



COLORADO

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

# Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Grant Program Guidance

## Overview of Program

The Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant Program provides grants for watershed/stream restoration and flood mitigation projects throughout the state. Four categories of grants will be available under the Program. The Board will select the projects to fund from applications that best meet the basic application and evaluation criteria. Applications that integrate multiple objectives in restoration, flood mitigation, and stream management are highly encouraged. Applications and guidance documents can be found at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/colorado-watershed-restoration-grants/Pages/main.aspx>.

## Grant Categories

### Watershed/Stream Restoration Grants

Projects and plans designed to protect or restore watershed health and stream function will be considered in this category. This may include projects and plans designed to stabilize perennial, ephemeral, & intermittent stream channels, provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species, re-vegetate riparian areas, reduce erosion in upland and riverine environments, improve recreational opportunities, provide fish passage, and improve channel/floodplain connectivity.

### Flood Mitigation Grants

Flood Mitigation Grants include many of the same elements as Restoration Grants. In addition, they include elements that protect life and property. Applications for planning or project implementation should consider the watershed's hydrologic function and flow regime in its approach to flood mitigation. This includes channel design that contemplates low flow channels, average high water (bankfull) channels, flood prone benches, transitional zones, and 100 year or greater recurrence interval floodplains.

### Stream Management Plan Grants

Well-developed Stream Management Plans should be grounded in the complex interplay of biology, hydrology, channel morphology, and alternative water use and management strategies. They should also consider the flow and other structural or management conditions needed to support both recreational uses and ecosystem function.

### CWCB Monitoring Projects

CWCB may reserve 10% of the annually authorized Program funding for monitoring and evaluation of existing projects.

## Applicant Qualifications

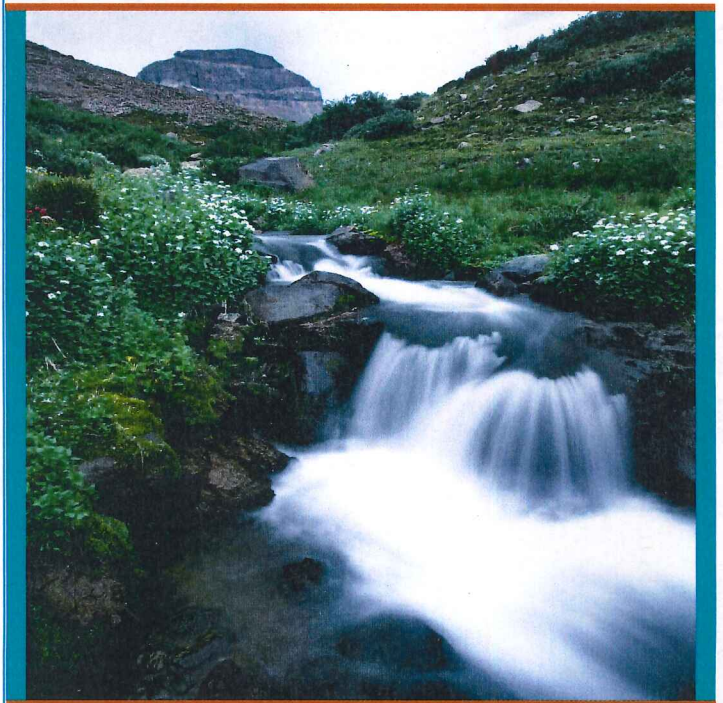
### Eligible Entities

Established non-profit organizations, watershed coalitions, State of Colorado departments and agencies, local governments, conservation and water conservancy districts, and Colorado's two Ute Tribes are eligible. Federal agencies and private landowners are not eligible to receive grant funds; however, projects may be conducted on private, state, or federal lands with appropriate permissions and under the sponsorship of an eligible entity.

## Basic Applicant Requirements

Grant applicants must demonstrate:

- ✓ a commitment to collaborative approaches, involving locally and/or regionally based diverse interests within the watershed in question, with participation open to all interested persons in the watershed. Basin roundtable support is encouraged but not required;
- ✓ a commitment to restoring or protecting ecological processes that connect land and water while protecting life and property from flood hazards;
- ✓ that the purpose of the application is to implement or plan for a project intended to (1) restore and/or protect the water, lands and other natural resources within the watershed, (2) mitigate flood hazards, and/or (3) integrate a multiple objective approach;
- ✓ a broad based involvement in or support for the grant application, including relevant local, state, or federal governmental entities; and
- ✓ an ability to provide the appropriate in-kind and cash match for the activities proposed.





