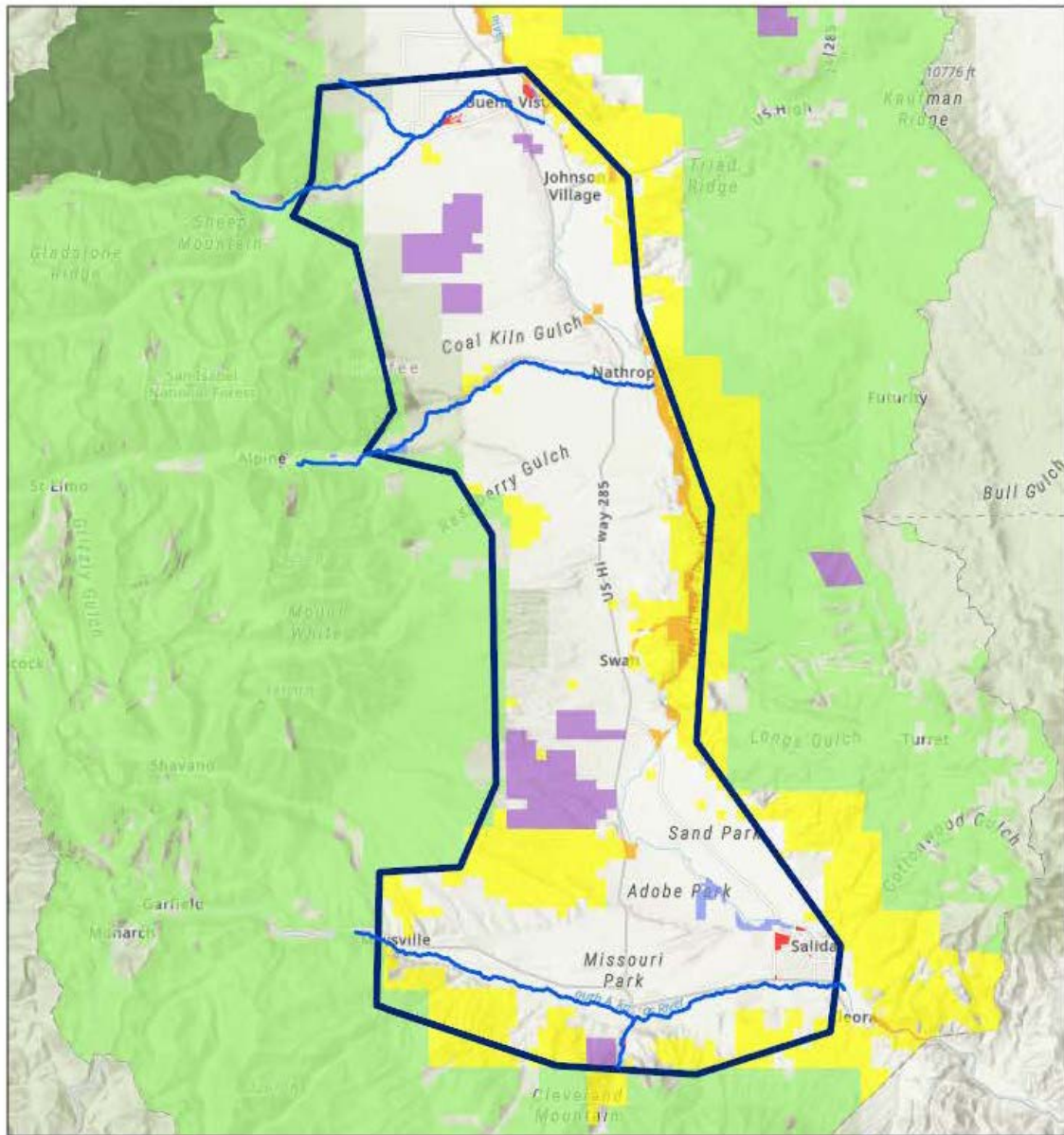
Brief Description of the Project:

This project will enhance collaboration and project development within the Upper Arkansas Basin in Chaffee County, CO to build long-term watershed resilience. Phase 1 will build on pre-planning work developed with support from River Network that began in May 2020. The UAWP intends to leverage preliminary stakeholder surveys, local resource management plans, and partner collaboration to protect and enhance water quality and quantity in the Upper Arkansas Basin. The primary objectives of Phase 1 of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan are to:

Objective 1	Increase community understanding of diverse water uses and issues in the Basin and leverage local expertise to solve important watershed health and water user challenges.
Objective 2	Combine and assess existing studies and plans related to ecosystem health, hydrology, geomorphology, wetland/riparian condition, water use, biology, and land use planning.
Objective 3	Assess existing riparian/floodplain condition and identify strategies for increased protection and enhancement to mitigate potential impacts associated with flooding and urban development.
Objective 4	Provide support for agricultural producers and water users to protect their water rights and identify multi-beneficial opportunities related to storage, conveyance, and application to mitigate impacts of drought, wildfire, and urban development.

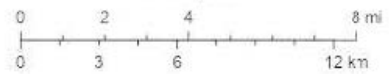
PROJECT MAP – PHASE 1

UAWP CWCB Project Map



November 3, 2020

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PROJECT PROPOSAL

Basic Applicant Qualifications Evaluation (Maximum 20 Points)

Project Lead Sponsor and Stakeholder Participation & Involvement (10 Points)

The Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan (UAWRP) is being developed by several organizations working together under the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership (UAWP). The UAWP is a newly-formed partnership dedicated to fostering greater collaboration among agencies, organizations, government, and landowners in the upper Arkansas Basin to build a healthy and resilient watershed. Founded in 2020 by members of the Upper Arkansas Conservation District, Central Colorado Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, the group has been engaging diverse stakeholders within Chaffee County to: (1) protect water quality and quantity; (2) support agricultural operators with protection of water rights and improvement of irrigation infrastructure; (3) provide community education about the value of the watershed and ecosystem functions; (4) build watershed resilience to drought, fire, and flooding; and (5) maintain and restore the health of the Arkansas River, tributaries, and wildlife habitat.

In May 2020, the UAWP began a pre-planning initiative supported by River Network and Del Corazon Consulting. In that process, the group utilized a series of partner interviews, detailed issue surveys to over forty major water stakeholders within Chaffee County, and stakeholder meetings. The results of this process highlighted a strong willingness among water users and stakeholders in the community to collaboratively leverage local expertise and funding to address critical issues such as:

- Development pressure and land use planning
- Threats from wildfire and flooding
- Water quality and quantity
- Fragmentation and degradation of riparian and stream habitat
- Threats to water rights and water distribution infrastructure

A summary of the survey results and initial stakeholder list is included in Appendix B.

The UAWP will continue to meet regularly throughout the grant period to execute the tasks described in the scope of work and ensure that diverse stakeholders are engaged throughout the process in order to leverage local relationships, technical knowledge and funding sources. The UAWP Core Leadership Team will manage the planning process and grant deliverables. The UAWP will also utilize a series of technical committees to coordinate objectives and tasks – thereby increasing stakeholder engagement and support of the community-led process.

Summary of In-Kind Services and Cash Contributions (match) (10 points)

Cash match for this grant proposal will be provided by the Central Colorado Conservancy (\$20,000), Colorado Trout Unlimited (\$3,000), Collegiate Peaks Chapter of TU (\$2,000) - all in-hand. The UAWP will also seek to leverage cash funding from the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program (\$25,000) and Chaffee County Common Ground grant program (\$25,000) to support the agricultural needs assessment (Task 5).

In-kind staff time from the core leadership team includes: UACD (\$6,000), CCC (\$5,800), CTU (\$17,500), Del Corazon Consulting (\$5,000). Other volunteer and stakeholder time will support Task 2 and 3 (meetings, events, review of studies, basic field work, technical committees, etc.).

Organizational Capability (Maximum of 30 Points)

Organizational History of Accomplishments in the Watershed (10 Points)

While the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership is a relatively new community process, the core leadership team and stakeholders within the organization have a strong history of successful collaboration within the watershed.

Upper Arkansas Conservation District: The Upper Arkansas Conservation District is one of 76 districts in the state of Colorado. The Districts were formed to provide a legal entity to organize local landowners to voluntarily control soil erosion and manage natural resources such as soil, water, wildlife, and plants. For over 50 years, the Upper Arkansas Conservation District has cooperated with individuals, ditch companies, local, county, state and federal agencies/government departments to address natural resource concerns. The Upper Arkansas Conservation District serves landowners within district boundaries (covering approximately 670,000 acres) by developing and implementing collaborative programs for conservation and stewardship of natural resources through education and outreach, assistance with farm/ranch management, and securing cost-share funding to address landowner natural resource concerns.

Central Colorado Conservancy: Central Colorado Conservancy (CCC) is a 501c3 that has been operating in the Upper Arkansas Valley since 2001. The mission of CCC is to protect the lands, waters, and quality of life in Central Colorado as communities face rapid growth. In addition to protecting over 5,000 acres of land through conservation easements, the organization is actively engaged in watershed health. For several years, CCC has partnered with private landowners on the South Arkansas River to implement projects that improve water quality and fish habitat. Along with Trout Unlimited, CCC conducted the first watershed assessment of the South Arkansas River in 2010 and has since worked with multiple landowners providing resources, expertise, funding and volunteers to restore 2,500 feet of the river.

Trout Unlimited: Trout Unlimited is committed to protecting, restoring, and conserving cold-water fisheries throughout Colorado, and represents over 12,000 members across the state - including over 300 in the Upper Arkansas Valley. TU project staff and local volunteers have worked together for over 50 years in Colorado to develop and implement projects that provide for healthier watersheds. In the Upper Arkansas Basin, TU has been heavily active in collaborative projects to: mitigate impacts from abandoned mines, support recreation and river health through the Voluntary Flow Management Program, enhance the health and resiliency of the South Arkansas River, and reduce wildfire impacts.

Del Corazón Consulting: Marjo Curgus is the principal of Del Corazón Consulting. For over 20 years, Marjo has worked to foster stronger leaders because she believes the most durable solutions happen when communities can come together to care for their own social, economic, and natural assets. As a skilled facilitator, Marjo has led the startup of natural resource collaboratives, co-designed the Growing Water Smart workshop for the Sonoran Institute, developed natural resource management resource guides, completed dozens of comprehensive plans, and facilitated 4 years of annual work planning for a \$25M USAID project in Nepal working to establish watershed management and adopt integrated water management planning into national policy. As co-chair of the County Planning Commission, Marjo has been instrumental in the public participation and management of the 2020 Chaffee County Comprehensive Plan update.

Level of Staff Involvement Dedicated to the Project & Staff Resumes (10 Points)

The Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan will be managed by a core leadership team consisting of professional staff from the Upper Arkansas Conservation District (.4 FTE) the Central Colorado

Conservancy (.25 PTE) and Colorado Trout Unlimited (up to .25FTE). Additional project support will be provided by Del Corazon Consulting (see resume above).

Natalie Allio, District Manager, Upper Arkansas Conservation District

Natalie is District Manager for Upper Arkansas Conservation District having previously served as Board member/District Supervisor for 2 years. She is also the Agriculture Program Manager for Central Colorado Conservancy. She holds a Master's degree in Ecopsychology and Collaborative Solutions in Natural Resources. Natalie has an extensive background in agriculture as a ranch owner/operator focusing on education, conservation, and integrating adaptive management practices to improve soil health and water quality and quantity.

Nancy Roberts, Rancher and Board President, Upper Arkansas Conservation District

Nancy is currently the board president of the Upper Arkansas Conservation District. She has served as a board member/District Supervisor for 6 years. She is a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines and has over 35 years of experience as a practicing engineer. She is owner/operator of Arrowpoint Cattle Company and has been ranching for 21 years using wholistic practices for improving land and soil health.

Buffy Lenth, Watershed Restoration Specialist, Central Colorado Conservancy

Buffy has served for four years as the Watershed Restoration Specialist at Central Colorado Conservancy. She coordinates the Arkansas Headwaters Wetland Focus Area Committee and the Badger Creek Watershed Partnership. She holds a BS in Conservation Biology from Middlebury College and a Master's degree in Ecology from Colorado State University.

