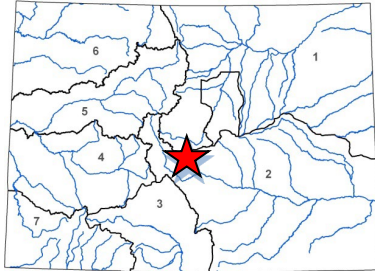




Water Plan Grant Program Application



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

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$176,850
Colorado Water Plan Grant:	\$58,950
Recommended amount:	\$0
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$58,950
Applicant Match:	\$500
Project Type(s):	Construction
Project Category:	Watershed Health and Recreation
Measurable Result:	6,864 linear feet of stream restored and 40 acres of restored habitat

The Arkansas River flows alongside John Griffin Regional Park, an 80-acre nature area in Cañon City. Within the park are three interconnecting trails covering over two miles of natural landscape. These popular trails provide visitors the opportunity to view wildlife and plant life, fish along the banks of the river, and picnic under the large cottonwoods within the park. The Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) is proposing a fire prevention and mitigation project that will remove dead and fallen cottonwood trees within the park, ensuring that the watershed is protected and native habitats are sustained. The requested funding will support three weeks of the seven-week project in partnership with the Cañon City Area Recreation & Park District (CCRPD).



The Rio Grande National Forest Beaver Characterization, Restoration, and Reintroduction Project is focused on reintroducing North American beavers to the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) to benefit watershed health, riparian corridors, and native aquatic species. Beavers are a valuable tool for watershed restoration as their dams have the ability to enhance aquatic habitat, improve channel function, and reestablish riparian

vegetation. RGNF has partnered with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP) and other local stakeholders to restore wet meadow habitat and harness the restoration potential of beavers to address impacts to aquatic species and riparian areas across the headwaters that have been impacted by road encroachment, development, recreation, grazing, mining, and other human activities.

The Alamosa Riparian Park is a critical piece of the community’s Revitalize the Rio Initiative, and the Colorado Youth Corps Association proposes streambank stabilization and riparian restoration within this area.

Unfortunately, none of these proposed tasks have been informed by a prioritized planning process of which CWCB staff are aware. The Colorado Water Plan grant guidelines list this criterion as a basic applicant qualification for all implementation project applications.



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Colorado Youth Corps Association	
Name of Water Project	3 total projects - Project 1) Rio Grande National Forest Beaver Characterization, Restoration, and Reintroduction Project. Project 2) Alamosa Riparian Park Revegetation. Project 3) John Griffin Regional Park Fire Mitigation Project Phase 2	
Grant Request Amount		\$58,950.00
Primary Category		\$58,950.00
	<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match		\$58,950.00
	<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$50,800.00
	<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$8,150.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		\$58,950.00
	<i>Great Outdoors Colorado</i>	\$37,800.00
	<i>National Fish and Wildlife Foundation</i>	\$11,500.00
	<i>Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation</i>	\$7,650.00
	<i>Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation</i>	\$1,500.00
	<i>Colorado Youth Corps Association</i>	\$500.00
Total Project Cost		\$176,850.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Colorado Youth Corps Association
Mailing Address: 1640 Grant Street Denver CO 80203
FEIN: 841,532,028

Organization Contact: Brandon Watkins
Position/Title: Email: bwatkins@cyca.org
Phone: (303) 863-0602

Organization Contact - Alternate: Scott Segerstrom
Position/Title: Executive Director Email: ssegerstrom@cyca.org
Phone: 3038630604

Grant Management Contact: Brandon Watkins
Position/Title: Email: bwatkins@cyca.org
Phone: (303) 863-0602

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

Type of Eligible Entity

- Public (Government)
- Public (District)
- Public (Municipality)
- Ditch Company
- Private Incorporated
- Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- Non-governmental Organization
- Covered Entity
- Other

Category of Water Project

- Agricultural Projects
Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- Conservation & Land Use Planning
Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- Engagement & Innovation Activities
Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- Watershed Restoration & Recreation
Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- Water Storage & Supply
Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude	38.523780
Longitude	-105.994710
Lat Long Flag	Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters
Water Source	Rio Grande River (2 projects with SCC) and the Arkansas River (1 project with MHYC)
Basins	Rio Grande; Arkansas
Counties	Fremont; Alamosa
Districts	20-Rio Grande; 12-Arkansas: Salida to Portland

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Environmental
Type of Water Project	Design
Scheduled Start Date - Design	9/5/2022
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	
Description	Project 1 - This project seeks to protect native fish populations and restore riparian habitat condition along the Rio Grande and tributary streams. The restoration will include the construction of temporary wood grade

structures along 1.1 miles of instream habitat and 19.5 acres of wetland and riparian areas. This project will be added on to an existing NFWF project.

