



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Trout Unlimited_Montrose	
Name of Water Project	Middle Colorado Agriculture Collaborative	
Grant Request Amount		\$287,500.00
Primary Category		\$287,500.00
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>		
Total Applicant Match		\$0.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>		\$0.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>		\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		\$424,020.00
<i>Colorado River District</i>		\$30,000.00
<i>Fish/Wildlife Service</i>		\$394,020.00
Total Project Cost		\$711,520.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Trout Unlimited_Montrose
 Mailing Address: 264 County Road 4 Montrose CO 81403
 FEIN: 381,612,715

Organization Contact: Richard VanGytenbeek
 Position/Title: Colorado River Outreach Coordinator Email: richard.gytenbeek@tu.org
 Phone: 3076901267

Organization Contact - Alternate: Nancy Johnston
 Position/Title: Email: nancy.johnston@tu.org
 Phone: 9704626750

Grant Management Contact: Richard VanGytenbeek
 Position/Title: Colorado River Outreach Coordinator Email: richard.gytenbeek@tu.org
 Phone: 3076901267

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Nancy Johnston
 Position/Title: Email: nancy.johnston@tu.org
 Phone: 9704626750

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	39.575881
Longitude	107.447071
Lat Long Flag	Stream location: Coordinates based on general location on stream
Water Source	Canyon Creek (tributary to the Colorado River at Chacra, CO)
Basins	Colorado
Counties	Garfield
Districts	39-Rifle/Elk/Parachute Creeks

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Environmental
Type of Water Project	Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design	
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	10/21/2024
Description	
Project Description	

The Middle Colorado AG Collaborative (MCAC) grew out of early work on fish passage with the Ware and Hinds Ditch Co (2018) and the Canyon Creek Fish Passage project that enabled fish passage through the I-70 culvert system (2021). The projects success highlighted the potential to increase successful spawning in Elk Creek. Based on that, potential multiple benefit projects that upgrade irrigation infrastructure and open channels to spawning fish were inventoried throughout the middle Colorado River basin, incorporated into the Middle

Colorado IWMP and CWCB Projects List.

In May 2022, TU initiated the first of three Middle Colorado AG Collaborative project phases. Phase 1, Outreach/Conceptual Planning was completed in May 2023. Phase 2. Construction Plans/Specifications is currently taking this conceptually designed Canyon Creek project and developing it into construction ready plans and specification (complete in April 2023). This grant request will fund Phase 3 and enable field construction of the J-Wolverton project from October 2024 - April 2025.

As mentioned, this project will open up an additional 1.5 miles of Canyon Creek above the J-Wolverton diversion and compliment the original I-70 culvert refit project. Work includes a rebuilt headgate/sluceway, telemetry actuated headgate with fish screen, fish ramp, a new parshall flume and 1000 feet of piping down ditch to improve delivery efficiency.

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)
7,920	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
1,000.00	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
45	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

The project has engaged the 45 irrigator shareholders of the J-Wolverton Ditch Co. that divert water from Canyon Creek. If this diversion becomes fish passable there will be approximately 1.5 miles of additional spawning and rearing habitat opened (2.5 miles total) to native fish from the Co. River. Upgrades to irrigation infrastructure will likely increase diversion efficiency savings through the use of piping and telemetry actuated headgate systems which enable voluntary bypass flows when irrigation water need is reduced or not needed. Diversion amounts and timing information will be automatically uploaded to the DWR records

Water Project Justification

Water Project Justification

The Middle Colorado AG Collaborative initiated a three phase project in May 2022 to work with irrigators in Canyon Creek to upgrade their infrastructure and improve fish passage. Phase 1 formed partnerships with the owners of the J-Wolverton Ditch Company and provided those owners with conceptual upgrade plans (Phase 1 is complete). Phase 2 has engaged an engineering firm (Wright Water Engineers) to further develop the concept plan for the diversion upgrade into construction plans and specifications by April 2024 (construction plans currently 30% complete). The goal of Phase 3 (this application) is to fund reconstruction of the headgate/sluceway and build a fish ramp below the crest of the diversion dam. The project will provide both fish passage and increase irrigation water diversion efficiency and measurement. The applicant believes that this phase of the MCAC, like previous phases, continues to compliment and further the objectives, goals and actions as described in Chapter 6 Vision and Actions for Addressing Colorado's Risks of the Colorado Water Plan, as well as the themes, goals and strategies stated in the Colorado Basin Roundtable's Basin Implementation Plan.