Dan Omasta, Project Manager, Colorado Trout Unlimited

Dan Omasta has been a project manager with Colorado Trout Unlimited for four years and is currently involved with leadership teams on the Blue River IWMP and Upper Gunnison Watershed Management Plan. Dan is completing his certification with the Colorado Water Leaders Program and is an active participant in the statewide SMP coordinator network (River Network). Dan holds a BA in Political Science focused on Environmental Policy and Natural resources from the University of Colorado.

Demonstration of Project Budget and Timeline are Accurate (10 Points)

The project scope, budget, and timeline were developed through a collaborative process with key stakeholders and subject-matter experts. Scoping was also enhanced by working with the River Network and other stream management plan leaders across the state through the initial pre-planning work, thereby enabling UAWP to develop realistic project objectives, timelines, and budget estimates.

The scope of work is centered around partnership development and collaboration (Tasks 1 & 2), which will provide enhanced support and cooperation among stakeholders to meet project goals in Tasks 3, 4, 5, and 6. Initial budget estimates for fluvial hazard mapping and riparian condition assessments (Task 3 & 4) were developed based on guidance from the CWCB Fluvial Hazard Mapping website, Round River Design, EcoMetrics, and work completed as part the South Arkansas River Restoration Planning Project (SARRP) (1.2 miles). The UAWP plans to build on the work completed during the prior SARRP project.

The UAWP understands that Tasks 4 and 5 require significant stakeholder support and relationship-building and have designed the scope of work to remain fluid throughout the 18-month project timeline to account for varied availability (i.e. agricultural producers only have certain availability during irrigation season). As work is completed in Tasks 4 and 5 depending on stakeholder and consultant availability, Tasks 1, 2, 3 and 6 can continue to proceed throughout the timeline.

Proposal Effectiveness (50 Points)

Supporting Information to Develop Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan (10 Points)

Phase 1 of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan was developed through a series of stakeholder interviews and partner surveys (Appendix B). As part of the pre-planning process, the UAWP also collected reports and studies from various partners. A list of the initial studies and plans that helped to inform the focus of Phase 1 is included in Appendix C.

It is important to note that the watershed resiliency plan and UAWP are focused on enhancing collaboration and building on existing efforts – not duplicating processes. Therefore, a primary objective of this plan is to help partners identify mutually-beneficial projects and leverage funding at scale to most efficiently and effectively enhance the health and resilience of the Upper Arkansas Watershed.

Discussion of Multiple Objectives Within Project Scope and Watershed (30 Points)

The primary objectives of Phase 1 of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan are to:

Objective 1	Increase community understanding of diverse water uses and issues in the Basin and leverage local expertise to solve important watershed health and water user challenges.
Objective 2	Combine and assess existing studies and plans related to ecosystem health, hydrology, geomorphology, wetland/riparian condition, water use, biology, and land use planning.
Objective 3	Assess existing riparian/floodplain condition and identify strategies for increased protection and enhancement to mitigate potential impacts associated with flooding and urban development.
Objective 4	Provide support for agricultural producers and water users to protect their water rights and identify multi-beneficial opportunities related to storage, conveyance, and application to mitigate impacts of drought, wildfire, and urban development.

There are numerous organizations and governments within Chaffee County that are working on various water-related projects, however, much of that work is disconnected with similar efforts by other groups. Objective 1 attempts to reduce this silo effect and focuses heavily on community education and stakeholder engagement. The Watershed Resiliency Plan, driven by the UAWP, will provide opportunities for partners to highlight their efforts in the basin and identify collaborative opportunities.

Objectives 2 and 3 will also help to reduce the silo problem, as well as provide a science-based assessment of current watershed health within the project area by integrating and analyzing existing studies and plans. This process will build on existing efforts such as Envision Chaffee County, the Chaffee County Comprehensive Plan Update, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and upcoming County Hazard Mitigation Plan update (2021). Objective 3 will help inform future land use planning strategies through the development of maps that highlight fluvial hazard zones, active floodplains, and riparian extent. This data and corresponding funding will also support Chaffee County Office of Emergency Management in their impending application to FEMA for hazard mitigation funding in 2021. The UAWP will work in partnership with the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative to support continued wildfire mitigation and watershed health objectives as part of their work plan in 2021-22.

Objective 4 will support the agricultural community in the development of preliminary needs assessments and maps that will help coalition partners and landowners identify future opportunities to protect water rights and infrastructure, improve irrigation efficiencies, and maintain working lands. In addition to supporting agricultural producers, Objective 4 will provide opportunities to enhance riparian habitat and protect open space that can serve as important deposition zones during future flood events.

Proposed Monitoring and Implementation Plan (10 Points)

The UAWRP objectives will be completed through the implementation of (6) key tasks:

Task 1: Project Management will be implemented with the support of the UAWP core team. Actions include holding routine meetings, reporting, budgeting, and communications with stakeholders.

Task 2: Stakeholder Collaboration & Community Engagement will be supported by the UAWP core team and professional facilitator (Del Corazon Consulting). The group will work together to finalize the stakeholder engagement plan, host regular stakeholder meetings, and manage technical committees within the UAWP structure. Stakeholders and technical committees will be utilized to support tasks 3, 4, 5, and 6 as the project progresses.

Task 3: Preliminary Assessment of Studies and Plans & Gap Analysis will be led by the UAWP core team with support from the stakeholder technical committees and project consultants. This collective team will compile and assess relevant data related to the objectives of the watershed plan and identify key assessment priorities for Task 4. Part of Task 3 will also include the integration of data into a stream assessment framework that will be managed by a project consultant and inform Task 4.

Task 4: Riparian/Floodplain Condition Assessment and Fluvial Hazard Mapping will be primarily managed by project consultants with expertise in stream/riparian assessment and fluvial hazard mapping. This task will also include working closely with stakeholders (i.e. Chaffee County) to collaborate on the development of maps and other products that can inform ongoing planning processes. Assessment and monitoring work will also be supported by in-kind staff and volunteers who have experience in stream assessment. Funding will be allocated to stream reaches prioritized in Task 3 to ensure successful completion of the project, while additional funds developed during the project may be used to provide additional assessment work in areas receiving less priority. Leveraging riparian/stream assessment work (channel structure, riparian cover, etc.) in Task 3 will help inform the FHZ mapping in Task 4 – thereby leveraging consultant time and resources.

Task 5: Agricultural Needs Assessment & Coordination will be supported by the UAWP core team and 1-2 part time local agricultural coordinators (paid). These coordinators will be responsible for meeting with landowners, conducting site visits, compiling survey data, and hosting trainings/workshops. Field assessments and inventory forms will be developed based on examples from other basins, as well as key issues identified by the UAWP agriculture technical committee. Since the primary goal of this initial needs assessment is general identification of issues, infrastructure needs, etc., there will not be a need for technical engineering work as part of this task. Engineering assessments will be included in Phase 2.

Task 6: Develop Final Work Plan for Phase 2 will be managed by the UAWP core team and Del Corazon Consulting. The UAWP will solicit feedback from technical committees related to deliverables from Tasks 2-5 in order to establish future priorities. The UAWP will work with consultants and stakeholders to scope out future project technical needs, costs, and timelines for Phase 2. The Phase 2 work plan will be approved by the UAWP stakeholder group and provide the basis for future funding applications.

APPENDIX A

SCOPE OF WORK

GRANTEE and FISCAL AGENT: Upper Arkansas Conservation District

PRIMARY CONTACT: Natalie Allio, District Manager, Upper Arkansas Conservation District

ADDRESS: 5575 Cleora Road, Salida, CO 81202

PHONE: 719-626-3170

PROJECT NAME: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan - Phase 1: Stakeholder Engagement, Needs Assessment, and Riparian/Floodplain Condition

GRANT AMOUNT: \$99,000.00

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND (half page)

Chaffee County comprises several rural communities in central Colorado and is known for its long-standing agricultural history and access to recreational opportunities. Eighty-three percent (83%) of land in the county is public - including heavily visited areas like Browns Canyon National Monument and the Collegiate Peak Wilderness. In addition to tourism, agriculture is a key component of the community, representing over 25% of the remaining land (16,464 irrigated acres). By 2035, the population within the county is expected to increase by 33%, which will result in development of limited open space and continued encroachment on riparian corridors and floodplains. The county is also experiencing significant wildfire risks (80-90% of spruce tree mortality) and drought-related impacts.

After the recent Hayden Pass and Decker fires scorched their paths through nearby watersheds, various organizations within Chaffee County have spearheaded efforts to mitigate impacts from these types of catastrophic events. The Watershed Resiliency Plan is designed to build on these plans by integrating floodplain and riparian condition to create a more holistic path towards watershed resiliency. This is a critical step, as the City of Salida and Town of Buena Vista are at medium-high risk of flooding.

The Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership (UAWP) was formed in 2020 to enhance collaboration among diverse stakeholders in the County to build a healthier and more resilient watershed. Building on a robust stakeholder interview process, the UAWP is developing an Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan that will increase collaboration and community understanding of diverse water issues, develop mutually-beneficial projects, and leverage local, state, and federal funding to enhance watershed health in the Upper Arkansas Basin.

OBJECTIVES

Beginning in May 2020, the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership engaged diverse water users and key stakeholders in a collaborative process to identify existing and future watershed priorities. As a result of that process, UAWP partners expressed significant support for a community-driven plan that will bring different stakeholders together in order to enhance project cooperation and focus on overlapping issues. The Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan is being developed to fulfill that need and to provide diverse water users with that data and funding needed to improve and protect watershed resources.

The primary objectives of Phase 1 of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan are to:

1. Increase community understanding of diverse water uses and issues in the Basin and leverage local expertise to solve important watershed health and water user challenges.
2. Combine and assess existing studies and data related to ecosystem health, hydrology, geomorphology, wetland/riparian condition, water use, storage, and land use planning.
3. Assess existing riparian/floodplain condition and identify strategies for increased protection and enhancement to mitigate potential impacts associated with flooding and urban development.
4. Provide support for agricultural producers and water users to protect their water rights and identify multi-beneficial opportunities related to storage, conveyance, and application to mitigate impacts of drought, wildfire, and urban development.

The UAWP and its core leadership team, representing diverse interests across the Valley, will work towards the stated objectives through a collaborative and strategic approach.

TASKS

The UAWP Stream Management Plan Phase 1 project will be conducted through (6) primary tasks:

Task 1 – Project Management and Coordination

Description of Task

This task will support the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership (UAWP) and the development of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan - Phase 1 project. The Central Colorado Conservancy (CCC), Upper Arkansas Conservation District (UACD), and Trout Unlimited (TU) will utilize professional staff to provide oversight needs of the Project, specifically: project tracking and management, stakeholder coordination, budgeting, contract management, grant-writing, and reporting.

Method/Procedure

- Monthly project check-in meetings with UAWP, CCC, UACD, TU and other core partners
- Compile monthly consultant invoices; track project budget, deliverables, and schedule and document in monthly progress reports (includes tracking of in-kind hours and cash match).
- Develop and submit required CWCB 6-month progress reports; final report

Deliverables

- 6-month progress reports
- Regular invoices

Task 2 – Stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Description of Task

The UAWP will update and execute its Stakeholder Engagement Plan that was originally developed during the pre-planning phase of the project. The overarching goals of this task are to: 1) convene watershed stakeholders in peer-to-peer learning and coordination events that facilitate better understanding and collaboration around projects in the Valley; 2) increase community participation and understanding of complex water issues in the Basin; 3) establish working groups of subject-matter experts within the UAWP to facilitate collaboration and problem-solving related to water issues in the Valley.

Methods/Procedure

- Utilize a professional facilitator to guide the final development and execution of the UAWP Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- Host regular UAWP stakeholder meetings, community engagement activities, and learning/collaboration events (average of at least 1 meeting/event every two months).

