

**Water Supply Reserve Fund  
Water Activity Summary Sheet  
March 10-11, 2021  
Consent Agenda Item 2(q)**

**Applicant & Grantee:** White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts

**Water Activity Name:** White River Integrated Water Initiative Phase 2

**Water Activity Purpose:** Agricultural, Education & Outreach,  
Municipal/Industrial, Needs Assessment, and  
Nonconsumptive (Environmental & Recreational) - Study

**County:** Rio Blanco

**Drainage Basin:** White River Basin

**Water Source:** White River main stem & Piceance Creek

**Amount Requested:** \$49,800 Yampa-White-Green Basin Account  
\$66,000 Statewide Account  
\$115,800 Total Request

**Matching Funds:** **Basin Account Match = \$49,800**

- 75% of statewide request (meets 10% min)

**Applicant & 3rd Party Match = \$42,900 (\$7,000 cash & \$35,900 in-kind)**

- 65% of the statewide request (meets 10% min)

**Total Match (Basin request & Applicant Match) = \$92,700**

- 140% of the statewide request (meets 50% min)

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$49,800 from the Yampa/White/Green Basin Account and \$66,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project: White River Integrated Water Initiative Phase 2

**Water Activity Summary:** If approved, Phase 2 of the White River Integrated Water Initiative (Initiative) will build upon Phase 1 completed in 2020 where the following mission statement was developed: *Community-based initiative to identify actions promoting a healthy river that ensures a vibrant agricultural community and maintains healthy fisheries while protecting water rights, quantity, and quality with respect for the local customs, cultures, and property rights.*

To accomplish this, the Districts will use WSRF funds assist in contracting with a Project Coordinator to maintain project momentum, continue community outreach, and coordinate planned assessments with stakeholders. Phase 2 also includes diversion structure and riparian health assessments which were identified

as being needed due to the lack of current information and data. The information collected through these assessments will help determine opportunities for projects that will benefit landowners, water right holders, the health of the river, and fish passages.

As Phase 2 progresses, the Project Coordinator will write a Plan of Work for Phase 3 that clearly delineates the next steps required including needed studies, modeling, and implementation of identified projects to improve the health of the White River. These steps will ultimately lead to the development of an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) in the future.

**Discussion:** This project meets with several measureable outcomes in the Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable's Basin Implementation Plan including: protecting decreed and pre-compact water rights; protect and encourage agricultural uses; improves water quality; remediate at-risk or lost infrastructure; and provides public education and demonstration.

**Issues/Additional Needs:** No other issues or additional needs have been identified.

**Eligibility Requirements:** The application meets requirements of all eligibility components.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Staff has determined this activity satisfies the Evaluation Criteria.

<b>Funding Sources/Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Status</b>
CSU Extension	\$0	\$4,800	\$4,800	Secured
Natural Resource Conservation Services	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	Secured
Colorado Parks & Wildlife	\$0	\$600	\$600	Secured
CO Northwestern Community College	\$0	\$7,300	\$7,300	Secured
Rivers Edge West	\$0	\$4,800	\$4,800	Secured
White River/Douglas Creek Conservancy District	\$0	\$4,900	\$4,900	Secured
Trout Unlimited	\$0	\$5,300	\$5,300	Secured
Ag Water Network	\$0	\$7,200	\$7,200	Secured
River Network	\$7,000	\$0	\$7,000	Secured
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$35,900</b>	<b>\$42,900</b>	
WSRF Yampa/White/Green Basin Account	\$49,800	\$0	\$49,800	Secured
WSRF Statewide Account	\$66,000	\$0	\$66,000	
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$115,800</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$115,800</b>	
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$122,800</b>	<b>\$35,900</b>	<b>\$158,700</b>	

**CWCB Project Manager:** Chris Sturm



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**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**Water Supply Reserve Fund  
Grant Application**

**Instructions**

All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current [2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#).

To receive funding from the WSRF, a proposed water activity must be recommended for approval by a Roundtable(s) **AND** the approved by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for roundtable consideration and recommendation is outlined in the 2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. The CWCB meets bimonthly.

If you have questions, please contact the WSRF Grant Program Manager (for all Roundtables) or your Roundtable Liaison:

Ben Wade  
[ben.wade@state.co.us](mailto:ben.wade@state.co.us)  
303-866-3441 x3238 (office)

Sam Stein  
[Sam.stein@state.co.us](mailto:Sam.stein@state.co.us)  
303-866-3441(office)

**WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)**

- YES ☒ NO ☐ This request was recommended for CWCB approval by the sponsoring roundtable.
- YES ☒ NO ☐ I have read and understand the [2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#).
- YES ☒ NO ☐ Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the [Standard Contract](#).<sup>1</sup>

**Application Documents included:**

- YES ☒ NO ☐ Exhibit A: Statement of Work<sup>2</sup> (*Word – see Template*)
- YES ☒ NO ☐ Exhibit B: Budget & Schedule<sup>2</sup> (*Excel Spreadsheet – see Template*)
- YES ☒ NO ☐ Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Commitments<sup>2</sup>
- YES ☒ NO ☐ Map<sup>2</sup>
- YES ☐ NO ☐ Photos/Drawings/Reports
- YES ☒ NO ☐ Letters of Support

**Contracting Documents<sup>3</sup>**

- YES ☐ NO ☐ Detailed/Itemized Budget<sup>3</sup> (*Excel Spreadsheet – see Template*)
- YES ☐ NO ☐ Certificate of Insurance<sup>4</sup> (*General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.*)
- YES ☐ NO ☐ Certificate of Good Standing<sup>(4)</sup>
- YES ☐ NO ☐ W-9 Form<sup>4</sup>
- YES ☐ NO ☐ Independent Contractor Form<sup>4</sup> (*If applicant is individual, not company/organization*)
- YES ☐ NO ☐ Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Click "Grant Agreements". For reference only/do not fill out or submit/required for contracting

<sup>2</sup> Required with application if applicable.

<sup>3</sup> Additional documentation providing a Detailed/Itemized Budget maybe required for contracting. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate with the CWCB Project Manager to determine specifics.

<sup>4</sup> Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.



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Schedule		
CWCB Meeting	Application Submittal Dates	Type of Request
January	October 1	Basin Account
March	December 1	Basin/Statewide Account/Water Plan Grant Match <sup>1</sup>
May	February 1	Basin Account
July	April 1	Basin Account
September	June 1	Basin/Statewide Account
November	August 1	Basin Account

<sup>1</sup> If either the basin or statewide match includes matching funds from a pending Water Plant Grant, both must be submitted by December 1st deadline for March Board meeting review.

