

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Planning Grant Proposal



Supporting the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership
Efforts to Implement the Integrated Watershed Management Plan



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Executive Summary

Date: March 31, 2022

Applicant Name: Trout Unlimited

City, County, and State: Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County, Colorado

Length of Time: Two years beginning October 1, 2022

Estimated Completion Date: September 30, 2024

The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) is a community-based stakeholder group formed in the summer of 2018 to lead an effort to understand local water-related values and needs in the Upper San Juan River watershed, and to identify opportunities to engage in collaborative projects that benefit all water uses. With broad representation of the diverse water uses in the watershed, WEP is using a community engagement process to develop an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) that evaluates environmental, recreational, municipal, and agricultural water needs and identifies cooperative projects that, if implemented, would assist in addressing the identified needs. A final IWMP is expected by June 2022.

WEP's efforts to develop the IWMP, including the retention of a coordinator to assist in the effort, were funded by state grants and local matching donations. Now that the IWMP is almost complete, WEP has expressed a strong desire to continue as a group to help implement cooperative projects and measures identified in the IWMP. Trout Unlimited (TU) seeks funding from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Planning (CWMP) program to enable WEP to continue its important work and begin to implement projects identified and prioritized in the IWMP.

Our goals for this grant are to:

1. Hire a coordinator that will assist WEP in:
 - a. The incorporation process (to enable WEP to be its own fiscal agent), the development of bylaws and a mission statement, and expanding outreach efforts;
 - b. Developing priority projects identified in the IWMP through project design and preliminary engineering, grant writing, and other activities that will create a portfolio of shovel-ready projects; and
 - c. Provided WEP is successful in obtaining funding, beginning on-the-ground implementation of priority projects.
2. Provide funding for conceptual project design that will enable WEP to pursue construction grant opportunities.

Note: No CWMP program funds would be used for construction.

Project Location

Based in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership operates within Archuleta and Mineral Counties and northeastern portions of the Upper San Juan Watershed (HUC8 14080101). Efforts will focus on the upper San Juan River sub-watersheds (HUC10 1408010103, 1408010101, 1408010102), including the mainstem and tributaries of the San Juan River from the Continental Divide to the confluence with Mill Creek. Additional efforts will be extended to the Rio Blanco (HUC10 1408010104) and Navajo River (HUC10

1408010105) watersheds from the Continental Divide to their intersection with CO Highway 84, as time and budget allows.

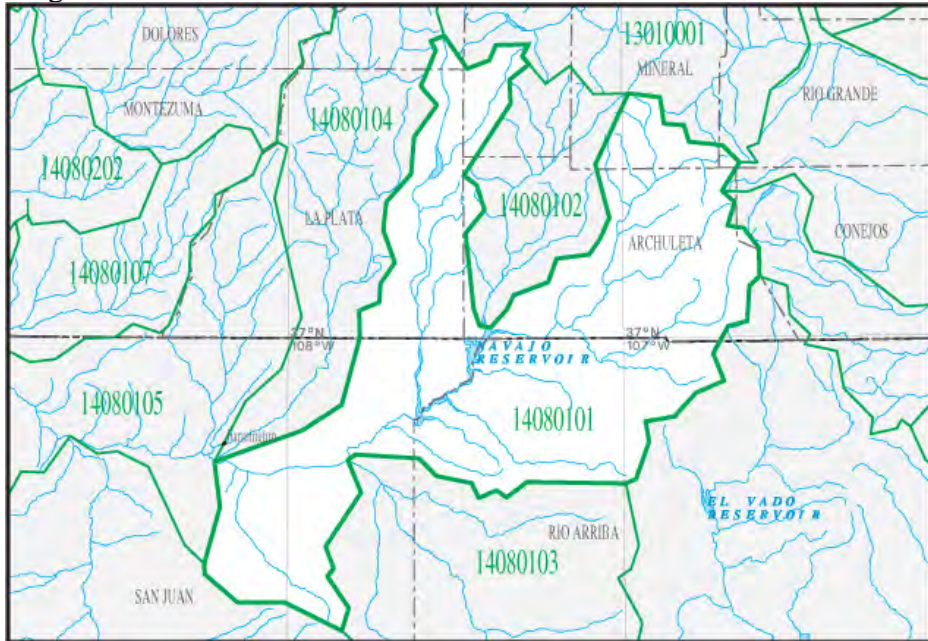
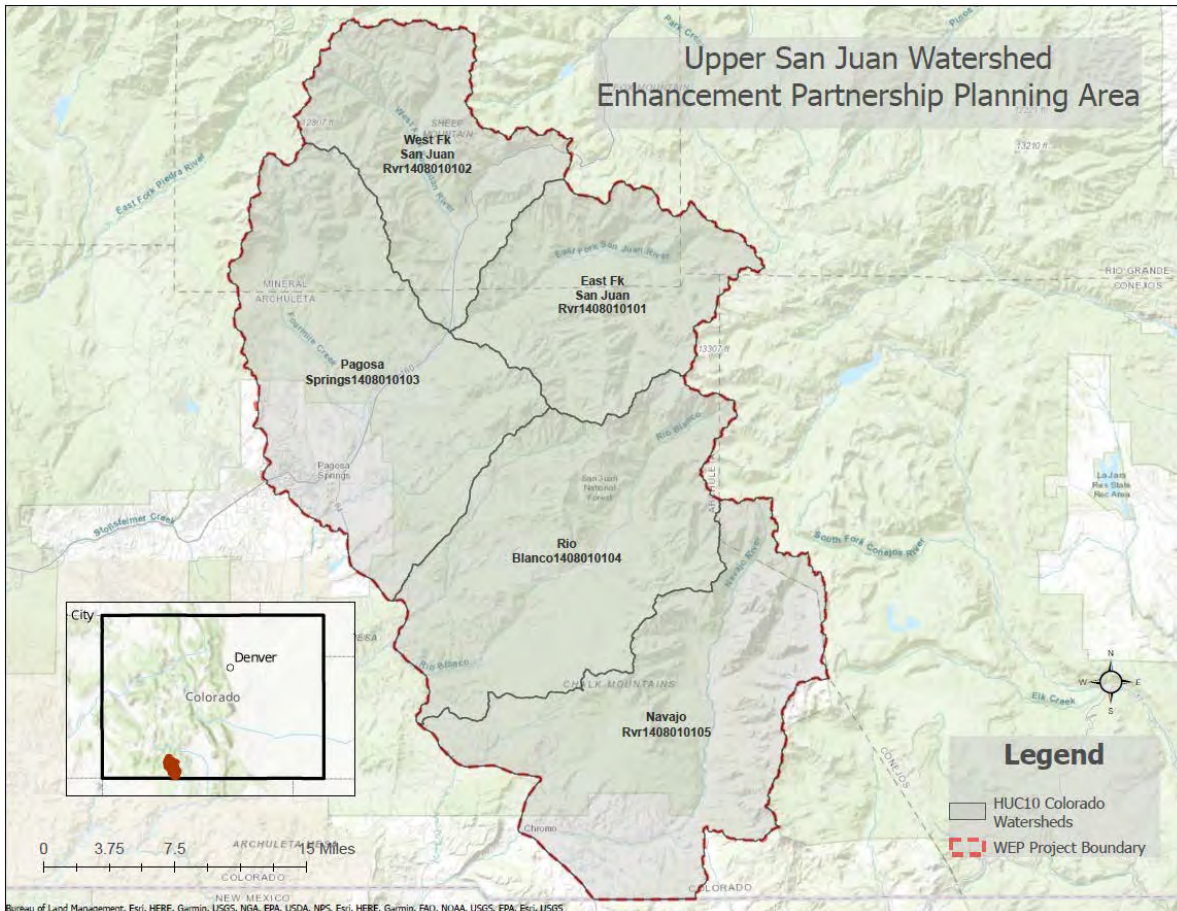


Figure 1: Map of the Upper San Juan Watershed (HUC8 14080101) boundaries in bolded green and surrounding hydrologic unit codes (United States Geological Survey).



Technical Project Description

Applicant Category

TU is applying under the Existing Watershed Group designation to help WEP continue as a watershed group and begin implementation of the near-finished Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP). This grant is well-timed to help WEP incorporate, develop bylaws, and expand outreach efforts while also developing the priority projects identified through the group's ongoing planning process. TU, as applicant, will act as the fiscal agent for WEP.

In 2018, the State of Colorado awarded funding to enable Mountain Studies Institute (MSI), TU, and Western Wildscapes (WW) to take the first critical steps in facilitating a community-led process to assess water values, needs, and priorities for the Upper San Juan Watershed. Envisioned as a three-phase process, the goal of the project was to identify opportunities to best utilize San Juan Basin streams, with wide-ranging community support and decisions based on local input and current scientific analysis to meet the community's water use needs in a future warming and drying climate.

Phase I of the project focused on convening a stakeholder group representative of the diverse water uses within the basin and holding public meetings to gather information about community water-related interests and priorities. This stakeholder group/steering committee formed in Phase I is now called the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership or WEP. Phase I was critical for WEP's success because it established a committed and representative stakeholder group to guide the entire effort. The steering committee is comprised of local agricultural, environmental, and recreational interests, private landowners, and municipal water managers, as well as local, state and federal agency representatives.

