# Water Supply Reserve Fund Water Activity Summary Sheet July 21-22, 2021 Consent Agenda Item 2(b)

Applicant & Grantee:	City of Craig
Water Activity Name:	Yampa River Diversion Park
Water Activity Purpose:	Municipal/Industrial, Nonconsumptive (Environmental) - Implementation
County:	Moffat County
Drainage Basin:	Yampa River
Water Source:	Yampa River
Amount Requested:	<u>\$65,000 Yampa/White/Green Basin Account</u> \$65,000 Total Request
Matching Funds:	<ul> <li>Basin Account Match = \$217,600 (cash)</li> <li>77% of Total Project Cost (meets 25% min)</li> </ul>

# Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$65,000 from the Yampa-White-Green Basin Account to help fund the project: Yampa River Diversion Park

Water Activity Summary: The Yampa River near Craig has the potential to host a multi-use park on the location of the existing Yampa River Diversion Structure near the City of Craig's water intake. The applicant states the growing trend in whitewater recreation around the country is promoting community direction towards rivers as a source of recreation, education and local pride. Whitewater parks are used to provide river-related in the form of rafting, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding and angling near population centers.

Recreational improvements are common near diversion structures as a way to harness the hydraulic drop associated with a grade control structure and turn it into an amenity for the public. The grade control associated with these intake structures commonly inhibit fish passage and new technology can provide fish passage opportunities. Past projects have shown that these types of projects provide community benefits including new recreational opportunities, economic stimulus, enhanced aquatic habitat, fish passage and environmental educational opportunities. All these improvements can be made while maintaining the existing upstream water surface elevation necessary for operation of the intake structure.

If approved, funds would be utilized for project engineering. The City of Craig has completed a preliminary engineers report complete with construction and engineering estimates.

**Discussion:** The reservoir rehab proposal is consistent with the North Platte Roundtable's Basin Implementation Plan, in particular, its objectives of maintaining storage in the Basin.

Issues/Additional Needs: No 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.

Funding Sources/Match	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Status
City of Craig	\$192,600	\$0	\$192,600	Secured
Moffat County	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	Secured
Sub-Total Matching Funds	\$217,600	\$0	\$217,600	
WSRF Yampa-White-Green Basin Account	\$65,000	\$0	\$65,000	Secured
Total Project Costs	\$282,600	\$0	\$282,600	

CWCB Project Manager: Chris Sturm



COLORADO Colorado Water **Conservation Board** 

Department of Natural Resources

#### Last Update: September 18, 2020

#### **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 303-866-3441 x3238 (office)

Sam Stein 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 <u>Standard Contract</u> . <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> eements". For reference only/do not fill out or submit/required for contracting	

<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.



# Last Update: September 18, 2020

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	City of Craig	
Name of Water Activity	Yampa River Diver	sion Park
Approving Roundtable	(s)	Basin Account Request(s) <sup>1</sup>
Yampa White Green		\$65,000.00
Basin Account Request Subtotal		\$65,000.00
Basin Account Request Subtotal Approved by Roundtable		Yet to be determined
Statewide Account Request <sup>(1)</sup>		N/A
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)		\$65,000.00
Total Project Costs		\$282,600.00
<sup>1</sup> Please indicate the amount recommended for approval by the Roundtable(s)		

 $^1\,\mbox{Please}$  indicate the amount recommended for approval by the Roundtable(s)

Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	City of Craig
Mailing Address	300 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Craig, CO 81625
FEIN	84-6000647



**COLORADO** Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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	Grantee and Applicant Information
Grantee's Organization Contact <sup>1</sup>	
Position/Title	Peter Brixius/Craig City Manager
Email	pbrixius@ci.craig.co.us
Phone	(970) 826-2023
Grant Management Contact <sup>2</sup>	
Position/Title	Bruce Nelson/Finance Director
Email	bnelson@ci.craig.co.us
Phone	(970) 826-2007
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	David Pike
Mailing Address	1336 Silk Oak Dr. Fort Collins, CO. 80525
Position/Title	Former Parks & Recreation Director
Email	Tightlines2317@gmail.com
Phone	(970) 629-9061

<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).

The City of Craig is the county seat of Moffat County which encompasses the expansive rural northwest corner of Colorado. The City of Craig is the largest incorporated municipality in Moffat County with a population of approximately 8,900. Craig is situated between interstates 70 and 80 at the intersection of U.S. Hwy 40 and Colorado Hwy 13, approximately 150 miles north of Grand Junction and 45 miles west of Steamboat Springs.

The City of Craig is a full-service municipality with several departments including Public Works which encompasses Road & Bridge, Refuse and Water and Sewer, Parks and Recreation, Public Safety, Police, Finance and Administration. The City has 85 fulltime employees and during the summer months another 115 part-time employees.

Moffat County has one of the largest power plants in Colorado, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, which is supplied coal by two local mines, Trapper and Colowyo. These energy industries are currently the largest and highest paying employers within our rural community. With the imminent closure of the power plant and coal mines economic diversification is one of the community's top priorities.

	Type of Eligible Entity (check one)
х	<b>Public (Government):</b> municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
	<b>Public (Districts):</b> authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises



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	Type of Eligible Entity (check one)		
	Private Incorporated: 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.		
	Non-governmental organizations: broadly, any organization that is not part of the government		
ĺ	Covered Entity: as defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes		

#### Type of Water Activity (check one)

Study X Implementation

	Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)		
Х	Nonconsum	ptive (Environmental)	
Х	Nonconsum	ptive (Recreational)	
	Agricultural		
Х	Municipal/Industrial		
	Needs Assessment		
	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/Counties	Moffat County	
Latitude 40.4977997001N		
Longitude	107.538455975W	

#### 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 or spans multiple basins, please explain.

The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule.



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#### Water Activity Overview

The Yampa River near Craig, Colorado has the potential to host a multi-use park on the location of the existing Yampa River Diversion Structure near the City of Craig's water intake. A growing trend in whitewater recreation around the country is promoting community direction towards rivers as a source of recreation, education and local pride. Whitewater parks are used to provide river-related in the form of rafting, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding and angling near population centers. Recreational improvements are common near diversion structures as a way to harness the hydraulic drop associated with a grade control structure and turn it into an amenity for the public. The grade control associated with these intake structures commonly inhibit fish passage and new technology can provide fish passage opportunities. Past projects have shown that these types of projects provide community benefits including new recreational opportunities, economic stimulus, enhanced aquatic habitat, fish passage and environmental educational opportunities. All these improvements can be made while maintaining the existing upstream water surface elevation necessary for operation of the intake structure. If we are fortunate enough to receive funding our intent is to use the funds for project engineering. The City of Craig has completed a preliminary engineers report complete with construction and engineering estimates.

Measurable Results			
To catalog measurable results achie	ved with WSRF funds please provide any of the following values.		
Nev	v Storage Created (acre-feet)		
	Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or consumptive		
Exis	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)		
Len	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)		
Effi	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)		
Are	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)		
Ler	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)		
Oth	er Explain:		

#### Water Activity Justification

Provide a description of how this water activity supports the goals of <u>Colorado's Water Plan</u>, the most recent <u>Statewide Water Supply Initiative</u>, and the respective <u>roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education</u> <u>Action Plan</u><sup>(1)</sup>. 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).