- Establish topic-specific work groups within UAWP to engage subject-matter experts in issue identification, problem-solving, and collaboration. These groups will also add to the efficiency of the organization and Phase 1 Project by spreading the workload and creating public buy-in.
- Develop surveys to guide the focus of water education programming and track effectiveness over time.
- Create and maintain a UAWP website that will provide information to the public and house relevant water-related studies and local plans.

Deliverables

- Formalized stakeholder/partner list and organizational structure (work groups, revolving core leadership team, etc.)
- List of priority issues and studies created by the workgroups that will inform work in Tasks 3 & 4.
- Survey results
- Materials developed during peer learning sessions and community engagement events
- Meeting minutes
- UAWP website

Task 3 – Preliminary Assessment of Studies and Plans, Gap Analysis

Description of Task

The UAWP will build on Task 2, utilizing a combination of professional services and stakeholder workgroups to conduct a preliminary assessment of all relevant ecological, agricultural, municipal, recreational, and forest health/wildfire risk studies to: 1) determine current status; 2) identify gaps in knowledge that can be filled in Phase 2; and 3) identify opportunities for enhanced collaboration and/or cooperative funding. The analysis of current studies will also help inform the prioritization of a stream assessment framework and FHZ mapping completed in Task 4.

Methods/Procedure

- Utilize UAWP workgroups to identify and summarize existing data and priorities relevant to their area of focus (agriculture, land use, environment, recreation, etc.)
- Identify priority reaches for further data gathering and stream health assessment.
- Develop RFP and hire consultant to combine existing data into recommended stream assessment framework (i.e. COSHAF, FACStream, etc.).
- Identify gaps in data or areas that need “ground-truthing”. Conduct desktop surveys (EPA tier 1) or rapid field assessments (EPA tier 2) to fill in prioritized data gaps to complete preliminary stream health assessment framework.
- Present stream/riparian health assessment framework and prioritized list of community plan objectives to the UAWP workgroups and larger stakeholder group for feedback.

Deliverables

- Compilation of existing studies and plans (located on UAWP website)
- Prioritized list of overlapping community plan objectives and data gaps
- Stream health assessment framework on prioritized stream reaches and tributaries within project area (est. 20-35 tributary stream miles depending on priority and available data).
- Identified project opportunities and data needs for Phase 2.

Task 4 – Riparian/Floodplain Condition Assessment and Fluvial Hazard Mapping

Description of Task

This task will build on current collaborative processes within the County to assess the extent, condition, and enhancement opportunities of riparian areas and floodplains within the project scope. Existing local partnership opportunities include: Chaffee County Community Wildfire Protection Plan; 2020 Chaffee

County Comprehensive Plan Update (land use planning); and 2021 update of the Chaffee County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The UAWP will continue to build relationships with stakeholders leading these initiatives to leverage CWCB grant funds and local expertise in order to: 1) assess current function and extent of riparian areas (supported by Task 3); 2) identify critical floodplains and deposition zones; 3) support strategies to protect, reconnect, and enhance areas that contribute to ecological function and flood mitigation.

The initial focus of Phase 1 (Task 4) will be in the valley bottom areas that start below USFS public land boundaries (steeper gradient, constrained valleys) and extend to the Arkansas River mainstem (est. 40 miles of primary tributary streams).

Methods/Procedure

- Continue to build collaborative partnerships with planning agencies and local landowners to leverage resources and access private property for initial assessments.
- Work with local experts, partners, and landowners to prioritize assessment reaches and tributaries.
- Utilize a combination of desktop assessments (tier 1) and rapid assessments (tier 2, priority areas) to develop map and initial condition assessment of riparian areas on major tributaries. This work will help inform and leverage work completed in Task 3.
- Partner with local planning agencies (i.e. Chaffee County Office of Emergency Management) and experts (hired contractor) to support assessment of floodplain areas and fluvial hazard zones by utilizing a combination of fluvial hazard mapping, FEMA hazard/floodplain maps, and associated background research.

Deliverables

- Development of prioritized stream reaches for fluvial hazard mapping.
- Maps of fluvial hazard zones, active floodplains, riparian corridors, and identification of potential project opportunities. These maps are intended to be used as information layers and will not be prescriptive.
- Identified project opportunities for Phase 2.
- Report that identifies procedure to combine FHZ mapping with riparian/stream habitat analysis that can be utilized by the CWCB and other communities to perform similar work in the future and build on “lessons learned”.

Task 5 – Agricultural Needs Assessment & Coordination

Description of Task

The UAWP will build on efforts from the pre-planning phase to better understand and support the issues and priorities of agricultural producers and large landowners in the County. The primary goals of this task will be to: 1) strengthen relationships with local agricultural water users; 2) better understand the critical issues and priorities of agricultural producers and large landowners; 3) identify mutually beneficial projects that can address those issues; and 4) provide support for agricultural water users through education and protection of existing water rights.

Information developed in this process will also help inform conversations at the basin and state level regarding supply, abandonment, infrastructure, augmentation, and development.

Methods/Procedure

- Conduct educational workshops lead by subject-matter experts that address the interests and concerns of local producers and water users (i.e. CDSS, stream management planning, demonstration projects and site visits, Ag Water NetWORK trainings, etc.)
- Continue to engage and present at agricultural user group meetings (local Stock Growers Association, Upper Arkansas Conservation District Board, Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District, etc.)
- Hire 1-2 part-time local coordinators to meet with producers and landowners to conduct field visits, needs assessments, trainings/workshops, and report to the UAWP project team.
- Establish data collection protocol and develop needs assessment questionnaire utilizing existing examples from other basins. Conduct (40) needs assessment interviews with local producers to identify individual issues, priorities, and project needs. Assessments may include issues related to: timing of flows, headgates, infrastructure needs, seepage or loss, total irrigated acreage, update of CDSS information, etc.
- Develop a summary report of interviews and needs assessments (including map outlining key issues/needs on a spatial scale). Identify project opportunities for Phase 2.

Deliverables

- Final report of identified key issues and priorities from local agricultural producers and large landowners.
- Map demonstrating spatial distribution of issues.
- List of project opportunities for Phase 2 and additional funding resources.

Task 6 – Develop Final Work Plan for Phase 2

Description of Task

The UAWP project team and stakeholders will develop a proposed work plan for Phase 2 of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan in order to build on the various assessments and stakeholder engagement from Phase 1. This process will be completed by October 2022 in order to provide sufficient time for application to the Colorado Water Conservation Board and other project funders.

Methods/Procedure

- Work with stakeholder groups and project partners to analyze assessments and reports from Phase 1 tasks to identify stakeholder priorities, data gaps, and project opportunities.
- Develop work plan for Phase 2 based on prioritization of projects and stream reaches.
- Consult with subject-matter experts to assess scope, cost, and projects needed to address priority areas.

Deliverables

- Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan Phase 2 work plan.

REPORTING & FINAL DELIVERABLE

Reporting: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of the executed contract. The progress report shall describe the completion or partial completion 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 Deliverable: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how the project was completed. This report may contain photographs, summaries of meetings, maps, assessment reports, and stakeholder engagement materials.

BUDGET & TIMELINE

Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan- Phase 1 Timeline & Budget

Task	Description	Target Start Date	Target Completion Date	CWCB WRG Funds	CWCB WPG Funds	Cash	Other Funding In-Kind	Total
1	Project Management & Coordination	1-May-21	1-Nov-22	\$15,000		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$55,000
2	Stakeholder Collaboration & Community Engagement	1-May-21	15-Oct-22	\$15,000		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
3	Preliminary Assessment of Studies and Plans, Gap Analysis	1-May-21	1-Jul-22	\$10,000			\$5,000	\$15,000
4	Riparian/Floodplain Condition Assessment & FHZ Mapping	1-Jun-21	1-Jun-22	\$50,000				\$50,000
5	Agricultural Needs Assessment & Collaboration	1-May-21	1-Feb-22		\$25,000	\$25,000		\$50,000
6	Development of Phase 2 Plan	1-Aug-22	15-Oct-22				\$5,000	\$5,000
	Sub-Totals			\$90,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$35,000	\$200,000
	UACD 10% Administration Fee			\$9,000	\$2,500			\$11,500
	Project Total			\$99,000.00	\$27,500.00	\$50,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$211,500.00

Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership October 2020 Survey Results

A. WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY

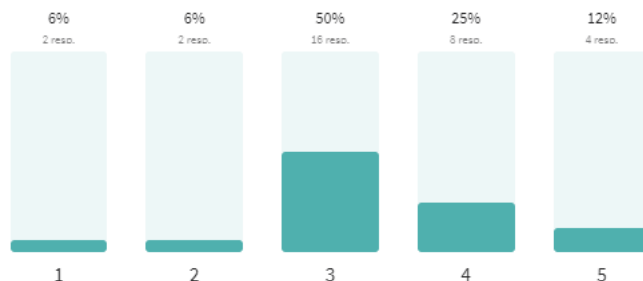
The purpose of the survey was to assess the interest in a watershed partnership focused on enhancing collaboration, project alignment, learning and knowledge exchange, and focus. The survey response rate was 68% with 32 responses. The respondents are representative of the following fields:

Field	Percent of Respondents
1. Government agency (local, state, federal)	59%
2. Land use planning	50%
3. Watershed Restoration - Riparian	40%
4. Agricultural Irrigation	37%
5. Water Supply	31%
6. Watershed Restoration - Terrestrial	28%
7. Wildlife and Habitat Management	25%
8. Recreation Management	25%
9. Fundraising and Grant Writing	21%
10. Soil and Range Management	21%
11. Forestry	18%
12. Climate Mitigation and Adaptation	15%

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being not well informed to 5 being expert level knowledge, how would you rate your level of knowledge about the watershed health issues facing the Upper Arkansas watershed?

32 out of 32 answered

3.3 Average rating



B. PRIORITY ISSUES IN OUR WATERSHED

What do you think these are the 3 most critical issues?

Issue	Percent of Respondents
1. Development pressure/land use change	50%
2. Wildlife fire threats	43%
3. Water quantity	34%
4. Fragmentation and destruction of habitat	31%
5. Degradation of the stream/river corridor	28%
Forest health	28%
Recreational pressure	28%
Water quality	25%
6. Threats to water rights	15%
Water distribution infrastructure (condition/capacity)	15%

Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership October 2020 Survey Results

Why do you think these are the 3 most critical issues?

