



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
Water Storage Projects
Conservation, Land Use Planning
Engagement & Innovation Activities
Agricultural Projects
Environmental & Recreation Projects

Gregory.Johnson@state.co.us
Anna.Mauss@state.co.us
Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us
Mara.MacKillop@state.co.us
Brent.Newman@state.co.us
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 may be 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 required deadlines.

FINAL SUBMISSION: Submit all application materials to waterplan.grants@state.co.us in the original file formats [Application (word); Statement of Work (word); Budget/Schedule (excel)]. Please do not combine documents.

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT)	
Name of Water Project	Upper Rio Grande Environmental Restoration and Recreation Infrastructure Improvements	
CWP Grant Request Amount		\$ 55,000.00
Other Funding Sources	<u>USDA RAC funds</u>	\$ 32,015.00
Other Funding Sources	<u>SLVCCI (unsecured)</u>	\$ 15,170.00 (Trout Unlimited application)
Other Funding Sources	<u>SLV CCI (unsecured)</u>	\$ 58,700.00 (RWEACT application)
Applicant Funding Contribution Exec Order 13-022		\$ 14,500.00 (secured)
In-Kind Contribution (FS)		\$ 790.00
Total Project Cost		\$176,175.00

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Applicant & Grantee Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT)
Mailing Address	PO Box 721, Lake City, CO 81235
FEIN	47-4888519
Organization Contact	Kristine Borchers
Position/Title	Program Manager
Email	kristineborchers@yahoo.com
Phone	970-596-9071
Grant Management Contact	Kristine Borchers
Position/Title	Grant-writer
Email	kristineborchers@yahoo.com
Phone	970-596-9071
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	Hinsdale County or Rio Grande County (current fiscal agents)
Mailing Address	POB 277, Lake City CO 81235 / 925 6 th St 207, Del Norte CO 81132
Position/Title	County Administrators Deanna Cooper or Roni Wisdom
Email	administrator@hinsdalecountycolorado.us rwisdom@riograndecounty.org
Phone	970-944-2225 or 719-658-2158

Description of Grantee/Applicant
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).

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The Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT) was formed during the West Fork Complex fire in south-central Colorado. Over the past five years, RWEACT has worked with 70 partners to implement more than 200 projects and initiatives. The West Fork Complex fire became a galvanizing event in our Upper Rio Grande region. Our work has focused on natural resource projects and studies, economic recovery, and improving emergency notification and preparedness. RWEACT -- together with the Rio Grande National Forest and funded through the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Department of Local Affairs, and the Office of Emergency Management -- works to promote partnerships and actions that provide for public safety and resiliency of communities and watersheds of the Rio Grande Basin of Colorado. Organizational information can be found at www.rweact.org

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: 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)	
	Study
	Construction
X	Identified Projects and Processes (IPP)
	Other

Category of Water Project (check all that apply and include relevant tasks)

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	Supply and Demand Gap - Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Water Storage - Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
	Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>	
X	Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i> 1) Rio Grande Campground Restroom Improvement and Hard-Bottomed Boat Ramp 2) 30-Mile Dispersed Area Stock Unloading and Access Points Improvements 3) Ute Creek Trailhead Restroom Improvement and Trail Restoration	
	Other	Explain:

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/Countries	Mineral and Hinsdale counties
Latitude	37.7302 (region)
Longitude	-107.309 (region)

Water Project Overview

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.

The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.

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Water Project Overview

The Upper Rio Grande Valley is home to the headwaters of the Rio Grande – an area of spectacular natural beauty and historical significance. Two of the most remote counties in the lower 48-states are found here – Hinsdale and Mineral, both with more than 95% public lands. The protection of the watersheds in the Upper Rio Grande were tested during the 2013 West Fork Complex fire. Several initiatives grew out of this catastrophic event, including an Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment. Designed as a map to identify challenges and opportunities, the Assessment prioritized projects that address goals set by Colorado’s Water Plan and the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable.

The proposed projects are in three locations – Rio Grande Campground which sits along Highway 149 approximately ten miles from Creede; 30-Mile dispersed stock unloading area which is below the outlet for Rio Grande Reservoir; and the Ute Creek trailhead located above the Reservoir.

