



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**Water Plan**

**Water Project Summary**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Name of Applicant                        | Boulder Watershed Collective                |
| Name of Water Project                    | Boulder Creek Headwaters Resiliency Project |
| Grant Request Amount                     | <b>\$1,591,625.45</b>                       |
| Primary Category                         | \$1,591,625.45                              |
| <i>Watershed Health &amp; Recreation</i> |   |
| Total Applicant Match                    | <b>\$1,565,130.35</b>                       |
| <i>Applicant Cash Match</i>              | \$1,139,204.00                              |
| <i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>           | \$425,926.35                                |
| Total Other Sources of Funding           | <b>\$1,592,130.35</b>                       |
| <i>Bureau of Reclamation</i>             | \$954,204.00                                |
| <i>Colorado Parks and Wildlife</i>       | \$100,000.00                                |
| <i>Biophilia Foundation</i>              | \$85,000.00                                 |
| <i>Boulder Watershed Collective</i>      | \$452,926.35                                |
| Total Project Cost                       | <b>\$4,748,886.15</b>                       |

**Applicant & Grantee Information**

Name of Grantee: Boulder Watershed Collective

Mailing Address: 1740 Fourmile Canyon Dr. Boulder CO 80302

Organization Contact: Preston Brown

Position/Title: Watershed Restoration Manager

Phone: 303-877-0880

Email: preston@boulderwatershedcollective.org

Organization Contact - Alternate: Catherine Price

Position/Title: Program Manager

Phone: 303-449-3333

Email: cat@boulderwatershedcollective.org

Grant Management Contact: Preston Brown

Position/Title: Watershed Restoration Manager

Phone: 303-877-0880

Email: preston@boulderwatershedcollective.org

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Catherine Price

Position/Title: Program Manager

Phone: 303-449-3333

Email: cat@boulderwatershedcollective.org

**Description of Grantee/Applicant**

Watershed Group in Boulder/Gilpin counties.

**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 40.031361  
 Longitude 105.340972  
 Lat Long Flag Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters  
 Water Source Primary sources of streams include: Mammoth Gulch, Caribou Creek, Coon Track Creek, N. Beaver Creek, Forsythe Creek, Fourmile Creek, Sweethome Gulch, Emmerson Gulch  
 Basins South Platte  
 Counties Boulder  
 Districts 6-Boulder Creek

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Environmental  
 Type of Water Project Construction / Implementation  
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 7/1/2026  
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction 9/30/2030  
 Description  
 The project includes the restoration of streams, wet meadows riparian areas, and uplands within several headwater drainages of Boulder Creek. Restoration actions include wet meadow enhancement with low-tech process-based (LTPBR) structures, mine waste pile removal from floodplains and riparian areas, and revegetation of hillsides and riparian areas following waste pile removal. In 2023, Boulder Watershed Collective

began a stakeholder-driven Wildfire Ready Action Plan (WRAP) that has now culminated in the identification of projects for implementation to protect assets and values at risk to wildfire debris flows and fluvial hazards. Several riparian areas and mine waste sites adjacent to streams in headwater drainages were identified within the Gold Hill Mining District that pose a severe risk to source waters of the Pine Brook Hills Water District, aquatic health, and downstream water users. This project was identified in the WRAP to help reduce risk of wildfire and post-wildfire hazards to critical source water for citizens of Boulder County, aquatic resources and wildlife, and downstream water users and ditch operators.

### Measurable Results

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 0     | New Storage Created (acre-feet)   |
| 0     | New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive             |
| 0     | Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)  |
| 0     | New Storage Created (acre-feet)   |
| 3,000 | Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)  |
| 0.00  | Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)   |
| \$0   | Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)   |
| 0     | Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)   |
| 150   | Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)   |
| 0     | Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet) |
| 0     | Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning              |
| 200   | Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity  |
| Other |   |

This project implements beaver-inspired restoration actions to wet meadow streams and remediates mine waste piles in headwater drainages. This project does not involve any water infrastructure, water storage, or water sharing agreements.

### Water Project Justification

This project supports the goals of the Colorado Water Water Plan, specifically the South Platte Basin and Metro Roundtable Implementation Plan through specific objectives and actions. For example; restoration of headwater stream and riparian areas using process based and form-based restoration for in-stream complexity; implementation of watershed restoration actions that address negative impacts from post-fire wildfire impacts; and contribute to improved water quality, riparian habitat and instream habitat. This plan identifies numerous goals that this project addresses, which are outlined below. This project helps achieve several Implementation Strategies and Outcomes. These include:

6.A.6: Conduct restoration projects and promote innovative strategies to improve water quality in impaired areas and downstream impacts.

- Support the use of process-based restoration which seeks to restore the natural hydrologic, biologic, and geomorphic processes that contribute to a stream's ecological dynamics. One strategy of process-based restoration is reconnecting incised streams with their floodplains to restore functions such as sediment filtration, floodwater attenuation, and habitat. When there is not room to restore the footprint that a river could occupy or influence in a wide variety of flow conditions due to development and infrastructure, supported the use of form- based restoration which promotes modification of stream channels to improve in-channel habitat conditions and bank stability.

- Support projects that improve water quality in coordination with public agencies (conservation districts and the NRCS, among others).

6.A.7: Identify, assess, and implement actions, programs, and measures that address post-fire impacts.

- Implement best management practices and lessons learned to scale up and implement actions that restore forest and hydrologic function to burnt areas.

7.A: Continue to develop, promote, and apply best management practices, tools, and methodologies to adequately assess what is needed to maintain,

increase, or enhance the following throughout the South Platte Basin:

- General River Health

- Aquatic, riparian, floodplain, wetland, and wet meadow habitat

Citation: Vol.1 South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, January 2022: pages 32-36

### Related Studies

In 2023, the Boulder Watershed Collective initiated a Wildfire Susceptibility Analysis and Wildfire Ready Action Plan (WRAP) for the Boulder Creek Watershed. This project was funded through the CWCB Wildfire Ready Watersheds Program. While the WRAP for the Boulder Creek Watershed is still in development, the hazards analysis and susceptibility analysis are both complete. This has resulted in a draft list of recommended project actions to address risk to assets and community values from post-wildfire impacts. This list of projects has identified this project contained in this proposal as a priority for implementation. Specifically, this project to restore headwater streams in conjunction with mine tailing remediation is identified in the Boulder Creek WRAP as a specific project necessary to protect source water for multiple agencies including the City of Boulder, Town of Nederland, Pine Brook Hills Water District, and more. This project has also been identified to protect infrastructure within Fourmile Creek and Middle Boulder Creek from debris flow following wildfire. The WRAP section that identified this project is included with this application. The Boulder County WRAP has been a stakeholder-driven assessment containing data, suggestions, feedback, and recommendations from over 35 watershed stakeholders, agency partners, special districts, and more.

### Taxpayer Bill of Rights

No impacts are anticipated.