In Phase II, WEP focused on developing an understanding of the Upper San Juan Watershed's hydrological regimes, inventorying agricultural infrastructure in need of improvement, identifying environmental and recreational water-related needs, and maintaining stakeholder engagement for the development of the IWMP. Phase II resulted in the adoption of an Environmental and Recreational Water Needs Assessment (E&R Assessment), and an Inventory of Agricultural Irrigation Infrastructure Needs Assessment (Agricultural Infrastructure Assessment). These assessments were used in Phase III to identify opportunities for cooperative projects that address multiple water needs in a comprehensive IWMP with specific options for projects, actions, and potential challenges.

In Phase III, WEP used community feedback and technical information from the Phase II assessments to understand where opportunities and constraints exist and, ultimately, facilitate a prioritization of proposed cooperative projects or management actions to address water uses and needs in the Upper San Juan Watershed. Phase III will conclude in June 2022 with the adoption of the IWMP, including a list of potential cooperative projects and management actions.

The activities already undertaken by WEP have created a solid foundation from which to expand and further develop on-the-ground improvement projects. With the assistance of the Bureau of Reclamation's CWMP Program, TU and WEP will be able to hire a coordinator to assist in the incorporation process, expand outreach, and develop priority projects identified in the IWMP.

Through this work, WEP will improve and protect watershed health and resiliency in the Upper San Juan Watershed and support the broader San Juan River Basin and Colorado River system.

Eligibility of Applicant

TU is applying for this grant as the fiscal agent of WEP. TU is also a founding and active steering committee member of WEP. TU is the nation's largest grassroots cold water conservation organization with a mission to conserve, protect, and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. TU works to achieve this mission on a local, state, and national level through an extensive volunteer network and dedicated staff. Headquartered outside of Washington, D.C., TU is a 501c (3) nonprofit organization founded in 1959 that currently has approximately 275 staff working in 36 offices from Alaska to North Carolina. TU has extensive federal grant management experience, and currently manages over 300 different federal grants, including numerous grants in partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation.

TU has been involved in several watershed groups recently supported by CWMP grant funding, including the Blue River Watershed Group in Colorado, the Bitter Root Water Forum in Montana, the Sun River Watershed Group in Montana, and the Salt River Watershed Group in Wyoming, and is therefore well-positioned to be the lead applicant on the current proposal. Additionally, TU works on the ground in communities throughout the West, finding collaborative solutions to the twenty-first-century challenges of drought, habitat loss, and aging infrastructure by convening diverse stakeholders in pursuit of shared goals. In the Yakima River Basin, for example, TU has partnered with the Kittitas Reclamation District to help create a national model for restoring streams by using existing infrastructure and modernizing water delivery system parts to maximize efficiency and increase flows to key salmon and steelhead tributaries. In the Henrys Fork River watershed of southwestern Wyoming and northeastern Utah, TU has built relationships with NRCS staff and local landowners to implement instream restoration and irrigation efficiency projects throughout the watershed.

TU is prepared to administer the CWMP grant and oversee its use to enable WEP to continue its important work. TU will also continue to be an active member of WEP's steering committee.

Goals

The preliminary goals of WEP are to:

- Implement and revise the IWMP as needed (e.g., to add potential projects and actions);
- Maintain, and expand as appropriate, the current partnership/alliance of organizations/entities that is representative of the numerous agricultural, environmental, industrial, municipal, and recreational interests within the community
- Implement and/or support implementation of cooperative projects and measures that help address identified water use needs within the WEP area in a manner that (1) increases the sustainability of water resources in the face of drought and climate change, (2) promotes ecological processes, biological diversity, and stream health, and (3) promotes the local community's wellbeing.
- Educate, engage, and elicit input from the community in the identification, support, development, funding, and implementation of said projects.

The preliminary objectives of WEP are to:

- Establish itself as a legal entity capable of applying for grants, signing contracts, and generally taking actions necessary to advance its goals and objectives.
- Begin to develop priority projects identified in the IWMP through project design and preliminary engineering, grant writing, and other activities that will create a portfolio of shovel-ready projects.
- Expand community outreach to seek stakeholder input on specific project proposals and additional project ideas.
- Provided WEP is successful in obtaining construction funding and there is general community support, begin on-the-ground implementation of priority projects.

Approach

TU is applying for this CWMP Phase I funding opportunity to enable WEP's operation as an Existing Watershed Group to begin implementation of the Integrated Water Management Plan to be finalized in June of 2022. Hiring a coordinator is essential to WEP's ability to undertake the various tasks described below.

Task A – Watershed Group Development

Activity 1: Incorporation of WEP

- Incorporate as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Develop bylaws and a mission statement
- Establish a governing body (Board of Directors, or similar)

Activity 2: Maintain and Expand outreach

- Hold regular meetings to ensure stakeholder coordination and agreement
- Conduct outreach to the community as specific projects move toward construction to ensure they continue to be supported by the community and the community is informed; this includes holding public meetings, maintaining web and media presence, etc.

Activity 3: Future planning

- Conduct additional planning work for future project development
- Continue community outreach to identify water related needs, challenges and opportunities within the WEP area consistent with WEP's goals and objectives

Task C Watershed Management Project Design

Activity 1: Develop priority projects identified in the IWMP

- Create and maintain a list of priority projects and actions needed to bring each to “shovel-ready” status
- Develop RFPs for design and engineering work
- Contract with RFPs awardees for design and engineering work for specific projects
- Assess need for, and complete National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Historic Preservation Act compliance, as appropriate
- Apply for construction grants and obtain matching funds

Note: no funding from this grant would be used for project construction.

Evaluation Criteria

E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion A—Watershed Group Diversity & Geographic Scope (30 points)

E.1.1.1. Sub-criterion No. A1. Watershed Group Diversity

The Upper San Juan River watershed encompasses a diverse range of stakeholders who affect or are affected by the quantity or quality of water in the watershed. WEP has been operating primarily through a steering committee which reaches out to stakeholders and the local community to share information and receive input. WEP’s steering committee includes members from the diverse water uses within the watershed, including municipal, agricultural, environmental, and recreational. WEP’s steering committee also includes representation from local government, local businesses, local water and soil conservation districts, as well as federal and state agencies who act in an advisory capacity. The following entities are members of WEP’s steering committee:

ENTITY	SECTOR
Archuleta County	Local Government
Banded Peak Ranch	Agriculture
Colorado Division of Water Resources	State Government—Advisory
Colorado Parks & Wildlife	State Government—Advisory
Colorado State University Extension Office	Agriculture/Education
Mountain Studies Institute	Research & Education
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Federal Government—Advisory
Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District	Municipal/Water Supplier
Pagosa Outside	Recreation/Local Business
Park Ditch Company	Agriculture/Municipal
San Juan Conservation District	Agriculture
San Juan Water Conservancy District	Agriculture/Municipal/Recreation/Wildlife
Southwest River Engineering	Local Business
The Nature Conservancy	Environment
Town of Pagosa Springs	Local Government
Trout Unlimited (National & Five Rivers Chapter)	Environment/Recreation
U.S. Forest Service	Federal Government—Advisory
WEP Steering Committee Members	Watershed Group
Western Wildscapes	Consultant/Environment

In addition, while not members of the steering committee, other entities have supported, both financially and with in-kind work hours/labor, WEP’s work. These entities include the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Southwest Basin Roundtable, Southwestern Water Conservation District, Archuleta County, the Town of Pagosa Springs Tourism Board, Weminuche Audubon

Society, San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership, Pagosa Wetland Partners, Resilient Archuleta, Growing WaterSmart Working Group, and Friends of the San Juan.

The steering committee currently meets monthly to discuss progress, map out next steps, and share important community, partner, funding or project updates. Decisions by the committee are made by consensus.

WEP's steering committee already represents the broad spectrum of water use in the Upper San Juan Watershed. In addition, WEP expands this engagement to community partners and public stakeholders via presentations and events. For example, on a local scale, the WEP presented regular updates to funders and community members on the IWMP process and findings. WEP collected feedback via several public meetings, online surveys, and direct communication with individuals or organizations to gather input on local water values, needs, and areas of interests. During its public meetings and partnership presentations, WEP and its partners offered educational sessions to the public and individual groups to provide overviews of Colorado water law, hydrology and location water administration, conservation, drought planning, and irrigation maintenance/administration consultation within the WEP planning area. In addition, WEP partnered with the San Juan Conservation District to conduct outreach and agricultural infrastructure assessments with major ditch companies and individual irrigators in the upper San Juan and Blanco watersheds.

Regionally, WEP has provided representation of watershed goals and priorities through participation in cross-collaborative efforts on landscape scale projects (e.g., Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program) on the San Juan National Forest to ensure forest and watershed group goals are communicated and aligned. The WEP also shares lessons learned and resources with the Colorado Water Conservation Board's and River Network's Colorado Stream Management Plan Resource Library and peer learning group.

The WEP project area is north (upstream) of Southern Ute Tribe property and diversions on the San Juan. While Tribal lands and water rights are downstream and outside of WEP's project area, Southern Ute Tribe representatives are on the WEP stakeholder email list and have been invited to share feedback and help guide upstream efforts that may benefit Southern Ute Tribe water uses/users downstream of WEP's project area.

As WEP moves into the implementation phase of the IWMP, stakeholder and community outreach will become even more critical as WEP activities will often have tangible effects (e.g., construction on the stream, installation of agricultural irrigation infrastructure). With the assistance of a coordinator, WEP will be able to sustain and expand its outreach to ensure full stakeholder and community involvement. As implementation of the IWMP proceeds, the WEP anticipates a greater need for increased communication and coordination with downstream users, such as the Southern Ute Tribe and Navajo State Park, via expanded outreach efforts, which would be possible with the assistance of a new coordinator funded by the requested CWMP funds.