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 <u>2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines</u>).



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#### Water Activity Justification

Within the municipal, industrial, and agricultural infrastructure projects and methods of Colorado's Water Plan the following goals have been identified (chapter 6 pg. 127):

- Use water efficiently to reduce overall future needs.
- Meet community water needs during periods of drought.

An economics and funding goal is also identified (chapter 9-9.2).

Colorado's water plan coordinates existing funding sources and explores additional funding opportunities.

Our project includes repairs to our existing municipal water diversion dam that provides the City of Craig's water plant with our entire municipal water supply. Without those repairs the structure could fail resulting in the intake volume to decrease. The proposed White Water Park (WWP) and repairs to the diversion dam will maintain the existing upstream water surface elevation necessary for operation of the water plant.

Within the environmental and recreational projects and methods of Colorado's Water Plan the following goals have been identified (chapter 6 pg.157):

- Promoting 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.

Not only does our project provide a variety of new water-based recreation opportunities but it will include aquatic habitat improvements such as fish passages and boulder clusters.

Promoting economic stimulus to the area is another objective of the project. Beneficiaries of our project include two local businesses (Yampa Valley Adventure Center & Good Vibes River Gear) that promote river activities such as rafting, tubing, boating and fishing. With the impending closure of all three Tri-State Craig Station Units and the subsequent closures announced by Colowyo and Trapper mines economic diversification is critical county wide. Conservative estimates suggest that our project would indirectly add 90 full time equivalent positions and spur 5.5 million dollars of private investment.

<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				
Contributing Entity	cash or in-kind)				
Moffat County	\$25,000.00 (cash)				



COLORADO Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests				
City of Craig	192,600.00 (cash)			
Total Match	\$217,600.00 (cash)			
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.				

#### Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests

**Statewide Account** grant requests require a 50% match as described in the <u>2020 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines</u>. 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 **letter of commitment**. Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):		
Total Match			
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).			

#### **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.



#### Last Update: September 18, 2020

#### Related Studies

Craig Whitewater Diversion Park Aquatic Delineation prepared by WestWater Engineering, 2018 Craig Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan prepared by Logan Simpson, 2018 City of Craig Yampa River Corridor Peliminary Engineering Report prepared by SGM, 2020 Moffat County Vision 2025 Transition Plan prepared by Keystone Policy Center & El Pomar, 2020

#### 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

N/A

# 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.

N/A





Colorado Water Conservation Board Water Supply Planning Section WSRF Application 1313 Sherman Street, Room 718 Denver, CO 80203

# RE: City of Craig's, Yampa River Water Park

The Yampa White Green (YWG) Basin Roundtable approved funding of \$65,000 from the YWG Basins Roundtable account for the City of Craig's Yampa River Water Park. The application was considered fully and unanimously approved by the YWG Basin Roundtable at the March 10, 2021 meeting. There was a quorum of members present at the meeting.

As summarized within the grant application, the Water Activity purpose of the City of Craig's Yampa River Water Park is to provide for the engineering design required for the modifications to the City of Craig Diversion structure, as well as the other streambed and riverbank structures to accommodate the water park.

The overall project aligns and aids in achieving YWG Basin Implementation Plan goals including, but not limited to: a) identify and address M&I water shortages,; b) quantify and protect non-consumptive water uses; c) restore, maintain and modernize water storage and distribution infrastructure; d) develop an integrated system of water use, storage, administration and delivery to reduce water shortages and meet environmental and recreational needs; and the e) project provides for multiple beneficiaries.

The project demonstrates collaborative partnerships and letters of support showing strong community interest to move forward with the project that ultimately is for the benefit for the City of Craig and the recreational users of the Yampa River.

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

Alden Vanden Brink

Yampa - White - Green Basin Roundtable, Chair







Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade 1600 Broadway, Suite 2500 Denver, CO 80202 Colorado Department of Local Affairs 1313 Sherman Street, Room 521 Denver, CO 80203

COLORADO

Office of the Executive Director

**Department of Local Affairs** 

July 22, 2020

Angela Martinez, Regional Director Economic Development Administration, Denver Regional Office U.S. Department of Commerce 1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 431 Denver, CO 80204

Dear Director Martinez,

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) collaboratively support the City of Craig's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project.

Colorado's rural communities know they need to both respond and pivot quickly to the changing circumstances and impacts of COVID-19 and think strategically about what they need to do now to support long-term recovery and economic diversification. The economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic are compounded for Colorado's northwestern communities by the impending closures of their largest and highest paying employers tied to the coal and energy industry. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between the numerous entities within the northwestern Colorado region that are collectively focusing on improving economic stability and the quality of life in their distressed rural communities.

Our respective departments actively provide support within the Yampa River Corridor Region through direct and technical assistance from our various programs. Moffat County has participated in and received support from various programs like the Rural Technical Assistance Program, Colorado Rural Academy for Tourism and the Small Business Development Center network within OEDIT and the Rural Response, Recovery, and Resilience Program within DOLA. This proposal takes many of the outcomes and recommendations from those programs and aligns them to help the local economies recover and diversify from the current and pending economic transitions. Additionally, OEDIT and DOLA serve on the Just Transition Advisory Committee, which was established by Colorado House Bill 19-1314 to "develop and recommend a just transition plan for the State of Colorado" for those communities making the transition from a coal-based electrical energy economy. This proposal aligns with many of the draft recommendations provided by the committee where economic diversification is concerned. We look forward to continuing to work with and support these communities through our existing programs and incentives towards a prosperous and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Betsy Markey, Executive Director Office of Economic Development & International Trade

Ruh M. Danie

Rick Garcia, Executive Director Department of Local Affairs

MICHAEL F. BENNET COLORADO

COMMITTEES: AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE



WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

WASHINGTON, DC: 261 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20510 (202) 224-5852

> COLORADO: CESAR E. CHAVEZ BUILDING 1244 SPEER BOULEVARD DENVER, CO 80204 (303) 455-7600

http://www.bennet.senate.gov

November 13, 2020

Angela Belden Martinez Regional Director U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration 1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 431 Denver, CO 80204

Dear Regional Director Martinez:

I write to express my support for the application by the City of Craig (City) and Moffat County (County) to the U.S. Department of Commerce for Assistance to Coal Communities (ACC) funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). If awarded, the City and County will fund the Yampa River Corridor Development Project to create resources for upgrades to invigorate and diversify the local economy.

The City and County have worked with the community and key stakeholders to set forth priorities that fulfill critical economic development and diversification necessities. The aggregate goal set by the multijurisdictional set of co-applicants will enrich the quality of life of residents, visitors, and workforce of the City and County. With EDA monies, the project will leverage an existing natural resource in the Yampa River and provide for the augmentation of a primary beneficiary—Rocky Mountain Renaissance Company and the Yampa Valley Activity Center along with other businesses. This project places an emphasis on outdoor recreation and strengthens the integral connection between the City, County, and the Yampa River. The project is also critical in assisting the City and County's response to the COVID-19-triggered recession.

