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Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant Application

Instructions

To receive funding for a Water Plan Grant, applicant must demonstrate how the project, activity, or process (collectively referred to as “project”) funded by the CWCB will help meet the measurable objectives and critical actions in the Water Plan. Grant guidelines are available on the CWCB website.

If you have questions, please contact CWCB at (303) 866-3441 or email the following staff to assist you with applications in the following areas:

Water Storage Projects
Conservation, Land Use Planning
Engagement & Innovation Activities
Agricultural Projects
Environmental & Recreation
Projects

Matthew.Stearns@state.co.us
Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us
Ben.Wade@state.co.us
Alexander.Funk@state.co.us
Chris.Sturm@state.co.us

FINAL SUBMISSION: Submit all application materials in one email to

waterplan.grants@state.co.us

in the original file formats [Application (word); Statement of Work (word); Budget/Schedule (excel)]. Please do not combine documents. In the subject line, please include the funding category and name of the project.

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group doing business as Left Hand Watershed Center	
Name of Water Project	Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan	
CWP Grant Request Amount		\$131,542
Boulder County (Committed 2021)		\$20,000
US Forest Service (Received)		\$25,000
Boulder Community Foundation (Committed)		\$10,000
Corporations/Individuals (Committed)		\$15,000
BRIC FEMA grant (Pending) or other partner funding or other grants (Pending)		\$45,000
CWCB Watershed Restoration Grants (Received)		\$20,000
Applicant Funding Contribution		NA
Total Project Cost		\$266,542



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Applicant & Grantee Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group doing business as Left Hand Watershed Center
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 1074, Niwot, CO 80544-0210
FEIN	20-1248361
Organization Contact	Jessie Olson
Position/Title	Executive Director
Email	jolson@watershed.center
Phone	(303) 746-7937
Grant Management Contact	Same as Organization Contact above
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	Same as Organization Contact above
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	
Description of Grantee/Applicant	
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).	
<p>Since 2005, the Watershed Center has been working to protect and restore watersheds for people and the environment using a collaborative and science-based approach. We are a stakeholder driven, non-profit organization in Boulder County that uses the best available science to monitor, assess, and manage our watersheds. We plan and implement on-the-ground forest and river restoration projects. We also strive to build a strong stewardship ethic in our community through place-based and participatory learning. Though our primary focus is the St. Vrain Basin, we increase our impact by developing projects to be scalable and repeatable to other Colorado watersheds.</p>	



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	Public (Government): Municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
	Public (Districts): Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
	Private Incorporated: Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: Private parties may be eligible for funding.
X	Non-governmental organizations (NGO): Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
	Covered Entity: As defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes .

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)	
	Study
	Construction
X	Identified Projects and Processes (IPP)
	Other:

Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks)	
	Water Storage - 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>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
	Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
	Engagement & Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
	Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i>
X	Environmental & Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extending the Stakeholder Process 2. Collecting Data (Adaptive Management) 3. Partnership Coordination and Project Management



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	Other	Explain:
Location of Water Project		
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.		
County/Countries	Boulder	
Latitude	40° 12'55.8"N	
Longitude	105° 22'03.5"W	

Water Project Overview
<p>Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). Include a description of the project and what the CWP Grant funding will be used for specifically (e.g., studies, permitting process, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project, where applicable. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, and area of habitat improvements, where applicable. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain.</p> <p>The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.</p>



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The project aims to improve regional forest and river resilience in the St. Vrain Watershed by implementing recommendations from the [St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan](#), [St. Vrain and Left Hand Stream Management Plan](#), and the [Boulder County Forest Collaboration MOU](#). The St. Vrain Watershed houses critical water supply infrastructure for City of Longmont, Left Hand Water District, and agricultural users. Recent wildfires have increased the vulnerability of these water supplies to erosion, debris flows, and flooding. This highlights the need for cross-watershed pre-fire mitigation work to help reduce the risk to water supplies from future fires.

Three recommendations that will be addressed are: (1) extending stakeholder engagement, (2) collecting additional data, and (3) continuing regional coordination. As Lead Coordinating Partner, the Watershed Center will implement these recommendations collaboratively, in pursuit of the Partnership's vision of cross-jurisdictional landscape-scale forest restoration.

Collaboration is essential because the Partnership includes over 30 entities with diverse regional interests and perspectives that are committed to an inclusive and stakeholder-driven process. Fiscal and technical soundness are demonstrated by Partner match funding commitments, a cost-effective coalition-led approach, and momentum to proceed upon receipt of funds due to the urgency around forest health with recent signing of MOU.

Measurable Results	
To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable:	
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
976,800 LF across the St. Vrain and Left Hand Watersheds	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)
320,000 acres across the St. Vrain and Left Hand Watersheds	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
Appx. 100,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity



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	Other	Explain:
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Water Project Justification

Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of [Colorado's Water Plan](#), the most recent [Statewide Water Supply Initiative](#), and the applicable Roundtable [Basin Implementation Plan](#) and [Education Action Plan](#). The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers).

The proposed water project shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;)

This project supports goals within Colorado's Water Plan, Statewide Water Supply Initiative, South Platte Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan, and South Platte Roundtable Basin Education Action Plan related to watershed health, adaptive management, and public engagement. Below we summarize goals achieved in each plan.