The Colorado Water Plan

The Colorado Water Plan identifies a “Vision and Actions” to address water related risks in Colorado and how both partners and CWCB (the agency) can work to address those risks. This project addresses these efforts in the areas of Robust Agriculture and Thriving Watersheds. They are:

Robust Agriculture

Partner Actions (pg. 194)

Meeting Future Water Needs

- Replacing diversion structures:
- Measurement of agricultural uses:

Agency Actions (pg. 202)

2.8 Streamline Agricultural Infrastructure Funding

- The CWCB.....will support agricultural producers seeking infrastructure funding.

Applicant Comment: This project will upgrade the existing irrigation diversion and construct a fish passage ramp. Diverted irrigation water is used for landscaping (which improves wildland fire mitigation) and to support small scale agricultural operations such as fruit sold in local markets. The reconstructed project will have telemetry actuated headgates which will improve diversion efficiency/measurement, enable voluntary bypass flow and deliver real time diversion rates to the CDSS system.

Thriving Watersheds

Partner Actions (pg. 205-206)

Meeting Future Water Needs

- Improving Fish Passage Through Replacement of Agricultural Headgates:
- Increased Access to Recreational Opportunities:

Wise Water Use

- Streamflow Level Protections for Environmental Needs

Agency Actions (pg. 212)

3.6 Enhance Use of Water Plan Grant Funding for Watersheds, Environment and Recreation

- The Water Plan Grant Program can better support a holistic view of watershed health in terms of recognizing and equally funding environmental projects, watershed projects, applicable forest health projects, and recreation.

Applicant Comment: The project will improve fish passage by installing a fish ramp downstream of the diversion weir. The project will open an additional 1.5 miles of Canyon Creek to spawning fish (particularly fall spawners) and compliments the original fish passage project completed in 2021 downstream at the I-70 culvert system. Structures will be telemetry controlled, providing irrigators with greater control to bypass unneeded irrigation diversions thereby improving creek flows. While Agency Action 3.6 is focused on providing funds for planning and study this project is, in part, the culmination of that study (Middle Colorado IWMP). Accordingly, the applicant believes that providing Water Plan funds to realize the goals of the IWMP is a logical end.

Applicant Comment: As stated, this project is another product of the Middle Colorado IWMP process. It was led by the Middle Co. Watershed Council and the GarPit Conservancy District. It is complete and the identified projects and goals have been committed to the CBRT-BIP-Projects List. This project will continue to help restore critical perennial streams that provide spawning and rearing habitat for fish from the Colorado River main stem. Additionally, their progeny migrate back to the Co. River to provide outstanding recreational opportunities for anglers on one of the state's most accessible rivers.

The CBRT-Updated Basin Implementation Plan

The Colorado Basin Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan continues to employ the original “6 Themes” and associated goals found in the original BIP. These themes and goals are further supported by identified strategies. This project supports specific goals within two of the six themes; “Protect and Restore Healthy Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Riparian Areas” and “Sustain Agriculture”. They are:

- 1) Protect and maintain healthy and self-sustaining aquatic and riparian ecosystems, and rehabilitate damaged ecosystems.
- 2) Engage, educate, learn from, and collaborate with the agricultural community on Co. River Basin water issues, and increase awareness among the broader community about the importance of agriculture.

Applicant Comment: With respect to maintaining a healthy, self sustaining aquatic system, the project goal is to increase spawning and rearing habitat for native fish in the Colorado River. Further, a successful project will require engaging and collaborating with the local agricultural community. Based on previous successful projects in these basins the community at large becomes better informed about the relationship between agriculture and a healthy environment.

The project further supports the following identified strategies:

- 1) Use the IWMP mechanism to reduce risks and enhance benefits across all sectors.
- 2) Implement projects on the Projects Database.

Applicant Comment: This project largely originates from and was supported by the Middle Colorado IWMP process. The project is listed on the CBRT Projects Database as project CO-2020-0001 and is further supported by ancillary Middle Co. IWMP projects CO-2020-0014, CO-2020-0015 and CO-2020-0024 also listed on the Project Database.

Citations: CBRT BIP Update Pgs. 52-62 and Pgs. 153-155.

Related Studies

There are no known related studies at this time.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

There are no TABOR grant limitations on Trout Unlimited.