Project 2 - The Rio Grande Riparian Stabilization Project will improve the health of the Rio Grande by stabilizing streambanks and restoring riparian areas, thereby reducing sediment load to the river, improving riparian and aquatic habitat, and reconnecting the river to its floodplain. A crew of 6-8 adults with SCC will provide labor towards planting efforts. The crew will gather 120 willows and plant, water, and trim them over 0.6 acres within the floodplain bench.

Project 3 - MHYC will deploy a crew of 8-10 Corpsmembers to remove fallen cottonwoods in John Griffin Regional Park. The project area will include a 20-acre section along the middle trail. By removing fallen cottonwoods, this project will ensure the watershed is protected from extreme weather events and wildfires while also ensuring native habitats are sustained.

Measurable Results

	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
6,864	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
40	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
	Four hours per week of education to satisfy MHYC's commitment to Corpsmember development and engaging Corpsmembers in an educational curriculum focused on leadership development, civic engagement, environmental education, and career and college preparation.
	120 willow clumps planted

Water Project Justification

These projects support several goals listed in the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan and the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan. Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) will support the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan by directly contributing towards it's first goal, listed on page 18 of their Plan, that states Healthy watersheds that provide critical ecosystem services, are resilient to disturbances, and benefit from ongoing efforts to protect water sources, improve water quality, enhance aquatic, riparian, wetland, and upland habitat, and maintain connected ecosystems. SCC will achieve this by having 2 weeks of camping crews remove invasive vegetation, plant native plant populations, and reintroduce beavers to their natural habitat.

Additionally, Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) will serve the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan by working directly towards several of the goals listed on page 14 of their Plan. These include: 1) Support projects and programs within and outside the Arkansas Basin that protect E&R water supply needs, and collaborate with municipal and ag users to enhance E&R values, 2) Maintain or improve aquatic, riparian, and avian habitat (including wetlands) that would support environmental features and recreational opportunities, and 3) Improve water quality as it relates to the environment and/or recreation. MHYC will accomplish that by deploying a crew of 8-10 members to remove dead and fallen cottonwoods along 20 acres in John Griffin Regional Park. Without this mitigation work, severe weather events could trigger mudslides or other heavy erosion, negatively impacting the

Arkansas River Watershed.

Lastly, both of these projects are addressing Partner Actions under the Thriving Watersheds bucket in Chapter 6 of the newly-released Colorado Water Plan. These Partner Actions include 1) Healthy Lands: Shared stewardship improves watershed health and resilience across multiple jurisdictions and 2) Engaged Partners: Agencies and stakeholders need to plan together, prioritize together, and act together. These projects directly improve watershed health in two Basins. Also, there are several agencies involved in this proposal, including MHYC, SCC, CYCA, Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Canon City Area Recreation and Park District.

Related Studies

Forest Health "State of the Science", 2021

Colorado Climate Change Vulnerability Study, 2015

Forest Health Study, Ten Takeaways to Inform the Colorado Water Plan, 2021

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

No Tax Bill of Rights provided

Last Updated: May 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant – Statement of Work – Exhibit A

Statement Of Work	
Date:	9/5/22-12/31/23
Name of Grantee:	Year One, Inc. DBA Mile High Youth Corps
Name of Water Project:	John Griffin Regional Park Fire Mitigation Project Phase II
Funding Source:	CWCB Water Plan Grant
Water Project Overview	
<p>Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) proposes an Environmental & Recreation Project to benefit the Arkansas River Basin. The Arkansas River flows alongside John Griffin Regional Park, an 80-acre nature area in Cañon City. Within the park are three interconnecting trails covering over two miles of natural landscape. These popular trails provide visitors the opportunity to view wildlife and plant life, fish along the banks of the river, and picnic under the large cottonwoods within the park. The proposed fire prevention and mitigation project will remove dead and fallen cottonwood trees within the park, ensuring that the watershed is protected and native habitats are sustained. The requested funding will support three weeks of the seven-week project in partnership with the Cañon City Area Recreation & Park District (CCRPD).</p> <p>CCRPD strives to provide all types of outdoor recreation with a limited budget and a small staff. With the COVID-19 virus still present, more people are turning to the outdoors to walk, bike, hike, fish, and socialize. John Griffin Regional Park is no exception. CCRPD personnel have witnessed a sustained high level of park usage both this year and last. Protecting the long-term viability of this heavily used park is a continuous goal.</p> <p>MHYC and CCRPD have a sustainable and strong partnership. Together, extensive invasive phreatophyte removal projects have occurred in the park to restore watershed health and stream function. The removal gives space for native plants to regenerate. Last year, this restoration was aided by a joint CCRPD-Canon City High School (CCHS) civics class project which planted cottonwood, willow, and chokecherry saplings within the project area. Continuing the project, CCHS students planted 300 more trees this spring.</p> <p>While waiting for this new growth to take root, CCRPD is turning its attention to the older cottonwoods in the park which have died and fallen over time. In 2021, CCRPD received a grant to partner with a MHYC chainsaw crew for the first phase of this project. The crew cleared 5 acres of dead and fallen timber at the park’s east end along the river trail near the Ash Street Trailhead. With the help of this funding, CCRPD will continue and aim to complete this fire mitigation work over a seven-week period.</p>	
Project Objectives	



Last Updated: May 2021

MHYC will deploy a crew of 8-10 Corpsmembers to continue the removal of dead and fallen cottonwoods in John Griffin Regional Park. The project area will include a 20-acre section of the park along the middle trail located south of the river trail. By utilizing a chainsaw crew, the large, fallen trees can be bucked into firewood, and will turn the smaller branches left behind into mulch which will be used to protect trees and desired vegetation at other CCRPD parks. During this project, CCRPD staff will be available to provide technical assistance as needed.

This project is critical to mitigating the threat of fire during this time of dry conditions. Should a fire occur in the park, not only would it choke off a large section of the Arkansas Riverwalk Trail, it has the potential to race up the bluff to a number of homes situated at the top. Furthermore, severe weather events could trigger mudslides or other heavy erosion, impacting the Arkansas River Watershed. District staff recognizes the need to remove the fallen and dead timber from the park to help prevent potential devastation caused by a fire. Unfortunately, the parks crew consists of only six full-time, hard-working staff members, who maintain the CCRPD's four additional parks and other recreational facilities. Facing a shortage of available personnel hours and additional budgetary constraints, the parks crew cannot complete this project without the aid of Mile High Youth Corps.

This project will also provide Corpsmembers with additional educational opportunities related to conservation. In a hands-on, on-river question and answer session, District Staff Kyle Horne and Devin Everhart will guide the youth corps crew as they float the river through the project area. The river trip is a floating educational experience for members of the youth corps crews and will be offered as river water levels allow. Other educational activities will focus on wildland firefighting, fire mitigation, park management and maintenance, interacting with the public, and trends in outdoor recreation.

CCRPD staff will follow up this project with additional fire mitigation work in the park. Once the downed and dead trees are removed, more open space will be created. CCRPD staff will then have the ability to remove the noxious Kochia weeds growing in the area. Non-native to the area, these weeds also present a potential fire hazard. Maintaining the cleared area will then be incorporated into the annual maintenance schedule for CCRPD facilities. After previous summers of youth corps work in John Griffin Regional Park, this project will be the next step in the long-term protection and conservation of the park's natural environment, the riparian habitat, and the Arkansas River Basin as a whole.

Tasks
Task 1 – Cut up and remove dead and fallen cottonwoods in a 20-acre section of John Griffin Regional Park.
Description of Task:
MHYC Corpsmembers will fell, cut up and remove dead and fallen cottonwoods in a 20-acre section of John Griffin Regional Park. Using chainsaws, Corpsmembers will cut large, fallen trees into firewood lengths and stack them. The firewood will be removed from the area using CCRPD's skid steer and dump truck. All limbs and branches will be turned into mulch by using a CCRPD wood chipper. The mulch will be used to protect trees and wanted vegetation within the park and in other CCRPD parks.
Method/Procedure:
Working in pairs, trained Corpsmembers will fell standing dead cottonwoods, buck fallen cottonwoods into firewood lengths and stack firewood. All limbs and branches will be hauled and mulched using a wood chipper. Mulch will be spread around trees and other wanted vegetation. Excess mulch will be hauled to other parks using CCRPD's dump truck.

Last Updated: May 2021

Deliverable:
Removal of all dead and fallen cottonwoods in a 20-acre section of John Griffin Regional Park.

Tasks
Task 2 – Provide MHYC Corpsmembers with 4 hours per week of natural resources education in the field.
Description of Task:
Cañon City Area Recreation & Park District staff will facilitate a total of 24 hours of education to MHYC Corpsmembers on a variety of natural resources and land management topics.
Method/Procedure:
Cañon City Area Recreation & Park District staff will coordinate with the Mile High Youth Corps Crew Leader to schedule daily educational talks and interactive activities.
Deliverable:
Corpsmembers will receive four hours per week of education to satisfy MHYC’s commitment to Corpsmember development and engaging Corpsmembers in an educational curriculum focused on leadership development, civic engagement, environmental education, and career and college preparation.

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

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

Reporting Requirements
Progress Reports: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.
Final Report: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant’s letterhead that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. <p>The CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.</p>



Last Updated: May 2021

Payment

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

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

Performance Measures

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

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

(b) Accountability: Per 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 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.

Last Updated: May 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant – Statement of Work – Exhibit A

Statement Of Work	
Date:	06/20/2022
Name of Grantee:	Southwest Conservation Corps Los Valles
Name of Water Project:	Rio Grande National Forest Beaver Characterization, Restoration, and Reintroduction Project and Alamosa Riparian Park Revegetation
Funding Source:	CWCB, Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Water Project Overview:	
<p>Southwest Conservation Corps Los Valles (SCC-LV) and Rio Grande Headwater Restoration Project (RGHRP) are requesting 2 weeks of camping crews to aid in project implementation at the Rio Grande National Forest Beaver Characterization, Restoration, and Reintroduction Project (Task 1) and Alamosa Riparian Park Revegetation (Task 2) project sites.</p> <p>The Rio Grande National Forest Beaver Characterization, Restoration, and Reintroduction Project is focused on reintroducing North American beavers (beavers) to the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF), to benefit watershed health, riparian corridors, and native aquatic species. The RGNF encompasses 1.84 million acres and is home to the headwaters of the Rio Grande and Conejos rivers. High mountain streams across the RGNF provide habitat for at-risk fish species including the Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Over the years, the population of the Rio Grande cutthroat trout have faced decline due to habitat loss and alteration, predation and competition from non-native species, wildfire, climate change, and disease. Additionally, riparian areas in the upper Rio Grande have been impacted over time by road encroachment, development, recreation, grazing, mining, and other human activities. Fragmented riparian areas are less able to act as a buffer to protect water quality and aquatic life, increasing the vulnerability of at-risk fish populations. Beavers are a valuable tool for watershed restoration as their dams have the ability to enhance aquatic habitat, improve channel function, and reestablish riparian vegetation. RGNF has partnered with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP) and other local stakeholders to restore wet meadow habitat and harness the restoration potential of beavers to address impacts to aquatic species and riparian areas across the headwaters.</p> <p>Located just northwest of Alamosa, the Alamosa Riparian Park serves as an upstream anchor for the city's growing network of pedestrian and bike trails. It is a critical piece of the community's Revitalize the Rio Initiative, an effort to link trails and improve river health and access along the Rio Grande. It connects to the city's existing 108-acre Oxbow Recreation Area and the City Ranch, while complementing access to the Rio Grande Farm Park, Cole Park and the nearby Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge. In addition to connecting these open-space corridors for people, the park adds to an outstanding assemblage of protected habitat for</p>	



Last Updated: May 2021

wildlife. throughout Alamosa and south to the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge. True to its name, Alamosa Riparian Park contains extensive groves of tall cottonwoods (or alamosas, in Spanish).

Project Objectives:

This project seeks to protect native fish populations and restore riparian habitat condition along the Rio Grande and tributary streams. This will be achieved through the restoration of aquatic and riparian habitat, the removal of invasive vegetation and planting of native plant populations. The project will accomplish this goal through the following activities listed in Tasks 1 and 2.

Tasks

Task 1 – Process-Based Restoration Structures

Description of Task:



Last Updated: May 2021

Impacted riparian areas and altered geomorphology across the Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) has resulted in incised channels and streams. Stream incision reduces the quality of aquatic and riparian habitat in a number of ways, including disconnection from the floodplain, warmer and more variable water temperatures, and lower summer base flows. These effects often result in lower riparian biomass and reduced biodiversity, both in and out of the water.