E.1.1.2. Sub-criterion No. A2. Geographic Scope

The 575-square mile WEP planning area, within Archuleta and Mineral Counties, includes upper San Juan River sub-watersheds above Pagosa Springs (HUC10 1408010103, 1408010101, 1408010102) and the portions of the Rio Blanco and Navajo River watersheds (HUC10 1408010104, 1408010105) east of Highway 84 within Archuleta County, Colorado. These headwater tributaries contribute to the larger San Juan River Basin and Colorado River systems. The planning area encompasses 42% of Archuleta County, contains the headwater of the three sub-watersheds, and supports a very large proportion of the County's population and recreational activities, highlighting the importance and beneficial impact of continued watershed resilience planning in this area.

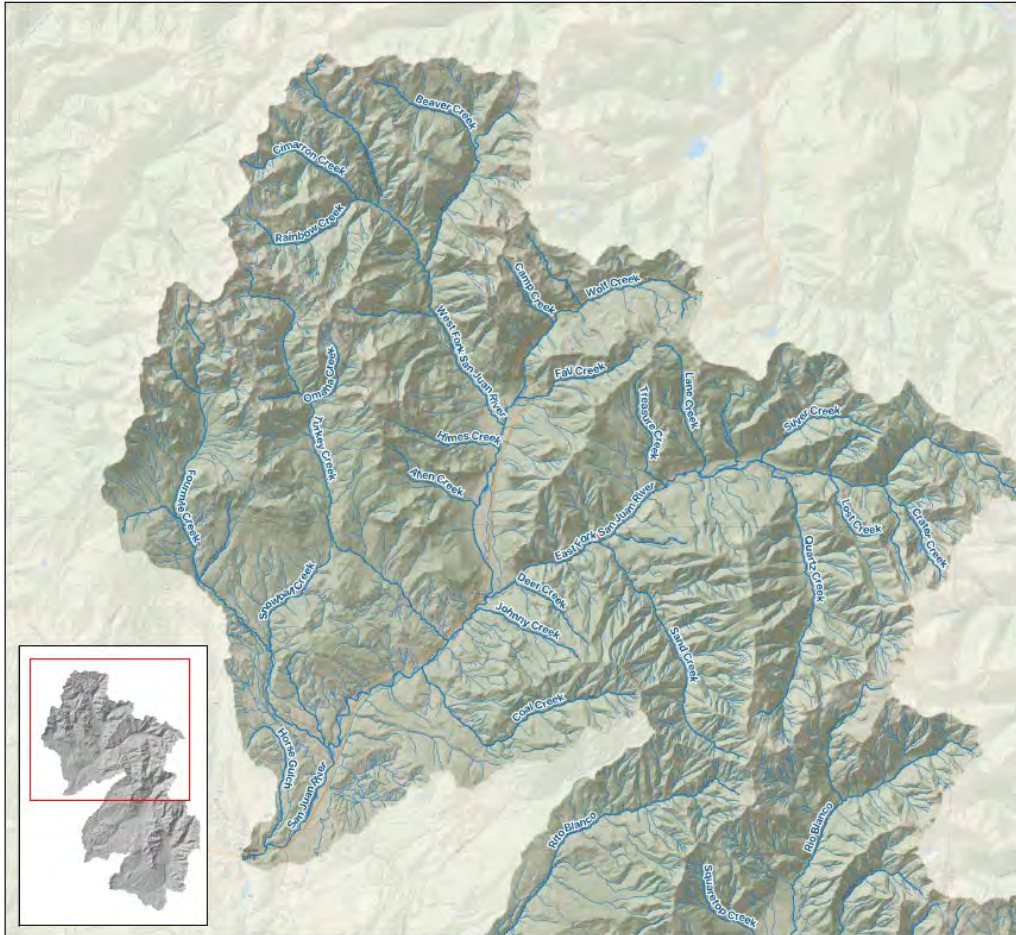


Figure 1. Streams and rivers in the upper San Juan WEP planning area.

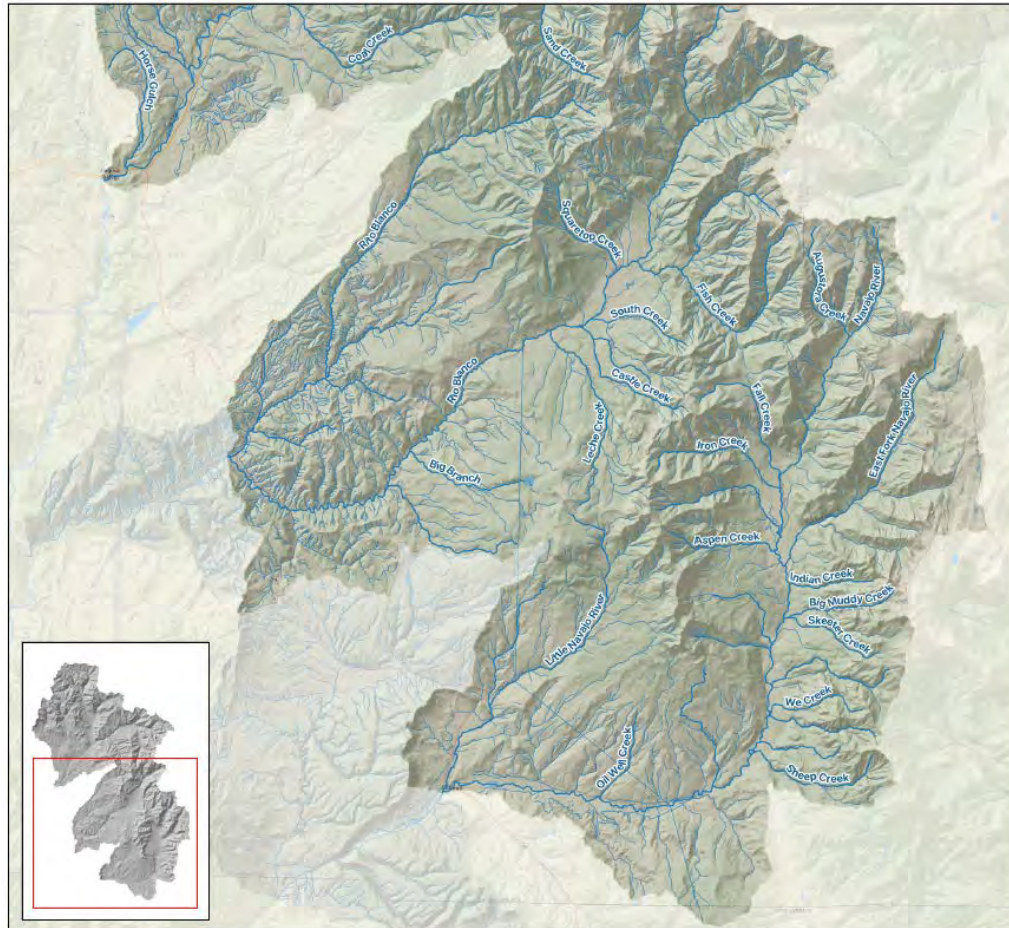


Figure 2. Streams and rivers in the upper Rio Blanco and Navajo River WEP planning area.

The reaches of the San Juan River, Rio Blanco, and Navajo River that flow through the planning area begin in the San Juan mountains near the Continental Divide and flow westward, eventually flowing together and draining to Navajo Reservoir on the Colorado-New Mexico border.

Land ownership in the upper San Juan and upper Rio Blanco portion of WEP’s area is dominated by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Private ownership is dominant in the upper Navajo River watershed. Like other Western Slope areas, the upper San Juan region continues to experience a gradual transition away from an economy dominated by agriculture and extractive industries (i.e., mining and logging) to an economy driven by real estate development, tourism, and recreation. Historically, the WEP planning area was inhabited by the Southern Ute Tribe. The Utes hunted game in the San Juan mountains, drank water from the rivers, relaxed in local hot springs, and named many of the local geographic features. The word “Pagosa” means “healing” or “boiling water” in the Ute language. The Utes were largely pushed out of the area by European settlers seeking gold and other resources in the late 19th century.

Water from the San Juan River, Rio Blanco, Navajo River and their tributaries support agricultural production, municipal water use, transmountain diversions, and a number of minimum instream flow rights, all administered to deliver water to the oldest existing uses in priority before newer uses. Mining and timber extraction played a significant role in the

European settlement of the planning area between the 1850s and 1920s, but drastically receded over the 20th century as available resources became scarce. Throughout the last 150 years, irrigated agriculture has shaped the landscape and productive agriculture remains an important component of the local economy. Cattle and horse ranching provide a livelihood for residents in and around Pagosa Springs, in the Rio Blanco valley, and in the Navajo River basin. Diversion of surface water from the San Juan River, Rio Blanco and Navajo River (and their many tributaries) continues to support hay and alfalfa production. Colorado Department of Natural Resources estimates approximately 7,620 acres of land in the three watersheds remains under agricultural production. The majority of surface water diversions occur along the mainstem San Juan River, Fourmile Creek, the upper Rio Blanco, and along the Navajo River mainstem.