The Yampa River Corridor Development Project supports the broader economic potential for the NW Colorado region and provides future employment opportunities with support for livable wages. I encourage you to give the City of Craig and Moffat County's application for federal assistance every appropriate consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your consideration and notification to my office of any funds awarded.

Sincerely,

Miny F.B.t.

Michael F. Bennet United States Senator



US Economic Development Agency (EDA):

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association strongly supports the City of Craig's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project! The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg to the process of economic diversification, as this coal-reliant community is faced with the impending closures of its largest and highest paying employers - including Tri-State's power plant and coal mine.

Understanding these economic shifts has encouraged community leaders to imagine and implement beneficial changes to cope with the new reality. This imminent reality has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has diminished economic activity in most of Craig's small businesses, requiring them to retool and innovate in order to survive. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between numerous entities within the region as they collectively focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in one of Colorado's most distressed rural communities.

Tri-State has long contributed to various charities, causes and events in Craig and Moffat County because the community has shown so much support for us in return. Particularly in the wake of our recent announcements that all our local facilities will be retired over the next decade, we have looked for additional opportunities to help seed alternative sources of economic activity and growth. We evaluate such opportunities on their merit and, as important, on the degree to which the citizens and city, county and business leaders can coalesce their support around particular projects and programs. We believe the Yampa River Corridor Project reflects that high degree of consensus.

The City of Craig will take responsibility to lead the EDA grant initiative, as they are already actively leading the discussions and efforts concerning economic development. For it's part, Tri-State recently pledged significant financial support for infrastructure upgrades at Loudy-Simpson Park which will ultimately help spawn outdoor recreation activity and access to the Yampa - and we remain open to other requests for assistance that will effectively leverage the EDA funding. Tri-State is also a founding partner of the Yampa Fund, the endowment of which supports the water users and river itself through an annual funding cycle.

The Yampa River is a critical asset that, if properly utilized, will be key to enhanced economic and employment opportunity and an improved standard of living. We appreciate EDA's careful consideration of this request and and strongly recommend you choose to make this wise investment.

Sincerely,

N. Ingold

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Senior Vice President, Generation CRAIG STATION P.O. BOX 1307 CRAIG. CO 81626-1307 970-924-4411

ESCALANTE STATION P.O. BOX 577 PREWITT, NM 87045 505-972-5200

NUCLA STATION P.O. BOX 698 NUCLA, CO 81424-0698 970-864-7316





July 23, 2020

U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Denver Region 1244 Speer Blvd., Suite 431 Denver, Colorado 80204

To Whom it May Concern:

Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC) provides this letter in support of The City of Craig and Moffat County proposal to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project.

Northwest Colorado communities have not experienced the economic rebound from the great recession that has benefited communities on the Front Range and just as they were beginning to recover from that recession, announcements of closures in the coal industry were made. Then, almost immediately after those announcements, communities were closed in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Western Colorado has been slow to recover from recent mine closures, loss of energy production and the economic impact of losing high-paying jobs; we can only imagine that the recovery from the COVID crisis will be impeded by the closure announcements of this key regional industry. The economic recovery for our region depends upon diversifying our businesses and industries, promoting our region to people who will visit and those who can work from home. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of significant cooperation between numerous entities within this region as they focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in this distressed rural community.

The City of Craig will take responsibility in leading the EDA grant initiative as they are already actively leading the discussions and efforts concerning economic development. AGNC, as the region's Economic Development District (EDD), supports this project and others that will address the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis initially and ultimately, the economic impact resulting from the loss of a major industry in the region. AGNC requested an economic impact study of these industry losses be conducted by Colorado Mesa University (CMU) and documented for economic purposes. That study has been completed and is available to support this project if it would be beneficial.

This project will address the economic distress created by COVID-19 through the creation of an infrastructure to take advantage of the river corridor. River corridor development in other communities has served to enhance community place making and has, in many instances,

P.O. Box 593, Grand Junction, CO 81502

Phone: 970-665-1095

resulted in business attraction, retention, and/or startups to the area. This project intends to not only enhance the vitality of the local economy, but it is believed it will provide for future employment opportunities, supporting livable wages and a solid standard of living.

AGNC will continue to work with the communities in the region to support opportunities that will address the economic impacts of COVID-19 and aid in the recovery and enhance the resiliency of those economies. We believe an economic adjustment assistance grant for this project will be key in moving this community forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ray Beck

Ray Beck AGNC Chairman Moffat County Commissioner

Mike Samson AGNC Vice-Chairman Garfield County Commissioner



August 10, 2020

To the U.S. Economic Development Agency (EDA):

I write on behalf of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) in collaborative support of The City of Craig and Moffat County's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project. The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg to the process of economic diversification as their current coal-reliant community is faced with the impending closures of their largest and highest paying employers. This imminent reality has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has diminished economic activity in most of their small businesses, requiring them to retool and innovate to survive. Understanding these economic shifts has encouraged us to imagine and implement beneficial changes to cope with the new reality. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between numerous entities within their region as they collectively focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in their distressed rural community.

NARC teamed up with the National Association of Counties (NACo) on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Economic Development Innovation (REDI) Initiative. After a very competitive application process, the City of Craig/Moffat County was one of six communities assigned to our cohort. We have been working with them over the past year to develop an economic development strategic plan they will utilize to increase their region's economic resiliency and overall quality of life. The City of Craig/Moffat County team has already outlined several priorities in their comprehensive economic development strategic document, and the Yampa River Corridor Project would fit perfectly within the goals of that plan.

The Yampa River Corridor Project would help directly accomplish at least two of the City of Craig/Moffat County team's priorities:

- 1. *Regional Workforce, Housing, & Transit*: As a part of this priority, the team has outlined one of their objectives as attracting new business and development. This project is expected to help several new industry sectors create new jobs and to attract new private investment to the region. The team is expecting that manufacturing, travel and tourism, healthcare, and a range of location neutral businesses will all see a boost from this project. The project is also expected to yield benefits that would attract younger demographics to move to the area (or help retain those already in the area), helping ensure a strong workforce that will stay in the region for many decades.
- 2. Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: As a part of this priority, the team has outlined one of their objectives as improving river access points. This project would include development and infrastructure improvements for includes amenities such as a whitewater park, walking pathways, and upgraded river access points. By completing this project, the region would have a new outdoor recreation highlight that would yield

great benefits including more tourism, more dollars being spent at local businesses, and a connection of the river area to downtown Craig.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the region has been experiencing a decrease in demand for services and products from local businesses. Visitation and tourism, which has also been one of the economic strengths for this region, has also all but dried up thanks to the deep cuts in non-essential travel. This project will bring the City of Craig/Moffat County team one step closer to their ultimate goal – to create economic resilience in their region so they can better recover from the current impacts of the coronavirus pandemic while ensuring that they'll be able to bounce back even quicker if something unexpected like this should ever happen again. It would create an opportunity for the area to branch out beyond its coal sector roots and be able to develop and invest in other budding industries. The new project will also reinvigorate tourism in the area, offering a new and exciting recreational opportunity for people to get outdoors and connect with nature while being close to an ever-growing downtown area.