## Application Evaluation Criteria

### Qualifications Evaluation (Maximum of 20 points)

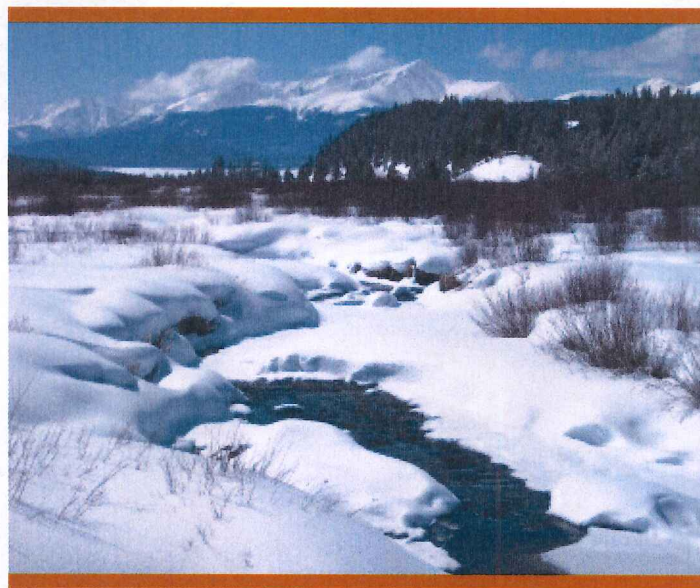
- ✓ Identify the lead project sponsor and describe the other stakeholders' level of participation and involvement. (10 points)
- ✓ Specify in-kind services and cash contributions (match) amount for the proposed activities. See section B.2 of the grant program guidance to determine match funding requirements. Discuss whether other funding sources are secured or pending. (10 points)

### Organizational Capability (Maximum of 30 points)

- ✓ What is the applicant organization's history of accomplishments in the watershed? Provide several past project or planning examples. List partner organizations and agencies with whom applicant worked to implement past projects or planning efforts. (10 points)
- ✓ What level of staffing will be directed toward the implementation of the proposed project/planning effort? Discuss the number of staff and amount of time dedicated for the project. Will volunteers be utilized, and if so, how? Include brief resumes for each member of the active project team. (10 points)
- ✓ Demonstrate that the project budget and schedule are realistic. Please use the budget/timeline spreadsheet attached to the application. Please note that the start date will take place after funding awards are announced and grants are contracted. (10 points)

### Proposal Effectiveness (50 points)

- ✓ What information is the project sponsor using to develop the proposed plan or project? Include any relevant information regarding existing watershed plans, stream management plans, geomorphic assessments, flood studies, fire protection plans, riparian conditions assessments, aquatic/terrestrial habitat conditions, wildlife studies, and/or river restoration reports. (10 points)
- ✓ Discuss the multiple objective aspects of the project and how they relate to each other. Describe similar activities in the watershed and how this project or plan complements but does not duplicate those activities. Multiple objectives may include (but are not limited to) channel stabilization, riparian re-vegetation, habitat improvement, recreation opportunity enhancement, natural hazard reduction, flood mitigation, water supply delivery improvement, fish migration improvement, ephemeral/intermittent channel stabilization, and upland erosion mitigation. (30 points)
- ✓ Describe the proposed monitoring or implementation plan. How will the project or plan measure success of its objectives? (10 points)



## Application Timeline

<b>July</b>	<b>Applications Available</b>
<b>October - November</b>	<b>Deadline to submit applications</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>Applications reviewed and approved</b>
<b>One year from date of contract</b>	<b>Annual progress report due</b>

Please check the guidance document for specific dates:  
<http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/colorado-watershed-restoration-grants/Pages/main.aspx>

### For more information, please contact:

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## Colorado Water Conservation Board

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is the state executive branch agency responsible for state water policy and planning. The Board's mission is to conserve, develop, protect, and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations.