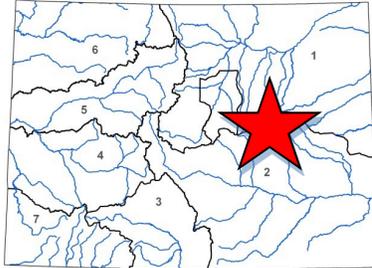




**Water Plan Grant Program
Application**



L O C A T I O N	
County/Countries:	Statewide
Drainage Basin:	Arkansas, Rio Grande, SP

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$109,000
Colorado Water Plan Grant:	\$78,000
Recommended amount:	\$0
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$21,000
Applicant Match:	\$15,000
Project Type(s):	Implementation
Project Category:	Watershed Health and Recreation
Measurable Result:	May result in protection of shorelines of 10 reservoirs by leveraging tax credits

Colorado is home to more than 2,000 lakes and reservoirs (25% privately owned). These water bodies provide critical drinking water supply, habitat, and recreational opportunities for Colorado’s citizens and wildlife. Shoreline development can be a significant factor in degradation of water quality, aquatic/terrestrial habitat, and recreational opportunities. Shoreline development clears natural vegetation resulting in potential critical habitat loss, recreational access loss, and loss of wetland areas. It also increases nonpoint source pollution from pesticides, fertilizers, septic systems, and stormwater runoff among other things. Pristine waters can be preserved, and further degradation of other waters prevented by voluntarily eliminating or limiting future shoreline development.

Conservation easements and the conservation tax credits they generate are an important voluntary tool to protect shorelines and are the subject of this planning grant. Colorado awards conservation easement tax credits (“Credits”) to eligible parties that donate conservation easements. In 2021, the Conservation Resource Center, along with Keep It Colorado, supported and promoted new legislation extending eligibility to ditch/reservoir companies and water conservation districts. Now, for the first time they are eligible to earn Credits. This planning project will educate, guide, support, and prepare projects for Water Entities that elect to take advantage of this new preservation tool and funding opportunity to advance their organizational priorities.

The Conservation Resource Center (CRC) is well-positioned to take on this Private Lake and Reservoir Protection initiative as a Colorado 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has supported voluntary private land conservation for over twenty years. CRC provides project planning, support, guidance and policy recommendations related to conservation easement donations and tax credits. CRC established the market for Colorado’s tax credit transfer program and as such, is well-positioned to spearhead this collaborative planning process that will result in shoreline protection and bringing in millions of dollars into water basins.

Staff is not recommending funding for this project because the Watershed Health & Recreation category typically does not support lake/reservoir shoreline restoration as there is limited benefit to the larger watershed. The application is also vague in regards to the basic applicant qualification that there is broad-based involvement in or support for the planning effort. A list of anticipated supporters and partners is included with the application, but there is very little or no description as to how the partners will be involved.



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Conservation Resource Center	
Name of Water Project	Private Lake and Reservoir Protection Initiative: Using Conservation Easements & Tax Credits to promote State Water Plan and Private Land Conservation Goals in the Arkansas, Rio Grande, and South Platte Water Basins	
Grant Request Amount		\$78,000.00
Primary Category		\$78,000.00
	<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match		\$15,000.00
	<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	
	<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$15,000.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		\$16,000.00
	<i>Keep It Colorado</i>	\$15,000.00
	<i>Colorado Natural Heritage Program</i>	\$1,000.00
Total Project Cost		\$109,000.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Conservation Resource Center	
Mailing Address: 5171 Eldorado Springs Drive, Unit J Boulder CO 80303	
FEIN: 800,128,796	
Organization Contact: Mike Strugar	
Position/Title: Director	Email: mike@taxcreditexchange.com
Phone: 303 818-3952	
Organization Contact - Alternate: Debra Pentz	
Position/Title: Associate Director	Email: crcpentz@me.com
Phone: 3038184390	
Grant Management Contact: Mike Strugar	
Position/Title: Director	Email: mike@taxcreditexchange.com
Phone: 303 818-3952	
Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Debra Pentz	
Position/Title: Associate Director	Email: crcpentz@me.com
Phone: 3038184390	