Responses	
Forest Health and Wildfire Risks <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest health relates to susceptibility to wildfire which in turn may affect watershed health and source water quality. 2. Wildfire is a major risk to water quality and quantity. It threatens to contribute pollution to fragile riverine ecosystems, damage property, and reduce the capacity of water providers to adequately utilize infrastructure. 3. They are watershed health issues that have primary affect on all other issues 4. Our water infrastructure is designed to work in the context of a healthy forest. Forest health, wildfire mitigation, and water infrastructure functionality are all inter-related. 5. Forest health 6. Forest Health and Wildfire threat can have major impacts on our future water quality 7. Severe wildfire and overall forest health 8. These issues have cascading affects that impact other categories (such as water quality and quantity and aquatic species health). Forest health and wildfire have obvious downstream affects, but the scale is huge. 9. In the west we are seeing the devastation of wildfires increasing. This invariably will impact the water quality of potable water sources. 	Land Use Development <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The influx of people is influencing land use patterns. 2. urban development 3. Urban Exodus 4. Development 5. I actually think development and degradation are tied for my third choice, but that wasn't an option, so I'm adding it here. 6. Development pressure and how this affects wildfire and land uses. 7. Land Use Growth is changing quickly and we need to know how to respond before community is built out. It can also affect environmental considerations. 8. Increased urbanization is impacting water quantity. 9. Because our valley is quickly being over run with development
Recreation Pressure <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. recreation impacts 2. There is a significant increase in recreation pressure and associated user impacts. The popularity of outdoor recreation and proximity to the Front Range have contributed to major increases in development and human pressure on wildlife and the environment. 3. increased recreational use 4. This coupled with increased recreation pressure and increased population growth in the upper ark puts significant strain on the water resources of the region. 5. recreation growth 	All Is Interconnected <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All contribute to the declining condition of our watershed ecosystems. 2. It was difficult to choose 3. The ones I chose were the ones that seemed like the cornerstones of ecosystem health. 3. Largest scale of potential negative impacts to values at risk 4. Necessary in order to maintain the quality and experience so many seek here. 5. These are the more 'root' issues that will feed into the others, for the most part.
Riparian/River Corridor <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Misuse of river corridors 2. Water depletion and augmentation into stream channels causing stream health issues. 3. Degradation of river and wetland ecosystems in the headwater areas has been a major issue in the Valley. 4. Colorado has lost 50% of its wetlands and riparian areas. These are nature's system for filtering, storing, and conserving fresh water. Much of our forest is standing dead. We need to build our resilience to fire, flooding, and drought by protecting and restoring our 'green infrastructure' or natural riparian areas and wetlands. 	Climate Change <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Change 2. Climate Change 3. climate change 4. All of these issues listed are pressing, and most are interrelated. Forest health issues and degradation of forest, land and waterways (habitat), as related to climate change and increasing human impacts seem to be the overall concerns under which most of the others fall.
Water Supply <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Population growth in Colorado is the most pressing issue to water throughout the state but it impacts the Upper Ark more directly due to the infrastructure and markets that are already in place to move that water to the front range. 	Agricultural Water Rights <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water is over allocated already, once it is gone from agriculture, it won't come back 2. RMFU represents farmers and ranchers, and these are the most relevant issues for us Mining

Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership October 2020 Survey Results

<p>2. First critical issue is storage. Without storage you are not able to capture the excess water that you will need to utilize in dryer times. Storage lets you have the ability to maintain stream flows and provide water to prevent injuring water rights downstream. Updating and maintaining water distribution infrastructure ensures the water can get to where it is needed. Water is a scarce and valuable resource so the protection of, and increasing the beneficial use of water rights is very important.</p> <p>3. We have an evolving and expanding set of demands on our local water supply in addition to macro pressures from larger entities (Front Range, California, etc.). We need to make sure we work together in the County to build up our water supply and rights.</p>	<p>1. Hardrock mining</p> <p>2. The mining history</p> <p>Wastewater/Nonpoint Source Pollution</p> <p>1. proliferation of septic systems</p> <p>Stormwater Management</p> <p>1. Chaffee County is woefully far behind on stormwater management, and there doesn't seem to be a lot of political will to work on it (examples and technology exist, it's just getting them done here).</p> <p>Habitat</p> <p>1. Habitat health will direct efforts towards holistic and comprehensive watershed protection.</p>
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Thinking about the future and watershed management, if you had \$500K to spend for addressing a major watershed health issue, how would you spend it?

Responses	
<p>Wildlife Mitigation/Forest Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest restoration • Wildfire mitigation • fund thinning projects in high-priority areas • forest thinning • Treatment projects to decrease the risk of severe wildfire - a severe wildfire fire trumps all other major impacts. • I would look at addressing the burn scars, and waterways withing them. • Remove beetle kill; grant funds to increase defensible space around residences; reforestation of burned watersheds • Clear debris and fuel around the watershed to mitigate wildfire impact • Fire mitigation in forests. • 	<p>Watershed Management Planning/Land Use Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a Watershed Management Plan and Monitoring • Creating a watershed plan that commences at the headwaters and continues downstream through Chaffee County into Fremont County. • It is essential to integrate the entire watershed in planning for projects rather than compartmentalize by project specialization area. These separations are perceived and perpetuated in individual fields of work and study, but these lines are human-created. The entire watershed is a system and considering forest health, fire mitigation and recovery, riparian or wet area restoration, agricultural, recreational and development uses must all be considered in each project to ensure best outcomes and achieve collaboration to use (and not compete for or be redundant with limited funding). • Headwater stream assessment and restoration. This includes cooperative planning and partnership work. • 2. Land use planning - the FLUP.
<p>Water Supply/Rights Management (Storage, Supply Resilience, Flow Management)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve how transcontinental diversions release water into the Arkansas River Basin and impacts to channels below where the water increases occur. • We would use it to create more water storage in the Upper Basin through enlarging a current reservoir, building a new reservoir, or investing in alluvial storage projects. • Water to John Martin Reservoir conservation pool. • Focus on minimum stream flows and ability to control (or manage through agreements) existing local water rights. 	<p>Stormwater Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater runoff - contamination from antifreeze, crankcase fluids, deicing chemicals, etc. • Identify current hazard mapping and look at the overlap with land use planning. We are building in hazardous areas. Collect rainfall/runoff data on tributaries. • On a stormwater management plan.
<p>Protection of Sensitive Lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on getting easements along waterways • Put more land into easements to protect it from development 	<p>Irrigation Efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement more residential irrigation restrictions and user fees; • Improvements to existing irrigation infrastructure.

Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership October 2020 Survey Results

Human Resources/Capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring dedicated professionals to target non-point source pollution and on wildfire mitigation projects 	
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• Note citizens voted on this question in a way with the 1A ballot measure. People were willing to tax themselves to do 3 things - mitigate wildfire risk to water/lives/homes/infrastructure/wildlife and recreation, address increasing impacts of recreation use and help keep working land working with programs/projects supporting Ag lands.

C. INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

What are your organization's or operation's priorities to enhance water resource or watershed resilience over the next 18 months?

Responses	
Stream/Riparian Restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various aquatic resource consulting services including instream/riparian habitat restoration; cutthroat trout recovery; instream flow management etc. Identify, protect, and restore strongholds of native and wild fish populations. Keeping water in streams and reservoirs for aquatic species health. Helping to minimize resource damage to riparian areas through responsible recreation management riparian restoration Identify and reclaim streams impacted by mine runoff. Looking more closely at rivershed protection and water rights Additionally, we will be working on irrigation infrastructure improvement projects and riparian restoration projects. hazard mapping, mitigation, restoration Restoration of beavers and reconnection of streams to floodplains. Stormwater issues in Salida. The Badger Creek Watershed Partnership has restored 1.5 miles of Badger Creek and would like to scale up to a full 6-mile reach of Badger Creek. The Arkansas Headwaters Wetland Focus Area Committee has prioritized opportunities for wetland and riparian area restoration and conservation in Lake and Chaffee County. We would like to build more collaborative projects in these areas to do ecological restoration and enhance habitat for boreal toads and norther leopard frogs. We are currently studying opportunities to restore riparian habitat on the South Arkansas River and would like to implement 1-2 demonstration projects in the next 18 months. 	Water Supply & Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand planning efforts and financial planning for infrastructure upgrades. Expansion of the Buena Vista infiltration gallery to fully utilize existing water rights, acquisition of additional water rights, develop a plan for additional storage road improvements Acquire water rights at annexation; At UAWCD we are doing multiple projects to enhance water resources and watershed in the Ark basin. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DeWeese Reservoir Enlargement feasibility study is looking at increasing storage in an existing vessel. We just secured a grant to do a feasibility study and construction drawings for a new reservoir in Custer County. We are underway with an alluvial storage project in Trout Creek Park area. UAWCD is also involved in the Monarch Pass Forest and Watershed Health Project. In addition to some of our larger projects on a daily basis we are enhancing water resources through our blanket water supply plan and increasing the beneficial use of and protection for water rights. Diversify water availability/sources through alternative transfer methods as opposed to buy and dry. Seek storage of water. Continued oversight on wastewater treatment.
Adopting or Conducting Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passing the comp plan update that acknowledges the importance of this effort and tasks ourselves with doing this study and implementing the program. administration of county land use code Amend our Land Use Code to add a buffer to streams, rivers and drainages to protect them. Need to partner with an organization like yours to do public outreach and education. The Army Corps of Engineers is understaffed for the work they have to do (nation-wide, not just here). 	Wildfire Mitigation/Forest Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> forest management, Wildfire mitigation Working on post-fire recovery and forest health CWPP Focus is to treat/restore 30,000 acres in modeled top priority areas to decrease the risk of severe wildfire by 50%. Chaffee Rec Plan focus is to mitigate the impacts of 12% per annum visitor/rec use growth to forest health and wildlife -while maintaining user experiences and economic benefit. Envision vision for Ag it to keep working lands working and to focus development in and around towns. help fund removal of beetle kill on Monarch;

Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership October 2020 Survey Results

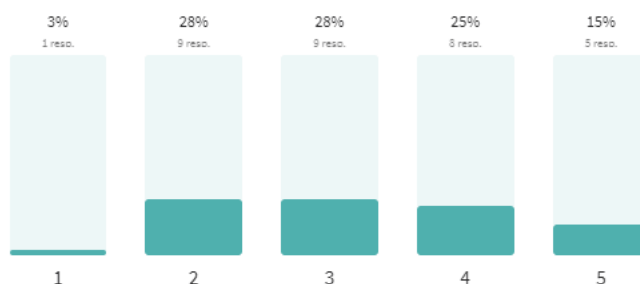
Education & Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate and engage the local community in caring for the protection and restoration of their local watershed. Teaching small acreage management classes Policy advocacy and education Continue to promote watershed protection, starting at the headwaters, and encouraging active citizen participation in watershed discussions and activities. Support coalitions and water users in planning efforts to find multi-benefit projects that protect and enhance ecosystem function, agricultural operations, recreational opportunities, and climate adaptation. Chaffee County Common Ground will be providing funding for projects related to forest health, fire resilience and mitigation of impacts from recreation. We continue to try and manage the user groups in the most conscientious way to protect the resource. 	Agricultural <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help agriculture producers complete improvements on their properties so that they can stay on the land Conservation of private working lands and the water rights associated with them through conservation easements. Soil Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work on soil health Protect and restore naturally healthy functioning timescales.
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D. COORDINATION WITH CWCB, STATE WATER PLAN, AND BASIN ROUNDTABLES

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being not aware to 5 being expert level knowledge, how would you rate your level of awareness about the Colorado Water Conservation Board's work to implement that State Water Plan goal on Healthy Watersheds through development of Stream Management Plans (SMP)/Integrated Water Resource Management Plans (IWMP)?

32 out of 32 answered

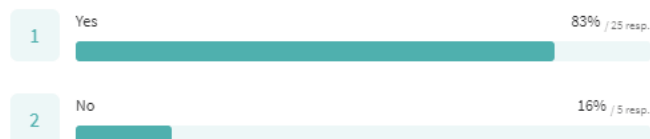
3.2 Average rating



Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership October 2020 Survey Results

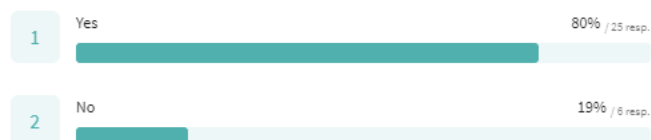
6. Over the next two years, the State of Colorado is updating the State Water Plan at the same time the Basin Roundtables are updating their Basin Implementation Plans (BIPs). Once completed, these plans establish funding priorities for a five year period. Has your organization participated or planning to participate in the BIP process to identify priority projects?

30 out of 32 answered



As part of the State Water Plan update, the Colorado Water Conservation Board is interested in convening regional focus groups. Would you be interested in participating in a focus group to discuss watershed health and offer feedback?

31 out of 32 answered



E. UPPER ARKANSAS WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP FOCUS

PURPOSE: Given there are a lot of organizations working across different geographies and sectors of the Upper Arkansas watershed, what advice do you have about the role this community partnership could play to enhance and support efforts already happening?

