

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Trout Unlimited_Denver
Name of Water Project	Project-01912 Gunnison River Drought Resiliency and Restoration
Grant Request Amount	\$275,194.00
Primary Category	\$275,194.00
<i>Agricultural Projects</i>	
Additional Funding Category	
<i>Watershed Restoration & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$829,050.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$764,050.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$65,000.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$830,050.00
<i>Colorado Canyons Association</i>	\$15,000.00
<i>Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy</i>	
<i>District</i>	\$50,000.00
<i>NRCS</i>	\$765,050.00
Total Project Cost	\$1,934,294.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Trout Unlimited_Denver
Mailing Address: 2032 Ivanhoe St. Denver CO 80207
FEIN: 381,612,715

Organization Contact: Cary Denison

Position/Title:

Email: cdenison@tu.org

Phone: (970) 596-3291

Organization Contact - Alternate: Jesse Kruthaupt

Position/Title:

Email: jesse.kruthaupt@tu.org

Phone: 970-209-0976

Grant Management Contact: Cary Denison

Position/Title:

Email: cdenison@tu.org

Phone: (970) 596-3291

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Lydia Bleifus

Position/Title:

Email: lydia.bleifus@tu.org

Phone:

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

Type of Eligible Entity

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

Category of Water Project

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

Location of Water Project

Latitude	38.707510
Longitude	108.279360
Lat Long Flag	
Water Source	Escalante Creek, Cochetopa Creek, and Tomichi Creek
Basins	Gunnison
Counties	Mesa; Montrose; Delta; Gunnison
Districts	28-Tomichi Creek; 40-North Fork/Tribs.; 42-Lower Gunnison River

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Agricultural
Subcategory	Construction
Scheduled Start Date - Design	
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	9/1/2023
Description	Trout Unlimited (TU) has been awarded a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) alternative funding arrangement (AFA) grant for restoration and irrigation infrastructure upgrades on specific working land in the Upper and Lower Gunnison watershed on

Cochetopa, Tomichi, and Escalante Creeks. By improving riparian function, restoring impaired watersheds, and improving irrigation water use TU and partners will address all four 2021 NRCS priority resource concerns for the Colorado River Basin Critical Conservation Area: Insufficient water/drought, inadequate habitat, water quality degradation, and soil quality degradation.

TU is requesting funding from the CWCB Water Plan Grant to match NRCS RCPP funding for planning, design, and implementation.

Through collaborative efforts and relationships through past projects with agricultural partners in the Gunnison River Basin, TU has developed these separate projects, one in the Tomichi watershed and one in the Escalante watershed. These projects will demonstrate how innovative restoration and irrigation water management methods can address common resource challenges while mitigating impacts of drought to irrigated agriculture and fisheries in the West. Each project area will involve three components: 1. Restore stream channel and riparian function using an innovative blend of low-tech and traditional restoration methods, 2. Improve flood irrigation delivery systems and irrigation scheduling, 3. Use remote sensing technology to monitor conservation outcomes and compensate participants for conservation practices.

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)
10,200	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
10	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

Water Project Justification

As of May 1, 2021, the entirety of the Colorado River Basin is experiencing drought conditions, with all of the Gunnison Basin in Extreme or Exceptional Drought. Aridification has already significantly impacted agricultural production and environmental attributes in this unique watershed. Timing of this proposed project is of importance as producers are keen to increase drought resiliency as they continue to struggle through over twenty years of below average water supply conditions. Water scarcity caused by extended drought creates problems not only for individual ranch and farm operations, but also the environment, outdoor recreation, and municipal and industrial sectors. The suite of projects TU will complete would set a standard for conservation benefits by demonstrating how innovative restoration, and management can improve drought resiliency and habitat needs on working landscapes.

This project will protect pre-compact agricultural water rights, improve habitat for native fishes and upland wildlife, and reduce the amount of labor necessary to annually maintain/operate irrigation infrastructure.

This project will help meet the following 3 of the goals listed in the Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan (GBIP), pp 30-31.