The City of Craig will take responsibility to lead the EDA grant initiative as they are already actively leading the discussions and efforts concerning economic development. NARC stands at the ready to continue offering the City of Craig/Moffat County team technical assistance as needed while they carry out the Yampa River Corridor Project. We would also work with them to ensure they will utilize this project as a catalyst for their economic diversification and resiliency efforts within the comprehensive economic development plan they are finalizing through the REDI initiative.

This project intends to not only enhance the vitality of their local economy, but we believe it will provide for future employment opportunities, supporting livable wages, and a solid standard of living. We look forward to working with you in the best interest of their authentic, rural community and collaboratively working towards achieving a prosperous and sustainable future. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at <a href="mailto:ma

Sincerely,

Maci L. Mom

Maci Morin Program Coordinator National Association of Regional Councils

#### GATES FAMILY FOUNDATION

#### 30 July 2020

US Economic Development Agency (EDA):

I write on behalf of the Gates Family Foundation in collaborative support of The City of Craig and Moffat County's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project. The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg of the City of Craig's economic diversification process. The region's current coal-reliant economy is faced with the impending closures of its largest and highest paying employers. This imminent reality has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has diminished economic activity affecting the majority of small businesses, requiring them to retool and innovate in order to survive. Understanding these economic shifts has encouraged us, in partnership with the City of Craig, to imagine and implement beneficial changes to cope with the new reality. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between numerous entities within the region as we collectively focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in this distressed rural community.

As an organization that prioritizes collaborative, solutions-driven approach to conservation, community development, and K-12 education throughout Colorado, the Gates Family Foundation is committed to supporting communities like Craig in pursuing its vision for a diversified and sustainable future. Gates has a long record of investments in the Yampa River Basin, but this proposed effort would be the first to provide such a direct linkage between the Foundation's natural resources and community development priorities. Furthermore, the timing of this work is critical to the City of Craig, Moffat County, and the entirety of northwest Colorado, with implications for rural communities statewide. Persistent economic strain resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has created an urgency and opportunity for transitional economies. As economic recovery unfolds, now is the time to guide that recovery toward strategic and enduring outcomes for the benefit of both people and place.

1390 Lawrence Street, Suite 400Denver, Colorado 80204-2081303.722.1881Fax 303.316.3038www.gatesfamilyfoundation.org

#### GATES FAMILY FOUNDATION

The City of Craig will take responsibility to lead the EDA grant initiative as they are already actively leading the discussions and efforts concerning economic development. The Gates Family Foundation is in the process of developing programmatic and/or capital grant proposals in partnership with the City of Craig. We anticipate making financial commitments in 2021. Additionally, Gates staff are committed to providing additional assistance by identifying additional funding partners and standing ready to convene public, private, and corporate partners in support of the City's strategy. We are collaboratively working to further build upon topics that include launching an incubator and co-working facility, further creating a supportive environment for business, as well as, supporting our rural workforce for the greater Moffat County area.

This project intends to not only enhance the vitality of Craig's local economy, but we believe it will provide for future employment opportunities across a variety of sectors, supporting livable wages and a solid standard of living. We look forward to working with you in the best interest of an authentic, rural Colorado community and collaboratively working towards achieving a prosperous and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Russell Schnitzer Senior Program Officer Gates Family Foundation

303.722.1881 Fax 303.316.3038 www.gatesfamilyfoundation.org

1390 Lawrence Street, Suite 400 Denver, Colorado 80204-2081



# O: (970) 629-4001 F: (833) 788-1739 **MOFFAT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY**

580 PERSHING STREET CRAIG, CO 81625

July 28, 2020

US Economic Development Agency (EDA):

I write on behalf of the Moffat County Public Health Department in collaborative support of The City of Craig and Moffat County's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project. The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg to the process of economic diversification as our current coal-reliant community is faced with the impending closures of our largest and highest paying employers. This imminent reality has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has diminished economic activity in most of our small businesses, requiring them to retool and innovate in order to survive. Understanding these economic shifts has encouraged us to imagine and implement beneficial changes to cope with the new reality. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between numerous entities within our region as we collectively focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in our distressed rural community.

As an organization which supports the health and well-being of the residents of Moffat County, the Moffat County Public Health Department fully supports the Yampa River Corridor Project for the health benefits it will offer. We, as a department, believe the social determinants of health can be positively impacted by this project by creating a healthy community space which will provide opportunities for the residents to thrive. The Moffat County Health Department and the City of Craig have formed a strong partnership during COVID-19 in order to safely reopen city facilities within Craig as well as to provide education to the community regarding COVID-19.

The City of Craig will take responsibility to lead the EDA grant initiative as they are already actively leading the discussions and efforts concerning economic development. We are more than willing to support the City of Craig with Public Health education and technical assistance regarding ways to positively rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Public Health Department will be able to provide resources for how to positively impact the social determinants as well as improve health and wellness throughout Moffat County. Along with the City of Craig, we will be collaboratively working to further build upon topics that include launching an incubator and co-working facility, further creating a supportive environment for business, as well as, supporting our rural workforce for the greater Moffat County area.

This project intends to not only enhance the vitality of our local economy, but we believe it will provide for future employment opportunities, supporting livable wages and a solid standard of living. We look forward to working with you in the best interest of our authentic, rural community and collaboratively working towards achieving a prosperous and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Kari Ladrow

Kari Ladrow Public Health Director Moffat County



Connecting People Who Care with Causes That Matter

July 28, 2020

US Economic Development Agency (EDA):

On behalf of the Yampa Valley Community Foundation, I am writing to express our collaborative support of the City of Craig and Moffat County's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project. The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential step in the process of economic diversification as this currently coal-reliant community confronts impending closures of its largest and highest paying employers. This reality has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has diminished economic activity in most of our small businesses, requiring them to retool and innovate in order to survive. Understanding these economic shifts has encouraged us to imagine and implement beneficial changes to cope with the new reality. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between numerous entities within our region as we collectively focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in our distressed rural community.

The Yampa Valley Community Foundation has worked in Moffat County to support the City of Craig, the County, and local non-profit organizations for almost 40 years. Since 1999, the Community Foundation has granted over \$1.4 million to non-profits serving Moffat County. We aim to help the City of Craig and Moffat County successfully navigate the challenging economic realities in front of their residents. We believe the implementation of the Yampa River Corridor Project could play an important part in mitigating the economic impacts of COVID-19 and the expected economic transition.

The Community Foundation is a leader in providing support and guidance for Routt and Moffat County non-profits. We believe that the power of philanthropy creates vital and healthy communities. We are eager to collaboratively support this project by helping to connect the project proponents with other funders and to encourage our own fundholders to consider charitably investing in the project. We may also be able to provide assistance through convening interested parties, mobilizing other organizations, and providing technical assistance.

This project intends to not only enhance the vitality of the local economy, but we believe it will provide for future employment opportunities, supporting livable wages and a solid standard of living.