Responses	
What the Partnership Might Do	Advice on Starting It Up
Align Efforts/Enhance Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't know the details of this situation, but collaboration typically reduces redundant efforts and improve outcomes! Avoid duplication and reduce administration to expedite and streamline field projects to address problems Sharing information and priorities across these groups will be very helpful. Finding common interests to combine resources collaboration between different goals from each stakeholder There are already so many organizations that seem to be doing similar things it is hard to keep them all straight. Collaborate on projects at scale. It is always good to bring different organizations together to be able to look at the project as a whole and not just divided through everyone specialized lens. It helps to give insight of were efforts are overlapping, what gaps exist, and how one aspect can positively or negatively impact other aspects of the same project. Connect the dots between fire health work and the wetlands and riparian areas which serve as the filters for those forests. 	Do Not Duplicate Existing Efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not duplicate or complicate efforts. do not duplicate efforts Understand what is already happening before you act. There is a lot of state-leading work in progress with the Forest Health Council, Chaffee Recreation Council and the Upper Arkansas Thrives project with the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative. Get very clear on the purpose of the group and what it adds to exceptional in progress work. Do not duplicate, do not confuse statewide stakeholders. Learn what is already happening...I get frustrated with duplication of efforts Addressing duplication of efforts, or working on something that you felt was being addressed by another group. Communication is critical. Don't duplicate efforts. Communicate Effectively <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communication and collaboration with diverse groups Communicate frequently about what's happening.

Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership October 2020 Survey Results

<p>Project Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wondering about "Health of Ark River Report Card". Who can champion this baseline health study? The list of projects anticipated in the BIP work session was enormous. Need to categorize and coordinate those many efforts. Creating a definitive watershed plan with objectives and activities. <p>Public Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate the public Ensure that citizen involvement is encouraged; change one of the objectives from 'landowners' to citizens. <p>Learning About the Issues/Identify the Problem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As I understand it our tributaries and main steam are not impaired but we want to keep them that way. Would like to know what others are most concerned about. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please make sure you bring findings, ideas, plans, etc. to the municipalities (staff, planning commissions, and city councils) to get them/keep them engaged. <p>Keep Stakeholders Diverse and Inclusive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep everyone informed, don't allow any one person or group to dominate. I would encourage this group to work really hard to include a broad range of voices. Just being satisfied with those that show up is not enough to make an effort like this successful. That is a hard thing to do and it takes time, effort, planning, and persistence but it is really important. <p>Use a Facilitator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need a good manager/facilitator/communicator to work with all the groups. <p>Be Patient and Persistent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be patient and politely persistent. Many good-hearted people have been attempting to build these bridges for many, many years. Look to include these folks, try not to repeat existing efforts or be exclusive of those who works diligently in the field, and remember that this is hard, but important work!
--	--

SHARED LEARNING: Would any of these be of interest to you on a monthly or every other month basis?

Responses	
1. Field trips and site visits	81%
2. Focused presentations by experts on specific issues	75%
3. Presentations by peers in the Upper Ark region on what they are working on	71%
4. Hearing update from other organizations	62%
5. Learning more about the CWCB work on watersheds	59%
6. Learning sessions from groups outside the Ark region	46%

SHARED LEARNING: Are there specific projects, topics, or issues you are interested in learning more about?

Responses	
<p>Networking/Learn What Others Are Doing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, just what projects people and groups are working on currently. Communication exchange amongst the groups. 	<p>Wildfire Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildfire mitigation Fire ecology studies
<p>Stream Management Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is of interest for our organization to learn about how other groups that are implementing stream management plans and stream restoration projects are analyzing their impacts on water rights and ensuring they are not causing injury to water rights downstream. The current stream management planning efforts in the County. Conservation planning that addresses all uses 	<p>Wetland Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland improvement I am interested in how the conservation and restoration of natural wetlands and riparian areas will benefit agricultural properties and their water rights.
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are oil & gas and solar doing anything for the health of aquatic ecosystems in the areas they utilize? 	<p>Ag Water Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATMs and water quality trading credit programs

Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership October 2020 Survey Results

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate change adaptation plans for our watershed - who is doing what/where? • Reducing heavy metal concentrations, preparing for emergencies, developing a watershed plan. • Shared storage • Projects that increase absorption of water via holistic grazed planning, also selective harvesting and timber work for fire mitigation • low cost, low impact restoration techniques (Zeedyk, Wheaton, etc.) • 	
--	--

How would you see yourself (or organization) being involved with a partnership like this and what would make it worth your time?

Responses: HOW WE CAN PARTICIPATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsoring grant requests, offering match money, making this a clear priority, providing advice and counsel. • I think I could help with communication across jurisdictional lines. • Attending presentations, helping to implement potential actions into codes. • Core team • Water projects and our watershed is extremely important to us and we would like to be involved. As we own and operate many storage vessels throughout the basin we should be involved in stream management plans on those reaches that we use to operate our water supply plans. I think our organization can lend it's expertise in understanding water law to ensure water projects aren't injuring water right owners and also offers a resource to be able to help replace depletions if needed. • Technical advice with hydrology, hydraulics and geomorphology. I am open to discussing involvement and providing technical assistance. • Probably on the regulations end and our participation on the edge (lots of development going on in the county). An active group is an exciting part of a job. While I don't have a lot of time to participate, I'm good at passing on information and contacts. • Identify our organizations specific needs or goals. • We could participate in some meetings and info sharing sessions • Inform group of urban water needs. • I would put the information out to our chapter and see if someone wanted to act as a liaison; would invite / encourage members to participate in learning opportunities and events. • County Environmental Health representative. • I can dedicate some time for the Town of Buena Vista to help create programs targeting our watershed. Also, our town could help with implementation planning. • Offer expertise and advice on a wide range of topics but am reluctant to commit significant time to planning and coordination (see previous answer) • At this point mostly listening to better understand the issues and sharing our experiences in other parts of the state. The making it worth my time question is important and really comes down to what are the objectives, ensuring that they are clear, and ensuring that meetings are structured to move closer to achieving those objectives. • We are happy to be part of this conversation. ARWC is organized to help gather voices around watershed health in the Ark Basin and has many relationships with organizations, individuals and funders that are doing this important work. It is a new organization that is just finding ways to help build this bridges and complete important work for watershed health on the ground.
Responses: WHAT WOULD MAKE IT WORTH OUR TIME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not sure how I can help, but a funded Watershed Improvement Plan would be a goal. • If we can work together we can get more done. • Enhanced opportunities and funding for collaborative conservation and restoration projects. • Progress

Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership October 2020 Survey Results

Responses: NEED TO LEARN MORE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Had to answer without being more clear on the purpose of this organization/group/effort. I want to be sure all the work happening in the Upper Ark Basin is coordinated and that the region continues to be seen as a leader in collaborative thought, big picture solutions and regional impact.• I'd like to know what's being discussed & prioritized.• Need to learn more about what you are doing• As I continue to learn more, I would be interesting in keeping updated.• It would depend on how this is different from all the other organizations we already participate with• Better understanding of what is going on across other agencies, finding synergy for our limited resources

APPENDIX C

Upper Arkansas River SMP Pre-Planning: Existing Data and Watershed Condition

Summary

In 2020, stakeholders in the upper Arkansas Watershed (within Chaffee County) worked collaboratively with support from the River Network to conduct a pre-planning exercise focused on future development of a local stream management plan. The objectives of this process included:

- Objective #1: Development of a stakeholder-driven coalition comprised of diverse water users and expertise;
- Objective #2: Coordination and compilation of existing information related to river health and water use in the Upper Arkansas River Basin (within the South Arkansas drainage)
- Objective #3: Facilitation of community education and engagement

Summary of Existing Data and Watershed Condition” reflects the outcomes of Objective 2.

Findings

The pre-planning team (Central Colorado Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, NRCS, and the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative) began the process of compiling data for the South Arkansas River watershed – a primary tributary to the Arkansas River and the originally identified project scope. After convening stakeholders and studies, the planning team arrived at three primary outcomes:

1. The formation of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership (UAWP);
2. An UAWP-driven consensus to expand the scope of work to all major tributaries in Chaffee County;
3. A project map for the South Arkansas River and list of key watershed studies.

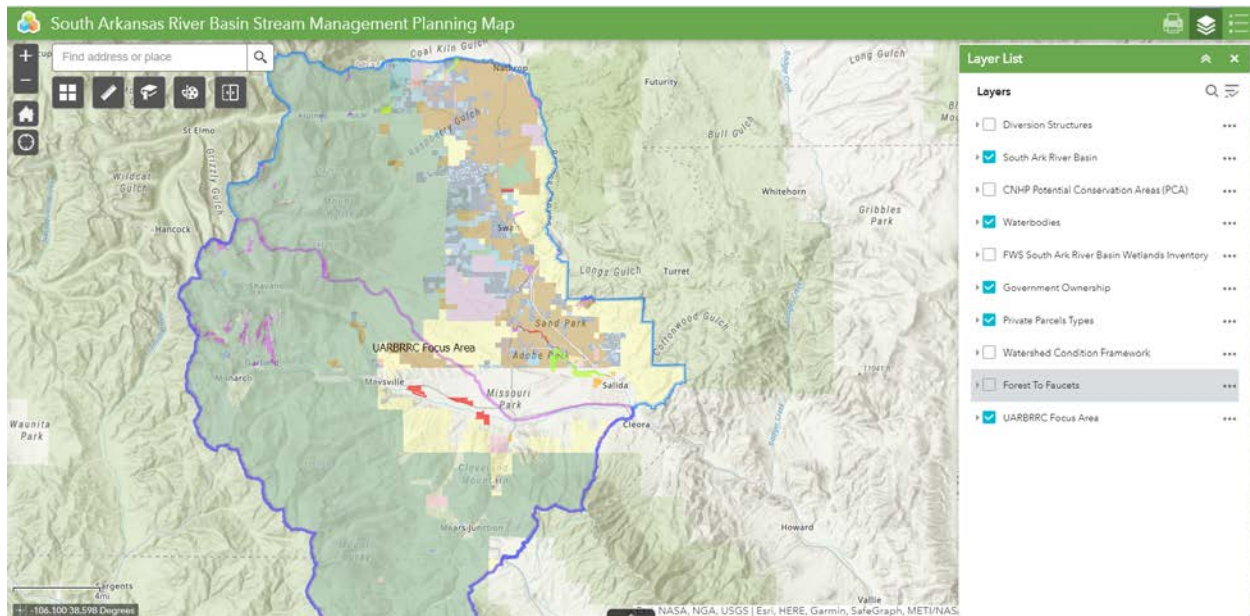
South Arkansas Watershed Map

This map was developed by the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative to overlay data gathered by the pre-planning team. The map contains layers and shapefiles for the following data classes:

- Diversion Structures (Colorado Division of Natural Resources)
- Potential Conservation Areas – Wetlands (Colorado Natural Heritage Program)
- South Arkansas River Basin Wetlands Inventory (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
- Land Ownership
- Watershed Condition Framework (US Forest Service)
- Forests to Faucets Source Water Condition

Map Link:

<https://arkcollaborative.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c9347f12a8404f90a6769f8faeb30e6d>



Identified Studies

Report Title	Author/Agency	Link	Description
A Tale of Two Rivers: South Arkansas River Watershed Assessment	Bill Goosman	Link	Ecological assessment of South Arkansas River (2013)
Envision Chaffee County Water Quality Assessment	Rick Hum, Chaffee County	Link	Water quality and impaired reaches in Chaffee County (2018)
Chaffee Watershed Grant Final Report	Wano Urbonas	Link	Short report to CDPHE on pre-planning efforts to assess water quality in Chaffee County (2019)
Groundwater and Surface-Water Interaction and Potential for Underground Water Storage in the Buena Vista-Salida Basin 2011	USGS, Chaffee County, UAWCD	Link	Includes water budget for each tributary of the Arkansas River (2011)
Upper Arkansas Wildfire/Watershed Assessment	JW Associates	Link	Watershed risk and prioritization study (2011)
City of Salida Source Water Protection Plan	David Lady, City of Salida	Link	Source water protection and project priorities (2018)
Upper Arkansas Headwaters Restoration Plan (Lake County EA)	Stratus Consulting	Link	Restoration alternatives
Chaffee County Wildfire Protection Plan	Envision, Chaffee County	Link	Issue identification and project prioritization (2020)
Town of Buena Vista Source Water Protection Plan	Town of Buena Vista	Link	Source water protection plan and analysis (2016)
Arkansas River Water Needs Assessment	BOR, USGS, USFS	Link	Hydrologic and needs assessment (2000)

APPENDIX D

Protection of Water Rights in Watershed Health Projects

On November 2, 2020, the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership presented to the Arkansas Basin Roundtable Needs Assessment Committee seeking support for the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan. The Committee passed the request onto the full Basin Roundtable with full support (ABRT meeting to be held November 11, 2020).