1. Protect existing uses: The infrastructure and habitat improvements planned will protect and improve environmental, and agricultural uses on five properties and recreational uses on Tomichi Creek its tributaries, Cochetopa Creek, Quartz Creek and Escalante creek.

6. Maintain or, where necessary, improve water quality throughout the Gunnison Basin: The proposed in-channel

improvements will reduce erosion and improve channel stability. Over time, it is expected that stream channels will transform more complex and shaded streams providing better habitat for fish and other wildlife while complementing working ranches.

This project will meet goals 5 and 7 in the GBIP by protecting environmental and recreational water users and encouraging beneficial relationship between agricultural and environmental/recreational water uses.

The Gunnison Basin Roundtable have highlighted the importance of watershed health practices like the ones pursued in this project to build resiliency, address existing needs, and adapt to a warming climate. We hope this project will provide a template and reference for other water users in the west who are concerned with water supply and watershed health.

The Colorado Water Plan Water Plan frequently references collaboration and multiple use projects. In section 6.6, page 6-157, the third goal listed is “Support the development of multipurpose projects and methods that benefit environmental and recreational water needs as well as water needs for communities or agriculture”. This project will involve coordination between NGO’s, private landowners, and local agencies to address environmental, recreational, and agricultural water needs.

The Water Plan acknowledges that the people of this State value “A strong environment that includes healthy watershed, rivers and streams, and wildlife.” (pp 6. Chapter 1)

Chapter 6 of the Water Plan addresses the need for adaptive measure to respond to a changing climate. The type of irrigation and restoration practices that will be implemented through this project will help the basin adapt to changes in water supplies as well as the ranching partners. Further, this project will support the needs of environmental and recreational users as well as consumptive uses which is a stated goal on page 10, chapter 6 of the Water Plan.

Grazing and agricultural practices along rivers is a known source of non-point source pollutants

The water quality in the Uncompahgre River is impacted by heavy metals provided in part by historic mining practices in the headwaters of the basin. Section 7.3 of the water plan discusses watershed health water quality issues. This project aims to develop strategies that could improve water quality.

We are hopeful that completing this project will assist the State, CWCB and Gunnison Basin Roundtable with achieving the goal of increasing public awareness and engagement on water issues, which is noted on page 7 of Chapter 10 of the Water Plan.

Several of the goals in section F Watershed Health, Environment and Recreation in chapter 10 of the Water Plan will be met and addressed through this project.

On page 1-6 of the Colorado Water plan sites three core water values. The second value is “Efficient and effective water infrastructure promoting smart land use.” This project will upgrade ranch infrastructure and demonstrate how irrigation diversion design can be used to manage healthy riverine ecosystems and productive agriculture.

Related Studies

Process-based Principles for Restoring River Ecosystems

Timothy J. Beechie, David A. Sear, Julian D. Olden, George R. Pess, John M. Buffington, Hamish Moir, Philip Roni, and Michael M. Pollock; 2010

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

TABOR will not impact TU's ability to complete this project.

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: (1) Summarizes the project and how the project was completed. (2) Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome. (3) Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled. (4) 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 the Budget & Schedule Exhibit B. Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment. (b) Accountability: Per Water Plan 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 Water Plan Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment. (c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each Progress Report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary. (d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the Grant Agreement.



Last Updated: May 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant – Statement of Work – Exhibit A

