



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Roaring Fork Conservancy	
Name of Water Project	Impact Reporting on Roaring Fork Conservancy's policy and science projects	
Grant Request Amount		\$118,932.00
Primary Category		\$118,932.00
<i>Engagement & Innovation Activities</i>		
Total Applicant Match		\$39,644.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>		\$39,644.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>		
Total Other Sources of Funding		\$0.00
Total Project Cost		\$158,576.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Roaring Fork Conservancy
 Mailing Address: 22800 Two Rivers Road Basalt CO 81621
 FEIN: 841,376,379

Organization Contact: Heather Lewin
 Position/Title: _____ Email: heather@roaringfork.org
 Phone: (970) 710-9023

Organization Contact - Alternate: Heather Lewin
 Position/Title: _____ Email: heather@roaringfork.org
 Phone: (970) 710-9023

Grant Management Contact: Heather Lewin
 Position/Title: _____ Email: heather@roaringfork.org
 Phone: (970) 710-9023

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Heather Lewin
 Position/Title: _____ Email: heather@roaringfork.org
 Phone: (970) 710-9023

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Since 1996, Roaring Fork Conservancy has inspired people to explore, value, and protect the Roaring Fork Watershed. We bring people together to protect our rivers and work hard to keep water in local streams, monitor water quality, and preserve riparian habitat.

As one of the largest watershed organizations in Colorado, Roaring Fork Conservancy serves residents and

visitors throughout the Roaring Fork Valley through school and community-based Watershed Education programs and Watershed Science and Policy Projects including regional watershed planning, water resource policy initiatives, stream management, and restoration.

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 39.368812
 Longitude -107.038708
 Lat Long Flag
 Water Source
 Basins Colorado
 Counties Eagle; Pitkin; Garfield
 Districts 38-Roaring Fork River Basin

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type
 Type of Water Project Education
 Scheduled Start Date - Design
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction

Description

Since 1996, Roaring Fork Conservancy (RFC) has been advocating for the protection of rivers, monitoring water quality and preserving healthy riparian habitats in the Roaring Fork Watershed (RFW) on behalf of the community.

As a next stage in several multiyear policy and science projects, RFC is interested in measuring impact to understand the successes and failures, share knowledge, and understand how impactful these multistakeholder endeavors and studies are in their mission to educate the community and benefit the RFW. Therefore, RFC is applying for funding to assemble impact reports and/or monitoring and evaluation systems as a means to measure the success of each initiative. This project will engage and educate the community, inform policy makers, share lessons learned and knowledge with peers, illustrate the work done by RFC in partnership with organizations such as the CWCB, and guide future endeavors.

This project and the programs the reports will address support the goals of the Colorado Water Plan and the Colorado Round Table Basin Implementation Plan. The project will look at different levels of impact including ecological and social with the result of creating change within the water community.

Measurable Results

- New Storage Created (acre-feet)
- New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
- Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
- New Storage Created (acre-feet)
- Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
- Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
- Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
- Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
- Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
- Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
- Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
- Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

No additional measurable results provided

Water Project Justification

Colorado Water Plan

According to the 2023 version of the Colorado Water Plan, “an educated public is necessary for developing sustainable grassroots solutions and gaining public and political support for implementing water solutions.” (pg 164) RFC strongly believes in an educated community and all projects have either an indirect or direct component demonstrating this value. Each program that we are applying for funding to measure impact has an education and outreach component and often stakeholder engagement, so our community has greater “public awareness of policies and processes” (pg 164) as a driver towards public engagement. Our hope is by involving monitoring & evaluation specialists, we can find new ways to reach an already engaged public within the Roaring Fork Valley.

RFC’s programs within this project focus on “incorporate[ing] conditions of forests, streams, wetlands, and wildlife habitat” (page 187) and thus are mainly addressing the “thriving watersheds” action areas as part of the Colorado

Water Plan. RFC's programs in this project support the following partner actions (pg 187):

- Meeting Future Water Need – RFC's Crystal River Project, Cattle Creek Stream Health Assessment and Didymo Survey are improving "stream health and infrastructure" while the ISF program would enhance "the environment and recreation opportunities"
- Healthy Lands – RFC's Crystal River Project is an example of "shared stewardship" as a multistakeholder collaboration improving "watershed health and resilience across multiple jurisdictions"
- Wise Water Use – RFC's Crystal River and Cattle Creek projects have had a positive impact on "social, ecological, and economic connections" of these streams and the funding we're applying for will be able to illustrate this impact

The programs also address the vibrant communities action area with partner action focused on engaged partners and wise water use and the resilient planning action area with partner action focused on healthy lands and engaged partners.

RFC utilizes many of the tools specified in the 2023 version of the Colorado Water Plan while investing in collaboration and agrees that this is a "vital component to successfully approaching...multi-scale efforts." (pg 167) All of RFC's projects involve different partners and resources, constantly seeking ways to share lessons learned and knowledge with peers to create a collaborative environment as a way to affect change.

This specific project does not deal directly with the supply-demand gap, land use, agriculture, storage, or funding but the programs are focusing on the health of the Colorado River Basin which has an indirect effect of these measurable objectives. The measurable goals for watershed health, environment and recreation and conservation are addressed through these programs as they are addressing the health of three different rivers/streams (Fryingpan, Crystal and Cattle) that flow into the Colorado River. It is important that RFC be able to obtain funding to measure impact, so the organization has the quantitative data on of its' impact on these two goals.

Colorado River Basin Implementation Plan

According to the 2022 Colorado River Basin Implementation Plan (BIP), the first theme listed is to "protect and restore healthy streams, rivers, lakes and riparian areas" (pg 2) which each of the programs in this project addresses through collaboration, outreach, and data collection. RFC's programs are collecting watershed data and using knowledge sharing to promote information gathering, fostering collaboration, and engaging both peers in the water space and public. The project's value lies in its ability to communicate organizational achievement and the ability for programs/studies to benefit stream systems in a digestible and academic manner.

The Colorado River BIP highlights the importance of "support[ing] water awareness and broad scale participation of diverse water dependent communities" (pg 46) and this project is focused on being inclusive and supportive of the Roaring Fork community engaging with their watershed basin and sharing beneficial, replicable programs statewide.

Colorado River Basin Education Action Plan

RFC is a named existing partner for the 2021-2022 Colorado River Basin Education Action Plan (EAP). The organization is aligned with many of the points under vision/goals, especially plans which "facilitate awareness, educational and diverse public engagement opportunities about Colorado and Colorado Basin water subjects" (pg 2). The project is focused on developing outreach and education materials that will address both the public and peers in the water community which ties directly in with some of the concepts of interest around knowledge sharing, capacity building, collaboration, education & outreach resources, and water planning.

Related Studies

Crystal River Restoration and Efficiency Project: 2016 Crystal River Management Plan, Stream Health Initiative, Crystal River Aquatic Delineation Report, Crystal River Riparian Restoration Plan and Ecological Integrity Assessment, as well as significant stakeholder outreach.

Cattle Creek: Cattle Creek Stream Health Assessment 2015-2023

Didymo: "Didymo Survey, Lower Fryingpan River" 2014, 2015 and annual data updates

For the program addressing how to support ISFs, the project is addressing research and evidence by setting up systems to capture data.

All reports available on RFC's website and/or upon request.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

No Tax Bill of Rights provided