During the Needs Assessment Meeting, members of the Basin Roundtable expressed a need to ensure that watershed restoration projects and other efforts developed through the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan would not harm existing water rights or augmentation in the Basin.

As Phase 1 tasks do not include the construction of restoration projects, Phase 1 of this initiative will not result in these effects. Subsequent phases that include the planning, design and construction of projects that may change the historic availability of water to decreed water rights by time, amount or location will require appropriate analysis to assure decreed water rights and the established uses of water are not materially injured.

Proposed language for future watershed restoration efforts was provided by the Upper Arkansas River Water Conservancy District and is included below:

PROTECTION OF WATER RIGHTS

Consistent with C.R.S. 37-75-102, et seq. of the “Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act”, project proponents who seek support or grants from the Roundtables or the Colorado Water Conservation Board whose project(s) have the potential to change the historic availability of water to decreed water rights by time, amount or location through alterations of the stream flow regime, geomorphology of a natural stream channel, increasing the surface area of a stream, or the expansion of riparian vegetation will evaluate these impacts by undertaking a water rights impact analysis. Such analysis will be conducted by a qualified registered water resource engineer familiar with the subject water body and drainage basin. This analysis will be conducted prior to implementing any of the tasks identified in the project/grant scope of work. The analysis may be part of the identified project costs. Any mitigation required to prevent negative impacts to water rights may also be included in the project costs.

APPENDIX E

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of Support for the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan:

Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative

Central Colorado Conservancy

Chaffee County Board of Commissioners

City of Salida

Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Colorado Trout Unlimited

Greater Arkansas River Nature Association

** A Letter of Support from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable will be submitted after their formal meeting on November 11, 2020.



Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative
Box 726, Lake George, CO 80827
719-748-0033
www.arkcollaborative.org

Mr. Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman
Denver, CO 80103

November 5, 2020

Dear Mr. Sturm:

The Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) is writing in support of the watershed program grant proposal being put forward by the Upper Ark Conservation District on behalf of a group of partners, including ARWC. The partners are coming together to address a variety of watershed health and stream management opportunities and challenges that face the Arkansas River in the reaches between Buena Vista and Salida. The proposal will help all the partners wrap their minds around needs, and develop a strategy for implementing projects (including full-blown stream management planning and fluvial hazard analysis) in the future, in order to increase resiliency in this critical area of the basin. CWCB's support would help the group to flesh out future programs of work, and increase collaboration between the various interest groups working in the basin. I hope that CWCB is able to assist in this important initiative.

Please feel free to contact me at 719-748-0033 if you have questions or would like more details to help inform your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carol Ekarius', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Carol Ekarius,
Executive Director

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan – Phase 1: Stakeholder Engagement, Needs Assessment, and Riparian/Floodplain Condition

Dear Chris,

We are writing to support the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan to continue stakeholder engagement, and assess riparian and floodplain condition in the Upper Arkansas Valley.

This process will build on our current conceptual restoration design work with Mark Beardsley and Michael Blazewitz. Our goal is to build on this foundational work to increase the use of science-based tools in our watershed to inform land-use planning and conservation and restoration opportunities. Demonstrating how the Colorado river health assessment framework and fluvial hazard zone mapping on a targeted reach of the S. Ark can be used to inform conservation and restoration work will increase community understanding of the importance of healthy riparian areas and identify strategies for increased protection and enhancement to mitigate potential impacts associated with flooding and urban development.

Central Colorado Conservancy is committed to conserving land, water and wildlife by partnering with landowners, agricultural producers and the community across the Arkansas Headwaters. We work to enhance watershed health and keep working lands working. As facilitators of the Arkansas Headwaters Wetland Focus Area Committee and leaders of collaborative conservation and restoration projects such as the Badger Creek Watershed Partnership we are successfully carrying out collaborative riparian restoration projects. We plan to be highly engaged in the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan leveraging our capacity, community partners, and landowner contacts to maximize stakeholder participation and community collaboration throughout this process. We will provide \$20,000 in cash match for this project, as well as \$5,800 of in-kind contribution.

We hope you will support the Upper Arkansas Conservation District's proposal to further watershed planning in the Arkansas Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Beh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam Beh
Executive Director



Chaffee County Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 699/104 Crestone Ave.
Salida, CO 81201
719.539.2218/www.chaffeecounty.org

November 5, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Sturm:

This letter is submitted on the behalf of Chaffee County Board of Commissioners to reflect our support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

This planning process will support issues identified as critical by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership stakeholders, Basin Implementation Plan update stakeholder processes, and local planning initiatives (Envision Chaffee County and the Chaffee County Comprehensive Plan).

Chaffee County is currently in the final stage of updating its Comprehensive Plan, which will impact future land use, growth, and environment within the jurisdiction. We believe that the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan will support the goals of that process by:

- Informing land use planning processes through the assessment of fluvial hazard mapping, riparian condition and extent, and identification of critical deposition zones and floodplains;
- Supporting our agricultural community through the protection of water rights and assessment of irrigation efficiencies and structural improvements;
- Enhancing community engagement, and knowledge of, critical watershed issues related to water quality and quantity within the basin.

The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strength collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community comes at a critical time in the County as we face increasing impacts from wildfire, drought, recreational pressure, and urban growth.

For the reasons stated above, we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

*Abstained due to CWCB
membership*
Greg Felt, Chair

Keith Baker
Keith Baker

Rusty Granzella
Rusty Granzella



November 3, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Attn: Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Ark Watershed Partnership
Letter of Support
Phase 1 Assessment – CWCB Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter of support for the Upper Ark Watershed Partnership (UAWP) is provided on behalf of the City of Salida. The Arkansas River watershed is a critical asset to our community as it provides recreational opportunities, scenic value, water for the City's drinking water system, and establishes a healthy and natural ecosystem. The City desires to protect the Arkansas River watershed and support projects in a collaborative manner while working with a variety of stakeholders.

The UAWP desires to pursue a Phase 1 assessment which is proposed to provide the following:

1. Increase community understanding of diverse water uses and issues in the Basin and leverage local expertise to solve important watershed health and water user challenges.
2. Leverage local expertise and science to incorporate fluvial hazard mapping into current land use planning and identify strategies for riparian/floodplain enhancement to mitigate potential impacts associated with flooding and urban development.
3. Provide support for agricultural producers and water users related to protecting their water rights and identifying multi-beneficial storage opportunities and projects to increase conveyance and irrigation efficiencies to mitigate impacts of drought, wildfire, and urban development.
4. Combine and assess existing studies and data related to ecosystem health, hydrology, geomorphology, wetland/riparian condition, water use, storage, and land use planning.

The Phase 1 assessment goals identified by the UAWP will provide value to the City and compliment the current goals and improvements completed by the City. We believe that receiving funding to complete the initial work will provide a roadmap from future decisions that will improve our watershed.

Sincerely,

Mayor PT Wood
City of Salida



November 3, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Sturm:

This letter is submitted on the behalf of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited to reflect our support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District. This planning process will support issues identified as critical by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership stakeholders and TU members (over 300 in the Valley).

Protecting and enhancing riparian and stream habitat in the primary tributaries to the Arkansas River is a critical component to continuing a vibrant Gold Medal fishery. This project will assess the current health of the watershed and identify project opportunities that will support future generations of anglers and the aquatic populations we rely on.

The Collegiate Peaks Chapter of TU is an active organization within the Valley and supports a diverse portfolio of projects that monitor water quality, restore native fish, enhance riparian and stream function, and engage youth. We believe that this project will further enhance those efforts through a collaborative and science-based approach. As such, the chapter is dedicated to providing \$2,000 in matching funds to the project.

The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strength collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community comes at a critical time in the County as we face increasing impacts from wildfire, drought, recreational pressure, and urban growth.

For the reasons stated above, we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Krebs".

Keith Krebs
Chapter President

Collegiate Peaks Chapter – Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 1081
Salida, CO 81201

November 4, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203



RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Sturm:

This letter is submitted on the behalf of Colorado Trout Unlimited to reflect our support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application of the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

This planning process will support critical issues identified by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership stakeholders, local anglers, and municipal planning efforts across Chaffee County.

Protecting and enhancing riparian and stream habitat in the primary tributaries to the Arkansas River is a critical component to securing its vibrant Gold Medal fishery. This project will assess the current health of the watershed and identify project opportunities that will support aquatic populations and the anglers who rely on them, as well as sustaining the local outdoor recreation economy.

Colorado TU represents over 12,000 members across the state and supports a wide variety of projects in the Upper Arkansas Basin, including abandoned mine reclamation, water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, and native trout restoration. We believe that this project will further enhance those efforts through a collaborative and science-based approach. As such, Colorado TU has pledged \$3,000 in matching funds and in-kind support up to .25FTE equivalent of professional staff time to the core leadership team and project management components of the project.

The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership is to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community, and it comes at a critical time in the County as we face increasing impacts from wildfire, drought, recreational pressure, and urban growth.

For the reasons stated above, we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Nickum".

David Nickum
Executive Director

Greater Arkansas River Nature Association



PO Box 1522
Salida, Colorado
81201

719.539.5106
www.garna.org
info@garna.org

November 4, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Sturm:

The Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA) is pleased to support the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

The mission of GARNA is to work in collaboration with the community to inspire a conservation ethic by providing educational opportunities and experiences so that those who live, work and play in the Upper Arkansas Valley are motivated to take care of the natural resources and leave a legacy of responsible use of the natural environment. GARNA is a popular landing place for residents and visitors who want to know more about the valley's natural resources, water management, public lands management, and sustainability issues.

GARNA believes that Phase 1 of the Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan and the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership will support critical expansion of community understanding of water resources in the valley. We also support the collaborative nature of the process – which strives to include and leverage the expertise of local organizations instead of duplicating efforts.

The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community comes at a critical time in the County as we face increasing impacts from wildfire, drought, recreational pressure, and urban growth.

For the reasons stated above, we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or for more information.

Sincerely,

Dominique Naccarato
GARNA Executive Director
Dominique@garna.org

APPENDIX A

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The following Letters of Support were provided on behalf of project partners during the application to the CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant Program demonstrating for the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan – which includes Task 5 (Agricultural Needs Assessment):

Arkansas River Basin Roundtable

Arkansas River Watershed Coalition

Central Colorado Conservancy

Chaffee County Board of Commissioners

City of Salida

Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Colorado Trout Unlimited

Greater Arkansas River Nature Association

The following Letters of Support were provided on behalf of project partners, landowners, and the agricultural community in support of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan and Task 5 – specific to the CWCB Water Plan Grant Program.

Addie Ann Spicer (landowner, producer)

Eggleston Ranch

Hutchison Ranch

Kelly Ranch

Little River Ranch Homeowners Association

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Salida Cattle Company

Todd and Belinda Tipton (landowner, producer)

Arkansas Basin Roundtable

November 20, 2020

Via Electronic Mail: natalie@centralcoloradoconservancy.org

Natalie Allio
Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership

Re: Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership Letter of Support for Proposed Watershed Resiliency Planning Process and Colorado Water Conservancy Board Watershed Restoration Grant Program

Dear Mr. Weakland,

The Arkansas Basin Roundtable (Roundtable) submits this Letter of Support for the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership (UAWP) in its pursuit of funding to create a watershed resiliency planning effort. The UAWP is a newly-formed partnership by members of the Upper Arkansas Conservation District, Central Colorado Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative. The group has been engaging diverse stakeholders within Chaffee County and is dedicated to fostering cooperation and collaboration among agencies, organizations, government, and landowners in the upper Arkansas Basin to build a healthy and resilient watershed. The partnership will be seeking grant support for its project from the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Watershed Restoration and Water Plan Grant Programs.

