Water Supply Reserve Fund Water Activity Summary Sheet March 21-22, 2018 Agenda Item 25(p)

Applicant & Grantee:	Town of Carbondale
Water Activity Name:Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Ditch Efficiency	
Water Activity Purpose:	Environmental, Municipal and Industrial Implementation
County:	Garfield
Drainage Basin:	Colorado
Water Source:	Crystal River
Amount Requested:	\$20,700 Colorado Basin Account
Matching Funds:	 Applicant Match (cash & in-kind) = \$179,300 866% of the Basin Account request (meets 25% min) 89% of the total project cost of \$200,000

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$20,700 from the Colorado Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Ditch Efficiency Project.

Water Activity Summary: WSRF grant funds, if approved, will assist the Town of Carbondale, with partners Aspen Valley Land Trust, Roaring Fork Conservancy, American Rivers, and Public Counsel of the Rockies in the restoration and enhancement of a one-half mile, 18-acre reach of the Crystal River as it flows through the town of Carbondale, as well as improvements to the efficiency of the town-owned Weaver Ditch headgate and diversion. Project goals are to: (1) restore the ecological integrity of the riparian zone through streambank stabilization, reconnection of the floodplain, and replace invasive weed communities and plant monocultures with healthy and diverse riparian plant regimes, while preserving healthy bird and wildlife habitat; (2) develop a long term, self-sustaining solution to improve river channel stability, fish habitat and spawning areas by promoting conditions that support and enhance instream biotic structure and diversity; (3) create a self-sustaining diversion and head gate structure for the Weaver Ditch to function as part of the river system while improving the water delivery for the Town of Carbondale and consistent with future ditch improvements and efficiencies; and (4) enhance passive user experiences of Riverfront Park through interpretive signs, trails, gathering spaces, and educational programs. The requested grant monies will be used to fund the planning, design, and permitting for the project.

Discussion: As described in the Colorado basin roundtable (BRT) chair's recommendation letter, this project was supported and recommended for approval by the roundtable on January 22, 2017. The project scored 7.25 of a possible 14.25 points on the Colorado BRT scoring matrix which measures how grants address roundtable objectives. While this is a lower score than other Colorado BRT grants, it reflects a more targeted program that still addresses the Colorado's Basin Implementation Plan goals.

This project assists in satisfying Colorado's Water Plan Critical Goals and Actions as identified in Chapter 10.3, F. Watershed Health, including the goal to develop Stream Management Plans that can facilitate environmental and recreational projects and needs. In a sense, this proposed project is a step ahead of that, as it stems from the findings and recommendations of the completed Crystal River Management Plan (CRMP). The CRMP states that "The reaches of the Crystal River between Thompson Creek and the confluence with the Roaring Fork exhibit the most degraded overall functional condition" (5.4, CRMP). This project will work to reverse some of that degradation. In many cases the State's In-Stream Flow right is rarely met. Improvements to the river channel and diversion structure may help with flows, and most definitely the overall goals of the ISF program to preserve the natural environment (Section 6.6, Colorado's Water Plan)

Issues/Additional Needs: No 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 Summary / Matching Funds:			
Funding Source	Cash	In-Kind	<u>Total</u>
Town of Carbondale	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Great Outdoors Colorado	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Environment Foundation Funding (Aspen Ski Co.)	\$9,300	\$0	\$9,300
CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant	\$100,000	n/a	\$100,000
Sub-total	\$179,300	\$0	\$179,300
WSRF Colorado Basin Account	\$20,700	n/a	\$20,700
Totals	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000

CWCB Project Manager: Chris Sturm

THE COLORADO BASIN ROUNDTABLE C/O P.O. BOX 1120 GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO 81602

January 31, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board WSRF Grants 1313 Sherman Street Denver CO (303) 866-3441 megan.holcomb@state.co.us

Dear Staff:

The Colorado Basin Roundtable voted unanimously at its January 22, 2018 meeting to forward the Town of Carbondale's grant application for CWCB staff review and Board approval. The amount is for \$20,700 from the CBRT's Basin Account. The grant scored a 7.25 on our scoring matrix, a ratio of .59. While this is a lower score than some of our grants, it reflects a more targeted program that still addresses our goals.