Recreational tourism is a major contributor to the economy of Pagosa Springs, and by extension, the rest of Archuleta County. Recreational opportunities across the watershed abound and include skiing, fishing, camping, hiking, biking, hunting, tubing and rafting. An estimated 30% of the jobs in Archuleta County are related to tourism. Each year, visitors to the area, largely attracted by the local scenery and opportunities to participate in these activities, spend money earned elsewhere in local businesses. The high quality of life enjoyed by local residents is similarly bound to the area's open spaces, recreational opportunities and aesthetic qualities. Many recreational and social values are directly tied to the biological and physical condition of local rivers, streams, and lakes.

A large Bureau of Reclamation-managed trans-basin diversion system, called the San Juan—Chama Project, moves water out of the upper Rio Blanco, Little Navajo River, and Navajo River and across the continental divide into the Chama River basin. This collection of diversions canals and tunnels was constructed in the 1960s and can move approximately 100,000 acre-feet of water out of the Rio Blanco and Navajo drainages each year. As a point of comparison, the average annual yield of the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs is approximately 256,500 acre-feet per year. Water diversions by the Project significantly reduce the amount of water available to support environmental and recreational uses on the Rio Blanco below the Blanco Diversion Dam and along the mainstem Navajo River below the Oso Diversion Dam.

Key stakeholders in WEP's planning area include the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW, responsible for management of the state's wildlife), private landowners, agricultural, environmental, and recreational interests, water suppliers, business owners, local government, and the community as a whole.

WEP's steering committee membership reflects the makeup of the planning area's stakeholders, as well as geographical representation throughout the planning area. It includes the USFS and CPW and Colorado Division of Water Resources, agencies that have management responsibilities throughout the geographic scope of the area. It includes the manager of East Fork Ranch in the upper San Juan River and the manager of the 50,000-acre Banded Peaks Ranch, located on the Navajo River. It includes a representative of the Park Ditch, the largest ditch in the upper San Juan River, serving 6,033 acres of agricultural land. The steering committee also includes representation from the San Juan Conservation District, the local NRCS office, and the Colorado State University Extension, all of which work with agricultural interests. The committee includes representatives of Trout Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy. Other

local organizations focusing on environmental conservation, such as the local Weminuche Audubon Society, the Friends of the San Juan, and the Pagosa Wetland Partners are involved in WEP's activities. The WEP steering committee includes the owner of Pagosa Outside, a local river recreation business, providing a recreation and business perspective. The area's primary municipal water supplier, Pagosa Water and Sanitation District, is also an active member of the steering committee, as is the San Juan Water Conservancy District. Rounding out representation of the diverse water uses in WEP's service area and the community in general, the Town of Pagosa Springs is an active participant of WEP's steering committee.

As WEP moves into the next phase, implementation of the Integrated Water Management Plan for the upper San Juan River Basin, the steering committee will continue to ensure representation of the full geographic scope of the upper San Juan, Blanco and Navajo watersheds, by engaging with affected stakeholders ranging from federal and Tribal agencies to individual landowners and the community in general.

WEP initially started with a larger geographic scope, but narrowed its scope based on stakeholder feedback collected in Phase 1 of the IWMP. Initially, the scope extended from the headwaters of the three drainages along the Continental Divide to Navajo Reservoir, as well as including the Piedra River drainage to the north. Discussions within the Steering Committee and public meetings in Phase 1 of the IWMP resulted in a decision to restrict the geographic scope to its current extent based on considerations of differences in uses and issues, and demographics and how they affect water use.

Although environmental and recreational data collection efforts have focused on the mainstems of the three rivers, additional data collection occurred in their tributaries and upland areas. Agricultural infrastructure data were collected for the majority of the major ditches of the upper San Juan and Blanco Rivers as well as individual irrigation systems for smaller landowners/irrigators.

The IWMP to be completed in June 2022 will include a list of potential projects to help address the water needs identified in the Environmental and Recreational Water Needs Assessment and Agricultural Irrigation Infrastructure Needs Assessment commissioned by WEP. Funds from the Bureau of Reclamation's CWMP Program would be used to conduct conceptual level designs for identified priority projects, as well as assisting with grant applications to implement the projects. By providing some level of specificity, conceptual designs will also assist in identifying stakeholders that would be most affected and in communicating with those stakeholders and with the community in general.

E.1.2. Evaluation Criterion B—Addressing Critical Watershed Needs (35 points)

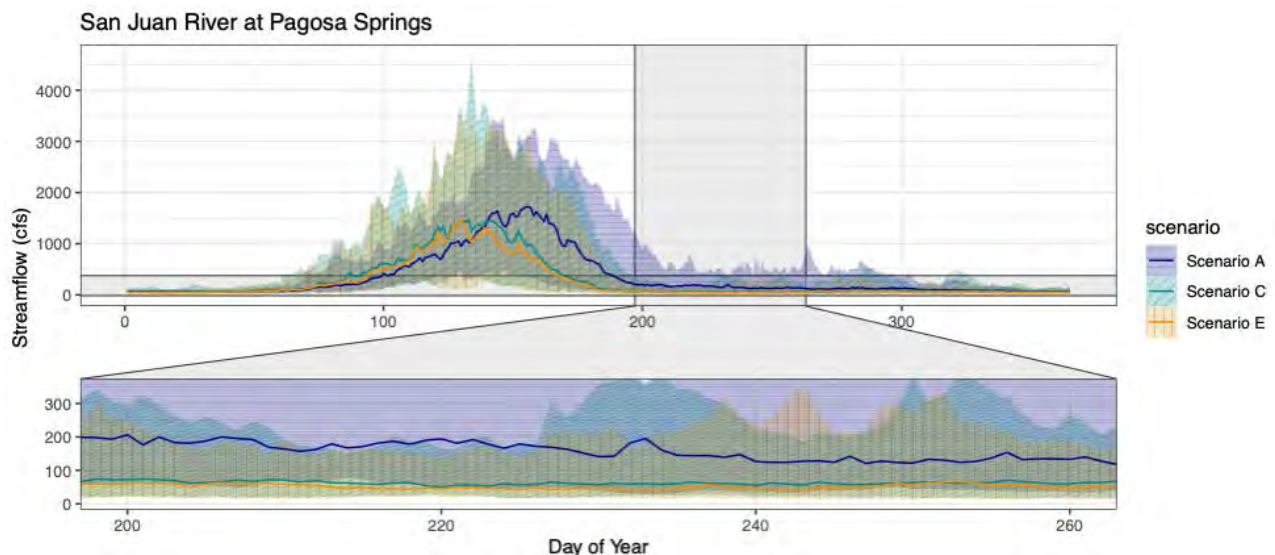
E.1.2.1. Sub-criterion No. B1. Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Climate Change Impacts

Climate change scenario modeling suggests that future hydrology may be characterized by earlier snowmelt runoff throughout the upper San Juan watershed. Analysis performed on the San Juan River mainstem indicates a potential reduction in summer water yields. Changing climate may significantly reduce streamflows available to support consumptive and non-consumptive uses by 2050. Climate change scenarios also indicate a wider range of variability in

peak flows and low flows (e.g., higher, infrequent runoff events and stronger, infrequent dry summer conditions).

Potential hydrological changes brought about by climate change include a longer low flow summer season, and lower median and minimum flows on the mainstem rivers and their various tributaries. These changes will likely lead to longer periods in any given year when some sections of stream are completely dewatered or experience elevated stream temperatures due to partial dewatering—conditions that might impact the fishery, macroinvertebrates, and other aquatic biota. Reduced fall streamflows may be particularly problematic for species that spawn in the fall, like brown trout. Any changes in peak flow timing and the median flows in summer months on the mainstem San Juan River will likely impact the ways that recreational boaters and anglers use the river. These changes could cumulatively have negative impacts on the ecological resiliency and integrity of the mainstem.



Streamflow changes for the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs predicted under three climate scenarios. Scenario A envisions a future that looks much like the recent past. Scenario C envisions a moderately warm climate future. Scenario E envisions a hot and dry climate future. Scenarios C and E indicate a shift toward earlier runoff and lower late season flows in the river.

Hydrological Alteration

The segment of the San Juan River above Pagosa Springs exhibits altered patterns of streamflow. Several tributary streams, including Fourmile Creek and Mill Creek are largely captured by surface water collection systems during most of the irrigation season. A handful of large diversions pull water directly out of the San Juan River. These impacts to flows are expected to limit the quality and availability of aquatic habitat necessary for supporting the local fishery and other flora and fauna.

The upper San Juan watershed is also home to a large transmountain diversion system: the San Juan – Chama Project. Diversions of water in this system significantly alter the hydrological behavior of the Rio Blanco, Little Navajo River and Navajo River below the collection points on each stream. Diversion dams associated with the San Juan – Chama Project greatly reduce aquatic organisms’ ability to access diverse habitats/refugia across different times of year in

those watersheds. Water diversions on the Rio Blanco and Navajo River significantly alter the sediment regime on downstream river segments. Altered flood flow behavior and patterns of coarse and fine sediment delivery to channels below these diversions may degrade aquatic habitat quality for fish and aquatic macroinvertebrates.

The risk for synergistic impacts of decreased peak flow magnitudes due to climate change and increased sediment delivery following wildfire appear greatest in reaches of the Rio Blanco and Navajo River. These river corridors are home to both warm-water and cold-water fish and contain numerous homes, diversion structures, roads, and other infrastructure. Thus, changes in channel form and behavior in these reaches of river may impact both consumptive and non-consumptive water uses and may endanger human life and/or property.