This project will enhance collaboration and project development within the Upper Arkansas Basin in Chaffee County, CO to build long-term watershed resilience. Phase 1 will build on pre-planning work developed with financial support from River Network that began in May 2020. The UAWP intends to leverage preliminary stakeholder surveys, the Envision Chaffee County Action Plan and Comprehensive Update, and consensus-based collaboration to protect and enhance water quality and quantity in the Upper Arkansas Basin.

This project clearly supports the goals identified in the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan and in the Colorado State Water Plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

MD Shea

Mark Shea, Chair



Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative
Box 726, Lake George, CO 80827
719-748-0033
www.arkcollaborative.org

Mr. Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman
Denver, CO 80103

November 5, 2020

Dear Mr. Sturm:

The Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative (ARWC) is writing in support of the watershed program grant proposal being put forward by the Upper Ark Conservation District on behalf of a group of partners, including ARWC. The partners are coming together to address a variety of watershed health and stream management opportunities and challenges that face the Arkansas River in the reaches between Buena Vista and Salida. The proposal will help all the partners wrap their minds around needs, and develop a strategy for implementing projects (including full-blown stream management planning and fluvial hazard analysis) in the future, in order to increase resiliency in this critical area of the basin. CWCB's support would help the group to flesh out future programs of work, and increase collaboration between the various interest groups working in the basin. I hope that CWCB is able to assist in this important initiative.

Please feel free to contact me at 719-748-0033 if you have questions or would like more details to help inform your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carol Ekarius', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Carol Ekarius,
Executive Director

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan – Phase 1: Stakeholder Engagement, Needs Assessment, and Riparian/Floodplain Condition

Dear Chris,

We are writing to support the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan to continue stakeholder engagement, and assess riparian and floodplain condition in the Upper Arkansas Valley.

This process will build on our current conceptual restoration design work with Mark Beardsley and Michael Blazewitz. Our goal is to build on this foundational work to increase the use of science-based tools in our watershed to inform land-use planning and conservation and restoration opportunities. Demonstrating how the Colorado river health assessment framework and fluvial hazard zone mapping on a targeted reach of the S. Ark can be used to inform conservation and restoration work will increase community understanding of the importance of healthy riparian areas and identify strategies for increased protection and enhancement to mitigate potential impacts associated with flooding and urban development.

Central Colorado Conservancy is committed to conserving land, water and wildlife by partnering with landowners, agricultural producers and the community across the Arkansas Headwaters. We work to enhance watershed health and keep working lands working. As facilitators of the Arkansas Headwaters Wetland Focus Area Committee and leaders of collaborative conservation and restoration projects such as the Badger Creek Watershed Partnership we are successfully carrying out collaborative riparian restoration projects. We plan to be highly engaged in the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan leveraging our capacity, community partners, and landowner contacts to maximize stakeholder participation and community collaboration throughout this process. We will provide \$20,000 in cash match for this project, as well as \$5,800 of in-kind contribution.

We hope you will support the Upper Arkansas Conservation District's proposal to further watershed planning in the Arkansas Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Beh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam Beh
Executive Director



Chaffee County Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 699/104 Crestone Ave.
Salida, CO 81201
719.539.2218/www.chaffeecounty.org

November 5, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Sturm:

This letter is submitted on the behalf of Chaffee County Board of Commissioners to reflect our support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

This planning process will support issues identified as critical by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership stakeholders, Basin Implementation Plan update stakeholder processes, and local planning initiatives (Envision Chaffee County and the Chaffee County Comprehensive Plan).

Chaffee County is currently in the final stage of updating its Comprehensive Plan, which will impact future land use, growth, and environment within the jurisdiction. We believe that the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan will support the goals of that process by:

- Informing land use planning processes through the assessment of fluvial hazard mapping, riparian condition and extent, and identification of critical deposition zones and floodplains;
- Supporting our agricultural community through the protection of water rights and assessment of irrigation efficiencies and structural improvements;
- Enhancing community engagement, and knowledge of, critical watershed issues related to water quality and quantity within the basin.

The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strength collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community comes at a critical time in the County as we face increasing impacts from wildfire, drought, recreational pressure, and urban growth.

For the reasons stated above, we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

*Abstained due to CWCB
membership*
Greg Felt, Chair

Keith Baker
Keith Baker

Rusty Granzella
Rusty Granzella



November 3, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Attn: Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Ark Watershed Partnership
Letter of Support
Phase 1 Assessment – CWCB Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter of support for the Upper Ark Watershed Partnership (UAWP) is provided on behalf of the City of Salida. The Arkansas River watershed is a critical asset to our community as it provides recreational opportunities, scenic value, water for the City's drinking water system, and establishes a healthy and natural ecosystem. The City desires to protect the Arkansas River watershed and support projects in a collaborative manner while working with a variety of stakeholders.

The UAWP desires to pursue a Phase 1 assessment which is proposed to provide the following:

1. Increase community understanding of diverse water uses and issues in the Basin and leverage local expertise to solve important watershed health and water user challenges.
2. Leverage local expertise and science to incorporate fluvial hazard mapping into current land use planning and identify strategies for riparian/floodplain enhancement to mitigate potential impacts associated with flooding and urban development.
3. Provide support for agricultural producers and water users related to protecting their water rights and identifying multi-beneficial storage opportunities and projects to increase conveyance and irrigation efficiencies to mitigate impacts of drought, wildfire, and urban development.
4. Combine and assess existing studies and data related to ecosystem health, hydrology, geomorphology, wetland/riparian condition, water use, storage, and land use planning.

The Phase 1 assessment goals identified by the UAWP will provide value to the City and compliment the current goals and improvements completed by the City. We believe that receiving funding to complete the initial work will provide a roadmap from future decisions that will improve our watershed.

Sincerely,

Mayor PT Wood
City of Salida



November 3, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Sturm:

This letter is submitted on the behalf of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited to reflect our support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District. This planning process will support issues identified as critical by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership stakeholders and TU members (over 300 in the Valley).

Protecting and enhancing riparian and stream habitat in the primary tributaries to the Arkansas River is a critical component to continuing a vibrant Gold Medal fishery. This project will assess the current health of the watershed and identify project opportunities that will support future generations of anglers and the aquatic populations we rely on.

The Collegiate Peaks Chapter of TU is an active organization within the Valley and supports a diverse portfolio of projects that monitor water quality, restore native fish, enhance riparian and stream function, and engage youth. We believe that this project will further enhance those efforts through a collaborative and science-based approach. As such, the chapter is dedicated to providing \$2,000 in matching funds to the project.

The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strength collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community comes at a critical time in the County as we face increasing impacts from wildfire, drought, recreational pressure, and urban growth.

For the reasons stated above, we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Krebs".

Keith Krebs
Chapter President

Collegiate Peaks Chapter – Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 1081
Salida, CO 81201

November 4, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203



RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Sturm:

This letter is submitted on the behalf of Colorado Trout Unlimited to reflect our support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application of the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

This planning process will support critical issues identified by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership stakeholders, local anglers, and municipal planning efforts across Chaffee County.

Protecting and enhancing riparian and stream habitat in the primary tributaries to the Arkansas River is a critical component to securing its vibrant Gold Medal fishery. This project will assess the current health of the watershed and identify project opportunities that will support aquatic populations and the anglers who rely on them, as well as sustaining the local outdoor recreation economy.

Colorado TU represents over 12,000 members across the state and supports a wide variety of projects in the Upper Arkansas Basin, including abandoned mine reclamation, water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, and native trout restoration. We believe that this project will further enhance those efforts through a collaborative and science-based approach. As such, Colorado TU has pledged \$3,000 in matching funds and in-kind support up to .25FTE equivalent of professional staff time to the core leadership team and project management components of the project.

The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership is to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community, and it comes at a critical time in the County as we face increasing impacts from wildfire, drought, recreational pressure, and urban growth.

For the reasons stated above, we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Nickum".

David Nickum
Executive Director

Greater Arkansas River Nature Association



PO Box 1522
Salida, Colorado
81201

719.539.5106
www.garna.org
info@garna.org

November 4, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Sturm:

The Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA) is pleased to support the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

The mission of GARNA is to work in collaboration with the community to inspire a conservation ethic by providing educational opportunities and experiences so that those who live, work and play in the Upper Arkansas Valley are motivated to take care of the natural resources and leave a legacy of responsible use of the natural environment. GARNA is a popular landing place for residents and visitors who want to know more about the valley's natural resources, water management, public lands management, and sustainability issues.

GARNA believes that Phase 1 of the Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan and the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership will support critical expansion of community understanding of water resources in the valley. We also support the collaborative nature of the process – which strives to include and leverage the expertise of local organizations instead of duplicating efforts.

The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community comes at a critical time in the County as we face increasing impacts from wildfire, drought, recreational pressure, and urban growth.

For the reasons stated above, we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or for more information.

Sincerely,

Dominique Naccarato
GARNA Executive Director
Dominique@garna.org

November 30, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Alex Funk
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Funk:

This letter is submitted on the behalf of Addie Ann Spicer to reflect my support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

Chaffee County is comprised of several rural communities in central Colorado and is known for its long-standing agricultural history and access to recreational opportunities. While eighty-three percent (83%) of land in the county is public, agriculture is a key component of the community, representing over 25% of the remaining land (16,464 irrigated acres). By 2035, the population within the county is expected to increase by 33%. The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community, comes at a critical time in the County, as we face increasing impacts from urban development, recreational pressure, drought, and wildfire.

The goals of this effort to strengthen communication and relationships with local agricultural water users, better understand the critical issues and priorities of agricultural producers, identify mutually beneficial projects that can address those identified issues, and provide support for agricultural water users through education and protection of existing water rights, are critical to better understanding and supporting the issues and priorities of agricultural producers in order to keep our agricultural lands in agriculture.

For these reasons, I fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Addie Ann Spicer", written in a cursive style.

Addie Ann Spicer

November 30, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Alex Funk
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Funk:

This letter is submitted on the behalf of *Eggleston Ranch* to reflect my/our support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

Chaffee County is comprised of several rural communities in central Colorado and is known for its long-standing agricultural history and access to recreational opportunities. While eighty-three percent (83%) of land in the county is public, agriculture is a key component of the community, representing over 25% of the remaining land (16,464 irrigated acres). By 2035, the population within the county is expected to increase by 33%. The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community, comes at a critical time in the County, as we face increasing impacts from urban development, recreational pressure, drought, and wildfire.

The goals of this effort to strengthen communication and relationships with local agricultural water users, better understand the critical issues and priorities of agricultural producers, identify mutually beneficial projects that can address those identified issues, and provide support for agricultural water users through education and protection of existing water rights, are critical to better understanding and supporting the issues and priorities of agricultural producers in order to keep our agricultural lands in agriculture.

For these reasons, I/we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Albert Eggleston
Linda Eggleston
12433 E County Road 190
Salida CO 81201-9548

Albert J Eggleston
Linda Eggleston

11/30/2020
11-30-2020

November 30, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Alex Funk
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Funk:

This letter is submitted on the behalf of Hutchinson Ranch to reflect my/our support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

Chaffee County is comprised of several rural communities in central Colorado and is known for its long-standing agricultural history and access to recreational opportunities. While eighty-three percent (83%) of land in the county is public, agriculture is a key component of the community, representing over 25% of the remaining land (16,464 irrigated acres). By 2035, the population within the county is expected to increase by 33%. The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community, comes at a critical time in the County, as we face increasing impacts from urban development, recreational pressure, drought, and wildfire.

The goals of this effort to strengthen communication and relationships with local agricultural water users, better understand the critical issues and priorities of agricultural producers, identify mutually beneficial projects that can address those identified issues, and provide support for agricultural water users through education and protection of existing water rights, are critical to better understanding and supporting the issues and priorities of agricultural producers in order to keep our agricultural lands in agriculture.