The CBRT BIP lists Healthy River and Streams as one of its key themes. The Town of Carbondale, with partners Aspen Valley Land Trust, Roaring Fork Conservancy, American Rivers and Public Counsel of the Rockies is proposing to restore and enhance a one-half mile, 18-acre reach of the Crystal River as it flows through the town of Carbondale, and improve the efficiency of the town owned Weaver Ditch headgate and diversion. This grant will assist in the planning and permitting of this project, which itself is an implementation of the Crystal River Watershed Plan, which was funded in part by WSRF monies.

Sincerely yours,

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Jim Pokrandt Chair, Colorado Basin Roundtable

Attachment: CBRT Grant Matrix Scoring Sheet



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application

Instructions

All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines.

To receive funding from the WSRF, a proposed water activity must be approved by a Roundtable(s) **<u>AND</u>** the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for Roundtable consideration and recommendation is outlined in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. The CWCB meets bimonthly according to the schedule on page 2 of this application.

If you have questions, please contact the current CWCB staff Roundtable liaison:

Arkansas Ben Wade ben.wade@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3238 Gunnison | North Platte | South Platte | Yampa/White Craig Godbout craig.godbout@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3210 Colorado | Metro | Rio Grande | Southwest Megan Holcomb megan.holcomb@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3222

	WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)		
	I acknowledge this request for funding was recommended for CWCB approval by the sponsoring Basin Roundtable(s).		
Х	I acknowledge I have read and understand the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines.		
Х	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the <u>Standard Contract</u> . ⁽¹⁾		
Exh	ibit A		
Х	Statement of Work ⁽²⁾ (Word – see Exhibit A Template)		
Х	Budget & Schedule ⁽²⁾ (Excel Spreadsheet – see Exhibit A Template)		
Х	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽²⁾		
Exh	ibit C		
Х	Map ⁽²⁾		
Х	Photos/Drawings/Reports		
Х	Letters of Support		
С	Certificate of Insurance ⁽³⁾ (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.)		
Con	tracting Documents		
	Certificate of Good Standing ⁽³⁾		
	W-9 ⁽³⁾		
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽³⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)		
	Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form ⁽³⁾		
(1) (Click "Grant Agreements". For reference only/do not fill out or submit/required for contracting		

(2) Required with application if applicable.

(3) Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.



Schedule			
CWCB Meeting	Application Submittal Dates	Type of Request	
January	December 1	Basin Account; BIP	
March	February 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP	
Мау	April 1	Basin Account; BIP	
July	June 1	Basin Account; BIP	
September	August 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP	
November	October 1	Basin Account/BIP	

Desired Timeline	
Desired CWCB Hearing Month:	March
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	Мау

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	Town of Carbondale	
Name of Water Activity	Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Ditch Efficiency Project	
Approving Roundtable	e(s)	Basin Account Request(s) ⁽¹⁾
Colorado Basin Roundtable		\$20,700.00
Basin Account Request Subtotal		\$20,700
Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾		\$
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)		\$20,700
Total Project Costs		\$200,000
(1) Please indicate the amount recommended for approval by the Roundtable(s)		

(1) Please indicate the amount recommended for approval by the Roundtable(s)



	Grantee and Applicant Information
Name of Grantee(s)	
Mailing Address	511 Colorado Avenue, Carbondale, CO 81623
FEIN	
Grantee's Organization Contact ⁽¹⁾	Mark O'Meara
Position/Title	Utility Director
Email	momeara@carbondaleco.net
Phone	970-963-3140, c. 970-319-6259
Grant Management Contact ⁽²⁾	Mark O'Meara
Position/Title	Utility Director
Email	momeara@carbondaleco.net
Phone	970-963-3140, c 970-319-6259
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	

(1) Person with signatory authority

(2) 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 Town of Carbondale sits at the base of Mt. Sopris, near the confluence of the Crystal and Roaring Fork Rivers. Carbondale, founded in 1888, is a family centered community featuring a diverse offering of outdoor recreational experiences, artistic and cultural events, ranching and local agriculture, restaurants and retail shops, and small business opportunities.