Metric	Percentile	Units	Baseline Value	Scenario A % Change	Scenario B % Change	Scenario C % Change	Scenario D % Change	Scenario E % Change
Annual Max	25th	cfs	1777	0	0	-18	-33	-33
	50th	cfs	2303	0	0	-9	-13	-13
	75th	cfs	3349	0	0	-8	-17	-19
75pct Total Yield	25th	doy	174	0	0	-11	-13	-13
	50th	doy	181	0	0	-11	-13	-13
	75th	doy	188	0	0	-10	-5	-4
April Max	25th	cfs	854	0	0	12	-10	-11
	50th	cfs	1014	0	0	55	34	33
	75th	cfs	1488	0	0	37	27	27
May Max	25th	cfs	1701	0	0	-17	-36	-36
	50th	cfs	2053	0	0	-4	-15	-16
	75th	cfs	2497	0	0	24	12	9
June Max	25th	cfs	1508	0	0	-55	-65	-67
	50th	cfs	2085	0	0	-38	-49	-49
	75th	cfs	2904	0	0	-27	-39	-44
July Max	25th	cfs	373	2	2	-75	-82	-80
	50th	cfs	655	0	0	-73	-81	-81
	75th	cfs	1110	0	0	-63	-73	-75
July Min	25th	cfs	75	1	1	-60	-72	-72
	50th	cfs	123	2	2	-55	-67	-70
	75th	cfs	204	0	0	-64	-69	-70
August Min	25th	cfs	55	4	4	-53	-72	-68
	50th	cfs	93	13	13	-57	-66	-63
	75th	cfs	124	6	6	-58	-56	-63
September Min	25th	cfs	54	0	0	-59	-72	-72
	50th	cfs	75	1	1	-38	-49	-49
	75th	cfs	107	0	0	-36	-25	-27
October Min	25th	cfs	56	-7	-7	-60	-73	-71
	50th	cfs	72	0	0	-33	-42	-42
	75th	cfs	52	0	0	-31	-52	-49
3-day Min	25th	cfs	30	0	0	-50	-68	-64
	50th	cfs	43	2	2	-41	-69	-63
	75th	cfs	32	1	1	-52	-68	-63
7-day Min	25th	cfs	45	0	0	-38	-65	-58
	50th	cfs	54	0	0	-27	-49	-44
	75th	cfs	54	0	0	-27	-49	-44
30-day Min	25th	cfs	43	0	0	-51	-70	-64
	50th	cfs	51	0	0	-36	-59	-52
	75th	cfs	63	0	0	-29	-41	-40

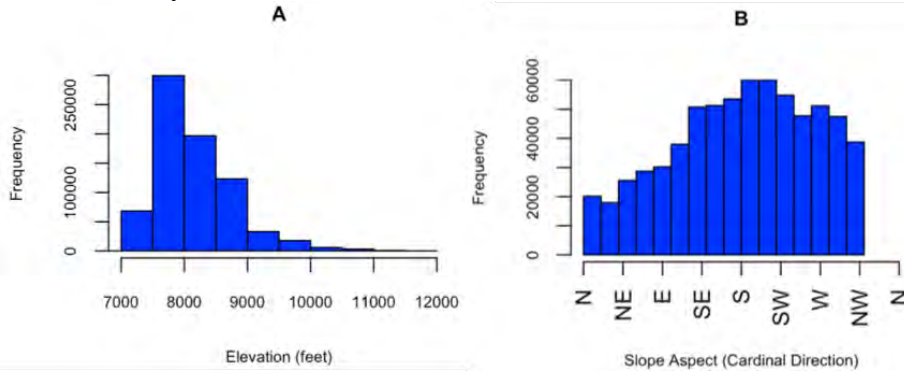
Predicted changes in streamflow behavior for the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs as a function of several climate and development futures included in the Technical Update to the Colorado Water Plan. Scenario A envisions a future that looks much like the recent past. Scenario C envisions a moderately warm climate future. Scenario E envisions a hot and dry climate future.

Forest Health

The condition and function of forests in mountainous landscapes are expected to exert a strong control on streamflow behavior. An analysis of historical data shows a trend toward increasingly warm air temperatures in each month of the year. Available soil moisture data indicates a trend

toward drying soil columns. This trend is particularly acute in the period since 2015. Satellite imagery indicates significant trends toward earlier snowmelt timing in low and mid-elevation areas, particularly on southern and western aspects. Forest canopy wetness shows a significant trend toward drying forest canopies over the period from 1999 to 2020.

A drying forest increases the likelihood of high-intensity wildfires. Wildfire, in turn, often increases hillslope erosion and contributions of sediment to waterways. The greatest risk for elevated rates of hillslope erosion falls in the upper Rio Blanco and upper Navajo River watersheds. High-intensity fires in these drainages may be followed by significantly elevated rates of sediment delivery to streams and rivers.



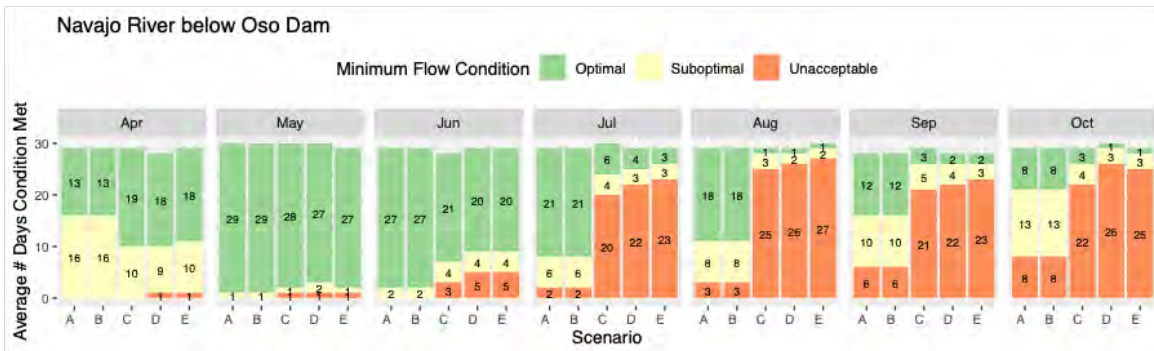
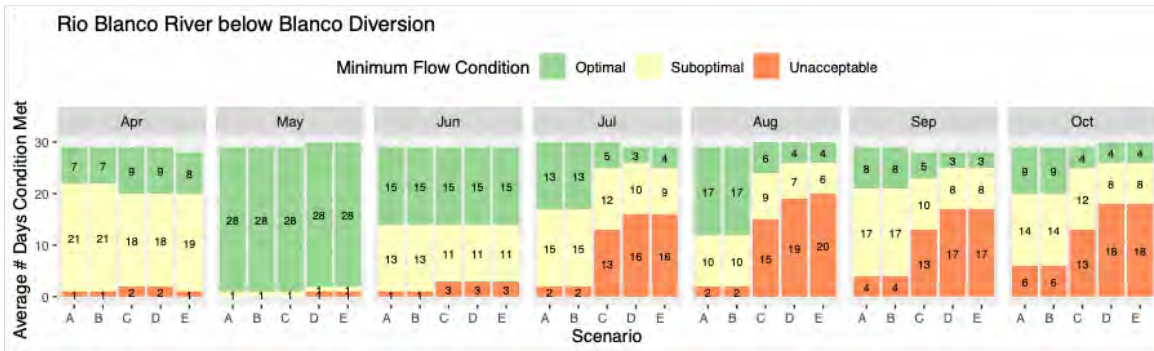
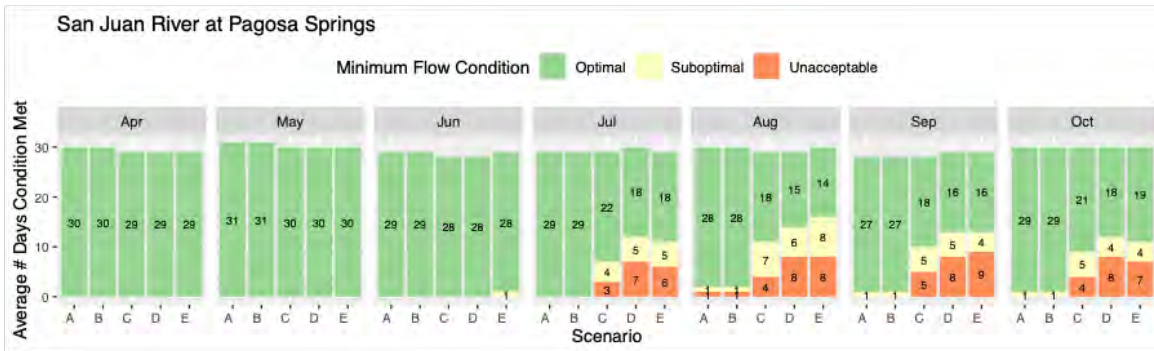
Distributions of landscape positions where a statistically significant trend toward earlier snowmelt was observed. Left: distribution of elevation values exhibiting earlier melt times. Right: distribution of slope aspects exhibiting earlier melt times.

The risk for synergistic impacts of decreased peak flow magnitudes due to climate change and increased sediment delivery following wildfire appear greatest in reaches of the Rio Blanco and Navajo River. These river corridors are home to both warm-water and cold-water fish and contain numerous homes, diversion structures, roads, and other infrastructure. Thus, changes in channel form and behavior in these reaches of river may impact both consumptive and non-consumptive water uses and may endanger human life and/or property.