Stream geomorphology and riparian habitat will be restored on 3 stream reaches on the RGNF through process-based restoration techniques. The restoration will include the construction temporary wood grade structures (TWGS), with several in each stream reach. Willow cuttings and seeding will be used to revegetate riparian areas in the stream reaches as needed. TWGS are temporary structures built to restore natural stream geomorphology and wetlands and riparian habitat. The structure of a TWGS consists of natural wooden posts driven into the streambed, spaced evenly across a stream channel. Willow branches and other vegetation are woven between the posts and varied sizes of rock and sediment are packed upstream to reduce flow speed and create aquatic habitat complexity. Constructed TWGS and any subsequent beaver-created dams enhance aquatic habitat and are fish passable.

Method/Procedure:

The structure of a TWGS consists of natural wooden posts driven into the streambed, spaced evenly across a stream channel. Willow branches and other vegetation are woven between the posts and varied sizes of rock and sediment are packed upstream. TWGS enhance instream habitat by increasing habitat complexity and reducing incision. TWGS structure can vary greatly depending on the desired result, but always involve natural materials.

A crew of 6-8 young adults through the Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) will complete the construction of the BDAs and associated riparian revegetation. In addition to completing needed restoration work, the young women and men on the SCC crew will receive educational training to promote personal growth and an ethic of natural resource stewardship. The SCC crew will be overseen by RGNF and Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project staff to ensure restoration methods are built as designed.

Deliverable:

Impacted riparian areas and altered geomorphology across the RGNF has resulted in incised channels and degraded streams. Stream incision reduces the quality of aquatic and riparian habitat in a number of ways, including disconnection from the floodplain, warmer and more variable water temperatures, and lower summer base flows. These effects often result in lower riparian biomass and reduced biodiversity, both in and out of the water. Process-based restoration completed by the mitigate these impacts, improving aquatic habitat for coldwater fish such as the Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Restoration completed by the SCC crew will improve water quality and riparian habitat and increasing both aquatic and riparian biodiversity. Riparian revegetation as a part fo the restoration efforts will enhance these benefits, encouraging vegetation growth and preparing the sites for beaver reintroduction.

The first phase of this project which is largely funded through NFWF will enable the construction of process-based wet meadow restoration riparian revegetation at identified locations on the RGNF, resulting in the restoration of 5 miles of stream geomorphology and 200 acres of native riparian vegetation. CYCA funding will assist with this effort to enable the restoration 1.1 miles of instream habitat and 19.5 acres of wetland and riparian areas.

Tasks



Last Updated: May 2021

Task 2 – Revegetation
Description of Task:
<p>The Rio Grande in Alamosa County is experiencing a deterioration in river function due to unstable and eroding streambanks and degraded riparian areas. Loss of streambanks further reduces riparian habitat, negatively affecting wildlife. Unstable streambanks also increase sediment inputs into the river, decreasing water conveyance, reducing water quality, and harming fishery health.</p> <p>The Rio Grande Riparian Stabilization Project – Phase 5 is underway and seeks to improve the health and resilience of the Rio Grande in Alamosa County by stabilizing streambanks and restoring riparian areas, thereby reducing sediment load to the river, improving riparian and aquatic habitat, reconnecting the river to its floodplain, and revitalizing riparian wetlands. These benefits will improve water quality and storage during drought years, restore riparian habitat, and allow flexibility during floods, reducing risk to the downstream City of Alamosa.</p> <p>Phase 5 has engaged private landowners, the City of Alamosa, local stakeholders, and engineers in streambank stabilization and riparian restoration along the Rio Grande between the City of Alamosa and the Alamosa–Rio Grande County line, leveraging previously restored reaches to improve the regional health of the river. Among the identified project sites is a stretch within the Alamosa Riparian Park; riverfront property that was recently added to the City’s public parks and trails system. Project activities on the Alamosa Riparian Park will protect trails and recreation opportunities on this new park property, while restoring riparian habitat.</p> <p>Phase 5 is utilizing a local contractor to complete engineered channel shaping, streambank stabilization, and riparian revegetation. One round of revegetation has already taken place, but due to the persistence of drought conditions since planting, success rates have been low. Established vegetation on these floodplain benches is crucial to maintain the bank and channel improvements, and as such require additional work.</p>
Method/Procedure:
<p>A crew of 6-8 young adults through the Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) will provide valuable labor towards riparian planting efforts. Assisted by heavy machinery, the crew would gather willows from the surrounding area and plant them within the floodplain bench, water them, and trim them to maximize success. Once the planting is complete, the crew would have the opportunity to improve the surrounding trails, as the Riparian Park is a popular recreation area for the City of Alamosa.</p>
Deliverable:



Last Updated: May 2021

Revegetation of the riparian area and treatment of invasive species will improve habitat, benefiting key upland species and improving wildlife viewing. Additionally, revegetation will increase canopy cover along the river, decreasing temperatures and improving aquatic habitat for fish.