The Town of Carbondale Utility Department is a full service water and wastewater service provider with three different source waters, a raw water irrigation system through four separate ditch systems running throughout the Town.



	Type of Eligible Entity (check one)		
x	Public (Government): municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.		
	Public (Districts): authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises		
	Private Incorporated: mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations		
	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: 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		
	Covered Entity: as defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes		

Type of Water Activity (check one)		
	Study	
Х	Implementation	

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

Location of Water Activity			
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.			
County/Counties	Garfield		
Latitude	39º 23' 39" N		
Longitude	107º 12' 42" W		



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.

The Town of Carbondale, with partners Aspen Valley Land Trust, Roaring Fork Conservancy, American Rivers, and Public Counsel of the Rockies is proposing to restore and enhance a one-half mile, 18-acre reach of the Crystal River as it flows through the town of Carbondale, AND improve the efficiency of the town owned Weaver Ditch headgate and diversion.

Project goals:

- 1) <u>Restore</u> the ecological integrity of the riparian zone through streambank stabilization, reconnection of the floodplain, and replace invasive weed communities and plant monocultures with healthy and diverse riparian plant regimes, while preserving healthy bird and wildlife habitat.
- 2) <u>Develop</u> a long term, self-sustaining solution to improve river channel stability, fish habitat and spawning areas by promoting conditions that support and enhance instream biotic structure and diversity.
- <u>Create</u> a self-sustaining diversion and head gate structure for the Weaver Ditch to function as part of the river system while improving the water delivery for the Town of Carbondale and consistent with future ditch improvements and efficiencies
- 4) <u>Enhance</u> passive user experiences of Riverfront Park through interpretive signs, trails, gathering spaces, and educational programs.

Measurable Results			
To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRF funds please provide any of the following values.			
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)		
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive		
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)		
1320	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)		
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)		
14	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)		
	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved		
	Other	Explain:	

The requested grant monies will be used to fund the planning, design, and permitting for the project.



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</u> and <u>Education Action Plan</u>⁽¹⁾. 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>2016 WSRF</u> <u>Criteria and Guidelines</u>).

The proposed Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Ditch Efficiency project supports several key goals and objectives of both the Colorado Water Plan (CWP) and the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan (CBIP). One of the primary goals of both plans is the development of Stream Management Plans that can facilitate environmental and recreational projects and needs. In a sense this proposed project is a step ahead of that, coming as it does from the findings and recommendations of the completed Crystal River Management Plan (CRMP).

The CRMP states that "The reaches of the Crystal River between Thompson Creek and the confluence with the Roaring Fork exhibit the most degraded overall functional condition" (5.4, CRMP). This project will work to reverse some of that degradation. In many cases the States In-Stream Flow right is rarely met. Improvements to the river channel and diversion structure may help with flows, and most definitely the overall goals of the ISF program to preserve the natural environment (Section 6.6, CWP)

The Colorado BIP conducted significant public outreach and input from which to develop the primary themes and goals for the Basin. The number one Basin Wide theme is to "Protect and Restore Healthy Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Riparian Area" with the goal to "protect and rehabilitate healthy rivers, streams, lakes and riparian areas" (p43, CBIP). The highest priority identified through Plan Input Surveys were related to environmental health (p39, CBIP).

These CBIP goals are echoed in the Colorado Water Plan as well. This project will "support a strong environment that includes healthy watersheds, rivers and streams, and wildlife" (Executive Order D 2013-005). The Crystal River is a priority river within the Colorado Basin. This project represents a single piece of the actions identified in the CRMP and the CBIP and supports actions called for by the CWP (p 6-178, Stream Management Plans, Multipurpose projects.)

This project will also improve the efficiency and operation of the Weaver Ditch diversion and headgate. Restructuring this diversion will be done in a way that both improves the diversion itself while improving habitat conditions for this reach of the Crystal River. This goal is also very much in conformance with the CWP's call for projects that "address more than one type of need" (p 9-44, CWP). There are also multiple stakeholders and it does work to provide sustainability for the diversion, the river and the adjacent riparian area in Riverfront Park.