Fishery Health

The upper San Juan watershed is home to native trout and warm water fish species. The range of native cutthroat trout populations is limited to relatively short tributary reaches at high elevations. These populations may be particularly susceptible to reductions in streamflow brought about by a warming and drying climate. Flow-mediated habitat conditions on the mainstem San Juan River above and through Pagosa Springs generally appear more conducive to native warm-water fish than rainbow or brown trout. However, the suitability of habitat for non-native sport fish appears less sensitive to changes in flow along these reaches. This finding suggests that native warm-water fish may receive more significant benefits from a highly connected stream network—allowing them to range widely as flows fluctuate to locate preferable habitat conditions. The benefits of a more highly connected stream network include increasing the resiliency, redundancy, and representation of species such as the flannelmouth sucker and roundtail chub – Species of Concern in Colorado and surrounding states, thus helping to reduce the likelihood of listing these species.

The effects of a warming climate on habitat quality is expected to be most severe in the late summer and fall. A reduction in streamflows during this period may have an outsized impact on species that spawn in that period. Brown trout may, thus, suffer the most from a warming climate. The changes in habitat quality under moderate to severe climate futures suggests that improving stream network connectivity on the Navajo River may be particularly important for ensuring that native fish and sport fish can adapt to changing watershed conditions by migrating to reaches that are more favorable to a particular species/life stage at various times of the year. It is possible that a warming climate produces an upstream expansion of the potential range of native warm-water fish while simultaneously degrading downstream habitat conditions for those same species. The same is likely true for the Rio Blanco and Little Navajo River.



Changing aquatic habitat conditions predicted for stream reaches across the WEP planning area during summer months under several hydrological scenarios. The distribution of optimal flow conditions (green), suboptimal flow conditions (yellow), and unacceptable flow conditions (orange) change across months and across modeled climate scenarios. Scenario A envisions a future that looks much like the recent past. Scenario C envisions a moderately warm climate future. Scenario E envisions a hot and dry climate future.

Floodplains and Riparian Areas

Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) designates numerous areas within the planning bounds as Potential Conservation Areas (PCAs). These PCAs should receive special management focus for limiting the impact of future development and land-use change.

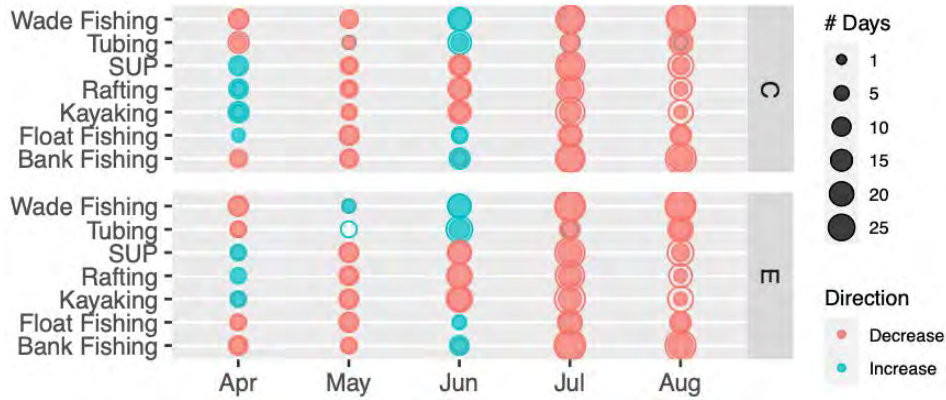
Hydrological modifications, stream bank stabilization projects, historical land uses (e.g., logging and gravel pits), transportation corridors, grazing, OHV recreation, and non-native plants are the primary factors that diminish the vitality and function of biotic communities in the PCAs.

Development of transportation corridors and historical gravel mining operations along the San Juan River over the last half-century directly reduced the extent of riparian areas in several locations along the river corridor above Pagosa Springs. The most frequently noted hydrological impacts to riparian and wetland areas are related to grazing activities. Enhancement of riparian areas and floodplains also has the potential to improve habitat conditions for the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher, a species that has not been documented previously in the plan area.

Reductions in peak flow magnitude predicted by climate change scenarios may lead riparian forests along the San Juan River below Fourmile Creek to become smaller and less diverse. Potential future impacts to the unique geothermal wetlands in downtown Pagosa Springs are directly tied to the management of outflows from the Pagosa Hot Springs. Protecting the unique biological characteristics of these wetlands likely requires maintenance of historical patterns of hot springs water delivery in timing, quantity, and frequency. Direct impacts from grazing activities on the lower reaches of McCabe Creek and Mill Creek make both stream candidates for low-cost process-based restoration designed to elevate water tables and reconnect streams with their historical floodplain.

Recreational Water Uses

Locals and visitors to the Pagosa Springs area enjoy a wide range of river-centered recreational activities. Whitewater boating and angling are important contributors to the local economy and the quality-of-life for many residents of Archuleta County. Analysis indicates strong seasonal patterns dominate the distribution of days available for whitewater boating use on reaches along the San Juan River. This reflects the natural, snowmelt runoff hydrology that is characteristic of these reaches. Climate change scenario modeling indicates reductions in the number of “Optimal” and “Acceptable” days under moderate and severe climate change scenarios. The impacts of climate change are anticipated to be most significant in the months of June and July and some shifting of Boatable Days to earlier in the year (i.e., Apr-May) is expected. Lower peak flows associated with some climate change scenarios tend to increase the number of optimal days for both wade and bank fishing during the April-May period. Lower late-summer flows associated with climate change hydrological scenarios tend to decrease the number of optimal days for float, wade and bank fishing.



Potential climate change scenarios lead to a reallocation of acceptable and optimal days between various recreational use activities on the San Juan River in Pagosa Springs.

Through its work to date, the WEP has identified the following critical watershed needs and issues:

Area of Concern	Description of Need
Agriculture	Enhance the efficiency and reliability of existing water conveyance infrastructure supporting agricultural users
Wildlife and Biodiversity	Protect aquatic habitat quality for fish and other species in the reach of the San Juan River between the confluence with Fourmile Creek and the Town of Pagosa Springs
	Reduce the potential for entrainment of native fish and sport fish in each of the three primary San Juan-Chama Project diversions on the Rio Blanco, Little Navajo River, and Navajo River
	Enable aquatic organism passage through each of the three primary San Juan-Chama Project diversions on the Rio Blanco, Little Navajo River, and Navajo River
	Enhance hydrological connectivity between the mainstem San Juan River and tributary streams to maintain access to important spawning habitat for native warm water fish
	Enhance and protect the quality and extent of riparian areas along the San Juan River between the confluence of the East Fork and West Fork and the Town of Pagosa Springs
	Preserve the unique qualities of the hot springs' wetlands in the Town of Pagosa Springs
	Preserve and extend the ranges of native trout and warmwater fish
Enhance degraded sections of lower McCabe Creek and Mill Creek	
Wildfire and Forest Health	Improve the understanding of the relationships between climate change, forest succession, forest management, and water stress in forests in mid-and high-elevation forests
	Increase the geographies and stream miles covered by risk reduction and wildfire response plans that contemplate future impacts of post-fire flooding and debris flows on infrastructure and environmental stream attributes
Drinking Water	Minimize negative impacts and seek multiple benefits for environmental and recreational water uses during planning for future municipal water supply projects.

	Reduce risks to municipal water supply associated with wildfire
Angling	Maintain conditions suitable for commercial and private float fishing on the San Juan River
	Maintain a self-sustaining brown trout fishery on the San Juan River above Pagosa Springs
	Provide for adequate angling access to the reaches of the San Juan River above and through Pagosa Springs
Whitewater Boating	Maintain conditions suitable for private and commercial whitewater boating, standup paddle boarding, tubing, and other river recreation activities on the San Juan River
	Provide for adequate boating access to reaches of the San Juan River above and through Pagosa Springs

E.1.2.2. Sub-criterion No. B2. Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Task A: Watershed Group Development

As described above, drought is already having a significant impact on the Upper San Juan River Watershed, located at the center of what has been termed the worst megadrought in North America since at least the year 800 (*Williams and Smerdon Nat. Clim. Chang. (2022)*). Based on state scenario planning models, those impacts are expected to get worse due to climate change. (Lotic 2019). The IWMP is a community-driven planning tool that identifies specific cooperative projects and actions that could be taken to help improve conditions and increase resiliency within the Basin in the face of a very dry and hot future. But to be of any use, the IWMP recommendations must be implemented. As the moving force behind the IWMP, WEP is well positioned to take the next steps to translate the IWMP into action. No other group within the Watershed is currently expected to or has the capacity to undertake that challenge.

Steering committee members have expressed a strong desire to move forward as a group to oversee implementation of the IWMP; however, as a community-based group made up mostly of volunteers, WEP is not capable of proceeding at this time unless support in the form of a coordinator is provided. Hiring a coordinator, incorporating, continuing and expanding public outreach, and obtaining grants, will allow WEP to begin implementing measures identified in the IWMP and develop resources to continue to operate beyond the next two years, thereby positioning the Upper San Juan watershed and the community that depends on its water resources to better face a challenging future.

Task C: Watershed Management Project Design

Task A will enable WEP to become a legal entity and to continue and expand public outreach efforts as it begins to implement the IWMP. Under Task C, and with the assistance of a coordinator, WEP will begin implementation of the IWMP by creating a list of priority projects and actions, developing project timelines and milestones, developing design, cost estimates, and permitting requirements for identified projects, and seeking funding for construction. In essence, Task C will put WEP in a position of being able to implement on-the-ground projects should construction funds for the projects be successfully secured.

