COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Northern Integrated Supply Project Water Activity Enterprise
Name of Water Project	Phase I Design: Cache la Poudre River Restoration
Grant Request Amount	**$487,500.00**
Primary Category	$487,500.00
Watershed Health & Recreation	
Total Applicant Match	**$162,500.00**
Applicant Cash Match	$162,500.00
Applicant In-Kind Match	$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	**$0.00**
Total Project Cost	**$650,000.00**

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Northern Integrated Supply Project Water Activity Enterprise
Mailing Address: 220 Water Ave Berthoud CO 80513

Organization Contact: Cheryl Lindsay
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Grant Management Contact: Cheryl Lindsay
Position/Title: Grants Coordinator
Phone: (970) 670-5195
Email: clindsay@northernwater.org

Description of Grantee/Applicant

The Northern Integrated Supply Project will supply 15 Northern Front Range water providers with 40,000 acre-feet of new, reliable water supplies annually. Northern Water is pursuing permitting, design and construction of the project on behalf of the participants, who will be providing water to nearly half a million residents by 2050. The project components include: two reservoirs (Glade Reservoir northwest of Fort Collins, and Galeton Reservoir northeast of Greeley); a forebay reservoir below Glade Reservoir; five pump plants; pipelines to deliver water for exchange with two irrigation companies and for delivery to participants; and improvements to an existing canal to divert water off the Poudre River near the canyon mouth.

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	40.666720
Longitude	-105.226330
Lat Long Flag	Stream location: Coordinates based on general location on stream
Water Source	Cache la Poudre River
Basins	South Platte
Counties	Larimer
Districts	3-Cache La Poudre River

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

High priority reaches of the Cache la Poudre River, from the Poudre Valley Canal to the South Platte River, have been identified for stream channel and habitat improvements by the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) Water Activity Enterprise. The state of Colorado, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board has vetted and approved these reaches in the Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan for NISP, a water storage and distribution project that will supply 15 Northern Front Range water providers with 40,000-acre feet of new, reliable water supplies. The two proposed 1-mile river segments are situated in the Watson Lake area and between the Poudre Valley Canal and Hansen Supply Canal inflows northwest of Fort Collins. These areas were prioritized for their potential to offer multi-objective mitigation and enhancement benefits, along with public accessibility through two State Wildlife Areas. CWCB Water Plan grant funding will complete the final designs for these stream habitat improvement projects. The plans include in-channel structures using natural materials, reconnecting the channel to the floodplain and old oxbows, and regenerating

native vegetation while removing non-native species. These collective efforts will improve aquatic habitat and water quality and reduce flood risk.

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)
10,200	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)
53	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

Benefits the numerous visitors to the Poudre River State Wildlife Area and the Watson Lake State Wildlife Area.

Water Project Justification

South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP)
The Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) is Project SP-2015-0007 of the Basin Identified Projects. The proposed project was identified by Northern Water to help mitigate resource effects in the Cache la Poudre ("Poudre") River from NISP. The state of Colorado, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board has vetted and approved this project through its inclusion in the state approved Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (FWMEP) for NISP.

The Project supports the goals and strategies identified in the January 2022 South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Volumes 1 and 2 and helps address its specified measurable outcomes and long-term needs for the basin, as follows.

BIP Goal 6: Protect and enhance watershed function (BIP Volume 1, page 32)
• Will address the "Need for Protection and Enhancement of Forest and Watershed Health" challenge (BIP Volume 2, page 33), which includes conflict with increasing M&I and agricultural water demands and the impact that competition for water may have on forest and watershed health.
- Strategy 6.A: Protect and Improve Water Quality Throughout the Watershed (BIP Volume 2, page 83)
- Strategy 6.A.2: Control erosion and sedimentation (BIP Volume 2, page 83).
- Strategy 6.A.3: Consider holistic impacts to water quality and watershed health during project development and implementation (BIP Volume 2, page 84).
- Strategy 6.A.6: Conduct restoration projects and promote innovative strategies to improve water quality in impaired areas and downstream impacts (BIP Volume 2, page 85).

BIP Goal 7: Protect and enhance environmental attributes (BIP Volume 1, page 36).
• Will address the "Diverse Environmental Water Needs and Concerns challenge (BIP Volume 2, page 37), which includes the process of quantifying the environmental gap, potential for changes in listing may impact State's ability to manage species, and potential for negative impacts to environmental attributes as the result of climate change and increased drought.

- Strategy 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 habitats, instream flows, water quality and impacts associated with temperature and other pollutants, and riverine connectivity, including biological, hydrological, geomorphological processes, and stormwater impacts (BIP Volume 2, page 88).
- Strategy 7.B: Identify, assess, and implement actions, programs, and measures that aim to promote restoration, recovery, and sustained support of: endangered species, threatened species, state species of special concern, and imperiled aquatic, riparian, terrestrial, and wetland-dependent species and plant communities (BIP Volume 2, page 88).
- Strategy 7.C: Identify, assess, and implement actions, programs, and measures that aim to protect, maintain, and improve conditions and long-term sustainability of streams, lakes, floodplains, riparian areas, wetlands, and wet meadows for self-sustaining fisheries and functional waterfowl, beaver, and other aquatic habitats (BIP Volume 2, page 89).

BIP Goal 8: Protect and enhance recreational attributes (BIP Volume 1, page 37).
• Will address the “Diverse Recreational Water Needs and Concerns challenge (BIP Volume 2, page 41), which includes impacts to water quality, water quantity, and wildlife movement corridors as a result of urbanization, and increased pressures on existing recreational sites due to population increases and higher usage.
- Strategy 8.A: Continue to develop, promote, and apply best management practices, tools, and methodologies to adequately assess what is needed to maintain or improve recreational opportunities derived from water related ecosystems throughout the South Platte Basin (BIP Volume 2, page 90).
- Strategy 8.B: Identify, assess, and implement actions, programs, and measures that aim to protect and strengthen local outdoor recreation economies derived from recreational water uses while protecting sensitive habitats (BIP Volume 2, page 90).

The Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI, 2010)
• The SWSI was approved by the Metro and South Platte Basin Roundtables (BRTs) and identified 24 river Focus Areas. Since SWSI was released in 2010, the South Platte and Metro BRTs have approved several new Focus Areas, including several reaches along the Front Range rivers and streams that connect the mountain river Focus Areas to the plains river Focus Areas. There is now a Cache la Poudre River segment, number 25, that is inclusive of the location of the proposed projects (see Appendix B – Environmental and Recreational Focus Area Mapping Update, BIP, Table 3-1, page 12). The rationale for segment 25’s inclusion in the SWSI lists habitat for plains fish that are listed as state endangered, threatened and species of concern, fishing, and boating.

Colorado Water Plan (CWP, 2023)
Vision and actions for addressing Colorado’s Risks summarized in the January 2023 Colorado Water Plan (CWP) that are in line with the Cache la Poudre River Restoration Project include the following:

Thriving Watersheds for Meeting Thoughtful Storage
• Nature-based solutions: Established best practices for nature-based solutions that support healthy forests, watersheds, and their natural water infrastructure such as floodplains and wetlands can attenuate flood flows, boost late-season low flows, and improve ecosystem health and water quality (CWP, page 205).
Thriving Watersheds for Meeting Future Water Needs.
• Rehabilitate streams to improve habitat, reduce erosion, and meet needs: Flow enhancement projects and projects that reconnect streams with their floodplains can improve stream and riparian habitat as well as water quality for the benefit of all water sectors. Stream management plans and integrated water management plans are collaborative efforts that can identify projects and needed flows for stream rehabilitation that consider all of the benefits that a stream provides to local users (CWP, page 205).

Thriving Watersheds for Wise Water Use.
• Create greater drought, fire, and flood resilience: Stream and watershed restoration efforts should strive to incorporate multiple opportunities, benefits, and funding sources where possible. Specific ecosystems such as headwaters, floodplains, and wetlands can be evaluated and prioritized using watershed-specific metrics. Stronger projects and strategies emerge when local decision makers prioritize projects by balancing science, funding, risks, and values.
• Invasive phreatophyte and species removal: Invasive phreatophytes (deep-rooted, water intensive vegetation like Russian Olive and Tamarisk) and other invasive species can fundamentally alter stream channels and systems by preventing floodplain connectivity, creating sediment deposition, altering the nutrient cycles of riparian areas, and consuming large amounts of water. Local removal efforts can complement stream or riparian improvements but large-scale efforts to remove these species requires effective management across jurisdictions. (CWP, page 206)
Thriving Watersheds for Healthy Lands.
• Improving riparian and aquatic habitat: Resilient river systems require seasonal flow fluctuations and provide complex and connected aquatic and riparian habitats that sustain stable, diverse, abundant, and reproducing populations of aquatic and riparian species. Efforts to improve riparian and aquatic habitat are important to the recovery of native and imperiled species (CWP, page 206).
Integration Across Action Areas.
• Thriving Watersheds Connection to Vibrant Communities: The development of multi-benefit projects that enhance environmental and recreational uses can often enhance municipal supply or improve the quality of life in urban areas. For example, restoring urban stream corridors can provide recreational opportunities, improve habitat, enhance landscape aesthetics, and reduce flooding potential. Improving the quality of stormwater runoff from urbanized portions of watersheds can benefit fish and help protect clean water supplies for downstream water users (CWP, page 207).

Related Studies

Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan (FWMEP, 2017)
• The FWMEP was conducted to comply with the requirements of Colorado State law (C.R.S. 37-60-122.2) for NISP that will provide 40,000 acre feet of new, reliable water supply. The FWMEP was approved by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission (CPW), Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and former Gov. John Hickenlooper in 2017 and commits Northern Water to countless project elements that will benefit stream flows, wildlife and the natural environment. The FWMEP includes both a Mitigation Plan, which mitigates fish and wildlife related impacts of NISP, as well as an Enhancement Plan, which outlines fish and wildlife related environmental commitments that go above and beyond direct mitigation of project effects. The Enhancement Plan was developed in response to discussions with CPW staff, discussions with other regional governmental and non-governmental agencies, and review of comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS, Corps 2008) and Supplemental Draft EIS (Corps 2015).

State of the Poudre River Assessment, City of Fort Collins, 2017
• The project area is within the Poudre River “Rural Zone C” (Canyon mouth to just below Overland Road) as classified by the City of Fort Collins in their State of the Poudre River Assessment and given an average grade of “C” (Table 5.3, page 89). The Poudre River along Rural Zone C has the opportunity to connect to a wider floodplain, but impacts from berms, armored banks, and channelization disconnect the river from its floodplain. Native cottonwoods dominate the riverside forests, but encroachment affects the health of the vegetation. The impact of multiple large water diversions severely alters peak and base (low) flows (page 88). The report suggests improving the character of foundational processes such as opportunities for flooding, scour, and deposition in the Rural Zone would drive a cascade of positive influences throughout affected riparian areas (page 107).

Larimer County Water Master Plan, December 2024
• Mitigation Strategy 3: Support to Watershed Health Outcomes (C-3). The proposed project falls within the high priority watershed health area projects for Larimer County.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) Water Activity Enterprise does not believe TABOR will limit its receipt of grant money pursuant to this application, or that receipt of such grant money will violate any applicable provisions of TABOR.