Colorado Water Plan

Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation Goals (chapter 10, pg 12):

1. *"Recover Imperiled Species: Promote restoration, recovery, and resiliency of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic and riparian dependent species and plant communities."*
2. *"Enhance Environmental and Recreational Economic Values: Protect and enhance river-based environments and recreational opportunities that support local and statewide economies and are important for the enjoyment of current and future generations of Coloradans."*
3. *"Protect Healthy Environments: Understand, protect, maintain, and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat to promote long-term resiliency."*
4. *"Promote Protection and Restoration of Water Quality: The protection and restoration of water quality should be a key objective when planning for Colorado's current and future consumptive, recreational, and environmental water needs."*
5. *"Protect and Restore Critical Watersheds: Protect and restore watersheds critical to water infrastructure, environmental or recreational areas."*

This project is precisely aligned with all of the Water Plan Goals noted above because it completes the final stage of planning that is needed to implement on-the-ground projects to restore healthy forests and sediment catchment zones in the St. Vrain (and Left Hand) Watershed. As described in the [St. Vrain and Left Hand SMP](#), the watershed helps maintain the health, biodiversity, character, and economy of the region by providing critical water infrastructure, environment, and recreation services for Coloradans. The watershed also supports diverse water uses classified in the Water Plan Grant. These include drinking water, agriculture, recreation, aquatic life, and wetlands. Finally, the watershed provides habitat for numerous endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic and riparian species, as cataloged and prioritized in the [St. Vrain and Left Hand SMP](#). This project will help protect all of these essential values by completing planning necessary to make the St. Vrain and Left Hand Watershed more resilient to wildfires. As many Coloradans (including our local community) have recently experienced, wildfires pose significant direct threats to river health, riparian health, critical water infrastructure, and recreation at the landscape scale (Map B). We will meet the Water Plan goals associated with protecting essential environment, recreation, and watershed health values by restoring forests to keep pollution out of waterways and protect river and riparian habitats.



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Watershed Health and Management Goals (chapter 7, page 7-3 through 7-10):

Colorado's Water Plan promotes watershed health and supports the development of watershed coalitions and watershed master plans that address the needs of a diverse set of local stakeholders.

- *"...approximately 80 percent of Colorado's population relies on forested watersheds to deliver municipal water supplies..."*
- *"...sediment is the most concerning non-point source pollutant our forested lands contribute."*
- *".... Present-day forest-health concerns are largely attributed to climate change and forest-stand density..."*
- *"Successful watershed management necessitates a pragmatic approach that includes coalition-building, data collection, planning, prioritization, implementation, and monitoring."*

Action: Coordinate statewide watershed-coalition and partnership plans, projects, monitoring, and adaptive management strategies.

This project is precisely aligned with this goal and action because it focuses on completing the final planning stages for restoring the landscape-scale health of forests in the St. Vrain Basin, which Coloradans rely on for water supplies (Map C). This project addresses sediment concerns by incorporating planning of sediment catchment zones which can reduce non-point source pollution after a forest fire. This project builds forest resilience in the face of climate change by supporting reduction of stand density as a key restoration strategy. Finally, this project uses a coalition-led approach for developing an adaptive management framework collaboratively with more than 30 stakeholders that will guide data collection, project prioritization, and monitoring.

Colorado's Water Plan provides technical and financial assistance for high-quality, balanced, and grassroots water education and outreach efforts that inform Coloradans about the issues so that they may engage in determining Colorado's water future (chapter 9, page 10).

- *Outreach creates public awareness of policies and processes, whereas education promotes a deeper understanding of these topics. Both are prerequisites to public engagement.*

This project is well aligned with this goal because public engagement is a key aspect of the stakeholder process. As stated in the goal, public engagement is founded on outreach and education. This project aims to achieve broad public engagement needed to implement on-the-ground projects. The Desired Future Conditions Model will serve as essential outreach and education tool to achieve this necessary public engagement.

Additional Critical Goals and Actions (chapter 10, pg 14):

1. *"Prepare for and Respond to Natural Disasters: Colorado's Water Plan promotes water resource resilience from natural disasters through strategic preparedness and response."*
2. *"Prepare for Climate Change: Respond to, monitor, and prepare for climate change."*

This project addresses Water Plan goals related to disaster preparedness and climate change by completing strategic and collaborative planning necessary to make the St. Vrain Watershed more resilient in a warmer and drier climate that poses increased threat of wildfires and threatens critical water infrastructure, environment, and recreation values (described above, Map B). Data collection included in this project is also well aligned with this Water Plan goal because it supports monitoring necessary to better understand, respond to, and prepare for threats, impacts, and unknowns related to climate change.

Statewide Water Supply Initiative

Recommendations (Key Recommendations, pg. 8):



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1. *"Actively encourage projects to address multiple purposes, including municipal, industrial, environmental, recreational, agricultural, risk management, and compact compliance needs."*
2. *"Support meeting Colorado's non-consumptive water needs by working with Colorado's water stakeholders to help: (1) Protect or enhance environmental and recreational values that benefit local and statewide economies; (2) Protect or enhance environmental and recreational values that benefit local and statewide economies; and (2) Encourage multi-purpose projects that benefit both water users and native species."*

This project inherently meets this recommendation through the vision of the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan which is to achieve a healthy and resilient watershed that can sustain wildfire and other natural disturbances while protecting communities, keeping water supplies clean and reliable, and supporting diverse native flora and fauna for current and future generations. As stated above, this project will integrate restoration of forest health through the lens of protecting river health, riparian health, and critical water supply infrastructure from sediment, which is the most concerning non-point source pollutant from forests.