Note: no funding from this grant would be used for project construction.

No specific project has been identified for CWMP Phase I funding at this time. The IWMP to be finalized in June 2022 identifies proposed cooperative projects or management actions to address water uses and needs in the Upper San Juan River watershed. Once the IWMP is completed and funding to hire a coordinator is obtained, WEP will develop a timeline to evaluate the feasibility of priority projects identified in the IWMP and select the top projects for design and engineering.

TU anticipates that most of the design work commissioned by WEP will be at the conceptual level to enable an assessment of feasibility and cost. For example, the IWMP may identify the need to improve aquatic habitat impacted by lower flows in a specific section of the San Juan River as a high priority. However, without a conceptual design, WEP would not be able to assess whether construction funding is available or to evaluate whether necessary authorizations, including environmental and regulatory approvals and landowner access, are likely to be obtained. We anticipate developing conceptual designs for four or five projects. Should a project be found to be feasible, grant funds could be used to continue to advance design for the project.

WEP will work with Reclamation's environmental and cultural resource staff to determine what type of site-specific environmental compliance will be necessary for the projects.

A description of WEP's efforts since formation in 2018 and plans to expand those efforts is included in the "Applicant Category" section above.

E.1.3. Evaluation Criterion C—Implementation and Results (25 points)

E.1.3.1. Sub-criterion No. C1—Project Implementation

TU will be the fiscal agent and manager of this grant. TU is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with an annual budget of \$74 million and currently manages over 475 federally sourced grants. During the past five fiscal years, TU has received \$51.3 million in federal direct and pass-through funding. TU is subject to annual audits every year under the OMB's Uniform Guidance for federal grants. TU is a low-risk auditee and has received a clean federal grant audit for the past three years with no reportable conditions. The fiscal aspects of the TU-Reclamation partnership are overseen TU's Controller and Chief Financial Officer, working with national and regional accountants who handle a variety of fiscal and administrative tasks for federal grants including Reclamation's CWMP program. Nationally, approximately 24.2% of TU's revenue in FY21 consisted of federal funding.

TU has control measures in place to ensure federal funding is managed in adherence to the Uniform Guidance. Each specific grant award is set up as an independent cost center to avoid the co-mingling of funds and a system of checks and balances is used to ensure financial integrity. Accounting staff at both the field and national office levels monitor grant expenditures and invoicing. Training on a variety of compliance topics—procurement, grants administration, cost principles, federal reporting, cost-share, subrecipient management, vendor screening and the grant life cycle—is offered to project managers and support staff on a regular basis. TU's associated policies, procedures and guidance on managing federal funds are assessed at least annually and updated as needed.

The proposed scope of work is detailed in Approach (p. 5). The table below describes key activities, milestones, estimated start and end dates for each activity/milestone, and estimated costs. Please note that the proposed schedule and costs will likely depend upon the COVID-19 pandemic and repercussions for the group’s ability to hold events, meet in person, or meet via an online platform.

Activity	Milestone	Start Date	End Date	Direct Cost
<i>Task A – Watershed Group Development</i>				
<i>Activity 1: Organizational Development</i>				\$88,000
Retain a watershed coordinator	Coordinator retained; workplan developed; implementation	October 1, 2022 ¹	September 30, 2024	
Incorporate as new 501(c)(3) non-profit	Professional assistance obtained, incorporation fees (1023-EZ form) paid, WEP established as new nonprofit	February 1, 2023	July 30, 2023	
Retain bookkeeping services	Bookkeeper retained	December 1, 2022	September 30, 2024	
Purchase board insurance	Board insurance secured	December 1, 2022	September 30, 2024	
Develop a mission statement, vision, and goals	WEP adopts mission, vision, goals	February 1, 2023	July 30, 2023	
<i>Activity 2: Maintain and Expand Outreach</i>				\$5,000
Develop communication tools and plans in conjunction with other local entities & collaborative groups	Purchase internet domain name, create new website; transfer past WEP resources to the new site, develop education/ marketing materials	March 1, 2023	September 30, 2024	
Coordinator organizes & convenes WEP steering committee meetings	Hold monthly or bi-monthly meetings (space rental; meeting materials)	October 1, 2022	September 30, 2024	
Conduct additional stakeholder outreach and meetings (ads and notices)	Meet with interested stakeholders & participate in partnership meetings	February 1, 2023	September 30, 2024	

¹ Dates contingent upon signing of grant contracts.

in local papers, social media, etc.)				
Establish a community presence	Attend relevant local events. Host appropriate, public project site tours	December 1, 2022	September 30, 2024	
<i>Activity 3: Future Planning</i>				\$1,000
With the assistance of a consultant, create “shovel-ready”/priority project and action list from IWMP in coordination with stakeholders	Prioritized list of projects and actions ranked by WEP & collaborative partnerships.	March 2023	September 2024	
<i>Task C – Watershed Management Project Design</i>				
<i>Activity 1: Advance Design for Selected Priority Projects & Implementation</i>				\$80,500
RFP for Design/Engineering Firm (Publishing costs)	RFP published Consultant hired	February to April 2023		
Develop conceptual design & engineering and construction cost estimates for select IWMP projects	Consultant retained; Projects for conceptual design selected; Conceptual design completed; Cost estimates completed	April 2023	September 2024	
Advance design/engineering for at least one feasible project	Develop design/engineering for at least one feasible project	April 2023	September 2024	
			Total	\$174,500

E.1.3.2. Sub-criterion No. C2—Building on Relevant Federal, State, or Regional Planning Efforts
Colorado Water Plan

The development and implementation of the IWMP is part of a much larger water planning effort in the State of Colorado. The Colorado Water Plan, finalized in 2015 and currently being updated, sets forth the measurable objectives, goals and actions by which Colorado will address its projected future water needs and measure its progress—all built on our shared values. Developed through an unprecedented grassroots effort, the Colorado Water Plan relies heavily on local and regional driven efforts to identify water needs and to propose cooperative solutions to address the identified needs. This is why the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), the state agency leading the state’s water planning effort, has invested heavily in WEP and its development of the IWMP. The Bureau of Reclamation’s contribution to WEP’s efforts to

implement the IWMP would signal its support for Colorado's effort to manage its water future. With Colorado being the headwaters for rivers supplying water to seven surrounding states, it is critical that all available resources are utilized to meet water needs in our warming and drying climate.

Southwest Basin Implementation Plan

At the regional level, the Colorado Water Plan is implemented through the Southwest Basin Roundtable's Basin Implementation Plan (BIP), adopted in 2015 and currently being updated. The BIP specifically acknowledges an absence of information about environmental and recreational water supply needs in the Southwest Region and calls for community supported efforts to develop the information and for the implementation of cooperative multi-purpose projects to meet the identified needs (2015 BIP at p. 3). WEP's implementation of priority cooperative multi-purpose projects identified in the IWMP furthers the goals of the BIP.

Community Development Action Plan (CDAP). CDAPs are useful tools for organizations working with communities and have evolved into being the central source for listing the full range of projects that are in process or are desired. The CDAPs are used as the official community plan required for eligibility for many federal and state funding sources. The 2021 Archuleta County CDAP has a total of forty-eight projects that were developed by stakeholders and subsequently approved by the County Commissioners. The CDAP projects were also linked to six resiliency strategies identified in the Colorado Resiliency Framework, which addresses potential and interrelated economic, social, and environmental risks and vulnerabilities. The WEP's work is listed among the list of Archuleta County's CDAP projects, demonstrating its value and inclusion within other local planning efforts.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The local NRCS District Conservationists have Long-Range plans in place that include improvements to water efficiency, stream restoration, and bank stabilization. Projects envisioned by the IWMP will help further that effort and position WEP, NRCS and the San Juan Conservation District for future NRCS funding for additional improvements.

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) provides water and wastewater service within the Town of Pagosa Springs as well as areas of unincorporated Archuleta County. It is estimated that 75% of the population of Archuleta County lives within the PAWSD service area. The current PAWSD service area consists of approximately 6,000 water connections and operates approximately 300 miles of water line. The PAWSD 2020 Drought Management Plan was developed to create procedures to minimize the effects of drought on the community water supply to assure PAWSD can fulfill its mission of providing safe drinking water to the Pagosa Springs community during times of low snowpack and precipitation. PAWSD is fully reliant on surface water supplies that originate as snowfall and rain in the Upper San Juan Watershed and diverts surface water from the West Fork of the San Juan, the San Juan River and Fourmile Creek. The proposed project will help WEP and PAWSD develop projects to maintain drinking water supplies and drought preparations for the San Juan River and its tributaries.

E.1.4. Evaluation Criterion D—Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities (10 points)

Sub-criterion No. E1. Climate Change

Projects identified in the IWMP are for the most part designed to improve resilience in the face of drought and expected conditions driven by climate change, as described in the Environmental and Recreational Water Needs Assessment and Agricultural Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment. Please see discussion above in Section E.1.2.2. Sub-criterion No. B2 - Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs or Issues.

The prioritization of multi-benefit projects identified in the IWMP, which has come out of a collaborative, multi-stakeholder process, allows communities and environment to be resilient in face of declining water supply due to climate change.

