BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Cooperative Watershed Management Program Project Descriptions, Phase 1

Alaska

Cook Inletkeeper, Community-Based Watershed Planning

Reclamation Funding: $83,558 **Total Project Cost: $83,558**

The Cook Inletkeeper will collaboratively develop a new State of the Inlet watershed restoration plan in the Cook Inlet Watershed in southern Alaska. The group will engage communities, local recreation and tourist businesses, and state and Federal agencies, including the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. The watershed is generally in good health, but recent droughts have led to large forest fires, drinking water shortages, and increased temperatures in cold-water fisheries. The watershed also faces water quality concerns related to septic tank and industrial contamination. The group will research existing and emerging threats to water resources on the Kenai Peninsula, survey stakeholders to understand community-specific concerns about threats, facilitate community conversations to generate project ideas for addressing threats, and produce a new State of the Inlet watershed restoration plan.

California

Bard Water District, Watershed Group Development and Watershed Restoration Planning

Reclamation Funding: $99,999 **Total Project Cost: $99,999**

The Bard Water District will establish a watershed group within the Bureau of Reclamation's Yuma Project boundary, in southeastern California and southwestern Arizona, and draft a watershed restoration plan. The District will engage farmers and irrigators, tourist and recreation groups, industry, environmental organizations such as the Audubon Society, local and state government, Federal agencies including Reclamation's Yuma Area Office, a military installation, and the Quechan Indian Tribe. The primary issues the area faces include water quantity limitations exacerbated by drought, water quality concerns, endangered and threatened species, and invasive plant species. The District will facilitate development of a watershed group by preparing an outreach plan, conducting outreach and developing a mission statement and goals for the watershed group. The District will also facilitate the identification and prioritization of projects within the watershed and prepare a draft watershed restoration management plan.

Western Riverside Council of Governments, Formation of a Santa Margarita Watershed Council: Supporting Grassroots Cooperation to Protect and Restore the Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $112,000**

The Western Riverside Council of Governments will establish a new watershed group for the Santa Margarita River Watershed. The Santa Margarita Watershed lies within a fast-developing region of southwest Riverside County and northern San Diego County, and faces threats to water supply, water quality, and ecosystem function from historic and ongoing agricultural activity and recent urban development. The river also provides habitat for seven federally or state-listed endangered species. The Council of Governments will engage diverse stakeholders across the watershed, including municipalities, tribes, agricultural interests, utilities, businesses, homeowners, and environmental agencies to participate in watershed restoration. The watershed group will develop a collaborative stakeholder group, a centralized database to identify areas of need, and identify potential restoration projects.

Colorado

Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, Building Continued Capacity and Long-Term Benefit for the Big Thompson Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $62,762 **Total Project Cost: $62,762**

The Big Thompson Watershed Coalition will expand stakeholder participation, conduct restoration planning, and identify potential watershed management projects for the Big Thompson Watershed in northern Colorado. The Coalition formed in 2013 in response to severe flooding has since expanded to address watershed health and resilience. The watershed is at risk of large-scale, high-intensity forest fires, competing demands for water, and fish passage barriers contribute to habitat degradation. The Coalition includes representatives from a diverse set of entities including The Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Flycasters – Trout Unlimited Chapter, City of Loveland, Big Thompson Watershed Forum, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Larimer County Office of Emergency Management, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, and local landowners. The Coalition will expand stakeholder participation throughout the watershed; compile forest health and related watershed data; identify data gaps and potential projects; and obtain stakeholder input on potential actions and projects.

Bostwick Park Water Conservancy District, Cimarron Watershed Planning Program

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $102,920**

The Bostwick Park Water Conservancy District, partnering with the Cimarron Canal and Reservoir Company, will sponsor the formation of a watershed group in the Cimarron Watershed in western Colorado. The watershed has mixed landownership, including private range and crop lands interspersed with land managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service. The Silver Jack Reservoir, part of the Reclamation's Bostwick Park Project maintained by the District, is a main feature of the watershed. The group will engage all land management agencies, property owners, state agencies, local municipal, county governments, environmental organizations, and other water rights holders. The group will also engage domestic and agricultural water users who divert water for use outside the watershed and hold senior water rights. The District and Company will conduct stakeholder outreach and develop a watershed

restoration plan to characterize watershed conditions and prioritize management measures to stretch water supplies and improve water quality and riparian habitat.