Description of Grantee/Applicant

The Conservation Resource Center (CRC) is a Colorado 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has supported voluntary private land conservation for over twenty years. CRC provides project planning, support, guidance and policy recommendations related to Colorado conservation easement and tax credits. CRC also established the

market for Colorado's tax credit transfer program and as such, is well-positioned to spearhead this collaborative planning process that will result in shoreline protection and channelling millions of dollars of tax credits earned into the Arkansas, Rio Grande, and South Platte water basins.

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	40.096100
Longitude	105.083500
Lat Long Flag	Reservoir location: Coordinates based on location of reservoir
Water Source	Area: Lakes and reservoirs throughout the Arkansas, Rio Grande, and South Platte Water Basins. Lat/Long is based on Conservation Resource Center's and Colorado's first water entity Colorado Conservation Easement Tax Credit project, Panama Reservoir.
Basins	Arkansas; Rio Grande; South Platte
Counties	
Districts	

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type

Type of Water Project Planning (e.g. watershed)

Scheduled Start Date - Design 12/1/2022

Scheduled Start Date - Construction

Description

This project will:

1. Support State Water Plan and Individual Water Basin Goals by considering new ways to address old problems through innovative projects and solutions.
2. Add a new revenue stream to help to protect Colorado's private lakes and reservoirs by tapping into Colorado conservation easement credits as recent legislation extended eligibility to reservoir and ditch companies and water conservation districts.
3. Preserve water quality, wildlife habitat, and existing or future recreational opportunities on privately owned lakes and reservoirs by using conservation easements as a protection tool and the up to \$5 million per project tax credits to meet other organizational needs.
4. Broaden and strengthen partnerships among (1) local, state and national land trusts, (2) private water entities, including reservoir/ditch companies, and water conservation districts, (3) Watershed Basin groups addressing watershed health and recreation opportunities, and (4) state agencies such as DPW, CWCB, CWQCC, CDPHE that may share helpful data and mapping layers.
5. Support project drafting and design in a way that land trusts and state certification policies can be met and credits earned once easements donated.
6. Create a reservoir-specific model conservation easement available to use and amend as needed for future projects.
7. Create a Lake and Reservoir owner guide to Colorado Conservation Easement Tax Credits as issues that may arise and need to be addressed are different than traditional easement projects.

The focus of this project is on the South Platte, Arkansas, and Rio Grande Basins. In the future, we will extend it to include the remaining six basins and may request additional funds at that time. If specific water entities/owners have reservoirs/lakes in other basins, we will consider adding them to this project on a case-by-case basis depending on demand.

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)
- Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
- Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
- Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
- 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

This planning project will prepare for the protection of private lakes, reservoirs and shorelines in the Arkansas, Rio Grande, and South Platte Water Basins.

1. It will create a funding stream, through tax credits, for lake and reservoir owners to meet other watershed, reservoir/dam maintenance, habitat and recreation priorities. We anticipate that this project will result in the protection of shorelines & related lands of at least 10 lakes/reservoirs.
2. We anticipate that up to 5,000 acres can be teed up for protection within this project period. These projects may generate up to \$5,000 each in Conservation Easement Tax Credits.
3. In the future, information and expertise developed through this initiative will be share to support a similar initiative in the remaining 6 basins to support additional protection efforts.
4. All Colorado citizens benefit as a result of shoreline protection and preservation of aquatic, migratory bird, and other wildlife habitat. They also benefit from continued and any expanded recreational opportunities. Those in the Arkansas, Rio Grande, and South Platte Basins will live in closest proximity to these benefits.
5. Additional project outcomes include expanded partnerships, model reservoir conservation easement and Lake and Reservoir Owner Guide to Conservation Easements and Tax Credits. Each of these will be documented and shared with CWCB.