Another significant goal of the CBIP is to strengthen the knowledge and understanding of water issues and needs among the general population of the basin. Carbondale and the Town's Riverfront Park are in the heart of the Roaring Fork Valley and within easy reach by thousands of school age children as well as classes from Colorado Mountain College. The proposed project is very much in line with this goal and will help facilitate the stated objective of "Enhancing K-12 water education opportunities, both inside and beyond the classroom" and "Enhancing water education opportunities in higher education."



Water Activity Justification

There will also be passive educational opportunities through signage and other activities in Riverfront Park.

The goals and objectives for the Project also work well with the CWP's Critical Action Plan, specifically for "F. Watershed Health, Environment and Recreation" and "H. Education, Outreach and Innovation" (p. 10-7, CWP)

(1) 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 3rd party and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment** as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines (submitted on the contributing entity's letterhead). Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind)
Town of Carbondale	\$20,000 cash



Matching Requirements: Basin Accoun	t Requests
Great Outdoors Colorado	\$50,000 cash
CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant	\$100,000 cash
Environment Foundation Funding (Aspen Ski Co.)	\$9,300 cash
Total Match	\$179,300
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 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. A minimum of 10% match shall be from Basin Account funds (cash only). A minimum of 10% match shall be provided by the applicant or 3rd party (cash, in-kind, or combination). The remaining 30% of the required match may be provided from any other source (Basin, applicant, or 3rd party) 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.



Related Studies

Carbondale Water and Wastewater Master plan 2016

Regional Water Efficiency Plan Roaring Fork Watershed, Colorado 2015

Municipal Water Efficiency Plan, Town of Carbondale Colorado 2015

Opportunities for Water Conservation RF conservancy

Crystal River Management Plan 2016

Town of Carbondale Source water protection plan 2015

Wildland Hydrology Crystal River Restoration Scoping 2014

Roaring Fork Watershed Plan 2012

Crystal River and Coal Basin Aquatic Life Use Assessment 2012

State of the Roaring Fork Watershed 2008

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.

At an election held in 2002, Town electors approved the collection, retention and expenditure of the full revenues generated by the Town commencing on January 1, 2002 and each year thereafter without regard to any limitations under TABOR.

The water fund is an enterprise fund the grant would not be an issue as it is less than 10% of our entire revenue.



International control of the proposition of the propositio	0JECT REACH	ENTIRE CRYSTAL RIVER PROPOSED PROJECT REACH	dition Overall Condition	Flow Regime	Ove Sediment Regime	Marble Water Quality	Island Lake Floodplain Connectivity	CR3/Hwy. 133 Riparian Vegetation	Redstone Debris Supply	Avalanche Creek Morphology		Thompson Creek Physical Structure	prov
	NDITION OF THE PROPOSED F		CRYSIAL RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN FINA. REPORT 04.2016						lanagement Plan, prepared by Lotic Hydrological ne Roaring Fork Conservancy in April 2016.	Level of Impairment	Negligible Mild	Significant	Severe

CRYSTAL RIVER RESTORATION & WEAVER DITCH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNCTIONAL CONDITION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT REACH

in/h

Grade	Level of Impairment
	Negligible
	Mild
	Significant
	Severe
	Profound/Unsustainable

Crystal River Restoration & Weaver Ditch Efficiency Project

Existing Conditions Photos



Photo 1: Looking SE at the entrance to Riverfront Park



Photo 2: Looking S from Crystal Bridge Drive at the Riverfront Park project area



Photo 3: Looking S at degraded streambank condition typical of the project site



Photo 4: Looking NE at debris-covered riverbank



Photo 5: Looking E across the river at an existing diversion structure.



Photo 6: Looking NE across river at an existing diversion structure.

Crystal River Restoration & Weaver Ditch Efficiency Project

Existing Conditions Photos



Photo 7: Looking S across the disconnected floodplain. Covered in thistle and other weeds.



