

Colorado's Water Plan Grants

Environmental & Recreation Projects

The CWP states “environment and recreation are too critical to Colorado’s brand not to have robust objectives; a strong Colorado environment is critical to the economy and way of life.” We must address a variety of concerns, including pre- and post-fire mitigation, forest mortality, water quality impairments, potential impacts of legacy mines, flood mitigation and recovery, aquatic and riparian habitat enhancement, and land use change.

Potential Project Types:

- Recreational in-channel diversions and other projects that provide or improve boating opportunities
- Removal of invasive phreatophytes
- Projects that support water-related recreational activities, such as boating, fishing, waterfowl hunting, and wildlife watching
- Projects that promote restoration, recovery, and sustainability of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic and riparian-dependent species and plant communities
- Stream restoration and riparian habitat improvement projects
- Assistance to BRTs in using SWSI Update information and tools to identify and prioritize locally important streams and critical watersheds
- Implementation of recommendations developed in stream management plans or watershed plans
- Extended stakeholder process to facilitate implementation of stream management plan recommendations or watershed plan recommendations
 - Structural solutions (e.g., diversion structure with fish passage)
 - Flow-related projects (e.g., split-season use of water - irrigation and instream flow use)
 - Additional data collection if found necessary in stream management plan or watershed plan
 - Watershed health regional efforts
 - Flood mitigation projects
 - Fire prevention and mitigation projects

Criteria and considerations:

- Does the project/applicant demonstrate a commitment to collaboration? Does the project/applicant: address more than one type of need; involve multiple participants where appropriate; consult with a broad set of local stakeholders and local governments; provide meaningful opportunities for input?
- Does the project/applicant establish the fiscal and technical feasibility of the project? Does the project/applicant demonstrate: overall cost-effectiveness; local investment or contribution; an intent to leverage other funding; or readiness to proceed upon receipt of necessary funding and permits (i.e. completed preliminary planning and design work, obtained necessary permits, secured necessary financial commitments)?

Matching recommendation:

Applicant is encouraged to provide a minimum of 50% non-CWCB matching funds (a CWCB loan can be used for applicant’s matching funds). Grant requests for greater than 50% of project costs will receive lower preference during review.