

Last Updated: July 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant Application

Instructions

To receive funding for a Water Plan Grant, applicant must demonstrate how the project, activity, or process (collectively referred to as “project”) funded by the CWCB will help meet the measurable objectives and critical actions in the Water Plan. Grant guidelines are available on the CWCB website.

If you have questions, please contact CWCB at (303) 866-3441 or email the following staff to assist you with applications in the following areas:

Supply and Demand Gap Projects: Rebecca.Mitchell@state.co.us

Water Storage Projects: Anna.Mauss@state.co.us

Conservation, Land Use Planning: Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us

Education & Innovation Activities: Mara.MacKillop@state.co.us

Agricultural Projects: Gregory.Johnson@state.co.us

Environmental & Recreation Projects: Linda.Bassi@state.co.us

Applicants interested in submitting an ‘Intent to Apply’ in the future are encouraged to check here ☐ and fill in all sections with the best information available at the time. Exhibits excluded.

This “Intent to Apply” will help CWCB prioritize Projects that are not ready for fully completed Water Plan Grant Application due to the initial timeframe and deadlines required.

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	American Whitewater (AW)	
Name of Water Project	Assessing Nonconsumptive Recreational Needs and Opportunities in the Rio Grande River Basin	
CWP Grant Request Amount	\$39,200	
Other Funding Sources <u>Walton Family Foundation</u>	\$ 39,200	
Other Funding Sources _____	\$	
Applicant Funding Contribution	\$11,760	
Total Project Cost	\$90,160	

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Applicant & Grantee Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	American Whitewater
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 1540 Cullowhee, NC 28723
FEIN	Non-profit # 23-7083760
Organization Contact	Nathan Fey
Position/Title	Colorado River Stewardship Director
Email	nathan@americanwhitewater.org
Phone	(303) 859-8601
Grant Management Contact	Nathan Fey
Position/Title	Colorado River Stewardship Director
Email	nathan@americanwhitewater.org
Phone	(303) 859-8601
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	

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Description of Grantee/Applicant
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
<p><u>American Whitewater(AW)</u> is a national non-profit with a mission “to conserve and restore America’s whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely”. American Whitewater’s Colorado River Stewardship Program represents recreation interests in the development of programs, policies, and cooperative management strategies that protect and enhance river health and recreational needs while balancing the needs of cities and farms. AW has conducted recreational flow studies in Colorado that have informed State and Federal water planning efforts, including the Colorado River Basin Study, State Water Supply Initiative, Non-Consumptive Needs Assessments and several Wild & Scenic River Alternative Management efforts.</p>

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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	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: Private parties may be eligible for funding.
X	Non-governmental organizations (NGO): Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
	Covered Entity: As defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes .

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)	
X	Study
	Construction
	Identified Process or Program
	Other

Category of Water Project (check all that apply)	
	Supply and Demand Gap Projects - Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap. (Applicable Exhibit A Task(s) _____)
	Water Storage Projects - Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial recharge into aquifers, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed storage capacity. (Applicable Exhibit A Task(s) _____)
	Conservation and Land Use Planning Projects - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning. (Applicable Exhibit A Task(s) _____)
	Engagement & Innovation Projects - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application available on the website. (Applicable Exhibit A Task(s) _____)
	Agricultural Projects - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. (Applicable Exhibit A Task(s) _____)
X	Environmental & Recreation Projects – Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. (Applicable Exhibit A Task(s) 1;2;3;4;5;6)

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Location of Water Project	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Counties	Conejos; Hinsdale; Mineral; Rio Grande
Rivers	Conejos River, Rio Grande River, Treasure Creek
Latitude	N/A
Longitude	N/A

Water Project Overview
<p>Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). Include a description of the project and what the CWP Grant funding will be used for specifically (e.g., studies, permitting process, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project, where applicable. 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, and area of habitat improvements, where applicable. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain.</p> <p>The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.</p>
<p>American Whitewater will coordinate directly with the Rio Grande BRT (RGBRT) to implement existing programs identified in the Nonconsumptive Toolbox that address data gaps related to streamflow needs for recreation. The RGBRT is planning a Boatable Days Study as part of a basin-wide stream management planning effort, and the BRT has invited AW to assist with the Study. This Study will provide an objective, science-based measure of how whitewater recreation opportunities might change (+/-) under future conditions and supply scenarios. AW has completed similar studies in the Colorado, Yampa, and Southwest Basins, and AW is proposing to extend our research efforts to assist the Rio Grande Basin in defining a baseline of recreational non-consumptive flow needs, from which the BRT can model the effects of future Projects and processes. CWP and matching funds will be used to support coordination with the BRT and local stakeholders, conduct recreational flow preference studies¹ on priority river reaches in the Rio Grande Basin, and complete the Boatable Days Study. This Project will establish a quantitative baseline of current resource conditions supporting recreational opportunities, and aid the RGBRT in determining what, if any, change in recreation opportunities are attributable to IPPs and future hydrological changes.</p> <p>1. Stafford, E., Fey, N., and Vaske, J. J. (2016) Quantifying Whitewater Recreation Opportunities in Cataract Canyon of the Colorado River, Utah: Aggregating Acceptable Flows and Hydrologic Data to Identify Boatable Days. River Res. Applic., doi: 10.1002/rra.3049.</p>

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Measurable Results		
To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable:		
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)	
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive	
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)	
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms	
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning	
3	Other	Explain: Number of rivers assessed for recreational boating needs and opportunities.