Chama Peak Land Alliance, Enhancing the Capacity of the San Juan - Chama Watershed Partnership

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Chama Peak Land Alliance will further develop the San Juan-Chama Watershed Partnership. The Partnership is a community-based group of diverse public and private stakeholders in the Rio Chama Watershed in southwestern Colorado and a portion of the San Juan watershed in northern New Mexico. The watershed has several challenges including water supply, water quality, forest health and wildfire risk, and competing water demands. The Partnership will strategically expand membership and outreach activities, engaging with adjacent partners and initiatives, and incorporate as a legal entity.

Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group, St. Vrain Basin Watershed Restoration Plan

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $220,000**

The Lefthand Watershed Oversight Group, in northern Colorado, will expand the geographic scope of the Group to include the St. Vrain Creek Watershed and the Boulder Creek Watershed. The Group, which has worked in the Lefthand Creek Watershed since 2005, voted to expand in 2019. The Group will reach out to local, state, Federal governmental entities, environmental groups, including Trout Unlimited, Northern Water, and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Several issues pose challenges in the watershed, including water quality concerns, forest health and wildfire risk, and flood risk. The Group will conduct stakeholder outreach in this new watershed area, develop a Watershed Health and Restoration Plan for the St. Vrain Creek and Boulder Creek Watersheds, and identify priority projects and complete concept designs for two to four key projects.

San Isabel Land Protection Trust, Collaborative Watershed Planning for Colorado's Wet Mountain Valley Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $99,923 **Total Project Cost: $133,003**

The San Isabel Land Protection Trust will sponsor the establishment of the Sustainable Sangres Watershed Alliance, a new watershed group in the headwaters of the Arkansas River in southern Colorado. The goal of the Alliance is to invite all interested parties in the Grape and Texas Creek Watersheds to use a science-informed process to create a shared 100-year vision for watershed health. The Trust will engage local, state, and Federal government entities; industry, including mining and timber; the Navajo Nation; environmental groups; and private landowners, including farmers and ranchers. Custer Counter, where the Alliance will be based, experienced thirty-eight percent population growth between 2000 and 2017. Coupled with this growth, drought has caused water availability concerns. The watershed also has several water quality impairments, including for arsenic and *E. coli*, and is at high-risk for wildfires. The Trust will complete targeted stakeholder outreach, compile and analyze watershed health data, and facilitate the collaborative development of a 100-year vision, which will prioritize conservation and mitigation actions.

Hawaii

O'ahu Economic Development Board, A Holistic Watershed Management Plan for Waikīkī's Ala Wai Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $200,000**

The Ala Wai Watershed Collaboration, in collaboration with the O'ahu Economic Development Board, will develop a holistic watershed management plan to address critical water issues and vulnerabilities for the Ala Wai Watershed. The Collaborative represents a diverse group of interests, including landowners, business, schools and institutes of higher education, Native Hawaiian cultural institutions, environmental organizations, tourism, and state and county governments, and has identified six main areas of concern: stormwater flood risk, storm surges and sea level rise, hurricane and disaster resilience, improvements of open spaces, restoration of cultural sites, and ecological restoration and protection. The Collaborative will develop watershed management project concepts in their watershed management plan that will function as a roadmap for project implementation.

The Kohala Center, Inc., The Kohala Watershed Partnership Community-Based Ecosystem Assessment Project

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Kohala Center and the Kohala Watershed Partnership, located in Kamuela on the north side of the island of Hawaii, will evaluate the impact of watershed conservation efforts over the past 12 years to update the 2007 Kohala Watershed Management Plan. The Kohala Center administers the Kohala Watershed Partnership, a group of 11 partners including, ranchers, farmers, irrigators, recreation groups, environmental and educational organizations, Hawaiian cultural non-profits, and county and state government agencies. The proposed update will assess the impact of past watershed practices, evaluate and expand on project designs developed in 2007, and capture input from stakeholders who were under-represented in the initial planning process. The watershed planning area includes a rare cloud forest ecosystem that has been degraded by invasive plants and animals. The watershed has been identified as a high priority for cost-effective watershed management due to the high potential for recharge benefits to the Kohala Aquifer, which provides water to 26,000 people in the Kohala District and supports 100,000 acres of agriculture.