Photo 8: A coyote willow monoculture typical of disconnected floodplain area on the site.



Photo 9: Looking N across the disconnected floodplain. Invasive weeds.



Photo 10: Existing public parking area along Crystal Bridge Drive.



Photo 11: Existing stewardship/interpretive signage needing improvement.



Photo 12: Existing stewardship/interpretive signage needing improvement.

Saving the best ... to last

ASPEN VALLEY

September 29, 2017

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Melissa Sumera Operations Director

Dave Erickson Stewardship Director

Erin Quinn Conservation Director

Matt Annabel Project Manager To Whom It May Concern:

Aspen Valley Land Trust (AVLT) is proud to support the Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Ditch Efficiency Project. AVLT has been a partner on the project since its 2013 inception. Our organization has invested over \$30,000 and countless hours in previous planning efforts that have helped move the project to this critical juncture.

This project is an opportunity to act on the recommendations of the stakeholder driven Crystal River Management Plan (CRMP), published in 2016. The CRMP classified the project reach's ecological health as "severely to unsustainably impaired." Our goal is to restore the reach to a healthy native condition. Furthermore, the site's proximity to several Carbondale schools offers our community an incredible opportunity. With a bit of enhancement, Riverfront Park has the potential to serve our citizens as an engaging "wildland park" that educates visitors and serves as a model for future river restoration projects in the watershed. This project will realize that vision.

The strength of our community's proposal lies in the collaboration that was necessary to create it. The Town of Carbondale, AVLT, Roaring Fork Conservancy, and American Rivers, with support from Public Counsel of the Rockies, Colorado Park and Wildlife, and the River Valley Ranch neighborhood, have worked tirelessly to arrive at a consensus approach to the project. We have that consensus now. Our opportunity to act is now.

The Colorado Water Plan commits the state and its stakeholders to ambitious goals and programs to restore the state's rivers. The Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Ditch Enhancement Project is an ambitious but well thought out proposal, guided by a highly qualified team of consultants, and supported by a committed team of community stakeholders.

I strongly encourage support of this project.

Sincerely,

Suzanne/Stephens

Executive Director



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PROGRAM STAFF

Rick Lofaro Executive Director Heather Lewin Watershed Action Director Christina Medved Watershed Education Director Liza Mitchell Education & Outreach Coordinator Kristen Doyle Watershed Educator Chad Rudow Water Quality Coordinator Sheryl Sabandal Development Associate & Office Manager Sarah Woods Director of Philanthropy

September 24, 2017

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board Members and Staff,

Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC) wishes to express our support for the Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Headgate Efficiency Project. This project, a direct outcome of the Crystal River Management Plan (CRMP), displays multiple community and ecological benefits, while engaging a diverse group of stakeholders.

Roaring Fork Conservancy is an independent, §501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Since 1996, RFC has inspired people to explore, value, and protect the Roaring Fork Watershed. We bring people together to protect our rivers and work to keep water in the streams, monitor water quality, and preserve riparian habitat. As one of the largest watershed organizations in Colorado, Roaring Fork Conservancy serves residents and visitors of the Roaring Fork Valley through school and community-based Watershed Education programs and Watershed Action projects, including regional watershed planning, water resource policy, and stream management and restoration initiatives.

The Town of Carbondale, in partnership with American Rivers, Aspen Valley Land Trust, and Roaring Fork Conservancy are proposing a timely and important restoration project on the Crystal River between the Fish Hatchery and Crystal Bridge Drive. The project builds directly on the recommendations of the science-based and stakeholder-driven CRMP. The proposed project reflects an integrated and collaborative approach to river restoration, building on multiple recommendations of the CRMP and the expertise of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, RFC, American Rivers and the Town. The scope of work identified for this planning stage includes riparian restoration, in-river habitat improvements, in-river modifications to the Weaver Ditch headgate and passive educational and recreational opportunities.

The project is an exemplary collaboration among stakeholders to address river restoration and outreach goals set forth in Colorado's Water Plan. This project focuses on a half-mile reach of river within the Town of Carbondale. With appropriate stakeholder outreach, the project offers an important opportunity for creating greater community awareness and engagement



around restoration of the Crystal River.

RFC intends to leverage the success of this project to launch similar endeavors in other areas of the Crystal River and Roaring Fork Watershed. In addition, RFC will share the process and lessons learned with other watershed groups as they move towards implementing current and anticipated Stream Management Plans.

RFC strongly encourages the CWCB to support project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

th S

Heather Tattersall Lewin Watershed Action Director



P.O. Box 3349 Basalt, Colorado 81621 | 970.927.1290 | www.roaringfork.org



September 29, 2017

Ms. Linda Bassi, Interim Deputy Director Colorado Water Conservation Board 1313 Sherman St., Room 718 Denver, CO 80203

RE: Support for the Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Ditch Efficiency Project.

Dear Ms. Bassi;

American Rivers strongly supports the Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Ditch Efficiency Project. American Rivers has been engaged in efforts to improve conditions of the Crystal River for several years. Part of this work also means improving irrigation efficiencies for the many ditches that divert water from the Crystal. The Crystal River Management Plan provides a sound framework from which projects such as this can be accomplished.

We hope that this project is the first of several involving restorations on the river itself and to improve the efficient operation and delivery of water through the several irrigation ditches that the Town of Carbondale and others use. Making changes like this isn't easy. Many irrigators, while supportive of the goals, are reluctant to be the first to stick their neck out. Yet if we are to accomplish the environmental, recreational and agricultural supply objectives of the Colorado Water Plan, Colorado Basin Implementation Plan and the Crystal River Management Plan we have to start somewhere, and some one has to step up to the plate and show that it can be done without risk to existing water rights.

The Town of Carbondale is doing just that with this project. Our hope is that as other stakeholders and ditch owners along the Crystal see what can be done and the positive results that such work accrues they will join in.

We urge the CWCB to support this project with the requested funding.

Thank you!

Ken Neubecker, Director American Rivers Upper Colorado Basin Program within Colorado 24 S Meadow View Ct. Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 (970) 230-9300 Kneubecker@americanrivers.org



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Glenwood Springs Service Center 0088 Wildlife Way Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 P 970.947.2924 | F 970.947.2936

October 25, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) strongly supports the Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Headgate Efficiency Project. As stakeholders in the Crystal River Management Plan, we are pleased to see an on-the-ground project result from the collaborative plan. CPW's Crystal River Fish Hatchery is located at the upstream end of the project and, therefore, is part of the community that will experience the benefits defined in the project.

The proposed restoration and efficiency project reflects an integrated and collaborative approach to river restoration, building on multiple recommendations of the CRMP and CPW, RFC, American Rivers and the Town of Carbondale. The scope of work identified for this planning stage includes riparian restoration, in-river habitat improvements, in-river modifications to the Weaver Ditch headgate, and passive educational and recreational opportunities. CPW will continue to be involved in design review and permitting for the project. Furthermore, CPW hopes to incorporate river improvements on the hatchery's property in the future to extend benefits to anglers and the river ecosystem upstream.

Collaboration among the variety of stakeholders to address river restoration and outreach also supports the goals set forth in Colorado's Water Plan. The project focuses on a halfmile reach of river within the Town of Carbondale. With outreach, the project offers an important opportunity for creating greater community awareness and engagement around recreation and restoration of the Crystal River. CPW encourages CWCB to support this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kendall Bakich Aquatic Biologist 970.947.2924



Bob D. Broscheid, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife • Parks and Wildlife Commission: Robert W. Bray • Marie Haskett • Carrie Hauser John Howard, Vice-Chair • Marvin McDaniel • Dale Pizel • Jim Spehar • James Vigil • Dean Wingfield • Michelle Zimmerman, Secretary • Alex Zipp

October 30, 2017

Mr. Jake Houston Program Manager 1900 Grant Street, Suite 725 Denver, CO 80203

RE: Support for the Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Ditch Efficiency Project.

Dear Mr. Houston;

The Ferdinand Hayden Chapter (008) of Trout Unlimited strongly supports the Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Ditch Efficiency Project. The Ferdinand Hayden Chapter is one of the oldest TU chapters in the country and has been actively engaged in river protection, restoration and education efforts in the Roaring Fork and Crystal Valleys since the late 1960's

One of the key elements of this project is reconnecting the riparian floodplain to the river. This area is currently the Riverside Park in the Town of Carbondale. Our Chapter, as well as other organizations in the valley, often utilize places like this for our river and fishing education programs. Improving both the ecological health and access to the Park will be a great boast to all of us.

Other elements of the project will improve the ecologic conditions of the river itself, while improving the function and reliability of the Weaver Ditch diversion.

Improvements like this are at the heart of the Colorado Water Plan's goals for efficient water use, environmental protection and linking land use policies with water use and supply.

Making changes like this isn't easy. Many irrigators, while supportive of the goals, are reluctant to be the first to stick their neck out. If we are to accomplish the environmental, recreational and agricultural supply objectives of the Colorado Water Plan, Colorado Basin Implementation Plan and the Crystal River Management Plan we must start somewhere, and someone must step up to the plate and show that it can be done without risk to existing water rights.

The Town of Carbondale is doing just that with this project. Our hope is that as other stakeholders and ditch owners along the Crystal River see what can be done and the positive results that such work accrues, they too will join in.

We hope that COGO will support this project with the requested funding.

Thank you!

Jason Groves Jason Groves, President Ferdinand Hayden Chapter (008), Trout Unlimited



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PUBLIC COUNSEL of the rockies

September 24, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Public Counsel of the Rockies has been working on issues related to the restoration of the Crystal River for over 6 years.

The Town of Carbdonale, American Rivers, and the Aspen Valley Land Trust, in partnership with the Roaring Fork Conservancy are proposing a timely and important restoration project on the Crystal River between the Fish Hatchery and Crystal Bridge Drive. The project builds directly on the recommendations of the robust, science-based, stakeholder-driven Crystal River Management Plan (CRMP), completed in December 2015. The CRMP identified management alternatives by agricultural irrigators and the Town of Carbondale that will improve the ecological health of the Crystal River.

The proposed project reflects an integrated and collaborative approach to river restoration, building on the recommendations of the CRMP and the expertise of Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Conservancy, American Rivers and the Town. The scope of work identified for this planning stage includes riparian restoration, in-river habitat improvements, in-river modifications to the Weaver Ditch headgate and provision of passive educational and recreational opportunities.

The project is a promising example of collaboration among stakeholders to address river restoration goals. The Colorado Water Plan commits the state and stakeholders to ambitious goals and programs to help restore the State's rivers. This kind of partnership is what it is going to take to reach those goals.

This project focuses on a half-mile reach of river that is within the Town of Carbondale. With appropriate education and outreach the project offers an important opportunity for creating greater community awareness and engagement around restoration of the Crystal River more broadly.

I strongly encourage support of this project.

Sincerely, Chelse Brundige Chelsea Brundige Water Program Director

September 28, 2017

Dear Colorado Water Conservation Board Members and Staff:

I am writing to express my support for the Crystal River Restoration and Leonardi Weaver Head Gate Efficiency Project. As a Carbondale Resident, Interim General Manager of surrounding River Valley Ranch Homeowners Association, Owner of Proudline Guide Fly Fishing, Roaring Fork Valley representative in the Garfield County Economic Development Partnership and a Roaring Fork Fishing Guide Alliance board member, I am very invested in preserving the health of the Crystal River. I was a stakeholder in the Crystal River Management Plan, and have been working with the project team to provide input as this important undertaking has continued to develop.

I am supportive of the proposed "light touch" approach the leadership group is interested in implementing to benefit the river and its riparian area. This perspective supports the objective of producing minimal environmental disturbance to keep the riparian area "wild" with a view towards the improvement of the natural habitat, presenting opportunities for passive recreation and the promotion of educational experiences. I intend to continue my participation in the stakeholder process, working with the project team to identify the best solution for both our human and longstanding natural communities invested in this endangered area.

I strongly encourage the CWCB's support of this project.

Sincerely,

Chitching

Lani Kitching