Sincerely,

Elilyat

Tim Wohlgenant Executive Director

#### Board of Trustees

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Craig Macnab

Jeff Merage

Corey Peck

Rob Perlman

Craig Wasserman

PJ Wharton

Pam Williams

Barbara Winternitz

Glory Burns Interim Executive Director



July 19, 2020

Rocky Mountain Renaissance Company 262 Commerce Street Craig, CO 81625

RE: Rocky Mountain Renaissance Company LLC – DBA Best Western PLUS Deer Park Hotel & Suites; Yampa Valley Adventure Center LLC / Yampa Valley Visitors Center and Dinosaur; Wildlife & Nature Experience; and the Yampa River Corridor Project:

US Economic Development Agency (EDA):

On behalf of Rocky Mountain Renaissance Company & Yampa Valley Adventure Center we would like to express our profound enthusiasm and support for the Yampa River Corridor Project. This project will provide a unique offering for rural Northwest Colorado and complement the efforts of our developing Yampa Valley Adventure Center, and the broader economic revitalization of the Moffat County and Craig economy.

We have owned and operated the Best Western PLUS Deer Park Hotel & Suites in Craig for over 23 years. Frank has served as a County Commissioner for Moffat County along with several other civic volunteer positions and Kerry has served the community in a variety of capacities including Moffat County Tourism Association Board member over the years. It has been incredibly rewarding for us to be actively involved on the local level, along with owning and operating a successful, award winning and nationally recognized hotel in this community.

With the recent announcements related to Tri-State Generation and Transmission, as well as Colowyo Coal Mine and Trapper Mine, we can expect power production to begin coming offline in 2026, with the last unit currently scheduled to close in 2030. Colowyo Coal Mine and Trapper Mine will begin shuttering operations in 2026 with Trapper Mine closing shortly thereafter and Colowyo Coal Mine likely closing before 2031. The size and scope of these operational closures will have consequences totaling in the hundreds of millions of dollars in wages, compensation, tax revenues, bonds, sales tax and just about every other economic way that can be measured. It is imperative that we do our part now to prepare and contribute in developing opportunities and positions that will help these highly paid workers find reason to continue to call Craig, Colorado their home.

We have recently focused on developing a plan for either the 90,000 square foot building, vacated by K-Mart almost 4 years ago or the 100,000 square foot Centennial Mall, across the street. The development would entail remodeling one of these locations to allow for a multi-use activity and retail center-- The Yampa Valley Adventure Center. This development will be inclusive of both indoor and outdoor recreational activities and boast attractions appealing to both residents and visitors alike. Individuals, families, hunters, outdoor enthusiasts and indoor recreationalists will find year-round, healthy and engaging activities authentic to Craig and Colorado's Great Northwest.

# Deer Park Hotel & Suites

262 Commerce St. (Hwy 13), Craig, CO 81625 P: (970) 824-9282 Reservations: 1 (800) 528-1234 bestwestern.com

Wherever Life Takes You, Best Western Is There.\*

Each Best Western® branded hotel is independently owned and operated.



The Yampa Valley Adventure Center will offer customers the ability to simulate an expedition, train within the premier indoor gun and archery range, or hone rock-climbing skills on the professional indoor climbing walls. For those looking to enjoy time on the local stretch of the Yampa River we will feature rental equipment for a variety of river recreational endeavors.

Our outdoor recreational focus will also package customized power sports experiences which highlight accessible trails and Moffat County's nearly two million acres of public lands -- perfect for both summer and winter excursions. Additionally, we will offer multi-modal trail equipment for exploratory biking and hiking adventures. The Yampa Valley Adventure Center will truly be a one-stop shop for recreational information, provisions, service, and support. It has the potential to be a hub of business activity that will allow Craig and the region to transition its economy from major declining sectors and put wind in the sail of the larger business community battered by COVID-19 and the associated recession we now face.

The Yampa Valley Adventure Center is planning to hire a variety of well-versed managers and employees who are trained outdoor adventure concierges, guides and outfitters. Upon factoring our planned scale of operation with a regional attraction for more than 50,000 annual customers, not including the hundreds of thousands of people just traveling through our community, we calculate our initial hiring targets for the Center to be 70-75 FTEs. This could grow in time as the business matures. In addition, there will be \$4-6 million of new private investment in the Center. We will actively coordinate with other local businesses to support various synergetic service segments at the Center. We estimate that in addition to our direct hires, we would stimulate the creation of between 100-150 new indirect jobs as a result this business venture.

We view the Yampa River Corridor Project as an integral and complementary ingredient to The Yampa Valley Adventure Center investments and in creating a synergetic recipe for success. In fact, without the Yampa River Corridor Project we are not nearly as confident in our ability to create The Yampa Valley Adventure Center and we are certain that if not created, it would not have the broader economic impact our community desperately needs at present.

The development of the Yampa Valley Adventure Center is reflective of our passion for our community and our sincere efforts for local economic diversification and vitality. If all goes as planned, The Yampa Valley Adventure Center will be opened in 2022 and will immediately contribute local and regional benefits.

Sincerely,

thing hug Fall Mol

Franklin Moe and Kerry Moe

Website: <u>www.yvac.biz</u> Email: <u>moetel@bresnan.net</u> Phone : 970-756-7109

# **Deer Park Hotel & Suites**

262 Commerce St. (Hwy 13), Craig, CO 81625 P: (970) 824-9282 Reservations: 1 (800) 528-1234 bestwestern.com

# Wherever Life Takes You, Best Western Is There.®

Each Best Western® branded hotel is independently owned and operated.



Good Vibes River Gear 410 W Victory Way Craig, CO 81625 www.goodvibesrivergear.com 970-367-3627

goodvibesriver@gmail.com

Good Vibes River Gear Josh Veenstra – Owner/Operator

US Economic Development Agency (EDA):

My primary business is dedicated to helping others develop a love and enjoyment for the Yampa, Green and White Rivers. Having been in business for a few years in Craig, I have never been any more optimistic about the future our area and the sport I love than I am now.

Our business had one of its best years so far in 2020 and we believe that will continue. Patrons from our local area, urban centers on the front range of Colorado and a plethora of boating enthusiasts from all over the country, who want to enjoy one of the most pristine and wild rivers left to navigate in the United States often look to Good Vibes to outfit them, provide direction and connection to the best experiences including shuttles and transportation.

We're a small company with approximately 3 employees during the season. In the off-season we manufacture products for rafters creating new equipment to make the boating experience even better while providing consulting and booking services to those planning their next river adventure.

The Yampa River Corridor Project (YRCP) is a development whose time has come for the Yampa Valley near Craig Colorado. Given the future of the coal related industries in our area, the transition of our economy cannot wait any longer. The YRCP is certainly a development that will double my business in the first full year of operation and triple it soon after. The project will open the door to offering 5-6 Swift Water Rescue classes of 10 students each for a period of 3-4 days per class. The YRCP will encourage ongoing clean-up of the Yampa River as this industry grows in our area. This section of the river, especially for those passing through, offers one of the most beautiful Cottonwood Canopies most will ever have the opportunity to see.

One of the greatest benefits of this section of the Yampa River is that it is robust early in the season and never reaches a condition that is not navigable with tubes or other flotation equipment. Unfortunately, that can't be said for the stretch of the river 45 miles east of us through Steamboat Springs as the river has already reached a flow that is not navigable and we are just half way through July.

For Good Vibes River Gear, we are already in Craig but with this project we will increase our business activity for bookings and equipment and expect this proposed and developed amenity will double our business in the first full season of operation and eventually triple our business and staff within the first 3 years of operation.

The hospitality industry in our community will also experience much greater vitality as they support the tourists and recreational industry developments that occur as a benefit of this project and other ongoing recreational developments in and around our community.

Given the City and County's ultimate and projected loss of employment and tax revenues, the Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg to our new economy. I and my staff whole-heartedly support this project and its future benefit for Moffat County, the City of Craig and the region.

Thank you, Jourse

Joshua C Veenstra



July 31, 2020

US Economic Development Agency (EDA):

Moffat County Local Marketing District (MCLMD) energetically supports The City of Craig and Moffat County's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project. The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg to the process of economic diversification as our current coal-reliant community is faced with the impending closures of our largest and highest paying employers.

Understanding these economic shifts has encouraged us to imagine and implement beneficial changes to cope with the new reality. This imminent reality has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has diminished economic activity in most of our small businesses, requiring them to retool and innovate to survive. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between numerous entities within our region as we collectively focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in our distressed rural community.

MCLMD's strategic focus includes marketing our community to tourists and businesses. It also includes economic development and diversification. Over the past couple of years, MCLMD has partnered with the City of Craig to explore and attract broadband infrastructure to our community. Additionally, MCLMD has sponsored numerous events as well as contracted with a data collection and analysis firm to help identify target demographics for special events and economic development. The Yampa River Corridor Project aligns with the strategic goals and purpose of the MCLMD.

The City of Craig will take responsibility to lead the EDA grant initiative as they are already actively leading the discussions and efforts concerning economic development. MCLMD is offering this letter of support for the EDA grant request. MCLMD will be a willing participant as the scope of this project develops.

incerely,

Chris Jones Board Chair Moffat County Local Marketing District PO Box 1163 · Craig · Colorado · 81626



Wednesday, August 5, 2020

US Economic Development Agency (EDA):

I write on behalf of Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) in collaborative support of The City of Craig and Moffat County's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project.

The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg to the process of economic diversification as our current coal-reliant community is faced with the impending closures of our largest and highest paying employers. This imminent reality has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has diminished economic activity in most of our small businesses, requiring them to retool and innovate in order to survive.

Understanding these economic shifts has encouraged us to imagine and implement beneficial changes to cope with the new reality. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between numerous entities within our region as we collectively focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in our distressed rural community.

Surrounded by the best that Colorado has to offer, CNCC students in Craig enjoy everything from hunting and fishing, to snowmobiling, four wheeling, hiking, rafting, river tubing and skiing. Our student, staff and faculty love the outdoors, particularly access to the river, and know that these improvements will be enjoyed for years to come while also helping attract new families and businesses to the community. This project will only add to the list of reasons to stay or return and visit our communities benefiting the local economy in many ways.

As an organization, which is deeply, invested and engaged in our community both CNCC Campuses know the impact and lasting effect this project will have. The Craig Campus serves around 550 students not just from Craig or Moffat County but also from all over the country. Moffat County's High School students have the chance to earn college credit, workforce skills or an Associate's Degree through our partnership with the school district and expanding concurrent enrollment programs. The Craig Campus is also home to the NJCAA Division I Men's and Women's Soccer teams. Our athletic programs bring in students from all over the country and world to Northwest Colorado.

CNCC also has a growing General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and Adult Basic education programs that help prepare students for college-level courses or for completion of the GED program. Our English as a Second Language (ESL) program has also rapidly grown over the last two years serving the large Hispanic community in Craig and connecting different cultures to create a diverse and welcoming community.

Two other aspects that truly sets the Craig Campus apart is an active visual arts community and CNCC's proud to display incredible works of art throughout the campus by local artists for students and the community to enjoy. The Craig campus is also home to a State and Federally recognized Dinosaur Repository where the Paleontology program teaches every aspect hands on from digging up dinosaur bones to prepping them for display in multiple areas in Northwest Colorado.



In addition, community members and local industries use CNCC-Craig for job training, retraining and employment skills development.

As our communities face many challenges with a changing energy economy and struggles further exasperated by COVID-19, this project will not only provide work for community members that have been effected, it will provide another reason for businesses to invest or move to Craig which will in turn bring more families providing major economic benefits.

The City of Craig will take responsibility to lead the EDA grant initiative as they are already actively leading the discussions and efforts concerning economic development. College leaders are collaboratively working to further build upon topics that include launching an incubator and co-working facility, further creating a supportive environment for business, as well as, supporting our rural workforce for the greater Moffat County area.

Our staff and faculty are very passionate about the river and entire Yampa Valley. CNCC stands ready and willing to provide direct support with boots on the ground volunteerism. Staff and faculty members have already agreed they would volunteer time helping with surveying, labor, logistics, or other areas of need. Faculty and coaches engage students in a wide variety of community service projects and look forward to connecting students with the work.

CNCC would also be able to support the project by providing expertise, tools and/or equipment for use during the project, providing meeting rooms, distributing information or actively engaging our campus and community in support. CNCC is also willing to provide technical assistance with our vast knowledge in our faculty with programs and professors who have specialized education and training in Oceanography, Biology, and Microbiology.

This project intends to not only enhance the vitality of our local economy, but we believe it will provide for future employment opportunities, supporting livable wages and a solid standard of living. We look forward to working with you in the best interest of our authentic, rural community and collaboratively working towards achieving a prosperous and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

*John R Anderson MBA* Vice President of Student Affairs and the Craig Campus **Desk:** (970)824-1110 OR **Cell:** (970)629-9401 He/Him/His

Sasha Nelson, MSc Director of Workforce Training & Community Programming Desk: (970)-824-1118 OR Cell: (970)-629-5138 She/Her/Hers









July 23, 2020

US Economic Development Agency (EDA)

To Whom it May Concern:

I write on behalf of Memorial Regional Health in collaborative support of The City of Craig's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project.

The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg to the process of economic diversification as our current coal-reliant community is faced with the impending closures of our largest and highest paying employers. This imminent reality has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has diminished economic activity in our hospital, requiring us to retool and innovate in order to survive.

As an organization which provides our community valuable healthcare services, we are fully committed to the health benefits such a project will provide to our population. Our mission is totally supportive of any initiative that helps us continue to meet our goal: To improve the quality of life for the communities we serve through patient-centered healthcare and service excellence.

We understand that The City of Craig will take responsibility to lead the EDA grant initiative and to that end we are happy to volunteer our marketing technical expertise to help support this project.

This project intends to not only enhance the vitality of our local economy, but we believe it will provide for future employment opportunities, supporting livable wages and a solid standard of living. We look forward to working with you in the best interest of our authentic, rural community and collaboratively working towards achieving a prosperous and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

MEMORIAL REGIONAL HEALTH

Andy Daniels, CEO





July 23rd, 2020

United States Economic Development Agency:

I write on behalf of Visit Moffat County / Moffat County Tourism Association in support of The City of Craig's proposal to take the lead and actively pursue for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding for the Yampa River Corridor Project.