Idaho

Friends of Teton River, Inc., Collaborative Research, Analysis, and Design to Meet Water Supply and Natural Resource Needs

Reclamation Funding: $99,931 **Total Project Cost: $107,487**

Friends of the Teton River, Inc. will work collaboratively with irrigators and other stakeholders in Canyon Creek Watershed, a sub-basin of the Teton Watershed in eastern Idaho and western Wyoming, to plan irrigation infrastructure improvements and projects to maximize water supplies for irrigators and improve instream flows for fish and wildlife. The Canyon Creek drainage comprises nearly a quarter of the Teton Watershed and is one of the few remaining spawning streams for native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, which are in significant decline. This project is supported by a group of Canyon Creek irrigators who have committed to working with Friends of the Teton River to allow access to lands for fisheries and hydrologic data collection, work on project design, to support implementation of projects designed through this planning effort. Friends of the

Teton River is an existing watershed group, established in 2000 by a diverse group of stakeholders, including farmers, anglers, scientists, local agencies, and environmental interests.

Nez Perce Tribe, Little Salmon River Watershed Advisory Group

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Nez Perce Tribe, in northwestern Idaho, will establish the Little Salmon River Watershed Advisory Group and develop a restoration plan. The Tribe will engage a diverse group of stakeholders including landowners, the cities of New Meadows and Riggins, Adams and Idaho Counties, DF Development Inc., Payette Land Trust, Adams Soils and Water Conservation District, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, state agencies, Idaho Conservation League, and other affected stakeholders. Heavy livestock grazing, highway encroachment, wastewater treatment plant point source pollution, and timber harvesting have resulted in riparian degradation and water quality impairments. The Little Salmon River is an important habitat for several different fish species, including Chinook salmon, which is of significant cultural importance to the Tribe and is impacted by excess sediment, fish passage barriers, low summer flows, and high-water temperatures. The Tribe will facilitate the development of the collaborative watershed group, including the development of mission and vision statements and a prioritized restoration plan.

Montana

Big Hole Watershed Committee, Planning and Stakeholder Engagement for Water Quantity Planning in Lower Big Hole River Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $99,999 **Total Project Cost: $114,999**

The Big Hole Watershed Committee, established in 1995, is a local watershed group dedicated to the conservation of the Big Hole River, a tributary to the Missouri River, in southwest Montana. The group will engage with irrigators, recreationists, landowners and the guide fishing community to update the Lower Big Hole Project Watershed Restoration Plan, and to prioritize and design watershed restoration projects. Stakeholder identified priorities include improving late-season water availability and decreasing conifer encroachment, which is a key source of water depletions in the area. The Big Hole Watershed Committee has a 22-member board of directors representing a diverse range of stakeholders in the area and will engage additional stakeholders as part of this planning process.

Bitter Root Water Forum Inc., Building Trust, Reducing Conflict, and Developing Projects to Address Water Scarcity, Water Quality, and Fish Passage in the Bitterroot Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $99,893 **Total Project Cost: $99,893**

The Bitter Root Water Forum, in western Montana, is partnering with Trout Unlimited to engage with stakeholders in the Bitterroot Watershed to identify approaches to improve water delivery for irrigation while benefitting water quality and fisheries. The Bitterroot Watershed includes a complex water delivery system, with 30 irrigation districts and ditch companies, 26 back-country dams, and thousands of individual diversions and ditches. This watershed is also home to world-renown fisheries and provides habitat for the Endangered Species Act-listed Bull Trout. The Forum, an existing watershed group in operation for 25 years, will partner with Trout Unlimited to add technical capacity in irrigation infrastructure and water rights, and will form a working group of

irrigators and natural resource professionals to identify opportunities to improve water management. The Forum will build on this outreach to develop "shovel-ready" projects to improve water quality, quantity and fish passage in priority streams.

Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Cooperative Watershed-Based Management Approaches to Agriculture Resource Use of Water in the Two Medicine Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $99,959 **Total Project Cost: $99,959**

The Blackfeet Tribe, located in northwestern Montana, will establish a new watershed group in the Blackfeet Two Medicine Watershed and conduct watershed restoration planning. The Tribe will engage the Native Science Field Center, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Blackfeet Irrigation Project (Native and Non-Native Users), the National Park Service, Native and non-Native farmers, ranchers, and residents. The watershed is the critical headwaters system along the continental divide and the first transition of the headwaters into a populated area within the Blackfeet Nation, the Rocky Mountain steppe, and the arid plains. Recent environmental changes, including shorter winters and earlier snowmelt, are reducing the amount of water available to meet demands for irrigation and habitat. The watershed group will identify best management practices for land use planning, complete GIS analyses, develop a water quality monitoring plan, and prioritize watershed restoration projects.