Water Project Justification

Colorado is home to more than 2,000 lakes and reservoirs (25% privately owned). These water bodies provide critical drinking and agricultural water supply, habitat, and recreational opportunities for Colorado's citizens and wildlife. The Colorado Water Plan in its Figure 7.3-2, Current Water Quality Conditions, notes that only 28% of these water bodies currently attain standards. 23% do not attain standards and the remaining 49% can't be classified due to insufficient data. Shoreline development can be a significant factor in degradation of water quality, aquatic/terrestrial habitat, and recreational opportunities. Shoreline development clears natural vegetation resulting in potential critical habitat loss, recreational access loss, and loss of wetland areas. It also increases nonpoint source pollution from pesticides, fertilizers, septic systems, and stormwater runoff among other things. Pristine waters can be preserved, and further degradation of other waters prevented by voluntarily eliminating or limiting future shoreline development.

This initiative will prepare interested private lake and reservoir owners (including reservoir and ditch companies, watershed conservation districts and private individuals) to protect shorelines from future development. This project uses Colorado's conservation tax credits as a new financial incentive to private lakes and reservoir owners to promote watershed protection, water quality benefits, habitat preservation, and recreation opportunities in the Arkansas, Rio Grande, and South Platte Water Basins. (This is a land conservation effort and water rights and it is not the intent of this project to in any way restrict water uses and rights.)

To meet these goals we will compile data, create innovative partnerships, offer lake and reservoir-specific conservation easement education and technical assistance, develop site specific mapping of values and benefits, and ready projects for conservation easement donation and certification of state tax credits. Based on a pilot project supporting this initiative, we anticipate that each individual project, depending on acreage, will likely to generate \$5 million in tax credits. We will also work with private lake/reservoir owners (at their sole discretion) to explore current and potential future recreational opportunities and related easements and/or leases and include

this information in our final report. This project will both protect lake and reservoir shorelines and channel a significant new funding stream into water basins to support water entity investment priorities. Priorities might include reservoir and dam facility maintenance, water quality improvements, habitat restoration and/or recreational access and other noted priorities in Water Basin Plans. (Again, tax credit funds are unrestricted and may be used to meet any needs as determined by owners.)

This initiative is timely for three reasons. First, as a result of Conservation Resource Center (CRC) and Keep It Colorado's support of legislative efforts to expand eligibility to claim Colorado's Conservation Easement Tax Credits to water entities (groups listed above), these groups are for the first time eligible to claim credits. Second, the legislation also increased the value of conservation easement tax credits from 50% to 90% of the value of the conservation easement, so the incentive has increased. It is uncertain how long this higher credit valuation will last. Finally, CRC is in the final stages of structuring Colorado's first water entity conservation easement tax credit project, Panama Reservoir. Please see grant attachment, Lakes & Reservoirs Initiative: Panama Pilot Project for additional detail.

Goals of the State Water & Water Basin Plans (Please see grant attachment, Lakes & Reservoirs Initiative: Advancing Water Basin Goals), Water Quality Control Commission, and Colorado Department of Health and Environment among others are advanced by this project. It is also of note that it invests public land conservation dollars in areas of the state that are highlighted as having a high environmental burden through CDPHE's new EnviroScreen mapping (still in beta testing) and have generally received lower levels of this funding. The Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPW) also holds recreational access to many lakes and reservoirs, further supporting the importance of protecting these areas. We will coordinate with DPW when appropriate. This initiative also advances proposed goals of Keep It Colorado's Statewide Private Lands Conservation Plan. This plan is currently under development and has not been finalized, but lakes, reservoirs and streams are expected to be included as high protection priorities.

The Conservation Resource Center (CRC) is uniquely qualified to lead this Private Lake and Reservoir Protection Initiative as a Colorado 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has supported voluntary private land conservation for over twenty years. CRC provides project planning and design, guidance and policy recommendations related to conservation easement donations and tax credits. CRC also established the market for Colorado's tax credit transfer program and as such, is well-positioned to spearhead this collaborative planning process that will result in shoreline protection and channelling millions of dollars of tax credits earned into the Arkansas, Rio Grande, and South Platte water basins.

Related Studies

- CO State Water Plan
- CO Basin Water Plans
- CDPHE report on water quality, 2020
- CWQCC goals
- DPW State Wildlife Action Plan, 2015
- CNHP, Colorado Conservation Data Explorer, 2021
- CNHP Colorado Wetland Inventory mapping tool
- Keep It Colorado, Statewide Private Lands Conservation Plan (under development - previously funded by CWCB)
- Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2019
- CNHP COMAP, 2018

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

Last Updated: May 2021

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

Statement Of Work	
Date:	June 26, 2022
Name of Grantee:	Conservation Resource Center 501(C)(3) nonprofit land conservation organization
Name of Water Project:	Private Lake and Reservoir Protection Initiative: Using Conservation Easements & Tax Credits to promote State Water Plan and Private Land Conservation Goals in the Arkansas, Rio Grande, and South Platte Water Basins
Funding Source:	Watershed Health and Recreation & Education and Innovation
<p>Colorado is home to more than 2,000 lakes and reservoirs (25% privately owned). These water bodies provide critical drinking water supply, habitat, and recreational opportunities for Colorado’s citizens and wildlife. The Colorado Water Plan in its <i>Figure 7.3-2, Current Water Quality Conditions</i>, notes that only 28% of these water bodies currently attain standards. 23% do not attain standards and the remaining 49% can’t be classified due to insufficient data. Shoreline development can be a significant factor in degradation of water quality, aquatic/terrestrial habitat, and recreational opportunities. Shoreline development clears natural vegetation resulting in potential critical habitat loss, recreational access loss, and loss of wetland areas. It also increases nonpoint source pollution from pesticides, fertilizers, septic systems, and stormwater runoff among other things. Pristine waters can be preserved, and further degradation of other waters prevented by voluntarily eliminating or limiting future shoreline development.</p> <p>Conservation easements and the conservation tax credits they generate are an important voluntary tool to protect shorelines and are the subject of this planning grant. Colorado awards conservation easement tax credits (“Credits”) to eligible parties that donate conservation easements. These Credits have been a powerful tool for conservation in Colorado over the last 20 years. Until last year, they were unavailable to most private owners of lakes and reservoirs, such as ditch and reservoir companies and water conservation districts. In 2021, the Conservation Resource Center, along with Keep It Colorado, supported and promoted new legislation extending eligibility to ditch/reservoir companies and water conservation districts. Now, for the first time they are eligible to earn Credits. For the purpose of this project, these categories of private reservoir owners, are collectively referred to as “Water Entities”. The new legislation also increased the value of Credits from 50% to 90% of the value of the conservation easement. Water Entities can now earn up to \$5 million in tax credits in exchange for donating a conservation easement to protect lakes and reservoirs. (Water rights are not impacted by the easement.) Credits can then be transferred on the open market to immediately monetize their value and provide unrestricted funds. This planning project will educate, guide, support, and prepare projects for Water Entities that elect to take advantage of this new preservation tool and funding opportunity to advance their organizational priorities.</p> <p>With a grant of only \$78,000, this planning grant will likely leverage up to \$15 million into each of the three basins if the planning effort results in just three reservoir conservation easement projects per basin. We</p>	



Last Updated: May 2021

expect that there will be more. This is important, as historically, eastern Colorado and the Arkansas Basin have had lower levels of tax credit values flowing into their communities. This project will help to balance that equation and set the table for interested private Water Entities to proceed quickly to preserve and protect water quality, wildlife habitat, recreational uses and overall watershed health by restricting future shoreline development. In addition, they will receive a transferrable conservation easement tax credit. Timely advancement of this project is important as there is an overall annual credit cap of \$45 million and the generous 90% valuation has created a higher demand for credits.

This project brings together innovative partnerships and a new creative unrestricted funding source that may be applied to reservoir maintenance, habitat restoration, or public access improvements depending on each water entity's needs and desires. With this project, State Water Plan, Water Basin, and Colorado Water Quality Control Division goals are jointly advanced and private Water Entity owners of lakes and reservoirs are adequately compensated with a source of funding just recently made available to them.

The Conservation Resource Center (CRC) is well-positioned to take on this Private Lake and Reservoir Protection initiative as a Colorado 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has supported voluntary private land conservation for over twenty years. CRC provides project planning, support, guidance and policy recommendations related to conservation easement donations and tax credits. CRC established the market for Colorado's tax credit transfer program and as such, is well-positioned to spearhead this collaborative planning process that will result in shoreline protection and bringing in millions of dollars into water basins.

Project Objectives:

The overall project objective is to preserve water quality, wildlife habitat, and existing or future recreational opportunities on privately owned lakes and reservoirs by using conservation easements as a protection tool and the up to \$5 million per project in tax credits to meet other organizational needs. This project focuses on the South Platte, Arkansas, and Rio Grande Basins. Future projects will support work with the remaining six basins. If specific water entities/owners have reservoirs/lakes in other basins, we will consider adding them to phase I on a case-by-case basis depending on demand.

Specific objectives are to:

1. Support State Water Plan and Individual Water Basin Goals by considering new ways to address old problems through innovative projects and solutions.
2. Add a new revenue stream to help to protect Colorado's lakes and reservoirs.
3. Broaden land conservation partnerships to include important water entities, including reservoir and ditch companies, and water conservation districts in preserving water quality, wildlife habitat, and public recreational access on privately owned lakes and reservoirs as they are now eligible to receive Colorado Conservation Easement tax credits.
4. Support project drafting and design in a way that land trust and department of conservation policies can be met, and credits earned.
5. Create a reservoir-specific model conservation easement available to use and amend as needed for future projects.
6. Create a Lake and Reservoir owner guide to Colorado State Conservation Easement Tax Credits as issues that may arise and need to be addressed are different than traditional easement projects.

Tasks
<p>Task 1 Determine ownership & gather relevant data of lakes and reservoirs In South Platte, Arkansas and Rio Grande Basins</p>
<p>Description of Task:</p>



Last Updated: May 2021

Identify all lake and reservoir owners within the South Platte, Arkansas, and Rio Grande basins. Rely on Water Basin Plans and supplemental documentation where necessary.
Method/Procedure:
Research existing sources of information to identify individual/entity owning each reservoir/lake. Consult water basin plans as a starting point and consult other local, state and federal mapping of lakes reservoirs and dams if additional information is needed.
Deliverable:
Database of lakes and reservoirs in each basin and associated ownership and contact information. Much of this information already exists in CWCB basin reports.

Tasks
Task 2 Technical assistance to Reservoir & Ditch Companies, Water Conservation Districts and other private lake and reservoir owners (Water Entities).
Description of Task:
Provide water entity/owner education and technical assistance on conservation easements generally and as applied to lakes and reservoirs (water is not restricted in any way).
Method/Procedure:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make initial contact over phone with Water Entities. 2. Schedule group and/or individual technical assistance meetings as best fits Water Entities' schedules. 3. Additional outreach through newsletters, regional meetings and conferences to provide education generally on conservation easements and lake/reservoir easements specifically. 4. Present current information on the goals (here shoreline preservation) and financial benefits (up to \$5 million per project) of Colorado's Conservation Easement State Tax Credits and the procedure for earning them and transferring them. 5. Share information on new entities eligible to hold conservation easements and partnership opportunities with local land trusts, statewide land trusts, and Ducks Unlimited.
Deliverable:
Private Lakes and Reservoir Conservation Easement & Tax Credit Guide for Water Entities

Tasks
Task 3 Pilot Project Results
Description of Task:



Last Updated: May 2021

<p>Professionally write-up and share the results of 2021-22 pilot reservoir preservation project. It is the first in the state where a water entity will claim a state conservation easement tax credit. Include commentary from involved parties and planned use of Credit funds earned.</p>
<p>Method/Procedure:</p>
<p>Walk through specifics of state’s first reservoir conservation easement donated by a water entity that will result in the entity claiming a credit of \$5 million and their plan to use the credits to repay a reservoir maintenance CWCB loan.</p>
<p>Deliverable:</p>
<p>Professional and detailed write-up of pilot project to support initiative.</p>

Tasks
<p>Task 4 Map of Basin Lakes and Reservoirs with associated relevant data layers</p>
<p>Description of Task:</p>
<p>Compile & map existing lake and reservoir-specific information.</p>
<p>Method/Procedure:</p>
<p>Map each reservoir using existing data layers related to property ownership, water quality, reservoir uses, recreational access, wildlife habitat, environmental pressure, State Land Conservation Plan, etc. to support projects that water entities/owners choose to advance and to support any future grant requests they may make to the CWCB or the CWQCC.</p> <p>This information will support Prioritize prioritization of projects based on owner interest, data compiled, and readiness.</p>
<p>Deliverable:</p>
<p>Lake/reservoir maps highlighting existing data layers noted above for those projects that will advance and an order of priority to advance projects based on owner interest, readiness, and conservation values.</p>

Tasks
<p>Task 5 Build Diverse Partnerships through stakeholder outreach and collaboration.</p>
<p>Description of Task:</p>
<p>Create broad and diverse partnerships among reservoir and ditch companies, land conservation community, Ducks Unlimited, Keep It Colorado, and state agencies (CPW, CWCB, CWQCC, and CDPHE).</p>



Last Updated: May 2021

<p>Method/Procedure:</p> <p>Partnerships will evolve as groups are brought together for different purposes. Mapping and data will be contributed by CNHP, state agencies, and water entities and all will work with land conservation organizations if they elect to donate a conservation easement. Keep It Colorado's Statewide Private Land Conservation Plan (in development) will highlight lands with important wildlife habitat, water quality, and public recreation values. Being highlighted in the plan may increase likelihood of land conservation and transaction cost funding flowing into these areas in the future. It is anticipated that lakes, reservoirs and streams will be highlighted as important areas for voluntary land protection focus, but if Water Entities and Water Basins have areas they believe should be included in the plan, CRC can bring groups together to exchange information. CRC will be able to work to foster innovative partnerships to advance mutual interests throughout this project.</p>
<p>Deliverable:</p> <p>The Conservation Resource Center (CRC) has already spoken at a DARCA conference to begin to lay the foundation of collaboration among the land conservation and water entities. CRC will continue to look for opportunities to share Water and Reservoir preservation success stories with all partners to promote future collaborations and speak at Water Basin Groups, Watershed Groups, and other Reservoir/Ditch Company meetings or conferences as requested. Specific partnerships will also be developed between land trusts and Water Entities that own private lakes or reservoirs.</p>

Tasks
<p>Task 6 Model Lake and Reservoir Conservation Easement</p>
<p>Description of Task:</p> <p>Collaborate with interested water entities and land conservation community to draft a model lake/reservoir conservation easement.</p>
<p>Method/Procedure:</p> <p>Scan other state programs for similar model easements. Facilitate meeting of water entities, land trusts and professionals to draft model easement addressing special circumstances and potentially complex needs of Water Entities to ensure that facility maintenance and repair is understood and permitted.</p>
<p>Deliverable:</p> <p>Draft Model Easement for future projects to use as a starting point for negotiation.</p>



Last Updated: May 2021

Tasks
<p>Task 7 Individual Lake and Reservoir Conservation Easement Project Structure/Design</p>
<p>Description of Task:</p> <p>Guide water entities donating easements through project planning and design. Anticipate supporting at least 9 transactions, three from each basin. Support application for transaction cost funds, identification of appropriate land trust to hold conservation easement, certification by conservation easement tax credit division, and transfer credits for donors who cannot take full advantage of the credit based on their Colorado Taxable Income.</p>
<p>Method/Procedure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pull together lake/reservoir information listed above. 2. Schedule site visit to document existing structures, shoreline, vegetation, recreational access, conservation benefits, etc. 3. Use information to mutually consider conservation easement holders that might accept easement. 4. Connect donors to professionals to support due diligence requirements such as appraisers, baseline inventory, and conservation easement drafting. 5. Support grant request for transaction costs from Keep It Colorado. 6. Support project readiness for certification by the Department of Conservation or provide assessment as to how to strengthen project.
<p>Deliverables:</p> <p>Identification of Conservation Easement Holder Grant request for transaction costs Ready project for Conservation Easement Certifications & Credit Transfer</p>

Tasks
<p>Task 8 Publish Guide: Private Lake/Reservoir Owner Guide to Colorado Conservation Easement & Tax Credits: Protecting shorelines, water quality, wildlife habitat, and public recreational uses while raising funds for shoreline enhancements and reservoir maintenance or other priorities.</p>
<p>Description of Task:</p> <p>Use tasks above to inform publication of private lake/reservoir owner-specific guide to Colorado conservation easement tax credits.</p>
<p>Method/Procedure:</p> <p>Draft Guide – Specific to the unique circumstances of private lake and reservoir owners. Seek Feedback from Project Partners Publish Guide Distribute to Lake/Reservoir Owners in Colorado</p>



Last Updated: May 2021

Deliverables:

Publication:

Private Reservoir Owner's Guide to conservation easements and tax credits:
Protecting Shorelines, Water Quality, Recreational Uses and Accessing and raising funds for future shoreline restoration efforts of reservoir maintenance.

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

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



Last Updated: May 2021

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.



Colorado Water Conservation Board

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

Prepared Date: June 26, 2022

Name of Applicant: Conservation Resource Center

Name of Water Project: Lakes & Reservoir Protection through Conservation Easements & State Tax Credits

Project Start Date: Day after Grant Award

Project End Date: One year from grant award.

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	Determine Ownership of Lakes/Reservoirs & initial contact	12/1/2022	1-Mar	5,000		
2	* Technical assistance conferences and individual meetings	2/1/2023	12/31/2023		\$15,000	
3	Draft/publish/share reservoir protection pilot project	3/1/2023	12/31/2023	\$5,000		
4	**Map individual reservoirs & data layers related to habitat, water quality, aquatic species, ownership, recreation opportunities, etc. = used for project prioritization and to support owners in any future grant requests for other purposes.	12/1/2022	5/31/2023	\$15,000	\$1,000	
5	Create broad partnerships	12/1/2022	12/31/2023	\$3,000		
6	Collaborate and Draft Model Lake/Reservoir Conservation Easement	3/1/2023	6/1/2023	\$15,000		\$15,000
7	Conservation Easement Project Design	3/1/2023	12/31/2023			\$0
	site visits	3/1/2023	12/31/2023	\$15,000		\$15,000
	documentation of project benefits	3/1/2023	12/31/2023	\$5,000		\$5,000
	due diligence support	3/1/2023	12/31/2023	\$5,000		\$5,000
	*** transaction cost grant assistance	3/1/2023	12/31/2023		\$15,000	\$15,000
	Support and review project-readiness for assigning land trust easement holder and certification of credits			\$5,000		\$5,000
8	Publication of private lake/reservoir ownerguide to Colorado State Conservation Easement Tax Credits	2/1/2023	12/31/2023	\$5,000		\$5,000
Total				\$78,000	\$31,000	\$109,000