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	White River & Douglas Creek Conservation Districts	
Name of Water Activity	White River Integrated Water Initiative	
Approving Roundtable(s)		Basin Account Request(s) <sup>1</sup>
Yampa, White, Green Basins Roundtable		\$49,800
Basin Account Request Subtotal		\$49,800
Basin Account Request Subtotal Approved by Roundtable		\$49,800
Statewide Account Request <sup>(1)</sup>		\$66,000
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)		\$ 115,800
Total Project Costs		\$ 158,700

<sup>1</sup> Please indicate the amount recommended for approval by the Roundtable(s)



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Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	White River Conservation Districts
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 837, Meeker, CO 81641
FEIN	84-0757034
<b>Grantee's Organization Contact<sup>1</sup></b>	Marc Etchart
Position/Title	White River Conservation District President
Email	<a href="mailto:marcetchart@msn.com">marcetchart@msn.com</a>
Phone	(970) 948-5562
<b>Grant Management Contact<sup>2</sup></b>	Callie Hendrickson
Position/Title	Exec. Director
Email	<a href="mailto:Callie.districts@gmail.com">Callie.districts@gmail.com</a>
Phone	970-878-9838
<b>Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)</b>	N/A
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	

<sup>1</sup> Person with signatory authority

<sup>2</sup> Person responsible for creating reimbursement invoices (Invoice for Services) and corresponding with CWCB staff.

Description of Grantee
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
<p>The Soil Conservation District Act (now Conservation District) was passed by Colorado Legislature on May 6, 1937. This act is found in Colorado Revised Statutes Title 35 article 70. The Districts are managed by a board elected at a general election by the landowners within the District. The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts have cooperated with individuals and government agencies including county, state and federal departments and agencies for over 50 years treating resource problems.</p> <p>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, animals, plants and air quality. This act then enabled the Federal Government to provide technical and monetary assistance to the local agriculture community to protect private property from degradation of the natural resources. Through partnerships with NRCS, BLM, and other agencies, Best Management Practices (BMP) are planned and implemented to treat and protect the soil, water and related resources on lands within the District's boundaries. The Conservation District partnerships serve all landowners within the district by promoting voluntary conservation practices and providing technical assistance, planning, and practice installation assistance.</p>



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	<b>Public (Government):</b> municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
X	<b>Public (Districts):</b> authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises
	<b>Private Incorporated:</b> mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations
	<b>Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors:</b> are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
	<b>Non-governmental organizations:</b> broadly, any organization that is not part of the government
	<b>Covered Entity:</b> as defined in <a href="#">Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes</a>

Type of Water Activity (check one)	
X	Study (Planning)
	Implementation

Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)		
X	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)	
X	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)	
X	Agricultural	
X	Municipal/Industrial	
X	Needs Assessment	
X	Education & Outreach	
	Other	Explain:

Location of Water Activity	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in <b>decimal degrees</b> . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	Rio Blanco County – The mainstem of the White River and Piceance Creek (tributary to the White River)
Latitude	
Longitude	

Water Activity Overview
Please provide a summary of the proposed water activity (200 words or less). Include a description of the activity and what the WSRF funding will be used for specifically (e.g. studies, permitting, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the activity. 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, area of habitat improvements. If this project addresses multiple purposes



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Water Activity Overview
or spans multiple basins, please explain.
The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule.
Phase 2 of the White River Integrated Water Initiative (Initiative) will build upon Phase 1 completed in 2020 where the following mission statement was developed.
<u>Mission Statement:</u> Community-based initiative to identify actions promoting a healthy river that ensures a vibrant agricultural community and maintains healthy fisheries while protecting water rights, quantity, and quality with respect for the local customs, cultures, and property rights.
To accomplish this, the Districts will contract with a Project Coordinator to maintain project momentum, continue community outreach, and coordinate planned assessments with stakeholders. Phase 2 includes diversion structure and riparian health assessments which were identified as being needed due to the lack of current information/data. The information collected through these assessments will help determine opportunities for projects that will benefit landowners, water right holders, the health of the river, and fish passages.
As Phase 2 progresses, Project Coordinator will write a Plan of Work for Phase 3 that clearly delineates the next steps required including needed studies, modeling, and implementation of identified projects to improve the health of the White River. This will ultimately lead to the development of an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) in the future (the IWMP is not part of this grant request).

Measurable Results	
To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRF funds please provide any of the following values.	
	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)
	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
Phase 2 of IWMP	Other Explain: Establish baselines and developing recommendations for the White River – Headwaters to Utah State Line (150 miles) and Piceance Creek (58 miles)

Water Activity Justification
Provide a description of how this water activity supports the goals of <a href="#">Colorado's Water Plan</a> , the most recent <a href="#">Statewide Water Supply Initiative</a> , and the respective <a href="#">roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan</a> <sup>(1)</sup> . The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and



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### Water Activity Justification

Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers).

For applications that include a request for funds from the Statewide Account, the proposed water activity shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan criteria for state support (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;) (Also listed pp. 4-5 in [2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#)).

The Colorado Water Plan (CWP) calls for 80 percent of locally prioritized rivers to be covered by Stream Management Plans (also referred to as integrated watershed management plans) by 2030 (page 6-178). The White River Initiative will serve to advance the state's goals by conducting planning on the mainstem of the White River and Piceance Creek (a significant tributary to the White River).

The purpose of the White River Initiative is to identify water related needs for consumptive and non-consumptive uses, determine if gaps exist and, if so, find solutions for filling the gaps in partnership with all water users. The integrated approach that the planning effort contemplates speaks directly to the CWP's call to "set forth a water management roadmap to achieve a productive economy, vibrant and sustainable cities, productive agriculture, a strong environment, and a robust recreation industry."

This effort fits well within the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts (Districts) long-range plan that identifies water quality and quantity as priorities. The two Districts encompass the majority of Rio Blanco County and the White River watershed.

**From Section 6-6, Environmental and Recreational Projects and Methods** (pages 6-168 to 169), the policy of the State of Colorado is to identify and implement environmental and recreational projects and methods to achieve the following statewide long-term goals:

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

**From section 6.5, Municipal, Industrial, and Agricultural Infrastructure Projects and Methods** (Page 6-127)

Colorado's Water Plan encourages the use of grassroots efforts to identify and implement projects and methods to meet community and agricultural water needs throughout Colorado, and to achieve the following statewide long-term goals:

- Use water efficiently to reduce overall future water needs.
- Establish a process to identify the projects and processes to meet the water supply gap for communities while balancing the needs of agriculture, the environment, and recreation across the state.
- Obtain the State's encouragement and assistance in the development of balanced and appropriate storage that can meet multiple benefits, including instream flow and augmentation needs.
- Meet community water needs during periods of drought.
- Develop and implement policies and strategies that support meaningful agricultural viability statewide.