Clearwater Resource Council, Clearwater Watershed Restoration Plan

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Clearwater Resource Council, established in 2003, will develop a watershed restoration plan for the Clearwater Watershed in Missoula County, Montana. This watershed forms the southernmost portion of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem and is known as the "Crown of the Continent" for its globally recognized high conservation value, and its high cultural value to area tribes. The watershed includes a string of glacial lakes with high nutrient levels, algae blooms, and invasive species issues that threaten drinking water supplies, the environment, and endangered Bull Trout habitat. The group will conduct outreach to recruit under-represented stakeholder groups, conduct pre-planning to identify and address research and modeling needs, and undertake a collaborative process to develop a watershed restoration plan.

Greater Gallatin Watershed Council, Watershed Restoration Project Prioritization and Water Supply Planning in the Lower Gallatin Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Greater Gallatin Watershed Council, based in Bozeman, Montana, will expand on prior planning efforts to plan future restoration activities in the Lower Gallatin Watershed in, located in southwest Montana. The Council will focus on the lower reach of the Gallatin River, known as the Lower Gallatin Watershed, where the Council has been active in creating an inventory of completed restoration projects and is developing a platform to share information about those projects. The Council will evaluate the information compiled and prioritize future restoration work, working closely with stakeholders, and coordinating with other restoration partners, such as the National Resource Conservation Service and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Petroleum County Conservation District, Growth of the Musselshell Watershed Coalition through Improving the Musselshell Watershed Plan.

Reclamation Funding: $87,835 **Total Project Cost: $101,585**

The Musselshell Watershed Coalition will expand on past watershed planning efforts to adapt to environmental changes within the Musselshell River Watershed in central Montana. This watershed is dominated by privately owned agricultural land. The landowners, along with water user associations, conservation districts, county and city governments, and state and Federal land management agencies, are actively involved in the Coalition. The Coalition will build on past planning efforts, including the amendments to the 2015 Musselshell Watershed Plan completed through a 2016 WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I project, to develop a new watershed restoration plan. Environmental conditions continue to change due to extreme flooding and drought induced fires. The Coalition will characterize the conditions of the watershed using existing data and studies and will coordinate with a diverse group of affected stakeholders to identify and prioritize restoration projects. The resulting restoration plan will provide a vision and restoration priorities for the next ten years.

Sun River Watershed, Muddy Creek Resource Restoration Design Project

Reclamation Funding: $99,084 **Total Project Cost: $99,084**

Sun River Watershed is a grassroots watershed group comprised of irrigation and conservation districts, fish and wildlife agencies, private landowners and businesses and local, state and federal agencies that work to address resource concerns across the Sun River Watershed, located south of Glacier National Park in Montana. The group will address water quality and erosion issues in Muddy Creek, a principal tributary of Sun River. Heavy irrigation in the Muddy Creek Watershed has led to flows over 20 times normal baseflows which, coupled with loss of native vegetation, has resulted in erosion rates of up to 600,000 tons per year. Significant erosion threatens local agricultural infrastructure and severely impacts water quality and ecologic resiliency in Muddy Creek and downstream areas. Working closely with local stakeholders, Sun River Watershed will build on the Sun River Strategic Plan, developed under a previous WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant, to identify best management practices and projects for 3 to 5 locations along the creek to reduce sediment and nutrient inputs, and in-stream velocity and erosion.

Nevada

Nevada Land Trust, Diversifying and Engaging One Truckee River Partners to Address Vegetation Management in Truckee Meadows Urban Core

Reclamation Funding: $99,989 **Total Project Cost: $107,089**

The One Truckee River Partnership, an existing watershed group comprised of 22 active partners and 130 stakeholders, will establish a vegetation management and riparian restoration working group for urban stretches of the Truckee River in the Reno-Sparks area. Flowing 121 miles northeast from Lake Tahoe, California, to Pyramid Lake, Nevada, the Truckee River is one of the most heavily litigated and managed river systems in the United States. Historical mining, grazing and logging, urban runoff, and agricultural activities have degraded water quality, diminished native vegetation and promoted growth of invasive weeds, impacting Pyramid Lake endangered and threatened fish species that spawn in the Truckee River. The Partnership will engage new and existing partners and create a Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan to guide sustainable river practices. A new Technical Working Group will draw on past work to identify and prioritize scientifically-defensible

best management practices to reduce invasive plant species, promote native plant growth, reduce nutrient and sediment loading to the river, and promote temperature, turbidity, and flow regimes conducive to spawning of threatened and endangered Pyramid Lake fish species.

New Mexico

Jornada Resource Conservation & Development Council, Furthering Watershed Restoration Planning

Reclamation Funding: $99,982 **Total Project Cost: $99,982**

The south-central New Mexico Stormwater Management Coalition, an existing group, will assemble a technical and stakeholder task force to develop a comprehensive watershed plan for Hatch and Mesilla Valleys in southern New Mexico, within the Rio Grande River Basin. The Coalition was established in 2010 to support cross-agency collaboration on stormwater management, and is comprised of flood commissions, soil and water conservation districts, counties, the Elephant Butte Irrigation District, and multiple municipalities. Loss of vegetation in upland watersheds and more significant flood events are transporting sediment downstream, clogging agricultural infrastructure, and overwhelming downstream flood control infrastructure. The Coalition will build on its existing group to complete its organizational development, increase outreach and collaboration, assemble a watershed planning taskforce, develop a watershed plan, and develop priority project designs. Projects will focus on reducing sediment transport, preventing flooding, increasing upland vegetation productivity, and increasing water supplies through shallow aquifer recharge.

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, Employing Establishing Baseline Water Quality Conditions in the Wild and Scenic Reach of the Rio Chama

Reclamation Funding: $99,852 **Total Project Cost: $110,227**

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, a partnership led by New Mexico Wild that includes Rio Grande Restoration, scientists from the University of New Mexico and the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Rio Chama Flow Project, will use a citizen science approach to collect data to assess water quality and ecological resiliency in the Rio Chama River in New Mexico. The project will focus on the area below Reclamation's El Vado Dam, within the Rio Chama Wild and Scenic River area, co-managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. The Alliance will establish baseline water quality conditions for this reach of the Chama in advance of a Safety of Dams Corrective Action at El Vado Dam. During the corrective action, while storage is reduced and hydropower production is temporarily halted, the group will monitor changes to water quality to compare the two sets of data. The results from this analysis can be used to inform how management of future flow releases could improve water quality. This project is supported by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

Santa Fe Watershed Association, Linking Shareholder Priorities with Water Management and Adaption Strategies in the Santa Fe River Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Santa Fe Watershed Association will work with diverse stakeholders to develop a watershed plan for the Santa Fe River Watershed, a sub-basin of the Rio Grande River located within Santa Fe County, New Mexico. The unifying issue affecting the Santa Fe River Watershed is the concern over sustainability and reliability of surface water supplies. The Association will build on the WaterSMART Santa Fe Basin Study, completed in 2015, to explore implementation of the

adaptation strategies identified in the Basin Study, and to integrate stakeholder priorities and concerns to ensure alignment with the proposed adaptation. The Association will synthesize information from the Basin Study and other existing plans, working with stakeholders to understand and document the watershed management priorities, and prioritize issues and potential solutions.

Oklahoma

Advocates for Blue River Foundation, Watershed Planning for the Blue River

Reclamation Funding: $99,959 **Total Project Cost: $99,959**

The Blue River Foundation, in southeast Oklahoma, will complete stakeholder outreach on best management practices and develop area-specific conservation plans in cooperation with individual landowners. The Blue River, in southeast Oklahoma, flows 140 miles to the southeast across the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations' territories and private lands to its confluence with the Red River. Primary issues of concern are water quantity and water quality impairments in the lower reaches of the river, including sedimentation and the spread of invasive Cedar trees, which negatively impact water quality and aquifer recharge. The Foundation includes private landowners, agricultural interests, municipalities, business interests, state and Federal agencies, recreational interests, and educational and conservation organizations. The Foundation will seek broad landowner participation through training workshops to promote best management practices, co-hosted with local organizations and in cooperation with Noble Research Institute. Once the Foundation has identified priority locations and interested landowners, conservation plans will be developed in cooperation with individual landowners.