The City of Craig is the gateway to visitors to our region, having a visitor accessible project on the Yampa River here would be an outstanding feature. The Yampa River basin is the most natural riparian area in the State of Colorado, making this accessible to the public would serve as an incredible opportunity for not only recreation, but it would be an incredible interpretive opportunity to see the best of the best. This area is relatively unknown, it would serve visitors and Moffat County residents well make this project happen.

Moffat County and the City of Craig are in for dramatic changes in the economic fabric of our community. We believe that tourism and visitor readiness are important diversification elements of our region's future. The Yampa River Corridor Project will provide the needed resources to meet those needs.

Visit Moffat County / MCTA *enthusiastically* supports this grant application and we ask that the City of Craig be given full consideration for its approval.

Sincerely, m

Tom Kleinschnitz Director / Visit Moffat County

TomK@MoffatCounty.net

# MOFFAT COUNTY UNITED WAY



Moffat County United Way is committed to serve the health and humanitarian needs of our community.

July 22, 2020

US Economic Development Agency (EDA):

I write on behalf of Moffat County United Way in collaborative support of The City of Craig's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project. The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg to the process of economic diversification as our current coal-reliant community is faced with the impending closures of our largest and highest paying employers. This imminent reality has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has diminished economic activity in most of our small businesses, requiring them to retool and innovate in order to survive. Understanding these economic shifts has encouraged us to imagine and implement beneficial changes to cope with the new reality. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between numerous entities within our region as we collectively focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in our distressed rural community.

As an organization which focuses on improving the health, education, and financial stability of Moffat County residents, we have a long history of collaborating with the City of Craig. Both the City of Craig and our organization understand that a strong economy, healthy population, and robust outdoor activities aids us in providing better opportunities for Moffat County residents. Our community will benefit from diversified employment opportunities that ensure people can continue living and working in Moffat County. In light of COVID-19, it is incredibly imperative that we support a project that offers diversification of local opportunities to boost our economy.

The City of Craig will take responsibility to lead the EDA grant initiative as they are already actively leading the discussions and efforts concerning economic development. We are committed to mobilizing local volunteers to ensure the project is successful and are collaboratively working to further build upon topics that include launching an incubator and coworking facility, further creating a supportive environment for businesses and non-profits, as well as, supporting our rural workforce for the greater Moffat County area.

This project intends to not only enhance the vitality of our local economy, but we believe it will provide for future employment opportunities, supporting livable wages and a solid standard of living. We look forward to working with you in the best interest of our authentic, rural community and collaboratively working towards achieving a prosperous and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

ta / lien

Kristen Vigil Executive Director

P.O. Box 995 Craig, CO 81626 Office 970.824.6222 www.unitedwaymoffat.org



Administrative Offices

July 22, 2020

US Economic Development Agency (EDA):

I write on behalf of Moffat County School District in collaborative support of The City of Craig's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project. The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg to the process of economic diversification as our current coal-reliant community is faced with the impending closures of our largest and highest paying employers. This imminent reality has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has diminished economic activity in most of our small businesses, requiring them to retool and innovate in order to survive. Understanding these economic shifts has encouraged us to imagine and implement beneficial changes to cope with the new reality. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between numerous entities within our region as we collectively focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in our distressed rural community.

As an organization which provides education to the children of Moffat County, the river is used throughout the school year to provide hands-on educational opportunities to students in grades PreK-12. The river itself supports our farm and ranching families in their daily operations and has the potential to create economic growth through tourism and new businesses. Like many rural areas, our community has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and any monetary assistance provide to the Yampa River Corridor Project will allow this lifeblood of our community to continue to provide economic stability and support of our way of life, while creating new avenues for economic growth.

The City of Craig will take responsibility to lead the EDA grant initiative as they are already actively leading the discussions and efforts concerning economic development. Moffat County School District will continue to collaboratively work to further build upon topics that include launching an incubator and co-working facility, further creating a supportive environment for business, as well as, supporting our rural workforce for the greater Moffat County area.

This project intends to not only enhance the vitality of our local economy, but we believe it will provide for future employment opportunities, supporting livable wages and a solid standard of living. We look forward to working with you in the best interest of our authentic, rural community and collaboratively working towards achieving a prosperous and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Scott Parkow Superintendent Moffat County School District 600 Texas Ave., Craig, CO 81625



MOFFAT COUNTY VISITOR CENTER CRAIG-CHAMBER.COM

July 21, 2020

US Economic Development Agency (EDA):

I write on behalf of The Craig Chamber of Commerce & Moffat County Visitors Center in collaborative support of The City of Craig's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project. The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg to the process of economic diversification as our current coal-reliant community is faced with the impending closures of our largest and highest paying employers. This imminent reality has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has diminished economic activity in most of our small businesses, requiring them to retool and innovate in order to survive. Understanding these economic shifts has encouraged us to imagine and implement beneficial changes to cope with the new reality. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between numerous entities within our region as we collectively focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in our distressed rural community.

As an active community organization since 1946 the Chamber's mission is to promote business and community success. Over the years we have collaborated with the City and multiple other local agencies to participate in economic diversification efforts like the Blueprint 2.0, and CRAFT 101 and 201. As the operators of the Moffat County Visitor Center we are in full support of the Yampa River Corridor Project and investing in our river and tourism economy. As a coal reliant community, the Yampa Corridor Project would be in line with our economic diversification plans including the CRAFT 201 Strategic Marketing plan completed in cooperation with Moffat County Tourism Association. The ability to work together with various agencies, business and stakeholders makes Craig a perfect candidate for this grant. The funds will be used in a collaborative and strategic manner with long term vision in mind.

The City of Craig will take responsibility to lead the EDA grant initiative as they are already actively leading the discussions and efforts concerning economic development. We are closely partnering with the City in Economic Development including participation in the City's ED, wayfinding/branding and REDI Grant committees. The Chamber and City have recently opened a new facility that is hosting multiple organizations including an Art Gallery and Art studio space to nurture the up and coming art industry. We are collaboratively working to further build upon topics that include launching an incubator and co-working facility, further creating a supportive environment for business, as well as, supporting our rural workforce for the greater Moffat County area.

This project intends to not only enhance the vitality of our local economy, but we believe it will provide for future employment opportunities, supporting livable wages and a solid standard of living. We look forward to working with you in the best interest of our authentic, rural community and collaboratively working towards achieving a prosperous and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Hollowarf

Jennifer Holloway M.S.