In the Yampa, White, Green Basin Implementation Plan (BIP); recreational, environmental, agricultural, municipal and industrial stakeholders unanimously adopted the following eight goals and their associated measurable outcomes to meet YWG Basin needs.





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### Water Activity Justification

1. Protect the YWG Basin from compact curtailment of existing decreed water uses and some increment of future uses.
2. Protect and encourage agricultural uses of water in the YWG Basin within the context of private property rights.
3. Improve agricultural water supplies to increase irrigated land and reduce shortages.
4. Identify and address Municipal and Industrial (M&I) water shortages
5. Quantify and protect non-consumptive water uses.
6. Maintain and consider the existing natural range of water quality that is necessary for current and anticipated water uses.
7. Restore, maintain, and modernize water storage and distribution infrastructure.
8. Develop an integrated system of water use, storage, administration and delivery to reduce water shortages and meet environmental and recreational needs.

The Initiative's mission statement and primary goals stated below have been identified in Phase 1 and encompass the majority of the above noted CWP and BIP goals. During Phase 2, in which funds are being requested, the community will develop more specific goals and objectives by individual river reaches to accomplish the stated mission. This will all be done with the above noted CWP and BIP goals in mind.

Mission Statement: Community-based initiative to identify actions promoting a healthy river that ensures a vibrant agricultural community and maintains healthy fisheries while protecting water rights, quantity, and quality with respect for the local customs, cultures, and property rights.

#### Overall River Goals for Current and Future Generations

1. Protect and preserve existing water rights and other beneficial water uses
2. Protect and enhance water quantity and quality through promoting best management practices for:
  - a. Forest health
  - b. Riparian health
  - c. Rangeland health
  - d. Favorable conditions of streamflow
3. Identify opportunities for creation or improvement of infrastructure to support efficient consumptive and non-consumptive uses.
4. Support the development and maintenance of efficient and necessary long-term storage solutions that will improve, enhance and ensure irrigation, river health, water quantity, water quality, and native and recreational fisheries.

Colorado Water Plan Projects Aligned with Colorado's Water Values: Section 9.4 pp 9-43 to 9-44

Does the project proponent demonstrate a commitment to collaboration?

- The White River Integrated Initiative (Initiative) has and will continue a commitment to collaboration and including all stakeholders in the process through developing the Planning Advisory Committee, made up of agriculture, environment, recreation, municipal, and industry interests.
- Significant outreach has and will continue to take place through open committee meetings, public input meetings, maintaining an up-to-date webpage, news paper articles, and newsletters.
- In the last year, a diverse group of participants have demonstrated commitment to collaboration by attending meetings, providing input, soliciting addition community input, developing goals and identifying the needs for the next phase of the project in a constructive and productive manner.

Does the project proponent demonstrate sustainability?



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### Water Activity Justification

- This Initiative is dedicated to developing an integrated plan that will encourage land managers to continue using and/or begin to use Best Management Practices. All projects recommended through this effort are expected to serve environmental and recreational needs as well as agriculture, municipal and industrial needs.
- Partners include multiple local government partners including both towns within the County, Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District, Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District, White River Conservation District, and the Douglas Creek Conservation District. All of these will be served and impacted by the integrated water management plan that is developed through this process.
- The focus of this effort is to develop an integrated plan that will improve water quality and quantity for all purposes.
- The initial members of this planning process are still showing commitment to this project and understand the need for continuing their involvement long-term. The team consists of a cross section of local leaders, natural resource professionals, agricultural interests, land owners, water right owners, energy companies and environmental, recreational and fishery interests committed to the long-term health of the White River.

Does the project proponent establish the fiscal and technical feasibility of the project?

- This project has significant in-kind contributions from multiple partners including federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations. Unfortunately, the local governments are cutting budgets significantly for next year and into the future due to mill levy cuts. Therefore, we have limited cash match for this project. We believe the time and in-kind commitments make a strong statement about the commitment from the local community to proceed with this effort.

<sup>1</sup> Access Basin Implementation Plans or Education Action Plans from Basin drop down menu.

### Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests

**Basin (only) Account** grant requests require a 25% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the Applicant or 3<sup>rd</sup> party and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment** as described in the [2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#) (submitted on the contributing entity's letterhead). Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind)



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Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests	
Total Match	\$
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.	

Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests	
<b>Statewide Account</b> grant requests require a 50% match as described in the <a href="#">2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines</a> . At least of 10% of the required Statewide Account Grant request match shall be cash from Basin Account funds whether that is from one or multiple basins; and the remaining 40% of the required match may be provided from any source, including other grants, cash from the Basin Account, or any combination of cash, in-kind services, or in-kind materials.and shall be accompanied by a <b>letter of commitment</b> . Attach additional sheet if necessary.	
Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):
CSU Extension (In-kind)	\$ 4,800 secured
NRCS (In-kind)	\$ 1,000 secured
CPW (In-Kind)	\$ 600 secured
CNCC (Professor)	\$ 2,500 secured
Rivers Edge West (In-kind)	\$ 4,800 secured
WR & DC Conservation Districts/NRCS/Colo State Cons. Board (DCT Position) (in-kind)	\$ 4,900 secured
Trout Unlimited (in-kind)	\$ 5,300 secured
Ag Water Network	\$ 7,200 secured
CNCC Students (in-kind)	\$ 4,800 secured
River Network (cash – in hand)	\$ 7,000 secured
WSRF Basin Funds	\$ 49,800
Total Match	\$104,700
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).	



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### Related Studies

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

White River Algae Study (2018 – 2021) – to be completed by USGS in 2021 will provide extensive water quality and quantity information from the upper portion of the White River.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Trout Unlimited have collected benthic macroinvertebrate data over the past three years. The data will be analyzed and included in the above USGS study.

The White River Programatic Biological Opinion (PBO) and White River Management Plan is expected to be complete by 2022 which will provide extensive information for this effort.

During Phase 1 of the Initiative, a database of existing related studies has been compiled. In this Phase 2, more detailed analysis of that database will be conducted to determine other data gaps that are needed to finalize an IWMP.

### Previous CWCB Grants

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

Applicant: White River Conservation District  
Water Activity Name: White River Algae Study  
Approving RT: Yampa, White, Green BRT  
CWCB Board Meeting Dates:

- WSRF Grant
  - Effective Date 3/11/19
  - # POGG1, PDAA, 201900002747
- Colo Water Plan Grant
  - Effective Date 12/31/19
  - # POGG1, PDAA, 202000002716

### Tax Payer Bill of Rights

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

The White River Conservation District de-TABORed in 1996.