Statement Of Work

Date:	11/23/2021
Name of Grantee:	Trout Unlimited
Name of Water Project:	Gunnison River Drought Resiliency and Restoration Project
Funding Source:	Water Plan Grant Agricultural
Water Project Overview:	
<p>Trout Unlimited (TU) has been awarded a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) alternative funding arrangement (AFA) grant. TU plans to use these funds to implement riparian channel restoration, irrigation infrastructure improvement and scheduling projects with 5 agricultural producers, in the Tomichi and Escalante watersheds. This project work will address all four 2021 NRCS priority resource concerns for the Colorado River Basin Critical Conservation Area: Insufficient water/drought, inadequate habitat, water quality degradation, and soil quality degradation. TU is requesting funding from the CWCB Water Plan Grant to match NRCS RCPP funding for planning, design, and implementation of this 3-year project.</p> <p>Through collaborative efforts with agricultural partners in the Gunnison River Basin, TU has developed two regional project portfolios, one in the Tomichi watershed and one in the Escalante watershed. These projects will demonstrate how innovative restoration and irrigation water management methods can address common resource challenges while mitigating impacts of drought on irrigated agriculture and watersheds in the West. Each project area will involve the following three components: 1. Restoration of stream channels and riparian corridors using an innovative blend of low-tech and traditional restoration methods, 2. Improve flood irrigation delivery systems and irrigation scheduling, 3. Use remote sensing technology to monitor and guide conservation practices and compensate participants for conservation practices.</p> <p>Over this project TU and partners will upgrade more than infrastructure by repairing diversion dams, installing pipe, replacing broken headgates, install measurement structures, and provide tools and techniques to producers to best manage water resource. At the same time and on the same working landscapes, this project will restore damaged riparian areas by installing fencing, planting native grasses, shrubs, trees, building beaver dam analogues, and using other low-tech techniques to restore watershed. These practices will improve habitat for fish, including native suckers, trout, and chub. Project proponents will share the results of this project with numerous water user groups, rancher, farmers, agencies, water managers and others who have an interest in resource management and building drought resiliency.</p>	



Last Updated: May 2021

Project Objectives:
The overarching goal of this project is to use cost effective practices to improve riparian function on working landscapes to improve drought resiliency and habitat on watersheds in the Gunnison Basin.
Other objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Inform restoration and water management projects elsewhere in the west.2. Improve habitat for multiple species including native trout and other fish.3. Restore damaged and impaired watersheds.4. Further investigate the use of low-tech restoration on working lands as a drought resiliency technique.

Tasks
Task 1 – Technical Assistance
Description of Task: <p>Within this task Technical Service Providers (TSP) and/or engineers will work with TU and our previously identified project partners to survey sites and develop design irrigation infrastructure improvements and riparian restoration projects to meet NRCS specifications.</p>
Method/Procedure:



Last Updated: May 2021

TU will work with NRCS and project partners to select TSPs that will familiarize themselves with the project locations and the goals and objectives of the project. Specific locations and deficiencies in riparian function and irrigation water use will be identified. TSPs will work with landowners and TU to create plans that will improve riparian function, irrigation water uses - to meet the goals and objectives of this project while meeting NRCS design standards.

Deliverable:

Design documents and specifications along with a description of any major hurdles encountered during the process.

Tasks

Task 2 – Financial Assistance (Implementation/Construction)

Description of Task:

Through this task TU will use funding from various sources including NRCS and CWCB to implement designed improvements. Implementation will include construction of in-channel structures, water control structures or riparian fence, and grading and revegetating banks. This task will result in restoration of 2500 feet of stream using hardened structures, restoration of 2 miles of stream using low tech and passive restoration techniques, installation of 45 water control structures, and rehabilitation of 10 irrigation diversion dams.

Method/Procedure:



Last Updated: May 2021

TU and project partners will select contractors who are capable and experienced with the type of work that is specified within the design. It is likely that separate contractors will be selected for each specific improvement that is required.

Selected contractors will then work to perform specific task over the course of project and will be compensated once certain benchmarks are met.

This work will involve forming and placing of concrete in the construction of irrigation water management structures, fencing, excavation, installation of native plants, seeding, reclamation and other tasks to meet specific NRCS practice codes.

TU, landowner partners, and TSPs will oversee the implementation work to ensure specifications and objectives are met. TU and other organizations including Colorado Canyons Association will provide volunteer support during the implementation of the project. In some cases, project partners will aid in the implementation of these projects as part of their cost share.

Deliverable:

TU will provide descriptions of the hiring process, record of contractors hired, specifics about selection criteria, descriptions and photos of implementation, and volunteer hours provided during this task. TU will also report on the restoration techniques used during the implementation.