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Water Project Justification

Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of [Colorado's Water Plan](#), the most recent [Statewide Water Supply Initiative](#), and the applicable Roundtable [Basin Implementation Plan](#) and [Education Action Plan](#). 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).

The proposed water project shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;)

American Whitewater's proposed project in the Rio Grande Basin will help achieve goals outlined in Colorado's Water Plan (CWP), the state's Non-Consumptive Needs Assessment (NCNA) Toolbox, and the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan (BIP). Quantifying recreational streamflow needs and opportunities is imperative to 5 of the 11 necessary steps for developing a stream management plan, including steps 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9 (CWP, 6-168). Additionally, this project helps meet Long-Term Goal #2 for Environmental and Recreation Projects, since existing whitewater boating opportunities must be inventoried before they can be protected or enhanced (CWP, 6-157). Using the Boatable Days Tool to assess the impact of future water supply projects on whitewater boating opportunities will help design beneficial multi-purpose projects, as outlined in Long-Term Goal #3 (CWP, 6-157). In addition to informing individual projects, using common methodologies for assessing recreational boating needs and opportunities in each basin is critical to improve inter-basin and intra-basin agreements and state-wide goals. The state's NCNA Toolbox recommends that American Whitewater's Flow Surveys be used to assess recreational boating needs (NCNA Toolbox, App. C, 6). Furthermore, maintaining a certain percentage of Boatable Days is listed as an example of a non-consumptive measurable outcome (NCNA Toolbox, 7). American Whitewater is interested in working with the Rio Grande Basin to make Boatable Days a common metric throughout the state, while meeting objectives identified in the CWP and in current planning efforts within the Basin.

In 2015, Trout Unlimited and Dinatale Water Consultants completed a Boatable Days Study on four reaches of the Rio Grande main stem (RGBIP, 114). Now, the RGBRT is interested in completing a more robust Boatable Days Study as part of a proposed Stream Management Plan project. A new Boatable Days Study has the potential to look at different craft types (e.g., rafts, kayaks, etc.) and additional river reaches, and to assess the impact of new IPPs and hydrological scenarios on existing whitewater boating resources. The outcome of American Whitewater's partnership with the RGBRT will directly address basin-wide goal #14 to "maintain and enhance water-dependent recreational activities". American Whitewater is excited that the RGBRT has been so proactive with the use of the Boatable Days Tool in the basin and we look forward to working with the BRT on this project.

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Related Studies

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

Stafford, E., Fey, N., and Vaske, J. J. (2016) Quantifying Whitewater Recreation Opportunities in Cataract Canyon of the Colorado River, Utah: Aggregating Acceptable Flows and Hydrologic Data to Identify Boatable Days. River Res. Applic., doi: 10.1002/rra.3049.

Colorado River Basin Supply and Demand Study: Appendix D2. US Bureau of Reclamation (2012) https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy/finalreport/Technical%20Report%20D%20-%20System%20Reliability%20Metrics/TR-D_Appendix2_FINAL.pdf

Defining Streamflow Needs on the Lower Dolores River: Integrating Specific and Overall Flow Evaluations of Recreation Quality. Dolores River Dialogue (2011) http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/drd/pdf/Appendix-B_%20Stream-Flow-Evaluation_AW.pdf

Yampa-White Basin Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool Final Report
Sanderson, J., B. Bledsoe, L. Poff, T. Wilding and N. Fey. 2012. Yampa-White Basin Roundtable Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool study. Prepared by CDM Smith for The Nature Conservancy

Colorado Basin Roundtable Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool Study
Sanderson, J., B. Bledsoe, L. Poff, T. Wilding, B. Miller and N. Fey. 2012. Colorado Basin Roundtable Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool study. Prepared by CDM Smith for the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments.

Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding

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; 6) Percentage of other CWCB funding for your overall project.

American Whitewater has not previously received funding from CWCB resources.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

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

There are no relevant TABOR issues that may affect American Whitewater's application.

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Submittal Checklist	
X	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract .
Exhibit A	
X	Statement of Work ⁽¹⁾
X	Budget & Schedule ⁽¹⁾ (<i>Spreadsheet</i>)
Pending	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit C	
X	Map ⁽¹⁾
N/A	Photos/Drawings/Reports
Pending	Letters of Support (Support letter from Basin Roundtable encouraged)
	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.)
X	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State ⁽²⁾
	W-9 ⁽²⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽²⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
Engagement & Innovation Grant Applicants ONLY	
X	Engagement & Innovation Supplemental Application ⁽¹⁾

(1) Required with application.

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