1) Rio Grande Campground Restroom Improvement and Hard-Bottomed Boat Ramp (reduce current vault leakage; improve water quality; reduce erosion and sediment loading; design work and NEPA work complete; improve recreation experience)

2) 30-Mile Dispersed Area Stock Unloading and Access Points Improvements (improve hardened access points for stock watering sites in dispersed area; define parking area; reduce erosion; improve riparian health and water quality in this highly-used area; improve recreation experience)

3) Ute Creek Trailhead Restroom Improvement and Trail Restoration (improve restroom facilities in this multi-use area; reduce leakage from vault; trail restoration will reduce erosion and control sediment loading; improve riparian health; improve recreation experience)

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
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

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Measurable Results		
5 infrastructure improvements	Other	Explain: improved restroom facilities (2) along waterways; installed recreation (1) hard-bottomed boat ramp to reduce erosion; improved access and trail for reduced erosion (2)

Water Project Justification
<p>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).</p> <p>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;)</p> <p>Colorado's Water Plan encourages collaboration. This proposed project demonstrates collaboration through partnership with the Rio Grande National Forest, Colorado Water Conservation Board, RWEACT, Trout Unlimited, Hinsdale / Mineral / Rio Grande counties, the Willow Creek Restoration Foundation and Headwaters Alliance, and Backcountry Horsemen. Additional funds are being sought through the San Luis Valley Conservation Fund.</p> <p>The proposed water projects in the Upper Rio Grande seek to restore appropriate restroom facilities in two busy campgrounds along the river – at the Ute Creek trailhead and in the Rio Grande Campground. This project also seeks to install a hard-bottomed boat ramp to reduce erosion within the stream channel and develop access points in a heavily-used stock unloading/loading area near 30-Mile Campground. Additional work will improve trail access in these areas will reduce wash-outs, improve water quality from sediment loading, and maintain riparian health. All proposed improvements meet the Measurable Objective F within Colorado's Water Plan for watershed health, environment, and recreation. Further, this project leverages funds (grant request for \$55,000 matched with \$116,705) so that more work is possible through innovatively funding projects and utilizing volunteer labor (Colorado's Water Plan, Measurable Objective G).</p> <p>Critical actions supported by this project include MO F-1 to promote the sustainability of areas impacted by riparian areas; MO F-2 to continue support of water-based recreation; MO F-4 to identify metrics used for monitoring; MO F-6 to provide support of local stakeholder groups; MO F-9 to implement projects tied to master planning efforts.</p> <p>Rio Grande Basin Roundtable strategic goals relate to this proposed project including focus on watershed health and ecosystem function; support projects with multiple benefits; make progress towards water quality standards; protect, preserve and enhance terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitats; conserve, restore, and maintain wetlands and riparian areas for the benefit of healthy watersheds.</p>

Related Studies
<p>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.</p>

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Related Studies

The Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment is in its final stages of completion. Funded by CDPHE and CWCB, this Assessment provides a road map for our current watershed health and recommendations for future stewardship projects addressing environmental challenges including extended drought, forest fires, beetle kill, water quality impairments, endangered species, degraded habitat, and other human-caused impacts. This comprehensive Assessment document current conditions and provides prioritized projects. All proposed projects have been vetted through this Assessment (Expected release date: Spring 2018)

Study that includes the area but does not directly address these proposed projects is the Upper Rio Grande Basin Snowfall Measurement and Streamflow Improvement Project (2016) which demonstrates the need for permanent radar in the region.

The Rio Grande Forest Plan Revision covers these areas; proposed projects are appropriate within the DRAFT recommendations currently under review. Proposed projects have already gone through the planning needed with the USDA Forest Service for implementation.

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.

The counties of Mineral, Hinsdale, and Rio Grande were the beneficiaries of Executive Order 2013-022 which provided \$2.5 million in funding to address post-disaster impacts in the Upper Rio Grande region. On behalf of the three counties, Hinsdale County entered into a Master Contract with CWCB and RWEACT has implemented these funds in the three-county region. Hinsdale County is the fiscal agent for Exec Order 2013-022, CMS #59899. We are currently operating under this contract.