Tasks
Task 3 – Grant Management
Description of Task:



Last Updated: May 2021

This task will involve TU staff including accountants, support staff, and project managers tracking progress and accounting for expenses made during this effort.

Method/Procedure:

TU project managers will provide daily management of projects including being the single point of contact for all funding agencies and project partners. This work will also include direct oversight of projects on the ground and contact with landowners and contractors.

TU project managers will work with TU accounting staff to track expenses and provide accurate and timely invoices to funding agencies.

TU staff will assist with grant and project management tasks including creating and reviewing legal documents and agreements with landowners and contractors.

TU staff will also be responsible for project monitoring and verification to ensure that the designs and completed projects meet the goals and objective of the RCPP and other grants funds.

Deliverable:

Restoration Design Documents

Before, during and after construction photo points

Last Updated: May 2021

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 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.



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Department of Natural Resources

Last Updated: May 2021

(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 - Detailed Budget Estimate

Fair and Reasonable Estimate

Prepared Date:

12/1/2021

Name of Applicant:

Trout Unlimited

Name of Water Project:

TU Gunnison Drought Resiliency RCPP

EXAMPLE C: Construction

Task 1 - Technical Assistance (Design/Planning)

<i>Sub-task</i>	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost	CWCB Funds	Matching Funds
Design Diversion Structures	EA	18	\$ 8,000	\$ 144,000	\$ 43,200	\$ 100,800
Design Stream Channel Restoration	LF	10000	\$ 15	\$ 150,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 105,000
Task total				\$ 294,000.00	\$ -	\$ 205,800.00

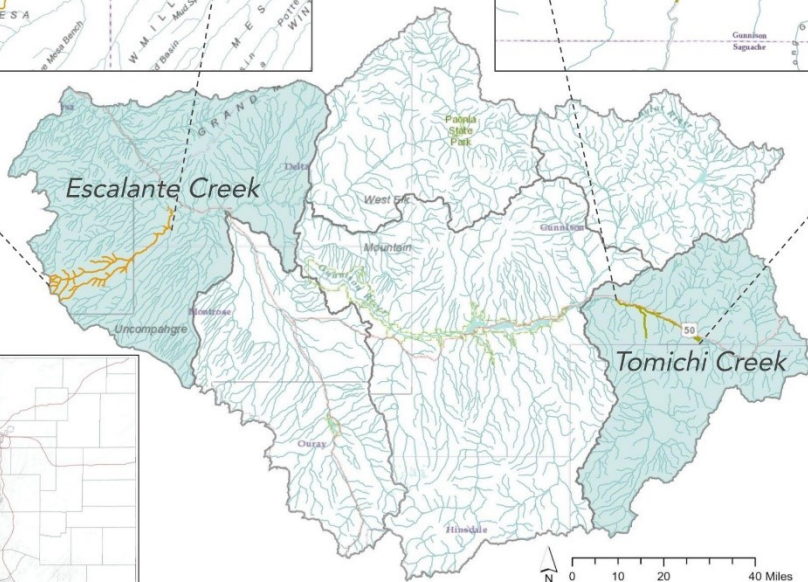
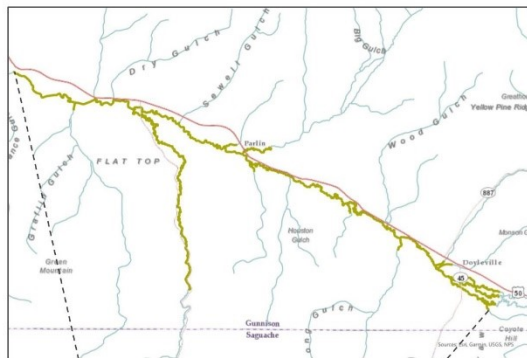
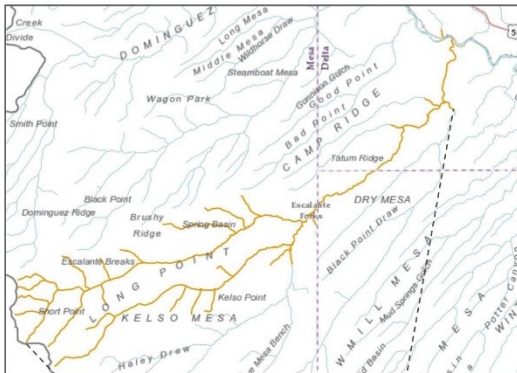
Task 2 - Financial Assistance (Implementation/Construction)

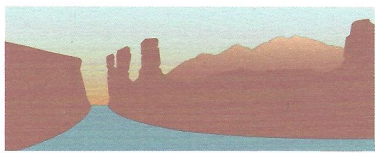
<i>Sub-task</i>	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost	CWCB Funds	Matching Funds
Diversion Structures	EA	11	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 495,000.00	\$ 123,750.00	\$ 371,250.00
Stream Channel Restoration (rock hardened)	LF	1000	\$ 100.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Stream Channel Restoration (Low-tech)	LF	4000	\$ 25.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Riparian Fence	LF	5000	\$ 6.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 21,000.00
Pipe	LF	1000	\$ 6.00	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00
Materials - Plants trees etc	EA	200	\$ 100.00	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00
Task Total				\$ 751,000.00	\$ -	\$ 153,750.00

Task 3- Grant Management

Admin and indirect	Percent	0.1374	\$ 241,950.00	\$ 33,243.93	\$ 33,243.93	\$ -
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TOTAL				\$ 1,078,243.93	\$ 275,194	\$ 764,050
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COLORADO CANYONS ASSOCIATION

FOSTERING COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP OF OUR NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

May 28, 2021

RE: Trout Unlimited's - Gunnison River Drought Resiliency and Restoration Project

Via e-mail

Dear RCPP Review Committee:

I am writing to document support of Trout Unlimited's proposal to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Alternative Funding Arrangement. Colorado Canyons Association (CCA) is familiar with the proposal, understands general expectations, and supports the efforts to address the natural resource concerns identified therein.

With this grant, Trout Unlimited will work with NRCS, agricultural producers, and other partners to implement riparian channel restoration, irrigation scheduling and wildlife habitat improvement projects that address all four 2021 NRCS priority resource concerns for the Colorado River Basin Critical Conservation Area and apply the Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) Sagebrush Biome Framework for Conservation Action for guidance on riparian and wet meadow restoration.

If this RCPP proposal is selected for funding, CCA will provide at least \$15,000 match contribution (both cash and in-kind) from 2021 to 2024 for Trout Unlimited's efforts to improve drought resiliency through restoration and irrigation water management projects. CCA is the friends group for Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area and we will be engaged in planning the Escalante Creek portion of the project. We have an active volunteer corps to assist with restoration projects and as a former regional Development Director for Trout Unlimited, I am committed to raising private local dollars for the project.

Sincerely,


Chris Herrman, Executive Director



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street, Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

May 26, 2021

RE: Trout Unlimited's - Gunnison River Drought Resiliency and Restoration Project

Dear RCPP Review Committee:

I am writing to document support of Trout Unlimited's proposal to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Alternative Funding Arrangement. The Colorado Water Conservation ("CWCB" is familiar with the proposal, understands general expectations, and supports the efforts to address the natural resource concerns identified therein. In particular, CWCB finds that this proposal would help implement several critical actions in both the Colorado Water Plan and recently adopted Colorado Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap, which identifies natural climate solutions such as soil health and riparian habitat restoration as tools to sequester carbon and promote important water resource co-benefits.

With this grant, Trout Unlimited will work with NRCS, agricultural producers, and other partners to implement riparian channel restoration, irrigation scheduling and wildlife habitat improvement projects that address all four 2021 NRCS priority resource concerns for the Colorado River Basin Critical Conservation Area and apply the Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) Sagebrush Biome Framework for Conservation Action for guidance on riparian and wet meadow restoration.

If this RCPP proposal is selected for funding, the CWCB will provide at least a \$275,000 match contribution from 2021 to 2024 for Trout Unlimited's efforts to improve drought resiliency through restoration and irrigation water management projects.