The revegetation efforts will result in an estimated 120 willow clumps being planted and 0.6 acres of restored wetland and riparian habitat.

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

Budget and Schedule

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

Reporting Requirements

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

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

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

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

Payment



Last Updated: May 2021

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

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

Performance Measures

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

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

(b) Accountability: Per 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 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.



June 29, 2022

Colorado Youth Corps Association

1640 Grant Street, Suite 210

Denver, CO 80203

Dear Grant Review Committee:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Southwest Conservation Corps Los Valles' (SCC-LV) proposal to the Colorado Youth Corps Association and Colorado Water Conservation Board for the Water Plan Grant. This project has inspired considerable community support and will be a cooperative effort between SCC-LV and the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project.

Southwest Conservation Corps-Los Valles will be seeking funds to protect native fish populations and restore riparian habitat condition at key locations along the Rio Grande River by removing invasive vegetation, planting native plants, and helping with the reintroduction of beavers. These goals and objectives are in alignment with the roundtable implementation plan and help further the water plan goals of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable.

The Southwest Conservation Corps has a record and reputation for completing high quality project work while promoting environmental stewardship and education of participants, users, and the communities they serve. I appreciate your consideration of their proposal and strongly recommend it for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Coombs".

Nathan Coombs

Rio Grande Basin Roundtable



December 9, 2021

Kyle Horne
Executive Director
Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District

Re: John Griffin Regional Park Fire Mitigation: 22-9020

Dear Kyle,

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that the Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) have chosen your project to receive four weeks of work from the Mile High Youth Corps - Southern Front Range. This work is valued at \$37,800 which includes four weeks of a saw crew. Work on this project must be completed by December 31, 2022.

Please note, if unforeseen circumstances necessitate a change in the scope of work or the project location, please reach out to Scott Segerstrom at 303-863-0604 or ssegerstrom@cyca.org as soon as possible to discuss.

Funds for this project were awarded to CYCA by GOCO, which receives a portion of Colorado Lottery revenues to invest in parks, playgrounds, trails, rivers, wildlife, youth corps and open space. The goal of the program is to employ youth and young adults (ages 14-25) throughout the state on critical outdoor recreation and land conservation projects.

If you issue any news releases or include information in newsletters and other media about your project receiving these funds, it is important that you acknowledge that the funding came from lottery funds through GOCO in partnership with the Colorado Youth Corps Association. If you have any questions about acknowledging CYCA or GOCO, please contact Rosemary Dempsey at GOCO at (rdempsey@goco.org) or Scott Segerstrom at CYCA (ssegerstrom@cyca.org or 303-863-0604).

Thank you for your interest in youth conservation corps and applying for crews. This work and similar work around the state funded through this grant will help put young people to work on our public and protected lands that are in great need of labor.

As a reminder, your organization will not need an agreement with the youth corps, nor will your organization receive any funds directly from CYCA. CYCA will reimburse the corps for their work on your project.

Youth corps staff will be in touch with you about scheduling your project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (303) 863-0604 or ssegerstrom@cyca.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Segerstrom".

Scott Segerstrom
Executive Director
Colorado Youth Corps Association

Arkansas Basin Roundtable

July 18, 2022

Via Electronic Mail: ben.wade@state.co.us

Mr. Ben Wade
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant Application: *John Griffin Regional Park Fire Mitigation Project Phase II*

Dear Ben:

At its July 10, 2022 meeting, the Arkansas Basin Roundtable (ABRT) approved support of the Mile High Youth Corp John Griffin Regional Park Fire Mitigation Project Phase II request for \$32,400 from the Statewide account. The applicant is providing \$37,800 in matching funds.

This project supports the goals of the Colorado Water Plan and the Arkansas Basin Roundtable Implementation plan by improving the watershed health, removing phreatophytes and therefore improving water efficiency in the Arkansas Basin.

The Arkansas Basin Roundtable approved supporting this application by consensus and there were no dissenting views.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me either by telephone, (719) 668-8028

Thank you,



Mark Shea
Chair

Copy via email: Applicant; Needs Assessment Chair