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<b>Colorado Water Conservation Board</b>	
<b>Water Supply Reserve Fund</b>	
<b><u>Exhibit A - Statement of Work</u></b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>September 16, 2020</b>
<b>Water Activity Name:</b>	<b>White River Integrated Water Initiative (Initiative), Phase 2</b>
<b>Grant Recipient:</b>	<b>White River Conservation District</b>
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<b>WSRF</b>
<b>Water Activity Overview:</b> (Please provide brief description of the proposed water activity (no more than 200 words). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRF funding will be used for. (PLEASE DEFINE ALL ACRONYMS).)	
<p>Phase 2 of the White River Integrated Water Initiative (Initiative) will build upon Phase 1 completed in 2020 where the following mission statement was developed.</p> <p><u>Mission Statement:</u> Community-based initiative to identify actions promoting a healthy river that ensures a vibrant agricultural community and maintains healthy fisheries while protecting water rights, quantity, and quality with respect for the local customs, cultures, and property rights.</p> <p>To accomplish this, the Districts will contract with a Project Coordinator to maintain project momentum, continue community outreach, and coordinate planned assessments with stakeholders. Phase 2 includes diversion structure and riparian health assessments which were identified as being needed due to the lack of current information/data. The information collected through these assessments will help determine opportunities for projects that will benefit landowners, water right holders, the health of the river, and fish passages.</p> <p>As Phase 2 progresses, Project Coordinator will write a Plan of Work for Phase 3 that clearly delineates the next steps required including needed studies, modeling, and implementation of identified projects to improve the health of the White River. This will ultimately lead to the development of an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) in the future (the IWMP is not part of this grant request).</p>	



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**Objectives:** (List the objectives of the project. (PLEASE DEFINE ACRONYMS)).

1. Regularly convene the White River Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) to direct the White River Integrated Water Initiative (Initiative) process and coordinate with relevant on-going work, such as the White River Algae Study, White River Benthic Macroinvertebrate Study, White River Programmatic Biological Opinion, Coordinated Resource Management Plans (CRMP), White River Partnership Restoration Planning efforts.
2. Continue to develop and refine specific goals for each reach identified in Phase 1 (Mainstem: Upper, Middle, Lower of the White River; and Piceance Creek)
3. Identify additional data gaps that need to be addressed to meet the goals identified in Objective 2.
4. Identify opportunities to improve irrigation efficiencies, river health, and fish passages, while reducing fish entrainment.
5. Identify opportunities for improving riparian areas for river health, fish habitat, agriculture, and other consumptive and non-consumptive uses.
6. Develop a Phase 3 workplan that will address the identified goals and begin implementation of projects that will meet the noted mission statement.

**Tasks**

Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format: (PLEASE DEFINE ACRONYMS)

**Task 1 - (Name) Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach**

Description of Task:

Stakeholder engagement and outreach will need to continue throughout this process. A Project Coordinator will provide support to the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts (Districts) to ensure continued momentum of the White River Integrated Water Initiative (Initiative) based on information developed in Phase 1. The Coordinator will ensure community engagement and coordination with other on-going studies as well as coordination of educational workshops.

Method/Procedure:

1. Provide communication, coordination, and facilitation of the PAC and subcommittee meetings
2. Develop and disseminate agendas and meeting notes to the PAC
3. Develop and implement an engagement and communications plan to engage more stakeholders and ensure coordination with other on-going studies
4. Coordinate two informational and educational workshops for stakeholders regarding best management practices for riparian health and diversion structures.
5. Report activities and progress to the Districts
6. Assist in the development and maintenance of webpage to ensure transparency and improve stakeholder engagement.

Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)

1. Stakeholder engagement and communications plan
2. PAC meeting notices, meeting notes, and activities on dedicated page of the Districts' website
3. Quarterly newspaper and semi-annual newsletter articles on progress and activities
4. Results of pre and post surveys measuring increased stakeholder knowledge of those who attend the workshops.
5. Monthly progress reports to the Districts



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Tasks
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
Six-month progress reports

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format: (PLEASE DEFINE ACRONYMS)
<b><u>Task 2 - (Name) Information Status Assessments and Data Gap Determinations</u></b>
Description of Task:
<p>It is important to understand the current information and status of our natural resources before we proceed with recommendations for changes/improvements. Therefore, this task will complete a review of the interactive database completed by the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) during Phase 1, which lists the existing publications and reports for the White River and compare it with the prioritized goals identified by the PAC from public input. This task will identify data gaps and informational needs for specific reaches of the river. The data and information gathered, along with additional field assessment data identified in Task 3 (below) will be used to identify ecological, agricultural, municipal, industrial, and recreational priorities for Phase 3. Base-line data on the current status of water quantity, water quality, riparian condition and diversion structure status components will enable future comparisons and assessments of project progress.</p>
Method/Procedure:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Compare PAC priorities and identified reach-specific goals to the existing interactive database to identify information gaps that will need to be researched in Phase 3.</li></ol>
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. List of high White River Integrated Water Initiative (Initiative) priorities that may be lacking information or data to determine if there is need for further studies or data collection.</li><li>2. Update interactive database as additional information is located and/or as current studies are finalized and reports made available.</li></ol>
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The link to interactive database</li><li>2. Six-month progress reports</li></ol>



Last Update: March 17, 2020

<https://cwcb.colorado.gov/>

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format: (PLEASE DEFINE ACRONYMS)
<b><u>Task 3 - (Name) Diversion Structure Assessments</u></b>
Description of Task: <p>Through the review of current information on the White River, data gaps were identified in Phase 1 regarding the condition of diversion structures and opportunities to improve structures to benefit irrigation, river health, and fish passages. Therefore, studies will be conducted during Phase 2 to collect this information to help inform the final Work Plan for Phase 3. The Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) will work with landowners, water right holders and local natural resource professionals to identify scientifically sound project opportunities designed to improve water quality and quantity.</p> <p>The Districts will convene a holistic team approach to this process. The Project Coordinator will coordinate diversion structure assessments with landowners.</p>
Method/Procedure: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Develop specific procedures for assessment using a team including NRCS, Trout Unlimited (TU), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), the PAC, and other specialists' guidance.</li><li>2. Provide landowners existing information and education through outreach.</li><li>3. Team members will meet with landowners/water right holders to assess diversions and look for opportunities to improve river health, irrigation efficiencies, and fish passages.</li><li>4. Complete reports on individual assessments and cumulative results by reach (Upper, Middle, &amp; Lower White River &amp; Piceance Creek)</li></ol>
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A minimum of 20 (5 per Reach) diversion structure assessments.</li><li>2. Diversion structure assessment reports for each site, grouped into respective reach (as defined by the PAC to facilitate planning and priorities).</li><li>3. Develop recommendations report for high priority issues and locations by reach</li></ol>
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Six-month progress reports</li></ol>

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format: (PLEASE DEFINE ACRONYMS)





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Tasks
<b><u>Task 4 - (Name) Riparian Health Assessments</u></b>
Description of Task: <p>Through the review of current information on the White River, data gaps were identified regarding a lack of baseline riparian health information. Therefore, a Riparian Health Assessment (RHA) Team will identify sites and develop and implement a plan to conduct assessment on riparian conditions in respective reaches.</p> <p>The RHA Team will work with landowners and local natural resource professionals to identify scientifically sound project opportunities designed to improve water quality and quantity.</p>
Method/Procedure: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Develop specific procedures for assessment such as Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Assessment and new technology, using a team including CSU Extension, NRCS, Rivers Edge West (REW), Trout Unlimited (TU), Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC), and the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).</li><li>2. Host a workshop/training on assessment procedures for evaluators and landowners.</li><li>3. Communicate with landowners for permission to access land and engage them in assessments.</li><li>4. Meet with landowners to assess riparian areas and look for opportunities to improve stream bank stability and function and/or remove invasive species.</li><li>5. Complete reports on individual and cumulative assessments by reach (Upper, Middle, &amp; Lower White River &amp; Piceance Creek)</li></ol>
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A minimum of 20 (5 per Reach) riparian health assessments.</li><li>2. Riparian health assessment reports for each site, grouped into respective reach (as defined by the PAC to facilitate planning and priorities)</li><li>3. reach (as defined by the PAC to facilitate planning and priorities).</li><li>4. A report identifying high priority issues and locations with recommendations for improvement projects</li></ol>
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Six-month progress reports</li></ol>



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Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format: (PLEASE DEFINE ACRONYMS)
<b><u>Task 5 - (Name) Phase 2 Summary Report and Development of Phase 3 Work Plan</u></b>
Description of Task:  During Phase 2, the Project Coordinator will facilitate and work with the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) to summarize all work completed in Phase 2 and then develop a community supported Work Plan for Phase 3. The Work Plan will identify the prioritized projects and/or additional studies needed to ultimately develop an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) for the White River.  The final IWMP will identify community driven “actions promoting a healthy river that ensures a vibrant agricultural community and maintains healthy fisheries while protecting water rights, quantity, and quality with respect for the local customs, cultures, and property rights.”
Method/Procedure:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Summarize Phase 2 activities and input including; public input, identified data gaps, and field assessments based on PAC priorities</li><li>2. Draft and finalize the Initiative’s Phase 3 Work Plan based on the Phase 2 Summary</li></ol>
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Phase 2 final summary report</li><li>2. Phase 3 Work Plan</li></ol>
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Final progress report</li><li>2. Phase 2 final summary report</li><li>3. Phase 3 work plan</li></ol>



Last Update: March 17, 2020

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Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format: (PLEASE DEFINE ACRONYMS)
<b><u>Task 6 - (Name) Project Management</u></b>
Description of Task:  Phase 2 of the Initiative will take a significant amount of oversight and management. The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts will contract with and oversee the Project Coordinator (Coordinator), ensure tasks are completed effectively and efficiently, and ensure effective communications and coordination of all partners and stakeholders.
Method/Procedure:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Develop job description for the Coordinator position, place a request for proposals out to the public, hire and manage the Coordinator with guidance from the PAC.</li><li>2. Provide oversight and hold weekly update meetings with the Coordinator</li><li>3. Communications with the CWCB staff, the YWG Basin Roundtable, other partners</li><li>4. Prepare appropriate reports for all funders and ensure work within deadline and ensure compliance to all contracts.</li></ol>
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Accurate accounting and complete reports submitted to funders and partners</li><li>2. Comprehensive Phase 2 Report and Phase 3 Work Plan delivered to the PAC, District Boards, YWG Basin Roundtable, and CWCB.</li></ol>
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Six-month progress reports</li><li>2. Final grant reports</li><li>3. Phase 2 Final Report</li><li>4. Phase 3 Work Plan</li></ol>



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Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format: (PLEASE DEFINE ACRONYMS)
<b><u>Task 7 - (Name) Administration</u></b>
Description of Task:  Project administration will include tracking budget, accounting, and time, as well as supporting communications and outreach objectives, and Project Manager.
Method/Procedure:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Track project budget (including tracking of in-kind hours and cash match), deliverables, and progress reports.</li><li>2. Provide administrative assistance to the Project Coordinator by providing contact information for partners and stakeholders, meeting coordination, making copies, etc.</li><li>3. Submit six-month reports and quarterly reimbursement requests to grantors.</li></ol>
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Monthly financial and progress reports to the</li><li>2. Accurate and timely financial and grant tracking reports</li></ol>
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Six-month progress reports</li><li>2. Final grant reports</li></ol>



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### Budget and Schedule

**Exhibit B - Budget and Schedule:** This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined [Budget and Schedule](#) that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in excel format. A separate excel formatted Budget is required for engineering costs to include rate and unit costs.

### Reporting Requirements

**Progress Reports:** The grantee 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. The CWCB may withhold reimbursement until satisfactory progress reports have been submitted.

**Final Report:** At completion of the project, the grantee shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the grantee'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.

### Payments

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures, must include invoices for all work completed and must be on grantee's letterhead. 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.

The CWCB will pay the last 10% of the entire water activity 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 water activity and purchase order or contract will be closed without any further payment. Any entity that fails to complete a satisfactory Final Report and submit to CWCB within 90 days of the expiration of a purchase order or contract may be denied consideration for future funding of any type from CWCB.

### Performance Requirements

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

(b) Accountability: Per the 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 the Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

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

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



## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Water Supply Reserve Fund

#### EXHIBIT B - BUDGET AND SCHEDULE - Direct & Indirect (Administrative) Costs

**Date: Sept. 16, 2020**

**Water Activity Name: White River Integrated Water Initiative**

**Grantee Name: White River Conservation District**

<u>Task No.</u> <sup>(1)</sup>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Start Date</u> <sup>(2)</sup>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u> (cash & in-kind) <sup>(3)</sup>	<u>WSRF Funds</u> (Basin & Statewide combined) <sup>(3)</sup>	<u>Total</u>
<u>1</u>	Stakeholder Engagement	Upon notice to proceed	12/31/2022	\$ 14,200	\$ 62,400	\$76,600
2	Status Assessemnts & Data Gap Determination	Upon notice to proceed	12/31/21	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$3,000
3	Diversion Structure Assessments	Upon notice to proceed	10/1/22	\$ 9,700	\$ 4,500	\$14,200
4	Riparian Health Assessments	Upon notice to proceed	10/1/22	\$ 19,000	\$ 7,700	\$26,700
5	Development of Phase 3 Work Plan	1/1/22	12/31/22		\$ 8,700	\$8,700
6	Project Management & Administration	Upon notice to proceed	12/31/22		\$ 29,500	\$29,500
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$42,900</b>	<b>\$115,800</b>	<b>\$158,700</b>

**(1)** The single task that include costs for Grant Administration must provide a labor breakdown (see Indirect Costs tab below) where the total WSRF Grant contribution towards that task does not exceed 15% of the total WSRF Grant amount.

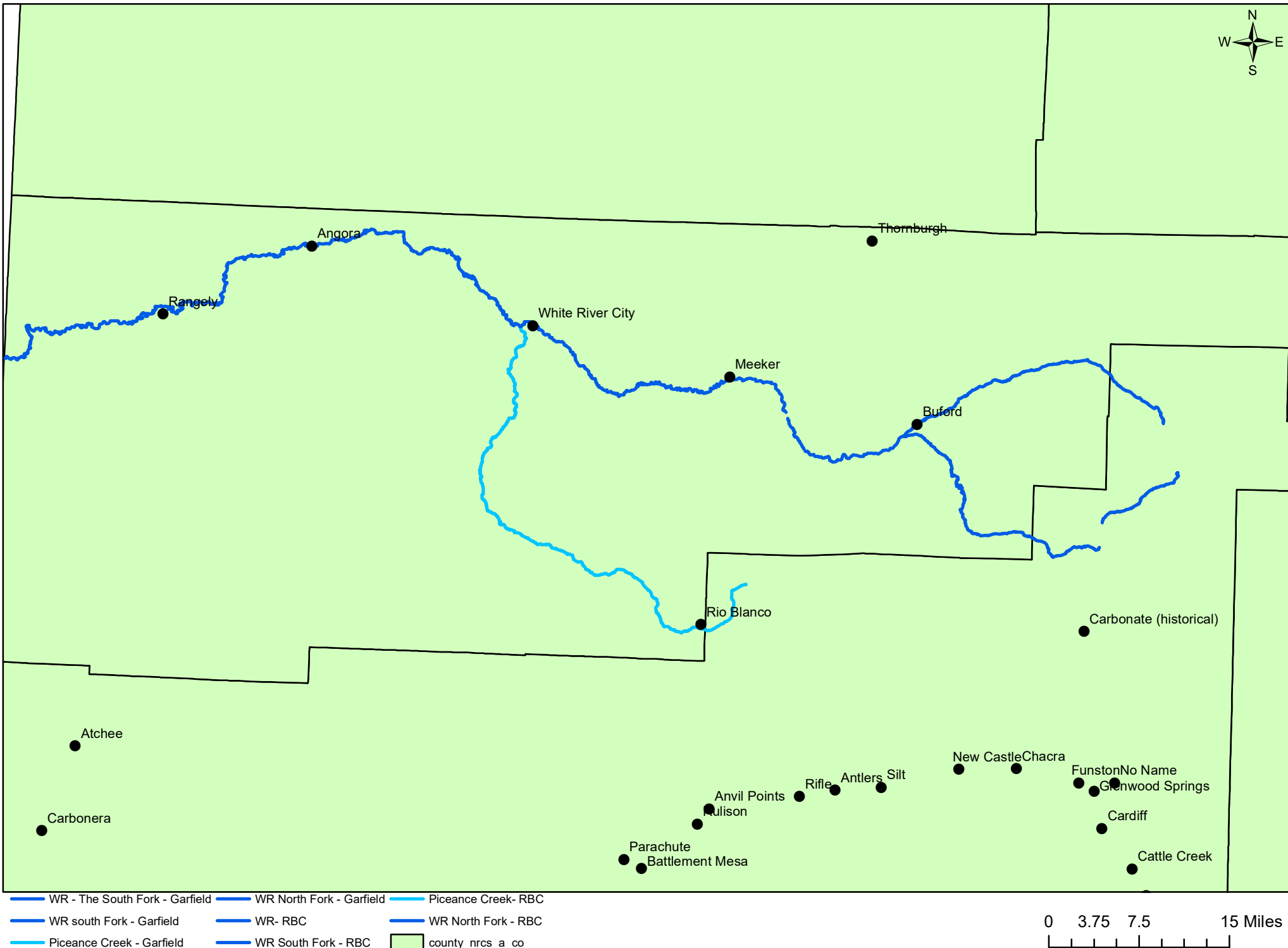
**(2)** Round values up to the nearest hundred dollars.

• Additional documentation providing a Detailed/Itemized Budget may be required for contracting. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate with the CWCB Project Manager to determine specifics.

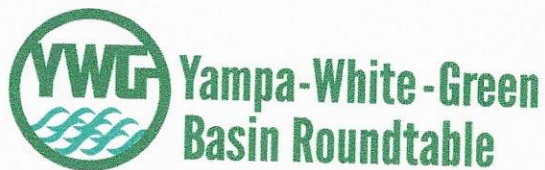
The CWCB will pay the last 10% of the entire water activity budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of the CWCB staff project manager. Once the Final Report has been accepted, the final payment has been issued, the water activity and purchase order (PO) or contract will be closed without any further payment. Any entity that fails to complete a satisfactory Final Report and submit to the CWCB with 90 days of the expiration of the PO or contract may be denied consideration for future funding of any type from the CWCB.

• Additionally, the applicant shall provide a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of contract execution

# White River Main-Stem and Piceance Creek







November 25, 2020

Mr. Marc Etchart  
White River & Douglas Creek Conservation Districts  
P.O. Box 837,  
Meeker, CO 81641

Re; White River Integrated Water Initiative

Dear Mr. Etchart

The Yampa-White-Green Basin Round Table (YWG BRT) is pleased to inform at the November 11, 2020 YWG BRT meeting the round table unanimously approved the White River Integrated Water Initiative (WRIWI) Basin Account WSRF grant request for \$49,900 as was the Statewide WSRF grant request of \$66,000 for recommendation to the CWCB. As summarized within the grant application, the Water Activity purpose of the WRIWI Phase 2 is to build up a Plan of Work for Phase 3 that will ultimately lead to the development of an Integrated Water Management Plan for the White River as the Colorado Water Plan calls for.

The overall project aligns and aids in achieving YWG Basin Implementation Plan Goals including but not limited to; protect decreed and pre-compact water rights, protect and encourage agricultural uses, improves water quality, remediate at-risk or lost infrastructure, provides public education and demonstration, and has multiple beneficiaries. The project demonstrates collaborative partnerships and considerable letters of support showing strong community interest to move forward with the project that ultimately is for the benefit of White River water users.

