

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Trout Unlimited - National
Name of Water Project	Gunnison Basin RCPP
Grant Request Amount	\$800,466.00
Primary Category	\$800,466.00
<i>Agricultural Projects</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$0.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$569,040.00
<i>Colorado River District</i>	\$104,040.00
<i>Upper Gunnison River Water</i>	\$55,000.00
<i>Conservancy District</i>	
<i>NRCS - GB Drought Resiliency RCPP</i>	\$410,000.00
Total Project Cost	\$1,369,506.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Trout Unlimited - National	
Mailing Address: 1700 N. Moore Street, Suite 2005 Arlington VA 22209	
Organization Contact: Emily Olsen	
Position/Title: VP Rocky Mtn Region	Email: emily.olsen@tu.org
Phone:	
Organization Contact - Alternate: Jesse Kruthaupt	
Position/Title: Upper Gunnison Project Manager	Email: jesse.kruthaupt@tu.org
Phone: 9702090976	
Grant Management Contact: Emily Olsen	
Position/Title: VP Rocky Mtn Region	Email: emily.olsen@tu.org
Phone:	
Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Luke Laurita	
Position/Title:	Email: luke.laurita@tu.org
Phone: 970-210-4997	

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Trout Unlimited (TU) is the nation's largest cold-water conservation organization with approximately 150,000 volunteers and roughly 277 employees nationwide, working to protect, reconnect, restore and sustain America's fisheries. TU's volunteers and their local chapter groups work on a variety of initiatives that meet the unique needs of their watersheds.

Type of Eligible Entity	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public (Government)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public (District)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public (Municipality)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ditch Company
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Incorporated
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-governmental Organization
<input type="checkbox"/>	Covered Entity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Category of Water Project	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Agricultural Projects</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Conservation & Land Use Planning</p> <p><i>Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Engagement & Innovation Activities</p> <p><i>Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Watershed Restoration & Recreation</p> <p><i>Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Water Storage & Supply</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>

Location of Water Project	
Latitude	38.555525
Longitude	-106.928203
Lat Long Flag	Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters
Water Source	Gunnison River and it Tributaries
Basins	Gunnison
Counties	Gunnison; Saguache; Delta; Montrose; Hinsdale
Districts	62-Upper Gunnison River; 28-Tomichi Creek; 59-East River Basin; 41-Lower Uncompahgre River; 40-North Fork/Tribs.

Water Project Overview	
Major Water Use Type	Agricultural
Type of Water Project	Planning
Scheduled Start Date - Design	10/1/2025
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	10/1/2025
Description	

Trout Unlimited (TU) is requesting funding from the CWCB Water Plan Grant to support construction of five projects planned and designed via a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) program - award secured by TU in 2022, and planning/development of future projects to be part of a new or renewed RCPP.

This grant, and TU's 2022 RCPP award from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), focuses on addressing four NRCS priority resource concerns for the Colorado River Basin Critical Conservation Area: insufficient water and drought, inadequate habitat, water quality degradation, and soil quality degradation.

During the last three years, TU has used RCPP and CWCB Water Plan Grant funding to develop designs for several channel restoration and irrigation infrastructure improvement projects in the Gunnison Basin. As of July 1, 2025, two projects are constructed and five are on track for construction in fall of 2025 or spring of 2026.

Task 1 of this request includes support for construction of those five projects, including four projects with design completed. Each of the projects, described in more detail in the scope of work, 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.

Task 2 and Task 3 of this request will support identification, planning, prioritization, and design of future drought resiliency and restoration projects.

TU has funding in the current RCPP award for the construction of the five projects outlined in Task 1. TU is working closely with NRCS to renew or apply for a new RCPP award when the 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity is open. CWCB funding will be used to move designed projects to construction as well as develop new projects by leveraging funding from a renewed or new RCPP.

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	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
500.00	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
75	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
50	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
50	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
250	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
No additional measurable results provided	

Water Project Justification

This project seeks to build adaptive, sustainable water systems to mitigate drought impacts across agricultural, and environmental sectors in the Gunnison Basin. This project will focus on following tasks that align with the Colorado Water Plan goals.

1. Update aging irrigation infrastructure to improve water delivery and management efficiency .

2. Restore stream corridors to enhance flood plain connection, fluvial aquifer recharge, and water quality.
3. Enhance watershed and water user resilience to drought and develop innovative strategies to maintain stream flows during low-flow periods.
4. Leverage federal, local, and state funding opportunities to support watershed enhancement projects.

Related Studies

Fresh Water Trust- BasinScout
Fresh Water Trust - StreamBank
UVWUA - Drought Contingency Planning
Upper Gunnison WMP & Ag optimization
Upper Gunnison Geo-fluvial Assessment

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A