

**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	Enhancing instream habitat and aiding wildfire recovery and resiliency in the lower North Inlet watershed and Grand Lake
Grant Request Amount	\$67,500.00
Primary Category	\$67,500.00
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$0.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$0.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$40,000.00
<i>TU- Cold Water Conservation Fund</i>	\$40,000.00
Total Project Cost	\$107,500.00

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: Drew Peternell	
Position/Title: Director of Colorado Water Project	Email: drew.peternell@tu.org
Phone: 303-204-3057	
Grant Management Contact: Emily Olsen	
Position/Title: VP Rocky Mtn Region	Email: emily.olsen@tu.org
Phone:	
Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Jesse Kruthaupt	
Position/Title: Upper Gunnison Project Manager	Email: jesse.kruthaupt@tu.org
Phone: 9702090976	

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

- ☐ 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 40.254530
 Longitude -105.806320
 Lat Long Flag Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project
 Water Source Colorado River (Upper Colorado/Fraser Rivers)
 Basins Colorado
 Counties Grand
 Districts 51-Upper Colorado/Fraser Rivers

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Environmental
 Type of Water Project Design / Engineering
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 10/1/2025
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction
 Description
 This Watershed Health and Recreation Design project will survey and collect baseline physical, chemical, and biological data to inform and, subsequently, design in-stream and wetland restoration and enhancement projects within the North Inlet watershed.

Trout Unlimited (TU) is collaborating with a property owner, bordering Rocky Mountain National Park and the Town of Grand Lake, to improve aquatic habitat, stream and wetland function, and water quality along approximately 1.3 miles of the North Inlet and Tonahutu Creek, and at least 3 acres of adjacent wetlands, just above Grand Lake (GL).

When this proposed project's design (e.g., final deliverables of this Statement of Work) is implemented, TU's on-the-ground work will aid in ongoing wildfire recovery and resilience efforts, including further infrastructure protections for the local community and water users, while also helping address water quality issues (e.g., water clarity) for recreational users of GL.

In sum, this Design project will develop plans within a watershed, which, as assessed by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Wildfire Ready Watershed program, remains relatively susceptible to post-fire hazards (e.g., life and property, water infrastructure), yet, as classified by the Colorado Water Quality Control Division, contains 'Outstanding Waters,' including ecologically important aquatic life.

Measurable Results

5,000	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	
	3 acres wetland habitat
	10 - 40 acres of forested fuel mitigation

Water Project Justification

As a Watershed Health and Recreation Project, this project supports all categories within the Thriving Watersheds Partner Action Category of the Colorado Water Plan (CWCB Colorado Water Plan Partner Actions 2023, page 6):

Thoughtful Storage— project deliverables (e.g., final project designs) will, when implemented, provide habitat for wildlife through wetland enhancement and mediate post-fire sediment to improve water quality, and above all, support watershed health through nature-based solutions. Specifically, this project directly impacts the Colorado-Big Thompson project and water supply (Colorado Basin Implementation Plan, Vol. 2, January 2022, Section 4—Regional Perspectives page 79).

Meeting Future Water Needs—Natural channel designs (Task 3) will improve fish passage, and both LTPBR and natural channel restoration designs will improve habitat, reduce sediment and debris

Wise Water Use—The activities of the proposed project are directly design to improve fire resilience and

recovery through stream and wetland restoration and fuels mitigation

Healthy Lands—LTPRB designs will reconnect floodplains and specifically, enhance a wetland that was a direct firebreak during the 2020 East Troublesome Fire. Additionally, fuels mitigation will enhance forest health and resilience, while mitigating post-fire debris flows. Both LTPB and natural channel restoration designs will improve riparian and aquatic habitat for fishes, macroinvertebrates, as well as Grand Lake water users.

Engagement and Education—Our baseline monitoring of water quality parameters will provide valuable data to various project partners (e.g., Grand Lake Adaptive Management Committee), and we are engaging with various partners (e.g., Grand County Wildfire Commission, Northern Water, Grand Lake Fire, Colorado State Forest Service) to implement strategies within a CWCB Wildfire Ready Watershed

This proposed project and its deliverables address common challenges identified within the Basin Implementation Plans (CWCB Colorado Water Plan Executive Summary 2023, page 7) including:

Health of watersheds and forests

Uncertain impacts of climate change

Lack of funding for water projects

Specifically, within the Colorado Basin Roundtable (CWCB Colorado Water Plan 2023, Chapter 4, pages 88-91; Colorado Basin Implementation Plan, Vol. 1, January 2022, page 2)), this project addresses themes including:

Protect and restore healthy streams, rivers, lakes, and riparian areas

Secure safe drinking water

Encourage a high level of basin wide conservation

And, this project addresses Colorado Basin water needs, including:

Reducing risks to riparian and wetland habitat

Reducing risks to fish habitat

Reducing risks to water supply

And, this project addresses Colorado Basin regional topics, including:

East Troublesome Fire 2020

Related Studies

Through an agreement between Trout Unlimited and the US Forest Service, a variety of post-fire projects are scheduled to be implemented in the coming years, including:

Kinney Creek Alluvial Fan restoration and infrastructure protection (Williams Fork Fire)

Stillwater Pass, Pony Park wetland and stream restoration and native trout reclamation

The above projects are also supported through a National Fish and Wildlife Federation RESTORE Colorado grant and will use LTPBR techniques.

Recent and ongoing restoration projects including natural channel design include:

Fraser River restoration below Fraser Canyon (collaboration with BLM)

Colorado River restoration above Windy Gap reservoir (collaboration with private landowner and Grand County Learning by Doing)

Additionally, recent CWCB grants have supported similar natural channel design projects:

Colorado River Connectivity Channel (CTGG1-2019-2233)

Kremmling Area Irrigators Upper Colorado River Restoration Project (CTGG-2017-667)

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A