City of Norman, Collaboratively Improving the Water Quality in the Lake Thunderbird Watershed

Reclamation Funding: $85,500 **Total Project Cost: $85,500**

The City of Norman, in central Oklahoma, will establish the Lake Thunderbird Watershed Partnership to address impaired water quality in Lake Thunderbird reservoir. The City will engage individual landowners, Reclamation's Oklahoma-Texas Area Office, Oklahoma State Parks, Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), Oklahoma Water Survey, other municipalities, recreational groups, and developers. Lake Thunderbird is owned by Reclamation and operated by the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District to provide water to Midwest City, Del City, and Norman. In 2010, the ODEQ listed Lake Thunderbird as an impaired water body due to elevated nutrient levels in the lake. The ODEQ established a total maximum daily load in 2013 for nutrients and sediment from urban stormwater runoff, which has led to algal blooms resulting in low dissolved oxygen levels in the lake. The Lake Thunderbird Watershed Partnership will develop a Unified Public Education and Outreach Plan to engage with regional stakeholders and conduct planning activities to develop an Integrated Watershed Management Program to improve the water quality of Lake Thunderbird.

Texas

Rio Grande International Study Center, Watershed Restoration Planning for Laredo and Upstream Affected Stakeholders

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $103,939**

The Rio Grande International Study Center in Laredo, Texas, will develop a Rio Grande-Rio Bravo watershed management plan in the San Ambrosia-Santa Isabel Watershed along the U.S. - Mexico border. The Center will develop a new watershed group that represents diverse group of stakeholders within the region, including Federal agencies, academic institutions, municipal and county governments, international institutions, commercial and industrial interests, and small business and public interests. The Center will develop an adaptive management plan to address critical watershed issues including, water availability, water quality and wildlife habitat, by evaluating available research, conducting relevant data and geospatial analysis, and hosting collaborative planning meetings.

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, Arroyo Colorado/Llano Grande Lake Restoration Planning

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension service will sponsor the further development of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership and complete restoration planning in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed in southern Texas. The Partnership is a diverse stakeholder group including representatives from state and Federal agencies, local city and county governments, water utilities, irrigation districts, universities, and environmental groups. The Arroyo Colorado flows 90 miles through the Lower Rio Grande Valley to the Lower Laguna Madre, one of only six hypersaline lagoons in the world. The river provides flood protection and recreation to Lower Rio Grande communities, as well as wildlife habitat and a navigable channel to the Port of Harlingen. Restoration of Llano Grande Lake, a water body in the lower reaches of the Arroyo Colorado that acts as a natural silt trap, has been identified as a critical measure to meet water quality objectives for the river. The Partnership will collect sediment data and investigate the best option for sediment removal necessary to restore Llano Grande Lake.

Utah

The Nature Conservancy, Lower Bear River Watershed: Collaborating for the Future

Reclamation Funding: $94,188 **Total Project Cost: $94,188**

The Utah Chapter of The Nature Conservancy will sponsor the further development of a collaborative watershed group in the Lower Bear River Watershed in northern Utah. The Nature Conservancy has led this collaborative group, which includes hydropower interests, state and Federal agencies, other environmental groups, and water districts, in conservation planning in the watershed for over ten years. The watershed faces a variety of threats to water quality, water quantity, and restoration needs, including urban development, non-point source pollutants from agriculture, loss of floodplain connectivity, and invasive species concerns. The group will complete an analysis of the watershed restoration activities completed in the watershed in the last ten years in order to identify gaps, assess current conditions, and identify needs moving forward.

Wyoming

Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District, A Collaborative Effort to Address Sediment Contributions to the Shoshone River

Reclamation Funding: $100,000 **Total Project Cost: $100,000**

The Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation District will further develop a watershed group and develop a watershed restoration plan to address negative sedimentation impacts in the Shoshone Watershed in northwest Wyoming. The group has participation from diverse stakeholders including local agricultural producers, conservation and irrigation districts, state and Federal agencies, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service. The Shoshone River and its tributaries within the Willwood Watershed are cool water fisheries that support several trout species, and the state has designated this reach of the Shoshone River as a blue-ribbon trout stream. Stakeholders are concerned about sedimentation impacts to the health of the fisheries and accompanying ecosystems. Several activities contribute to the sediment load, including reservoir operations, irrigation return flows, overgrazing, erosion of roads and trails, mining, urban development, and invasive plant species. The group will complete stakeholder outreach, site visits, develop a sediment sampling and analysis plan, and develop a watershed restoration plan to prioritize projects to address sedimentation.