Under Task Order #10 tied to CMS #59899, we will utilize \$5,500 as match for this application, which is estimated at 3% of the total project.

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.

The voters of Hinsdale County (fiscal agent) in 1994 authorized Hinsdale County to retain or spend all revenue above the fiscal spending limits.

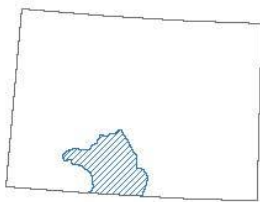
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Submittal Checklist	
	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract .
Exhibit A	
	Statement of Work ⁽¹⁾
	Budget & Schedule ⁽¹⁾
	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit C	
	Map (if applicable) ⁽¹⁾
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
	Letters of Support (Support letter from Basin Roundtable encouraged)
	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) ⁽²⁾
	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	
	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.

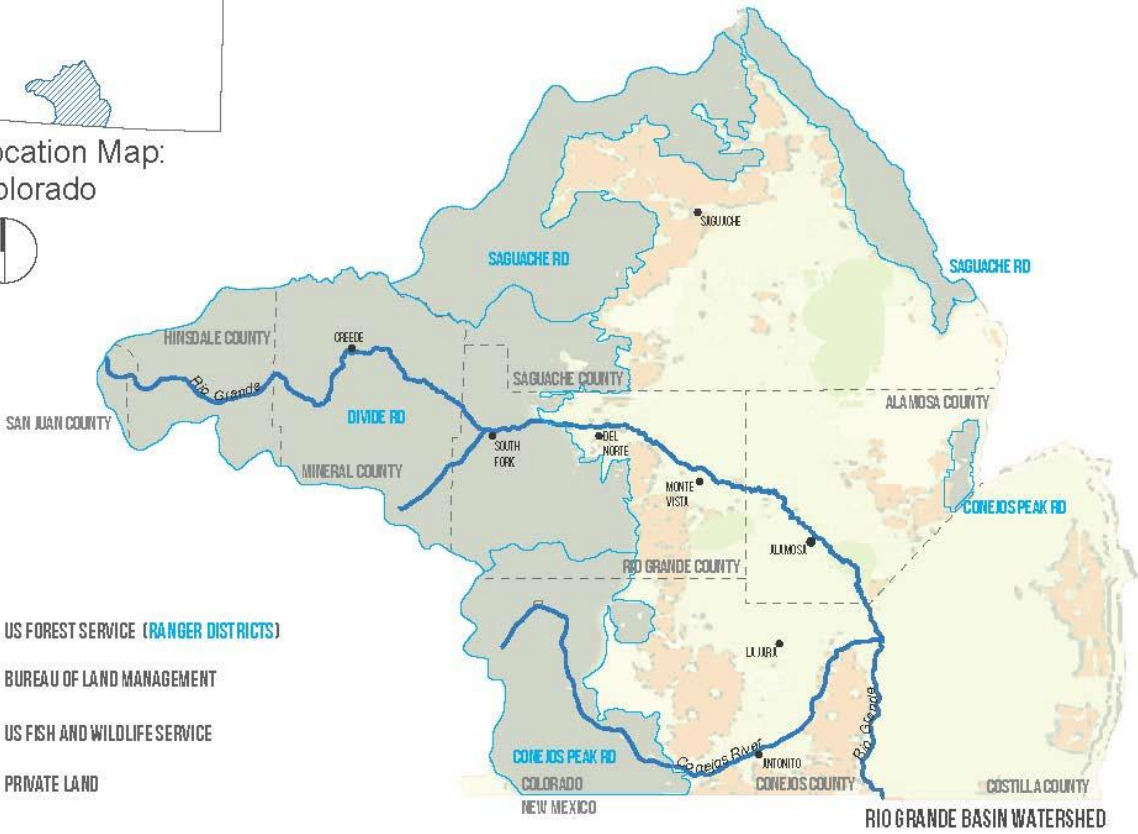
Upper Rio Grande Watershed Protection Project
Project Area



Location Map:
Colorado



- KEY
- US FOREST SERVICE (RANGER DISTRICTS)
 - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 - US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 - PRIVATE LAND





Date: January 24, 2018

Colorado Water Plan Grant Review Committee

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter in support of the grant applications submitted by the Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT) to improve the sustainability of the Ute Creek trailhead and the Ute Creek trail leading to the stream crossing; to purchase rocks and road base in order to better delineate the parking area at the 30-mile Stock Unloading Area and harden several horse-watering trails leading to the Rio Grande river; and to contribute to upgrading the boat ramp at the Rio Grande Campground.

These three projects tie to the recently-completed Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment, led by the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project and funded by RWEACT. This assessment identified dispersed recreation adjacent to the Rio Grande as a source of riparian and water quality impacts. Not only will the three projects targeted in the RWEACT grant applications will make great strides to improving the riparian and water quality conditions at the Ute Creek, 30-mile and Rio Grande Campground locations, but they will also support long-term sustainable recreation at these sites.

This grant application leverages funding secured by the Divide Ranger District through the Secure Rural Schools Act and the Resource Advisory Committee; and by Trout Unlimited and Running Rivers through donations and a San Luis Valley Conservation Connection Initiative grant.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Martha A. Williamson

MARTHA A. WILLIAMSON
District Ranger





311 N. Henson St. Lake City, Colorado 81235 970-944-2225 www.hinsdalecountycolorado.us

January 25th, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

The Hinsdale County Board of Commissioners appreciates the opportunity to comment and provide support for the following issues: restroom facility replacement at Ute Trailhead and the trail crossing erosion, livestock docks and access to the Rio Grande River at the 30 Mile stock unloading dispersal site.

Trailhead restroom facilities are imperative to a healthy environment in addition to the health of citizens and visitors alike. Properly operating facilities are simply a necessity.

Hinsdale County historically and will continue to exist as an ardent supporter of agriculture and grazing, also understanding the importance of erosion prevention. Mitigation of erosion issues at the trail crossing, livestock docking and livestock access areas at the Rio Grande and 30-Mile are an area of concern and this Board fully supports their maintenance and quality of function.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to communicate and extend our full support.

Best regards,

The Hinsdale Board of County Commissioners

Susan Thompson
Chair

Cindy Dozier
Vice Chair

Stan Whinnery
Commissioner



311 N. Henson St. Lake City, Colorado 81235 970-944-2225 www.hinsdalecountycolorado.us

January 25th, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

The Hinsdale County Board of Commissioners appreciates the opportunity to provide their support of the replacement of the restroom facilities at the Rio Grande Campground and installation of a solid surface boat ramp.

Quality facilities assist in good experiences and encourage return visitors, whether they are local or out of state. Our area depends heavily on regional tourism and it is important facilities are not only sufficient for use, but provide infrastructure that protect our waterways from erosion and contamination.

It has been a tradition to work with neighboring counties to address issues with public land infrastructure and we will continue to do the same.

Again, the Hinsdale Board of County Commissioners extend their full support of this project.

Best regards,

The Hinsdale Board of County Commissioners

Susan Thompson
Chair

Cindy Dozier
Vice Chair

Stan Whinnery
Commissioner



P.O. Box 518
201 North LaGarita Street
Creede, CO 81130
719-480-4342

January 23, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The Headwaters Alliance supports RWEACT's application to improve the headwaters region by addressing infrastructure needs on the Rio Grande National Forest. RWEACT has been a vital organization in not only the post fire recovery of the region but also in building collaboration and implementing solutions.

The Headwaters Alliance is situated in the headwaters of the Rio Grande and works to protect and promote the area. We grew out of the Willow Creek Reclamation Committee, who made significant changes to the largest source of heavy metal pollution in the Upper Rio Grande through scientifically sound and fiscally responsible reclamation projects.

The 30 Mile Project and Ute Creek Trailhead Project proposed by RWEACT will provide more balance to the multiple demands on the Rio Grande National Forest and the river that connects them. This is of increasing importance as we see an influx of visitors and residents to the San Luis Valley. We are lucky that the Rio Grande Headwaters are not plagued by a myriad of water quality problems, and these projects will prevent sedimentation and nutrients from entering the riverine system. We believe that the plans of RWEACT will assist in keeping these conditions and provide for economic vitality of the region.

Please look fondly on the application for these worthwhile projects. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Guinevere Nelson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sincerely,
Guinevere Nelson
Executive Director
Headwaters Alliance
719-480-4342
guineveverenelson@gmail.com

Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project
623 Fourth Street
Alamosa, CO 81101
(719) 589-2230



January 31, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear CWCB Board,

On behalf of the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project, I am writing to express our strong support for the Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team's (RWEACT) for a series of projects in the Rio Grande headwaters. Identified as priority projects in the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment (Assessment), these projects will address recreation impacts to the watershed through the restoration and replacement of aging infrastructure. By partnering with the US Forest Service and local non-profits, we are able to leverage our efforts and grant dollars further. The result will be sustainable recreation infrastructure that will keep our river and watershed healthy for future generations of boaters, anglers, hunters, hikers and campers.

The Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP) works to implement diverse projects across the Basin to improve the health of the Rio Grande in Colorado. These proposed projects fit directly with our organizations mission. We are excited to partner with RWEACT to implement the recommendations of the Assessment. Restoring and replacing heavily used recreation infrastructure benefits the recreation community, but more importantly, it protects the streams and riparian areas that are so vital to our Basin. These projects are great examples of the collaborative and multi-use projects needed to improve watershed health.

I hope that you look favorably upon this grant request and consider the benefit it will have to the Upper Rio Grande watershed.

Sincerely,

Emma Reesor

Executive Director, RGHRP



Kevin Terry, Rio Grande Basin Project Manager, Colorado Water and Habitat Project

January 25, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Rm. 721
Denver, CO 80203

Dear CWCB grant review committee,

We are writing to express Trout Unlimited's support for the Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team's (RWEACT) grant request for a collection of projects in the Upper Rio Grande Basin. These projects were identified in the Upper Rio Grande Watershed Assessment and they are addressing human-caused impacts by restoring and replacing outdated infrastructure. The projects will enable the continued diverse recreational use of our beautiful watershed in a sustainable way that exemplifies stewardship and incorporates conservation principles. The partnerships involved include federal agencies and local non-profits and we are all united because we can do more together and therefore stretch CWCB and matching funds to the maximum potential. Providing sustainable recreational opportunities will keep our people and our lands healthy for years to come.

The San Luis Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is committed to these projects as an active partner. Using designs funded by RWEACT, with support from the USFS to complete NEPA, we have a shovel ready project to upgrade and stabilize a boat ramp at Rio Grande Campground. This project will improve access for recreation and address erosion and sediment issues that have resulted from the current launch. SLVTU is applying for funding through the San Luis Valley Conservation and Connection Initiative (SLVCCI) in 2018 to complete the upgrades and RWEACT is asking for match in this proposal. Concurrently, RWEACT is also applying for funding from SLVCCI to replace an extremely outdated outhouse at Rio Grande Campground that has been closed due to leakage into the river. The closed toilet has led to impacts from campers throughout the campground. Running Rivers is pledging at least \$1,700 to the toilet replacement project through money raised by the Rocky Mountain Flyathlon and a donation by Mineral County. This example of coordination and partnerships is at the heart of this effort.

The project at the 30-Mile Stock Unloading area is another fantastic project that addresses the need for sustainable access for equestrian users. Hardening and improving one defined trail that allows livestock access to water, will ensure that adjacent stream banks will no longer be impacted by sprawl and uncoordinated watering practices. The Ute Creek Trailhead improvement project again benefits recreation and the watershed too. This amazing place is home to a recreational population of Rio Grande Cutthroat trout managed by CPW for anglers. Access to these fish that doesn't impact the stream banks and riparian habitat translates into the stewardship values that TU promotes throughout North America.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our support and commitment to this vital work and we look forward to participating in implementation of these projects

Sincerely,

Kevin Terry
Rio Grande Basin Project Manager



Mark Seaton
President, San Luis valley Chapter of TU

Trout Unlimited: America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization
840 Grande Ave, Suite B, Del Norte, Colorado 81132
(970) 799-7682 • kerry@tu.org • www.tu.org