Sincerely,

Alexander Funk,
Agricultural and Rural Resiliency Policy Specialist
Colorado Water Conservation Board





Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B • Gunnison, Colorado 81230
Telephone (970) 641-6065 • www.ugrwc.org

May 27, 2021

RE: Trout Unlimited - *Gunnison River Drought Resiliency and Restoration Project*

Dear RCPP Review Committee:

I am writing to document our enthusiastic support of Trout Unlimited's proposal to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA). The Upper Gunnison District is familiar with the proposal, understands general expectations, and supports efforts to address natural resource concerns identified therein. We have a longstanding partner relationship and value the work that Trout Unlimited does in our basin.

With this grant, Trout Unlimited will work with NRCS, agricultural producers, and other partners to implement riparian channel restoration, irrigation scheduling and wildlife habitat improvement projects that address all four 2021 NRCS priority resource concerns for the Colorado River Basin Critical Conservation Area and apply the Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) Sagebrush Biome Framework for Conservation Action for guidance on riparian and wet meadow restoration.

If this RCPP proposal is selected for funding, the Upper Gunnison District will provide at least \$50,000 of match contribution from 2021 to 2024 for projects within our District's legal boundary.

Sincerely,

Sonja Chavez
General Manager

From: [SM.NRCS.DCWA2.RCPP](#)
To: [Lydia Bleifuss](#)
Cc: [Sperry, James - NRCS, Walsenburg, CO](#)
Subject: RCPP AFA Notice of Selection – Trout Unlimited
Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021 12:54:15 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Congratulations! Your organization has been tentatively selected to manage a FY 2021 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA) from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. NRCS has set aside \$822,913 for this project, pending negotiation of a Programmatic Partnership Agreement (PPA).

Gunnison River Drought Resiliency and Restoration - 2648

Lead State: CO **Funding Pool:** CCA

Notification of this award is considered confidential until 1 p.m. Eastern on September 24, 2021, when the USDA makes the official AFA award announcement. We are working to schedule an orientation webinar for AFA awardees—stay tuned for an email with information on how to participate.

The lead RCPP Coordinator for this project is James Sperry (james.sperry@usda.gov) and they will be your main POC for agreement negotiation and any questions you have throughout this process.

Next Steps:

1. **Orientation for New Awards** – October 6th 3-4pm ET, connection information TBA.
2. **Negotiate a Programmatic Partnership Agreement** – The PPA sets project budgets by activity and contract type as defines responsibilities for both the lead partner and NRCS. The PPA will allocate funds to the NRCS state(s) responsible for supporting this project.
3. **Negotiate Supplemental Agreements (SAs)** – SAs can be negotiated after the PPA has been signed by both parties. SAs obligate funding to the lead partner for specific activities. Work that will be reimbursed by NRCS can only begin after the specific activities have been included in a fully executed SA, signed by both parties.

As a reminder, the award remains tentative until a PPA is negotiated and signed by both parties.

Please work with the lead RCPP Coordinator listed above to complete negotiation of the PPA no later than 3/24/2022.

-

How RCPP works:

Within an RCPP AFA, NRCS funding is divided into four main categories.

- **Financial Assistance (FA)** – Funds to apply conservation practices and/or other eligible activities on eligible land.
- **NRCS Technical Assistance (NRCS TA)** – Non-delegable support for the project.
- **Partner Enhancement Technical Assistance (Partner TA-E)** – NRCS reimbursed project-wide support (outreach, outcomes analysis, project management)
- **Partner Implementation Technical Assistance (Partner TA-I)** – NRCS reimbursed support of specific producer contracts (FA)

Note: Please work with the lead RCPP Coordinator listed above to discuss next steps if you believe a different allocation would better support this project.

Again, congratulations on your award—AFAs funding opportunities are an extremely competitive part of the RCPP Program. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Kari Cohen



Branch Chief, Financial Assistance Program Division Projects Branch
Natural Resources Conservation Service | USDA
RCPP@usda.gov

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