South Platte Basin Implementation Plan

1. *S.5.5 Protect and enhance environmental and recreation attributes. Recommendation: Fill existing data gaps regarding protection of environmental and recreational attributes in order to better understand the adequacy of existing and future protections. Additionally, provide sustainable and reliable funding for data recording and reporting equipment to assist with environmental and recreational projects.*
 - *"Focused attention is needed to address ... increased fire hazards and water quality degradation associated with major recent floods."*

This project meets these goals through implementation of landscape-scale adaptive management focused on forest health and planning to potential future impacts to water supply infrastructure in the face of wildfire and climate change. The adaptive management framework is a science-based approach for iterative data collection, reporting, and adjusting to provide management recommendations based on desired future conditions.

Related Studies

Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water project is complementary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

This project assists in the implementing recommendations in the [St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan](#) (Partnership Plan), the [St. Vrain and Left Hand Stream Management Plan](#) (SMP), and the [Boulder County Forest Collaboration MOU](#) (MOU). By implementing recommendations from these three plans, this project will improve regional forest resilience in the St. Vrain Watershed. Map A shows a diagram of how these plans are integrated to create this project. Recommendations from each plan are described below:

- The SMP establishes restoration of healthy forests as a key water quality management goal and forest fire risks as a key stressor or risk that may impede potential to achieve habitat conservation targets. The SMP also identifies the need for additional data collection to help disentangle factors that influence watershed health, build long-term datasets, and establish meaningful management/action thresholds. Risks from increased forest fires was noted as a priority data need. Finally, the SMP also emphasized the need for developing partnerships to improve forest health using adaptive management.
- The Partnership Plan extends SMP forest-health recommendations by outlining a detailed approach for collaborative planning and implementation of cross-jurisdictional landscape-



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scale forest health projects. The Partnership Plan cites extending the stakeholder processes and collecting additional data in an adaptive management context as two key next steps needed to build necessary groundwork for implementing successful on-the-ground forest health projects with broad community and stakeholder support.

- The MOU establishes an important commitment to collaboration on forest health efforts across Boulder County. With the signing of the MOU, the USDA Forest Service and Boulder County identified a shared vision for the future of Boulder County forest management together with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado State Forest Service, City of Longmont, City of Boulder, the communities of Nederland, Gold Hill, and Lyons, the Boulder County Firefighters Association, the Longmont Conservation District, the Boulder Valley Conservation District, and Colorado Forest Restoration Institute at Colorado State University. This project builds upon the vision in the MOU to “work with stakeholders, scientists, and the other signatories to refine the shared vision going forward and identify mutual priority actions that meet the vision and goals of the agreement.”

Additionally, this project compliments two on-going Watershed Center projects that are partially funded by CWCB grants: “Upland Stewardship” and “Adaptive Management at Scale.” This project builds upon these on-going efforts without duplicating them by extending planning and adaptive management activities completed as part of these projects. Each project is described below:

- Upland Steward supported the initial phases of the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership including early outreach, engagement, and visioning. The Partnership Plan is a key deliverable from the Upland Stewardship project. If awarded, this proposed project will build upon Upland Stewardship by implementing Partnership Plan recommendations.
- Adaptive Management at Scale aims to develop a shared adaptive management framework for monitoring and assessing watershed health at the basin-scale by integrating and incorporating other on-going efforts (to avoid duplicating or re-inventing the wheel). If awarded, this proposed project will become one of the existing efforts that Adaptive Management at Scale leverages in considering basin-scale watershed health. The main distinction between these two projects is that this proposed project has a comprehensive forest-health focus in terms of stakeholders and data. Meanwhile, Adaptive Management at Scale takes a more holistic approach by considering watershed health in the context of the entire basin and the interconnectedness between all basin ecosystems. Notably, sediment monitoring completed as part of Adaptive Management at Scale will inform this effort by improving our understanding of forest-creek connections in relation to water supplies.

Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order; 6) Percentage of other CWCB funding for your overall project.

Previous:

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Assistance Phase II - 2013, Colorado Flood Recovery

Project: Plains Reaches: N 41st Street, Haystack, N 63rd Street, N 73rd Street, and N 81st Street

CTPDAA2017-1652

CWCB awarded 12.5% of total project funding

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Assistance Phase II - 2013, Colorado Flood Recovery Project:

Foothills Reaches: Upper Left Hand/Streamcrest/Ranch

CTPDAA2017-1635

CWCB awarded 12.5% of total project funding



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Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group
PDAA5000 grant fundraising support for watershed
POGG1 PDAA 201700000843
CWCB awarded 10% of total capacity funding

Current:

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group
Project: Building a Legacy in Left Hand Creek Watershed
CWCB January 2018 Board Meeting
CTGG1 PDAA 2019*00202
CWCB awarded 30% of total project funding

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group
Project: Stewardship through Community Science
CWCB May 2018 Board Meeting
POGG1,PDAA,201900000060
CWCB awarded 25% of total project funding

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group
Project: Fish Passage and Education on Left Hand Creek
CWCB September 2018 Board Meeting
POGG1,PDAA,201900002468
State CWCB awarded 32% of total project funding and SPBRT awarded 32%

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group
Project: Science, Stewardship, and Restoration in the Left Hand Creek Watershed*
CWCB January 2019 Board Meeting
CWCB awarded 10% of total project funding
*following award this was split into (1) Adaptive Restoration and Upland Stewardship and (2) Watershed-Wide Management and Planning

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group DBA Left Hand Watershed Center
Project: Adaptive Management at Scale
CWCB January 2020 Board Meeting
CWCB awarded 47% of project funding

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group DBA Left Hand Watershed Center
Project: St. Vrain Science, Stewardship, and Education
CWCB January 2020 Board Meeting
CWCB awarded 49% of project funding

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect your application.

Left Hand Watershed Center is a non-profit organization, therefore TABOR issues will not impact our application.

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Submittal Checklist	
X	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract .
Exhibit A	
X	Statement of Work ⁽¹⁾
X	Budget & Schedule ⁽¹⁾
	Engineer's statement of probable cost (projects over \$100,000)
X	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit C	
X	Map (if applicable) ⁽¹⁾
X	Photos/Drawings/Reports
X	Letters of Support (Optional)
	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) ⁽²⁾
	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State ⁽²⁾
	W-9 ⁽²⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽²⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
Engagement & Innovation Grant Applicants ONLY	
	Engagement & Innovation Supplemental Application ⁽¹⁾

(1) Required with application.

(2) Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.

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ENGAGEMENT & INNOVATION GRANT FUND SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION

Introduction & Purpose

Colorado's Water Plan calls for an outreach, education, public engagement, and innovation grant fund in Chapter 9.5.

The overall goal of the Engagement & Innovation Grant Fund is to enhance Colorado's water communication, outreach, education, and public engagement efforts; advance Colorado's water supply planning process; and support a statewide water innovation ecosystem.

The grant fund aims to engage the public to promote well-informed community discourse regarding balanced water solutions statewide. The grant fund aims to support water innovation in Colorado. The grant fund prioritizes measuring and evaluating the success of programs, projects, and initiatives. The grant fund prioritizes efforts designed using research, data, and best practices. The grant fund prioritizes a commitment to collaboration and community engagement. The grant fund will support local and statewide efforts.

The grant fund is divided into two tracks: engagement and innovation. The Engagement Track supports education, outreach, communication, and public participation efforts related to water. The Innovation Track supports efforts that advance the water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.

Application Questions

*The grant fund request is referred to as "project" in this application.

Overview (answer for both tracks)
In a few sentences, what is the overall goal of this project? How does it achieve the stated purpose of this grant fund (above)?
Who is/are the target audience(s)? How will you reach them? How will you involve the community?
Describe how the project is collaborative or engages a diverse group of stakeholders. Who are the partners in the project? Do you have other funding partners or sources?



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Overview (answer for both tracks)
Describe how you plan to measure and evaluate the success and impact of the project?
What research, evidence, and data support your project?
Describe potential short- and long-term challenges with this project.

Please fill out the applicable questions for either the Engagement Track or Innovation Track, unless your project contains elements in both tracks. If a question does not relate to your project, just leave it blank. Please answer each question that relates to your project. Please reference the relevant documents and use chapters and page numbers (Colorado's Water Plan, Basin Implementation Plan, PEPO Education Action Plan, etc.).

Engagement Track
Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement measurable objective set forth in Colorado's Water Plan to "significantly improve the level of public awareness and engagement regarding water issues statewide by 2020, as determined by water awareness surveys."
Describe how the project achieves the other measurable objectives and critical goals and actions laid out in Colorado's Water Plan around the supply and demand gap; conservation; land use; agriculture; storage; watershed health, environment, and recreation; funding; and additional.
Describe how the project achieves the education, outreach, and public engagement goals set forth in the applicable Basin Implementation Plan(s).

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Describe how the project achieves the basin roundtable's PEPO Education Action Plans.

Innovation Track
Describe how the project enhances water innovation efforts and supports a water innovation ecosystem in Colorado.
Describe how the project engages/leverages Colorado's innovation community to help solve our state's water challenges.
Describe how the project helps advance or develop a solution to a water need identified through TAP-IN and other water innovation challenges. What is the problem/need/challenge?
Describe how this project impacts current or emerging trends; technologies; clusters, sectors, or groups in water innovation.



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Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

Statement Of Work	
Date:	12/1/2020
Name of Grantee:	Left Hand Watershed Oversight Group doing business as Left Hand Watershed Center
Name of Water Project:	Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan
Funding Source:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boulder County (committed 2021)• US Forest Service (received)• Boulder Community Foundation (committed)• Corporations/Individuals (received or pledged)• BRIC FEMA grant (pending) or other partner funding or other grants (pending)• CWCB Watershed Restoration Grants (received)
Water Project Overview:	
<p>The project aims to improve regional forest and river resilience in the St. Vrain Watershed by implementing recommendations from the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan, St. Vrain and Left Hand Stream Management Plan, and the Boulder County Forest Collaboration MOU. The St. Vrain Watershed houses critical water supply infrastructure for City of Longmont (Map C), Left Hand Water District (Map C), and agricultural users. Recent wildfires have increased the vulnerability of these water supplies to erosion, debris flows, and flooding. This highlights the need for cross-watershed pre-fire mitigation work to help reduce the risk (Map B) to water supplies from future fires.</p> <p>Three recommendations that will be addressed are: (1) extending stakeholder engagement, (2) collecting additional data, and (3) continuing regional coordination. As Lead Coordinating Partner, the Watershed Center will implement these recommendations collaboratively, in pursuit of the Partnership's vision of cross-jurisdictional landscape-scale forest restoration.</p> <p>Collaboration is essential because the Partnership includes over 30 entities with diverse regional interests and perspectives that are committed to an inclusive and stakeholder-driven process. Fiscal and technical soundness are demonstrated by Partner match funding commitments, a cost-effective coalition-led approach, and momentum to proceed upon receipt of funds due to the urgency around forest health with recent signing of MOU.</p>	
Project Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a desired conditions model for landscape-scale forest health that incorporates critical sediment catchments zones to protect water supplies in the St. Vrain Basin.• Convene at least fifteen individual and neighborhood meetings to engage new landholding entities or individuals in landscape-scale forest health projects.• Develop and implement an adaptive management framework for monitoring at least four key forest health and water quality indicators.• Make management and project recommendations based on data collected using adaptive management framework.• Maintain a robust St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership that meets monthly and makes progress towards its mission and vision.	



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Tasks
Task 1 - Extending the Stakeholder Process
Description of Task: <p>Work on this task includes implementing Partnership Plan and SMP recommendations for extending the stakeholder engagement process to achieve the broad consensus needed for cross-jurisdictional landscape-scale pre-fire mitigation needed to reduce threats to water supplies from future fires. Mitigation strategies under consideration include both reducing forest density and incorporating sediment catchment zones. Both plans cite stakeholder and community outreach and education as key recommendations and the Partnership Plan lays out an approach for achieving these recommendations. This approach, which will be implemented as part of this task, includes four immediate steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop Desired Conditions Model: As a foundation to extending outreach, Partners will work together to define desired future conditions for forest resilience needed to protect water supplies in the St. Vrain Basin. Site visits to representative areas, historical data, and remote sensing tools will help inform shared understanding among Partners about desired future conditions. In turn, community and stakeholder workshops will help Partners work together to achieve consensus about desired future conditions. The model and supporting information will consider different forest types that represent a range of forest health conditions across the landscape (e.g. lower/upper montane, developed/undeveloped).• Select Priority Areas: In considering and selecting representative areas for the Desired Conditions Model, Partners will also begin defining priority restoration areas within the range of representative conditions by developing prioritization criteria and maps. This information will help inform plans for future restoration projects and adaptive management strategies that are part of Task 2.• Develop Outreach Strategy: Partners will develop an outreach strategy for building community trust and credibility needed to eventually implement on-the-ground restoration projects. The Desired Conditions Model will serve as a key tool for communication, education, and engagement, ensuring that the Partners share a cohesive outreach approach and dialog. The target audience, which will likely include landowners and community members in St. Vrain and Left Hand Watersheds will be refined as part of this process.• Implement Outreach Strategy: Partners will implement the Outreach Strategy through neighborhood and individual meetings, workshops, and field trips. Meetings will focus on education, obtaining buy-in, answering questions, and building trust towards agreement about a shared vision for forest health and the path to achieve the shared vision.
Method/Procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consulting with Partners, Watershed Center will hire facilitator/community planner, graphic designer, web designers, planner/GIS consultant, and/or forester as needed to support work on this task.• Watershed Center will plan and lead two to four virtual prep meetings and workshops to develop desired conditions model. Partners will support this process based on their respective roles outlined in the Partnership Plan.• Watershed Center will plan and lead two to six site visits to representative areas. Partners will provide guidance about specific areas and allow access to respective properties.• Watershed Center will lead Partners in using information from workshops and site visits to develop desired conditions statements and model sketches.• Watershed Center will work with Partners to hire graphic designer or planner/GIS consultant as needed to develop visually compelling desired conditions model.• Watershed Center will guide coordination among Partners to use information from workshops and site visits to begin prioritizing restoration areas and informing future plans.



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Tasks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With help from Partners, Watershed Center will lead development of a draft and final outreach strategy associated with the desired conditions model, leveraging expertise from hired community planner and forester as needed.• With help from Partners, Watershed Center will conduct 10-30 neighborhood meetings, individual meetings, workshops, and field trips based on the outreach strategy	
Deliverable:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Desired Conditions Model• Outreach Strategy• Record of Meetings Conveyed	



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Tasks
Task 2 - Collecting Data (Adaptive Management)
Description of Task: <p>Work on this task involves collecting forest health and water quality data in an adaptive management context based on recommendations in the Partnership Plan and SMP. Both plans cite that forest restoration projects should be completed within an adaptive management process that improves our understanding forest-creek connections, and that additional data collection is needed to build long-term data sets and meaningful action thresholds. The Partnership Plan further defines how the Desired Future Conditions Models should tie to on-the-ground implementation through a data-informed adaptive management process. This adaptive management process, which will be implemented as part of this task, includes three immediate steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop Framework: As recommended in the Partnership Plan, an adaptive management framework will be developed based on desired future conditions. Framework development may leverage the Watershed Center’s existing adaptive management process and extensive resources from the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute. The Framework will be used to prioritize data collection efforts and assess progress towards desired future conditions, considering both forest health and sediment catchment zones. Notably, sediment monitoring completed as part of the Watershed Center’s existing adaptive management framework will inform this effort, helping strengthen our understanding of forest-creek connections. Direction and oversight will be provided by a science and data focused Partnership subcommittee including representatives from Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, Colorado State University, City of Boulder, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and others.• Collect Data: Forest health data (e.g. tree species, crown conditions, mortality, understory vegetation, down woody debris, soil attributes, etc.), including data related to water quality and sediment, will be collected per the framework. Data collection will be completed by Watershed Center Staff and Partners, with additional help from hired consultants as needed. Data collection efforts are expected to focus on field data, but remote sensing may be incorporated as needed and appropriate. Work may also involve incorporating education to leverage the Cal-Wood and Balarat Education Centers which were recently impacted by wildfires.• Report Results and Management Recommendations: Work includes processing, analyzing, and reporting all data in a report format. Management and project recommendations will be developed based on desired future conditions and the adaptive management framework. Report development will involve two to three drafts for partner review and approval.
Method/Procedure:



Last Updated: June 2020

Tasks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consulting with Partners, Watershed Center will hire a forester as needed to support work on this task.Watershed Center will lead partners in developing a science and data focused subcommittee to support work on this task.Watershed Center will work with Science and Data Subcommittee (Subcommittee) to develop an actionable adaptive management framework that includes forest health indicators and performance thresholds. Framework development will include three to eight Subcommittee meetings and two to five drafts.Watershed Center and Subcommittee will present draft and final framework to Partnership for feedback and commentsWatershed Center will lead data collection efforts based on framework with help from Subcommittee, Partners, and hired forester as needed.Watershed Center will lead data analysis and reporting with help from Subcommittee and hired forester as needed.Watershed Center and Subcommittee will present results to Partners in a Final Report, with two to three opportunities to review and approve drafts.	
Deliverable:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Final report detailing adaptive management framework, data, results, and management or project recommendations	



Last Updated: June 2020

Tasks
Task 3 - Partnership Coordination and Project Management
Description of Task: Work on this task aims to ensure that the Partnership remains robust and active in working towards implementing on-the-ground forest restoration projects with broad community support. This involves a combination of coordination and management. Management work includes tracking project progress, deliverables, reports, budget, and scope compliance. Coordination includes convening meetings, forming subcommittees, evaluating progress, managing communication, refining governance, long-term planning, and fundraising. Work also includes some early coordination related to Lefthand-Calwood Fire recovery efforts. Post-fire mitigation efforts are underway and will be addressed primarily through other projects. However, given the Partnership's existing momentum, some post-fire mitigation coordination will be completed as part of this project.
Method/Procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watershed Center will track and implement all project tasks by coordinating with Partners and staff.• Watershed Center will convene regular group and individual meetings and check-ins with Partners.• Watershed Center will form and convene subcommittees.• Watershed Center will evaluate and update the Partnership Plan.• Watershed Center will support communications and resource-sharing among partners.• Watershed Center will review and refine Partnership governance and structure as needed.• Watershed Center will review and refine Partnership's funding strategy/plan.• Watershed Center will identify and develop one to three grant applications.• Watershed Center complete final project report.
Deliverable: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reimbursement requests demonstrating time spent on project management• and planning.• Six-month status reports detailing progress and accomplishments.• Final report

Last Updated: June 2020

Budget and Schedule

This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined Budget and Schedule that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in excel format.

Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Report: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

The CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

Payment

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and must include invoices for all work completed. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by task, an estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire Project in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues, and proposed or implemented corrective actions.

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this contract are not reimbursable. The last 10% of the entire grant will be paid out when the final deliverable has been received. All products, data and information developed as a result of this contract must be provided to CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation.

Performance Measures

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

(a) Performance standards and evaluation: Grantee will produce detailed deliverables for each task as specified. Grantee shall maintain receipts for all project expenses and documentation of the minimum in-kind contributions (if applicable) per the budget in Exhibit B. Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines full documentation of project progress must be submitted with each invoice for reimbursement. Grantee must confirm that all grant conditions have been complied with on each invoice. In addition, per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be

Last Updated: June 2020

Performance Measures

submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

(c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each Progress Report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary.

(d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the Grant Agreement.



Water Plan Grant - Exhibit B Budget and Schedule

Name of Applicant: Left Hand Watershed Center

Project Start Date: 4/1/2021

Project End Date: 1/30/2024

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	Extend Stakeholder Process	4/1/2021	1/30/2024	39060	65000	\$104,060
2	Collecting Data	4/1/2021	1/30/2024	\$63,330	\$50,000	\$113,330
3	Project Management and Planning	4/1/2021	1/30/2024	\$29,152	\$20,000	\$49,152
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
Total				\$131,542	\$135,000	\$266,542

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Plan Grant - Exhibit C
Letters of Support
Prepared Date: 12/2/2020
Name of Applicant: Left Hand Watershed Center
Name of Water Project: Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan



November 24, 2020

Christopher Sturm
chris.sturm@state.co.us
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Left Hand Watershed Center CWCBC Water Plan grant application for Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan

Dear Mr. Sturm:

On behalf of the Left Hand Water District, I am writing in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC) Colorado Water Plan Grant application being submitted by Left Hand Watershed Center, entitled "**Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan.**" Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to achieve a healthy and resilient watershed. This work is especially important to the tens of thousands of people who rely on the St. Vrain River and Left Hand Creek as a drinking water supply.

Funding this project will expand on the Watershed Center's success in creating partnerships throughout the St. Vrain Basin. The proposed project will implement recommendations outlined in the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan. As Lead Coordinating Entity of the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership, the Watershed Center will utilize funding to lead the Partnership in extending the stakeholder and community engagement process, collecting forest health data in an adaptive management context, and continuing critical forest health coordination at a regional scale. The Watershed Center has a proven record of accomplishment, implementing successful science-based collaborative projects in both Left Hand and St. Vrain Creeks; all of which align with the goals of the CWCBC. As stakeholders who rely heavily on the combined efforts of our community to ensure a high quality supply of drinking water, the Left Hand Water District sees the funding of this project as a success for all of us.

Thank you for the great work that CWCBC has already done in protecting our water sources and we look forward to seeing this important project successfully funded.

Sincerely,

Left Hand Water District
Christopher Smith, PE
General Manager



ST. VRAIN AND LEFT HAND WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

9595 Nelson Road, Suite 203 • Longmont, CO 80501 • 303-772-4060 • www.svlhwcd.org

November 30, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Left Hand Watershed Center CWCB Water Plan grant application for Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan

Dear Chris Sturm,

I am pleased to write in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Colorado Water Plan Grant application being submitted by Left Hand Watershed Center, entitled "**Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan.**" Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to achieve a healthy and resilient watershed that can sustain wildfire and other natural disturbances while protecting communities, keeping water supplies clean and reliable, and supporting diverse native flora and fauna for current and future generations.

As part of the Partnership's highly collaborative approach, the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District has been working with Left Hand Watershed Center over the past year to help develop the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan. We are committed to supporting the necessary next steps recommended in the plan and to continue participating as an active member of the partnership in years to come.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project and look forward to working with the Watershed Center and the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership to restore the health of our forests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean T. Cronin".

Sean T. Cronin
Executive Director



CITY OF LONGMONT | Public Works & Natural Resources Engineering Services

November 23, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Left Hand Watershed Center CWCB Water Plan grant application for Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan

Dear Mr. Sturm,

The City of Longmont supports the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Colorado Water Plan Grant application being submitted by Left Hand Watershed Center, entitled “**Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan.**” Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to achieve a healthy and resilient watershed that can sustain wildfire and other natural disturbances while protecting communities, keeping water supplies clean and reliable, and supporting diverse native flora and fauna for current and future generations.

The proposed project will implement recommendations outlined in the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan. As Lead Coordinating Entity of the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership, the Watershed Center will utilize funding to lead the Partnership in extending the stakeholder and community engagement process, collecting forest health data in an adaptive management context, and continuing critical forest health coordination at a regional scale. From development of a desired conditions model based on a shared vision to prioritization of projects rooted in adaptive management, our Partnership is committed to an inclusive and stakeholder-driven process that addresses fire mitigation and water quality needs.

As part of the Partnership’s highly collaborative approach, the City of Longmont has been working with Left Hand Watershed Center over the past year to help develop the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan. We are committed to supporting the necessary next steps recommended in the plan and to continue participating as an active member of the partnership in years to come.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project, and look forward to working with the Watershed Center and the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership to restore the health of our forests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James E. Angstadt".

James E. Angstadt
Director of Engineering Services
Public Works and Natural Resources
City of Longmont



Boulder Field Office
5625 Ute Highway
Longmont, CO 80503
303-823-5774

November 24, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Left Hand Watershed Center CWCB Water Plan grant application for Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan

Dear Chris Sturm,

We are pleased to write in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Colorado Water Plan Grant application being submitted by Left Hand Watershed Center, entitled **"Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan."** Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to achieve a healthy and resilient watershed that can sustain wildfire and other natural disturbances while protecting communities, keeping water supplies clean and reliable, and supporting diverse native flora and fauna for current and future generations.

The proposed project will implement recommendations outlined in the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan. As Lead Coordinating Entity of the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership, the Watershed Center will utilize funding to lead the Partnership in extending the stakeholder and community engagement process, collecting forest health data in an adaptive management context, and continuing critical forest health coordination at a regional scale. From development of a desired conditions model based on a shared vision to prioritization of projects rooted in adaptive management, our Partnership is committed to an inclusive and stakeholder-driven process that addresses fire mitigation and water quality needs. It is important to note, this watershed has been identified as a high priority watershed in both the composite score and three primary themes in the recently released Colorado Forest Action Plan.

As part of the Partnership's highly collaborative approach, the Colorado State Forest Service has been working with Left Hand Watershed Center over the past year to help develop the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan. We are committed to supporting the necessary next steps recommended in the plan and to continue participating as an active member of the partnership in years to come.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project, and look forward to working with the Watershed Center and the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership to restore the health of our forests.