For additional assistance please contact me at (970) 629-2525 or [aldenvb@yahoo.com](mailto:aldenvb@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,  


Alden Vanden Brink

Yampa - White - Green Basin Roundtable, Chair





500 Kennedy Drive  
Rangely, CO 81648

2801 West 9th Street  
Craig, CO 81625

800.562.1105  
[www.cncc.edu](http://www.cncc.edu)

Mario L. Sullivan, Ph.D.  
Department of Arts and Sciences  
Colorado Northwestern Community College, Rangely Campus

21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Yampa, White, Green River Basin Round Table  
Attn: Alden Vanden Brink and Steve Hinkemeyer

Dear Yampa, White, Green River Basin Round Table,

I am writing this letter in support of the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts' proposal for a Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) grant for furthering the goals of the White River Integrated Water Initiative (Initiative) in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. I have been involved with Phase 1 of the planning process since approximately April of 2020 with the primary role of compiling previous or existing projects and scientific studies on the White River and data basing these studies in a spreadsheet that is accessible to all the planning action committee (PAC) members as well as stakeholders throughout the White River basin. The objectives of this work were primarily to assess what is already known so that proposed projects don't repeat work that has already been done and also to identify information gaps that are based upon the priorities and goals of the PAC and community members during the initial public meeting phase. This work represents a conscientious effort by the PAC to ensure that resources are efficiently used and are in-line with the overall goals of the Initiative.

While I am not a voting member on the PAC, I did attend many of the PAC meetings throughout this past summer. Between the information I gathered while listening to PAC members at these meetings and the data that I summarized for the database, the current riparian condition along the White River corridor is something that is largely unknown, yet, it is also something that the PAC members and other stakeholders in the White River basin would like to know more about. The PAC members and other stakeholders recognize that riparian condition and function are incredibly important components to the overall productivity and well-being of the river. I believe that this is even further





500 Kennedy Drive  
Rangely, CO 81648

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Craig, CO 81625

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evidence of a sincere and conscientious effort towards having an overall healthier river system in the end.

The initial riparian assessment being proposed will utilize the Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Services' Proper Functioning Condition Assessment for Lotic Areas (PFC) which is a standardized but rapid method to assess whether or not the riparian area in a particular reach of river is functioning properly. Because this method is not data intensive and relies on knowledge and assistance from willing landowners, it is not only cost effective but might also facilitate partnerships and teamwork that could be as valuable as the scientific information that is being gathered. Furthermore, it might be possible for me to arrange Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) students to become involved so their educational and professional experiences can be enhanced.

Because of a real need for riparian condition information and the potential for professional and community outreach enhancement, coupled with the dedication and sincerity I've personally witnessed through the PAC meetings, I am personally committed to 20 hours of facilitating riparian condition training for professionals and other Initiative partners and I will commit up to 80 hours over the next two years to assist with the riparian condition assessments. This does not include the time that CNCC students might be able to donate; particularly during the early parts of fall and latter parts of spring semesters. While I am currently in the classroom sector of academia, much of my scientific and professional background has focused on lotic systems with an emphasis on riparian processes and I would eagerly apply any relevant skills to help see this project through.

I appreciate your time and consideration for the funding of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mario", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mario L. Sullivan  
mario.sullivan@cncc.edu  
970-675-3252





Brian Hodge, Northwest Colorado Program Manager

September 16, 2020

Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable  
c/o Alden Vanden Brink, Chair

Dear Roundtable Members:

I am writing to you today to express Trout Unlimited's support for the White River Integrated Water Initiative (WRIWI), as submitted by the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts. The WRIWI will, through a community-based process, identify actions that can promote a healthy river, support a sustainable fishery and vibrant agricultural community, and protect existing rights and values.

Trout Unlimited staff have been involved in the planning process for the WRIWI and we have been encouraged by the diverse stakeholder involvement and by plans that consider both consumptive and non-consumptive water uses in the White River basin. Trout Unlimited has already pledged to contribute in-kind match (staff time) towards advancement of the WRIWI.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Hodge



# Colorado State University

## Extension

Linda Masters  
Rio Blanco County Extension  
700 Sulphur Creek Road  
Meeker CO 81641

September 16, 2020

Yampa, White, Green River Basin Round Table  
Atten: Alden Vanden Brink and Steve Hinkemeyer

Dear Yampa, White, Green River Basin Round Table,

I am writing this letter in support of the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts' request for a Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) grant for their White River Integrated Water Initiative (Initiative) in Rio Blanco County. I have been a part of their Phase 1 input and planning process for the last year, attending their community input meetings and facilitating their Planning Action Committee (PAC) meetings. The Districts have done an excellent job assembling a very diverse group of community members for the PAC who have demonstrated a high degree of commitment to meeting attendance, data gathering and willingness to provide input from their own experience as well as from interviewing other community members. The actions of the PAC members make me believe that they will remain committed to this program and continue to provide assistance and input over the next several years.

The Districts have taken their time to gather a great deal of input data, communicate with the public and partners, and compile their findings in a manner that provides for effective project identification and implementation. Because of this demonstrated commitment and attention to detail, I believe that this is a worthy project for the WSRF to fund and support.

I have made a personal commitment to the Initiative to continue to facilitate meetings (8 hours), develop and present training for a group of professionals and other partners to conduct riparian area assessments (20 hours) and participate in 20 assessments (80 hours) in the coming two years. My educational and professional background in Watershed Management, Range Management and Hydrology make me qualified to offer these services. As an employee of Colorado State University Extension, I am also willing to assist with other trainings, workshops and educational outreach efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Masters  
CSU County Extension Director & Ag Agent  
(970) 985-8739  
Linda.masters@colostate.edu

Rio Blanco County Farm Bureau  
Janice Weinholdt, President  
P.O. Box 2672  
Meeker, CO 81641  
September 17, 2020

Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable  
ATTN: Alden Vanden Brink, Steve Hinkemeyer

Dear Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable,  
Rio Blanco County Farm Bureau provides this letter of support, for the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts in application to fund the White River Integrated Water Initiative. Our county Farm Bureau is a non-profit organization with a mission to preserve and protect the future of agriculture and rural values. Water is as essential part of agriculture and therefore we greatly support protection and management of this resource.

Rio Blanco County Farm Bureau supports the mission statement and overall goals of this initiative as noted below.

**Mission Statement:** Community-based initiative to identify actions promoting a healthy river that ensures a vibrant agricultural community and maintains healthy fisheries while protecting water rights, quantity, and quality with respect for the local customs, cultures, and property rights.

**Overall River Goals for Current and Future Generations**

1. Protect and preserve existing water rights and other beneficial water uses
2. Protect and enhance water quantity and quality through promoting best management practices for:
  - a. Forest health
  - b. Riparian health
  - c. Rangeland health
  - d. Favorable conditions of streamflow
3. Identify opportunities for creation or improvement of infrastructure to support efficient consumptive and non-consumptive uses.
4. Support the development and maintenance of efficient and necessary long-term storage solutions that will improve, enhance and ensure irrigation, river health, water quantity, water quality, and native and recreational fisheries.