For these reasons, I/we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Abigail Hutchinson
Hutchinson Ranch Manager

November 30, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Alex Funk
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Funk:

This letter is submitted on the behalf of Kelly Ranch to reflect our support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

Chaffee County is comprised of several rural communities in central Colorado and is known for its long-standing agricultural history and access to recreational opportunities. While eighty-three percent (83%) of land in the county is public, agriculture is a key component of the community, representing over 25% of the remaining land (16,464 irrigated acres). By 2035, the population within the county is expected to increase by 33%. The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community, comes at a critical time in the County, as we face increasing impacts from urban development, recreational pressure, drought, and wildfire.

The goals of this effort to strengthen communication and relationships with local agricultural water users, better understand the critical issues and priorities of agricultural producers, identify mutually beneficial projects that can address those identified issues, and provide support for agricultural water users through education and protection of existing water rights, are critical to better understanding and supporting the issues and priorities of agricultural producers in order to keep our agricultural lands in agriculture. Our ranch has an 1874 water right which we have used since 1952. We irrigate our meadows and raise native hay and alfalfa. With so much development coming into this valley it is important to show the value of the land and water to the new home owners.

For these reasons, we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Kelly

November 30, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Alex Funk
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Funk:


This letter is submitted on the behalf of *Kelly Ranch* to reflect my support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

Chaffee County is comprised of several rural communities in central Colorado and is known for its long-standing agricultural history and access to recreational opportunities. While eighty-three percent (83%) of land in the county is public, agriculture is a key component of the community, representing over 25% of the remaining land (16,464 irrigated acres). By 2035, the population within the county is expected to increase by 33%. The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community, comes at a critical time in the County, as we face increasing impacts from urban development, recreational pressure, drought, and wildfire.

The goals of this effort to strengthen communication and relationships with local agricultural water users, better understand the critical issues and priorities of agricultural producers, identify mutually beneficial projects that can address those identified issues, and provide support for agricultural water users through education and protection of existing water rights, are critical to better understanding and supporting the issues and priorities of agricultural producers in order to keep our agricultural lands in agriculture.

For these reasons, I fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,


Kelly Ranch

**LITTLE RIVER RANCH
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

PO. BOX 426, PONCHA SPRINGS, CO 81242
EMAIL: HOA@LITTLERIVERRANCHHOA.COM

November 21, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of Little River Ranch HOA in support of the request for grant funding from the Upper Arkansas Watershed Project (UAWP).

I have had the opportunity to sit in on their meetings, learned about their purpose and see the logic. The intelligence of creating a partnership of this nature where several organizations can come together, identify their goals and find a way to coordinate projects seems it would provide for the greatest of outcomes and best use of funds.

It has come to my attention that often small grants are provided for specific work, rather than a full scope project. Although that is fantastic that those monies have been granted, I see the greater benefit of providing funds to a group that can together address all aspects of what needs to be done in one specific area at any given time.

Here in Little River Ranch, we are looking forward to participating on a broader scale in projects that will not only assist with our river work but will encompass the health of the lands and water both east and west of our property. There has even been a brief discussion that we may serve as a prototype for other projects, showing what positive results have come from this cooperation.

Based on this, we are in full support of the grant request and do look forward to working with the UAWP community!

Sincerely,

Julie Webster
Little River Ranch Board Secretary

November 30, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Alex Funk
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Funk:

This letter is submitted on the behalf of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to reflect our support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

Chaffee County is comprised of several rural communities in central Colorado and is known for its long-standing agricultural history and access to recreational opportunities. While eighty-three percent (83%) of land in the county is public, agriculture is a key component of the community, representing over 25% of the remaining land (16,464 irrigated acres). By 2035, the population within the county is expected to increase by 33%. The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community, comes at a critical time in the County, as we face increasing impacts from urban development, recreational pressure, drought, and wildfire.

The goals of this effort to strengthen communication and relationships with local agricultural water users, better understand the critical issues and priorities of agricultural producers, identify mutually beneficial projects that can address those identified issues, and provide support for agricultural water users through education and protection of existing water rights, are critical to better understanding and supporting the issues and priorities of agricultural producers in order to keep our agricultural lands in agriculture.

For these reasons, we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Water Plan Fund Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Langer
Resource Team Lead – District Conservationist, Team 9
Canon City/Salida/Silver Cliff/Woodland Park

November 30, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Alex Funk
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Funk:


This letter is submitted on the behalf of *Salida Cattle Company* to reflect my/our support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

Chaffee County is comprised of several rural communities in central Colorado and is known for its long-standing agricultural history and access to recreational opportunities. While eighty-three percent (83%) of land in the county is public, agriculture is a key component of the community, representing over 25% of the remaining land (16,464 irrigated acres). By 2035, the population within the county is expected to increase by 33%. The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community, comes at a critical time in the County, as we face increasing impacts from urban development, recreational pressure, drought, and wildfire.

The goals of this effort to strengthen communication and relationships with local agricultural water users, better understand the critical issues and priorities of agricultural producers, identify mutually beneficial projects that can address those identified issues, and provide support for agricultural water users through education and protection of existing water rights, are critical to better understanding and supporting the issues and priorities of agricultural producers in order to keep our agricultural lands in agriculture.

For these reasons, I/we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan + Tyson Evans - SCC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan and Tyson Evans
POBox 1313
Salida CO 81201-1313

November 30, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Alex Funk
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Funk:

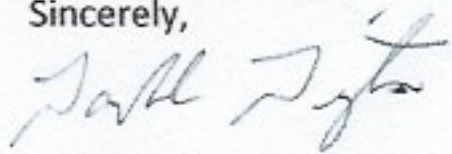

This letter is submitted on the behalf of Todd and Belinda Tipton to reflect our support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

Chaffee County is comprised of several rural communities in central Colorado and is known for its long-standing agricultural history and access to recreational opportunities. While eighty-three percent (83%) of land in the county is public, agriculture is a key component of the community, representing over 25% of the remaining land (16,464 irrigated acres). By 2035, the population within the county is expected to increase by 33%. The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community, comes at a critical time in the County, as we face increasing impacts from urban development, recreational pressure, drought, and wildfire.

The goals of this effort to strengthen communication and relationships with local agricultural water users, better understand the critical issues and priorities of agricultural producers, identify mutually beneficial projects that can address those identified issues, and provide support for agricultural water users through education and protection of existing water rights, are critical to better understanding and supporting the issues and priorities of agricultural producers in order to keep our agricultural lands in agriculture.

For these reasons, I/we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

APPENDIX B

Protection of Water Rights in Watershed Health Projects

On November 2, 2020, the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership presented to the Arkansas Basin Roundtable Needs Assessment Committee seeking support for the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan. The Committee passed the request onto the full Basin Roundtable with full support (ABRT meeting held on November 11, 2020).

During the Needs Assessment Meeting, members of the Basin Roundtable expressed a need to ensure that future watershed restoration projects and other efforts developed through the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan would not harm existing water rights in the Basin.

As Phase 1 tasks do not include the construction of restoration projects, Phase 1 of this initiative will not result in these effects. Subsequent phases that include the planning, design and construction of projects that may change the historic availability of water to decreed water rights by time, amount or location will require appropriate analysis to assure decreed water rights and the established uses of water are not materially injured.

Proposed language for future watershed restoration efforts was provided by the Upper Arkansas River Water Conservancy District and was supported by the members of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable at the November 11 meeting. The proposed language is included below:

PROTECTION OF WATER RIGHTS

Consistent with C.R.S. 37-75-102, et seq. of the “Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act”, project proponents who seek support or grants from the Roundtables or the Colorado Water Conservation Board whose project(s) have the potential to change the historic availability of water to decreed water rights by time, amount or location through alterations of the stream flow regime, geomorphology of a natural stream channel, increasing the surface area of a stream, or the expansion of riparian vegetation will evaluate these impacts by undertaking a water rights impact analysis. Such analysis will be conducted by a qualified registered water resource engineer familiar with the subject water body and drainage basin. This analysis will be conducted prior to implementing any of the tasks identified in the project/grant scope of work. The analysis may be part of the identified project costs. Any mitigation required to prevent negative impacts to water rights may also be included in the project costs.



To: Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant Application

From: Envision Chaffee County, Board of Directors

Date: December 8, 2020"

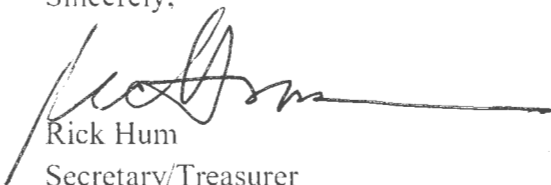
RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan Phase 1 – Stakeholder Engagement, Agricultural Needs Assessment, and Riparian/floodplain Condition

Envision Chaffee County supports the Upper Arkansas Conservation District's application for The Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan Phase 1.

Envision engaged more than 1,500 people and nearly 80 organizations to create a shared community vision that drives our work. We lead the community to implement programs that address beautiful landscapes, clean water, small town vibrancy, recreation, friendly people, healthy forests and thriving wildlife.

The study proposed by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District and the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership is a very important part of preserving water quantity and quality for our agricultural providers, our municipal water supplies and the health of the Upper Arkansas River. These are the live blood of our community and it is extremely important these resources are well-managed as we deal with increasing population, development, recreation and climate change.

Sincerely,



Rick Hum
Secretary/Treasurer
Envision Chaffee County



December 3, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
ATTN: Alex Funk
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Funk:

The Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT) is pleased to support the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District.

CCALT's mission is to conserve Colorado's western heritage and working landscapes for the benefit of future generations. We have partnered with some 425 families to protect more than 662,000 acres of working and productive agricultural land statewide. Nine of these families are in Chaffee County and they have partnered with us to protect 3,276 acres.

Chaffee County is comprised of several rural communities in central Colorado and is known for its long-standing agricultural history and access to recreational opportunities. While eighty-three percent (83%) of land in the county is public, agriculture is a key component of the community, representing over 25% of the remaining land (16,464 irrigated acres). By 2035, the population within the county is expected to increase by 33%. The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community, comes at a critical time in the County, as the County faces increasing impacts from urban development, recreational pressure, drought, and wildfire.

The goals of this effort are to strengthen communication and relationships with local agricultural water users, better understand the critical issues and priorities of agricultural producers, identify mutually beneficial projects that can address those identified issues, and provide support for agricultural water users through education and protection of existing water rights. These goals are critical to better understanding and supporting the issues and priorities of agricultural producers in order to keep our agricultural lands in agriculture.

For these reasons, we support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sally Ross
Restoration and Resiliency Program Director
CCALT

Colorado Water Conservation Board

November 30, 2020

ATTN: Alex Funk

1313 Sherman St. Room 721

Denver, CO 80203

RE: Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan

Dear Mr. Funk,

This letter is submitted on the behalf of McMurry Land & Livestock to offer support of the Upper Arkansas Headwaters Resiliency Plan grant application submitted by the Upper Arkansas Conservation District (UACD).

Chaffee County is comprised of several rural communities in central Colorado and is known for its long standing agricultural history and access to recreational opportunities. While 83% of land in the county is public, agriculture is a key component of the community, representing over 25% of the remaining land (16,646 irrigated acres). By 2035 the population within the county is expected to increase by 33%. The mission of the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership is to strengthen collaboration and communication among the various water users and stakeholders in the community. The effort and energy put forward by the (UACD) comes at a critical time in the County, as we face increasing impacts from development, recreational pressure, drought, and wildfire.

The goals of this work is to strengthen communication and relationships with local agricultural water users, to better understand the critical issues and priorities of agricultural producers, identify mutually beneficial projects that can address those identified issues, and provide support for agricultural water users through education, and protection of existing water rights. The opportunity to better understand and support the pressing issues and priorities of agricultural producers, helping to keep agricultural lands productive is very timely as community members working with agricultural producers have become more engaged in keeping and improving the productivity of these cherished pieces of property. Our ranch has had the opportunity to work alongside this group and witness encouraging and long lasting results.

For the above reasons, we fully support the application by the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership and the Upper Arkansas Conservation District to develop a local watershed resiliency plan. We respectfully request that the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Watershed Restoration Grant Committee give the applicant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. McMurry

McMurry Land & Livestock Nathrop, Colorado