Sincerely,

Ben Pfohl, Supervisory Forester

30 November 2020
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Left Hand Watershed Center CWCB Water Plan grant application for Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan

Dear Chris Sturm,

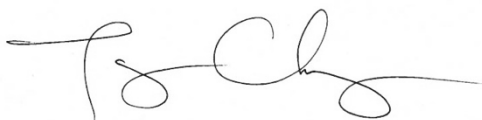
I am submitting this letter of support for the Left Hand Watershed Center's application entitled "**Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan**" for a CWCB Colorado Water Plan grant administered. This project is essential to creating the conditions in which the St. Vrain watershed can absorb and recover from forest fires and other natural disturbances while protecting communities, keeping water supplies clean and reliable, and supporting diverse native flora and fauna for current and future generations. The catastrophic 2020 wildfire season has driven home the need for projects such as this one.

The proposed project will implement recommendations outlined in the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan. If selected, the Left Hand Watershed Center, as the project coordinator, will lead the Partnership to extend the stakeholder and community engagement process, collect forest health data in an adaptive management context, and continue forest health treatment implementation at a regional scale. From development of a desired conditions model based on a shared vision to implementing priority projects rooted in adaptive management, the Partnership is committed to an inclusive and stakeholder-driven process that addresses fire mitigation and water quality needs.

As part of the Partnership's highly collaborative approach, the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) has been working with Left Hand Watershed Center over the past year to help develop the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan. CFRI is especially committed to supporting the development of desired conditions, providing spatial-analytical decision support for project prioritization, assisting in the formulation and implementation of the forest treatment monitoring strategy, and interpreting monitoring results to inform the adaptive management process. CFRI has committed to providing \$15,000 in in-kind contribution for 2020-21 to these activities.

I urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project, and look forward to working with the Watershed Center and the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership to restore the health of our forests.

Sincerely,



Director, Colorado Forest Restoration Institute

cc: Jessie Olsen



Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

November 25, 2020

RE: Letter of Support for the Left Hand Watershed Center CWCB Water Plan grant application for Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan

Dear Chris Sturm,

The Town of Lyons is pleased to write in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Colorado Water Plan Grant application being submitted by Left Hand Watershed Center, entitled **"Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan."** Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to achieve a healthy and resilient watershed that can sustain wildfire and other natural disturbances while protecting communities, keeping water supplies clean and reliable, and supporting diverse native flora and fauna for current and future generations. As you know, the Town of Lyons is interconnected with the St. Vrain watershed for its open space values and ecological functions, along with the associated risks.

The proposed project will implement recommendations outlined in the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan. As Lead Coordinating Entity of the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership, the Watershed Center will utilize funding to lead the Partnership in extending the stakeholder and community engagement process, collecting forest health data in an adaptive management context, and continuing critical forest health coordination at a regional scale. From development of a desired conditions model based on a shared vision to prioritization of projects rooted in adaptive management, our Partnership is committed to an inclusive and stakeholder-driven process that addresses fire mitigation and water quality needs.

As part of the Partnership's highly collaborative approach, the Town of Lyons has been working with Left Hand Watershed Center over the past year to help develop the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan. We are committed to supporting the necessary next steps recommended in the plan and to continue participating as an active member of the partnership in years to come.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project and look forward to working with the Watershed Center and the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership to restore the health of our forests.

Sincerely,

Victoria Simonsen
Town Administrator

David Batts
Lyons Ecology Advisory Board



Lyons Fire Protection District

November 23, 2020

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Letter of Support for the Left Hand Watershed Center CWCB Water Plan grant application for Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan

Dear Chris Sturm;

As Interim Chief of the Lyons Fire Protection District I am pleased to write in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Colorado Water Plan Grant application being submitted by Left Hand Watershed Center, entitled “**Expanding and Implementing the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan.**” Completion of this project is vital to our community as we work to achieve a healthy and resilient watershed that can sustain wildfire and other natural disturbances while protecting communities, keeping water supplies clean and reliable, and supporting diverse native flora and fauna for current and future generations.

The proposed project will implement recommendations outlined in the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan. As Lead Coordinating Entity of the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership, the Watershed Center will utilize funding to lead the Partnership in extending the stakeholder and community engagement process, collecting forest health data in an adaptive management context, and continuing critical forest health coordination at a regional scale. From development of a desired conditions model based on a shared vision to prioritization of projects rooted in adaptive management, our Partnership is committed to an inclusive and stakeholder-driven process that addresses fire mitigation and water quality needs.

As part of the Partnership’s highly collaborative approach, Lyons Fire has been working with Left Hand Watershed Center over the past year to help develop the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership Plan. We are committed to supporting the necessary next steps recommended in the plan and to continue participating as an active member of the partnership in years to come. We are especially interested in helping ensure the Partnership addresses fire breaks and suitable access points/roads into the forest community.

We urge you to put a high priority on this proposed project and look forward to working with the Watershed Center and the St. Vrain Forest Health Partnership to restore the health of our forests.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Pischke
Interim Fire Chief – Lyons Fire

P.O. Box 695 Lyons, CO 80540 • Phone: 303-823-6611 • Fax: 303-824-5568