CRAIG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & MOFFAT COUNTY VISITOR CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 775 YAMPA AVE. CRAIG, CO 81625 970.824.5689





# www.bgcnw.org

Craig Club: PO Box 1251, Craig, CO 81626 ~ 970.826.0411 ~ facebook.com/bgccraig Steamboat Club: PO Box 776410, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 ~ 970.871.3160 ~ facebook.com/bgcss

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

US Economic Development Agency (EDA):

On behalf of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Colorado, I write today in collaborative support of The City of Craig's proposal to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Adjustment Assistance and CARES Act Funding regarding the Yampa River Corridor Project. The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg to the process of economic diversification as our current coal-reliant community is faced with the impending closures of our largest and highest paying employers. This imminent reality has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has diminished economic activity in most of our small businesses, requiring them to retool and innovate to survive. Understanding these economic shifts has encouraged us to imagine and implement beneficial changes to cope with the new reality. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between numerous entities within our region as we collectively focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in our distressed rural community.

As an organization which provides after school, school days off and summer programing for our community's youngest citizens, the Yampa River Corridor Project will provide critical access to the outdoors and strengthen our recreation and economic diversification. We know youth who spend time in nature develop their imaginations, creativity and independence which are all beneficial to their mental, physical and emotional wellness. Youth engage their senses more fully when they are outside and are stimulated in a way that is not as easily accessed indoors. The Yampa River Corridor Project will provide immediate economic support as the project is built and long-term support for the community as a true asset for all generations to engage in the outdoors.

The City of Craig will take responsibility to lead the EDA grant initiative as they are already actively leading the discussions and efforts concerning economic development. We are completely invested in this project and will contribute in-kind volunteer support and will actively use the project for years to come. The Club is a community asset and will provide a safe and positive place for the kids of the project employees.

This project intends to not only enhance the vitality of our local economy, but we believe it will provide for future employment opportunities, supporting livable wages and a solid standard of living. We look forward to working with you in the best interest of our authentic, rural community and collaboratively working towards achieving a prosperous and sustainable future. Grants that increase play spaces for youth will ensure that our local youth have access to excellent parks and increase their love of the outdoors and physical fitness. It is with great enthusiasm that I support the City of Craig's grant request as it brings engaging opportunities to our kids. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Executive Director Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Colorado



300 West 4th Street Craig, Colorado 81625

March 15, 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board Water Supply Reserve Fund 1313 Sherman Street, Room 718 Denver, CO 80203 Ben.wade@state.co.us

Mr. Ben Wade,

As Mayor of the City of Craig, I would like to express the full collaborative support of The City of Craig's proposal to the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable and the Colorado Water Conservation Board regarding design and engineering funding support for the Yampa River Corridor Project. The Yampa River Corridor Project is an essential leg to the process of economic diversification as our current coal-reliant community is faced with the impending closures of our largest and highest paying employers. In addition to providing our community with economic resiliency, the project also effectively increases recreational opportunities consistent with numerous local strategic planning documents, as well as improves fish habitat and passage. The Yampa River Corridor Project is reflective of the authentic cooperation between numerous entities within our region as we collectively focus on improving economic stability and the quality of life in our distressed rural community.

The City of Craig has committed \$192,600 from our current 2021 budget as our cash match to the Yampa River Corridor Project Design & Engineering. Our committed 2021 cash match funds are unencumbered and available for use upon execution of this letter. Completing the proposed project design and engineering component of the Yampa River Corridor Project will also greatly assist The City of Craig and Moffat County team in securing federal grant funding for the construction component of the project. We look forward to working with you in the best interest of our authentic, rural community and collaboratively working towards achieving a prosperous and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Jarrod Ogden Mayor, City of Craig jogden@ci.craig.co.us (970) 326-8151

COLORADO Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

https://cwcb.colorado.gov/

Colorado Water Conservation Board					
Water Supply Reserve Fund					
Exhibit A - Statement of Work					
Date:	1/29/2021				
Water Activity Name:	Yampa River Diversion Park				
Grant Recipient:	City of Craig				
Funding Source:	Basin/State SWRF Grant				
<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).					

The Yampa River near Craig, Colorado has the potential to host a multi-use park on the location of the existing Yampa River Diversion Structure near the City of Craig's water intake. A growing trend in whitewater recreation around the country is promoting community direction towards rivers as a source of recreation, education and local pride. Whitewater parks are used to provide river-related activities in the form of rafting, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding and angling near population centers. Recreational improvements are common near diversion structures as a way to harness the hydraulic drop associated with a grade control structure and turn it into an amenity for the public. The grade control associated with these intake structures commonly inhibit fish passage and new technology can provide fish passage opportunities. Past projects have shown that these types of projects provide community benefits including new recreational opportunities, economic stimulus, enhanced aquatic habitat, fish passage and environmental educational opportunities. All these improvements can be made while maintaining the existing upstream water surface elevation necessary for operation of the intake structure. If we are fortunate enough to receive approval, we will use the funds for whitewater park engineering only.

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



https://cwcb.colorado.gov/

- Invigorate and Diversify the local economy.
- Increase Recreational Opportunities and Improve Recreational Infrastructure, which are identified objectives outlined in the Moffat County Vision 2025 Transition Plan.
- Improve fish habitat and passage.
- Project implementation is consistent with Yampa River Recreational Improvements as outlined in the City of Craig Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Master Plan.
- Completing the proposed project design and engineering will assist The City of Craig and Moffat County in securing federal funding for construction of the project.

#### Tasks

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

Task 1 - (Name)

Description of Task:

May 2021

City of Craig to secure a contractor through competitive bid process for the project design and engineering.

May 2021 – February 2022

Design period from May 2021 to Feb 2022.

Survey is foundation for all design components; complete by Fall 2021. Survey of any required river sections must be down in low flow period, after July.

Physical environment assessment to be completed by Fall 2021.

Fall 2021

Permitting. Anticipate that United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) permit will requite 6-8 months after completion of onsite environmental assessment.

Method/Procedure:

https://cwcb.colorado.gov/

#### Tasks

Follow the City of Craig's competitive bidding process which includes Request for Qualifications, bid advertisement and public bid award.

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

Final engineering design/report including complete construction-ready drawings and bid packet.

CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)

The City of Craig will provide documentation of the competitive bid process and documents in our efforts to seek qualified engineering services for the project. The City of Craig will provide a copy of the final design and engineering report including construction ready plans and bid package.

#### Tasks

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

<u> Task 2 - (Name)</u>

Description of Task:



https://cwcb.colorado.gov/



Tasks

Method/Procedure:

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

CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)

Repeat for Task 3, Task 4, Task 5, etc.



https://cwcb.colorado.gov/

#### Budget and Schedule

**Exhibit B - Budget and Schedule:** This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined <u>Budget</u> and <u>Schedule</u> that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in <u>excel format</u>. A separate <u>excel formatted</u> 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 <u>entire</u> 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 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 inkind 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 Colorado Water

**Conservation Board** 

Department of Natural Resources

# **Colorado Water Conservation Board**

Water Supply Reserve Fund

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

Date: 1/29/2021

Water Activity Name: Yampa River Diversion Park

Grantee Name: City of Craig

Г <u>ask 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>	Complete In-River Design & Engineering	<u>May-21</u>	<u>22-Feb</u>	\$217,600	\$65,000	\$282,600
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
1			Total	\$0	\$0	\$282,600

(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 futher 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.

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

# **PROJECT MAPS:**





40.4977997001N, 107.538455975W

# **DIVERSION CONCEPT MAP**