We respectfully request your support for the next phase of the White River Integrated Water Initiative.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice Weinholdt  
Rio Blanco County Farm Bureau President



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO  
RIO BLANCO COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE  
555 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 599  
MEEKER, COLORADO 81641  
970-878-9430

September 17, 2020

Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable  
ATTN: Alden Vanden Brink, Steve Hinkemeyer

Dear Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable,

The Rio Blanco County Board of County Commissioners is pleased to provide this letter of support for the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts' application to fund the White River Integrated Water Initiative.

Commissioner Gary Moyer currently serves on the Districts' White River Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and we support the below stated mission and goals of the Initiative.

**Mission Statement:** Community-based initiative to identify actions promoting a healthy river that ensures a vibrant agricultural community and maintains healthy fisheries while protecting water rights, quantity, and quality with respect for the local customs, cultures, and property rights.

**Overall River Goals for Current and Future Generations**

1. Protect and preserve existing water rights and other beneficial water uses
2. Protect and enhance water quantity and quality through promoting best management practices for:
  - a. Forest health
  - b. Riparian health
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  - d. Favorable conditions of streamflow
3. Identify opportunities for creation or improvement of infrastructure to support efficient consumptive and non-consumptive uses.
4. Support the development and maintenance of efficient and necessary long-term storage solutions that will improve, enhance and ensure irrigation, river health, water quantity, water quality, and native and recreational fisheries.

We respectfully request your support for the next phase of the White River Integrated Water Initiative.

Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
JEFF RECTOR  
Chairman

SI WOODRUFF  
Commissioner  
[bocc@rbc.us](mailto:bocc@rbc.us)

  
GARY MOYER  
Commissioner



Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable  
ATTN: Alden Vanden Brink, Steve Hinkemeyer

Dear Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable,

RiversEdge West (REW) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts' (Districts) application to fund the White River Integrated Water Initiative (IWI).

REW is a non-profit organization with a mission to advance the restoration of riparian lands through education, collaboration, and technical assistance. REW coordinates the White River Partnership and is also proud to serve on the Districts' White River Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

The White River IWI presents an excellent opportunity to improve the ecological health of the White River and its riparian lands by facilitating communication with water users and identifying high priority needs for riparian restoration, fish passage, and irrigation efficiencies. We are especially supportive of the IWI because it complements and informs REW's White River riparian restoration planning framework for private lands.

We believe the White River IWI will continue to build on the progress that has already been made towards improving the overall health of the White River through a community driven process.

REW will provide an in-kind contribution of \$7,040 in the event that the White River IWI is awarded the funding.

Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Shannon Wadas  
Associate Director, RiversEdge West

FEIN 27-0007315

[www.RiversEdgeWest.org](http://www.RiversEdgeWest.org)

P.O. Box 1907 | Grand Junction, CO 81502

Advancing the restoration of riparian lands through collaboration, education, and technical assistance.



**ADVANCING THE LEGACY**

8833 Ralston Road  
Arvada, CO 80002  
303.431.6422  
info@coloradocattle.org  
www.coloradocattle.org

Alden Vanden Brink, YWG Basin Roundtable Chairman

Email: al@rioblancowcd.org

Steve Hinkemeyer, YWG Basin Roundtable Grants Committee Chairman

Email: steve.hinkemeyer@trappermine.com

October 9, 2020

TO: The Yampa, White, Green River Basin Round Table and Grants Committee

Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) fully supports the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts' request for a Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) grant to help fund the White River Integrated Water Initiative in Rio Blanco County.

Phil Brink, Consulting Coordinator for CCA's Ag Water NetWORK has been providing technical and advisory assistance to the Districts as they have initiated and progressed through the Phase 1 input and planning stage over the last year. The Districts have done an excellent job assembling a diverse group of community members for the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) who have demonstrated a high degree of commitment to meeting attendance, data gathering and willingness to provide input from their own experience as well as from interviewing other community members. This supports a primary goal stated in the Colorado Water Plan to "develop watershed master plans that address the needs of a diverse set of local stakeholders."

The Districts have done an excellent job engaging the public and soliciting comments throughout every step of the planning process, which has established a solid foundation on which the Integrated Water Initiative ("Initiative") can be built. The Districts have demonstrated a high level of commitment to an open, transparent process that is inclusive of all water stakeholder interests.

CCA's Ag Water NetWORK has made a commitment to continue support for the Initiative. Support will include assisting the district with planning guidance, outreach, Initiative review and development, and help in training the proposed Initiative coordinator when that person is hired. The value of these services is estimated to be a minimum of \$7,200 over the next year.

Please contact Phil Brink at (720) 887-9944 or CCA at (303) 431-6422 if you have any questions regarding the assistance CCA will be providing.

Sincerely,

Terry Fankhauser, EVP

Colorado Cattlemen's Association





# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Meeker Area Office

73485 Highway 64

P.O. Box 1181

Meeker, CO 81641

October 16, 2020

TO: CWCB Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Review Team  
Yampa, White, Green Basin Rountable  
c/o Alden Vanden Brink

This letter is in support of a recent WSRF Grant Application submitted near the end of September by the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts for an integrated water management project called the “White River Integrated Water Initiative”. Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s (CPW) Mission Statement is as follows: “To perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, provide a quality state parks system, and provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado’s natural resources”. Achieving these multiple objectives requires many partnerships. The White River Integrated Water Initiative (WRIWI) will leverage CPW’s work to manage for aquatic health and recreation in the White River, and will promote local stewardship of important natural resources throughout the river corridor. CPW appreciates the Conservation District’s efforts to lead a productive, collaborative effort that focuses on the nexus of agricultural water use and river health.

CPW owns numerous direct flow and storage water rights in the White River basin, including those for irrigation, fisheries, recreation, and many other uses. CPW manages for native salmonids and a high quality sport fishery in the upper watershed, and has ongoing monitoring and research studying the distribution and habitat preferences of native warm water species further down the river. CPW is engaged in the PBO discussions for listed species occupying the White River below Taylor Draw Dam (Kenney Reservoir), and provided critical water quality monitoring and analyses that led to the USGS’s ‘White River Algae Study’. We understand the complexity of water management and the intersection of irrigated agriculture, property rights, and river health, so appreciate the District’s efforts to propose assessments of agricultural water infrastructure and river health in an integrated way. It was also great to participate in the ground-up process that led to this proposal, and I am confident that the community itself is invested in both river health and maintenance of a productive agricultural economy in the White River Basin.

CPW is a stakeholder and active participant in the WRIWI, and intends to continue this participation, which should result in efficient and targeted work that benefits both



landowners and the health of the river. We appreciate your consideration of this application for WRSF funding for this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill de Vergie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bill de Vergie  
Area Wildlife Manager