Sub-criterion No. E2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

With an annual median household income (AMI) that is almost 30% lower than the statewide AMI (2019 census), Archuleta County is a disadvantaged community within the meaning of Section 6001(2) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act. Outdoor recreation is a mainstay of the community. According to the Region 9 Economic Snapshot-2020 Update, tourism is one of the top employment industries in Archuleta County and largely based on the area's spectacular natural resources. The Upper San Juan River forms the “foundational infrastructure” for local recreational and economic interests. Riverine based tourism activities (boating, fishing, trails, bird watching, etc.) are some of the most utilized of those interests. Drought and climate change threaten the San Juan River’s recreational opportunities on which the local economy so heavily relies. Implementation of the projects identified in the IWMP will assist in the preservation of this valuable community asset.

According to the 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture County Profile, compared to other counties, Archuleta County, CO has an unusually high number of residents working in Farming, Fishing, & Forestry Occupations (2.85 times higher than expected), Fire Fighting & Prevention, & Other Protective Service Workers Including Supervisors (2.12 times), and Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Occupations (1.9 times).

Based on the census data, a large percentage of individuals engaged in agriculture in the area are from traditionally underserved communities. A description of the agricultural community in Archuleta County follows (from the 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture County Profile):

Irrigated Ag Land Operations - Total

- Hispanic Producers (93) 21%
- American Indian or Alaska Native (16) 3.6%
- Asian (17) 3.8%
- Black 0
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0
- Multi-Race 2.3%
- Young Producers 6.8%
- New & Beginning Producers (212) 48.4%

Environmental & Cultural Resources Compliance

The proposed activities do not require environmental or cultural compliance. However, proposed tasks include researching the requirements and associated costs for the construction of projects designed under this scope.

Required Permits or Approvals

The proposed activities do not require permits or approvals. However, proposed tasks include researching permits and approvals required for the construction of projects designed under this scope.

Project Budget (& Budget Narrative)

Budget proposal

The total project cost is the sum of all allowable items of costs, including all required cost sharing and voluntary committed cost sharing, including third-party contributions, that are necessary to complete the project. Please include the following chart (Table 1) to summarize all funding sources. Denote in-kind contributions with an asterisk (*).

Table 1.—Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
Non-Federal Entities	
1. WEP members (15) (\$35.00 per hr x 50 hrs)*	\$21,405.00
2. WEP members travel*	\$ 2,000.00
3. TU grant manager (\$50.00 per hr x 120 hrs)*	\$ 6,000.00
Non-Federal Subtotal	\$29,405.00
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	\$198,476.30

The budget proposal should include detailed information on the categories listed below and must clearly identify *all* items of cost, including those that will be contributed as non-Federal cost share by the applicant (required and voluntary), third-party in-kind contributions, and those that will be covered using the funding requested from Reclamation, and any requested pre-award costs (Table 2).

Table 2.—Total Project Cost Table

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	\$198,476.30
Costs to be paid by the applicant	\$ 0
Value of third-party contributions	\$ 29,405.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$227,881.30

Unit costs must be provided for all budget items, including the cost of services or other work to be provided by consultants and contractors. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the procurement standards for Federal awards found at 2 CFR §200.317 through §200.326 before developing their budget proposal. If you have any questions regarding your budget proposal or

eligible costs, please contact the grants management specialist identified in Section G. Agency Contacts.

It is also strongly advised that applicants use the budget proposal format shown in Table 2 or a similar format that provides this information. It is also strongly advised that applicants use the budget proposal format shown in Table 3 or a similar format that provides this information. If selected for award, successful applicants must submit detailed supporting documentation for all budgeted costs.

Budget Item Description	\$/Unit	Quantity	Unit	Total Cost
Salaries & Wages				
N/A				
Fringe Benefits				
N/A				
Travel				
N/A				
Supplies & Materials				
Meeting event supplies	\$125	8	meeting	\$1,000.00
Marketing materials, ads and notices in local papers	\$125	8	quarter	\$1,000.00
Contractual/Construction				
Contractor: Watershed Coordinator		2 years		\$83,000.00
Contractor: Bookkeeper		2 years		\$2,000.00
Contractor: Conceptual design/engineering; develop construction cost estimates; IWMP planning				\$51,000.00
Contractor: Advanced design/engineering for at least one feasible project				\$30,000.00
Other				
Incorporation as a new 501(c)(3) non-profit				\$1,000.00
Board insurance		2 years		\$2,000.00
Website domain, hosting		2 years		\$2,000.00
Rental space and materials for public meetings; site tours (buses, etc.)		2 years		\$1,000.00
RFP for design/engineering firm publication				\$500.00
Total Direct Costs				\$174,500.00
Indirect Costs				

Pre-Determined NICRA	13.74%	\$174,500		\$23,976.30
Total Estimated Project Costs				\$198,476.30
Total Estimated Project Costs –In-Kind				\$29,405
Total Estimated Project Costs – BOR CWMP				\$227,881.30

Budget narrative

Prior Costs

No prior costs have been included in the budget.

Salaries and Wages

TU's staff (Mely Whiting) will be the Program Manager but her time is being offered as part of the non-federal in-kind contribution. Approximately 120 hours over a two-year period are estimated to be required to manage the grant, including meeting reporting requirements. Mely's time is being offered as part of the non-federal in-kind contributions. No salaries for administrative and/or clerical personnel are included as a portion of direct costs.

Fringe Benefits

No fringe benefits will be paid out of grant funds. Any fringe benefits paid to TU staff are being offered as non-federal, in-kind contributions.

Travel

Travel for the watershed coordinator has been included as part of the coordinator's contracted fee and not as a separate line item.

Equipment

No equipment will be purchased or rented.

Materials and Supplies

Funds from the grant will be used for watershed group and public meeting materials (room rentals, printing, refreshments) and marketing supplies (brochures, business cards, rack cards, stickers, banners, tablecloth, pop-up tent, etc).

Contractual

Coordinator

Tasks Include:

- Convene WEP steering committee meetings, prepare notes, and follow up on all identified tasks
- Assist in WEP's incorporation, including obtaining all necessary documents; assisting in the retention of an accountant; securing board insurance; filing documents; assisting in the development of articles of incorporation, bylaws, and mission statement; and any other activity related to incorporation.

- Assist WEP (and once incorporated, WEP's Board) in the conduct of everyday business, including accounting/working with bookkeeper; responding to queries; setting up zoom or conference calls as needed; working with vendors; etc.
- Assist WEP with public outreach efforts, including setting up and handling WEP's website; preparing and distributing newsletters; setting up and attending stakeholder/community meetings; meeting with and/or presenting to stakeholders and public officials; prepare marketing materials; assist with media efforts; etc.
- Assist in WEP's implementation of projects within the IWMP, including assisting WEP retain a design/engineering firm (prepare and publish RFPs, coordinate selection process, etc.); coordinate communications with the consultants; apply for grants/fund raising; prepare reports (including WEP's work reports and grant reports)
- Other coordination duties necessary to achieve WEP's goals over the next two years.

Rate/Hours:

- It is estimated that the Coordinator will be compensated hourly with a not-to-exceed amount per month or year (the total amount not to exceed \$83,000)
- The hourly rate would be approximately \$38 per hour
- The minimum number of hours expected to be needed is an average of 20 hours per week

Travel Expenses:

- WEP's preference would be to hire locally; however, given the small size of the community and the qualified pool, there is a likelihood that the qualified Consultant would be based in the larger Durango, Colorado, 60 miles from Pagosa Springs. Accordingly, we estimate that \$3,000 of the coordinator's contracted fee will go toward travel expenses.

Bookkeeper

Tasks include:

- Assist WEP in incorporation and/obtaining 501(c)(3) status from the IRS
- In coordination with WEP's Coordinator, prepare monthly financial reports
- Maintain WEP's QuickBooks records and send them to tax reporting agencies in a timely manner
- As requested by WEP's Coordinator, prepare invoices to send out to vendors
- Other tasks as requested by WEP and agreed to by the contractor

Rate/Hours:

- A rate of \$50 per hour is being proposed with a not-to-exceed amount of \$2,000 for the two-year period
- It is estimated that no more than 40 hours from the bookkeeper will be required for the two-year period

Travel Expenses:

- Travel expenses, if any, would be included in the \$2,000 not-to-exceed amount

Design/Engineering Firm – To be retained using a competitive bidding process

Tasks include:

- Work with WEP to identify from the IWMP priority project list, feasible projects that can proceed to the conceptual level design
- Develop conceptual level design for the identified projects and complete an analysis of needed permits and any potential environmental compliance issues that affect the project's feasibility
- Assist WEP in applying for grants for construction and for additional design
- Assist WEP in selecting at least one project for further design and complete design for the project

Rate/Hours:

- Qualified consultants in this area are expected to charge between \$120 and \$175 per hour for this type of work
- It is anticipated that a budget of \$50,000 would enable conceptual design for no less than 4 identified priority projects and \$30,000 would allow advancing design of at least one project.

Travel Expenses:

- Travel expenses would be included in the not-to-exceed amount.

Note: All contractors except, potentially, the bookkeeper (given the small amount) would be selected through a competitive bidding process.

Third-Party In-Kind Contributions

TU anticipates participation of 15 members of WEP's steering committee, on average, in this effort. A rate of \$35 per hour is being applied for their time. See <https://independentsector.org/value-of-volunteer-time-2021/>

On average, each member is anticipated to spend a total of 50 hours over the two-year period, in WEP meetings, community outreach preparation and events, subcommittee meetings, zoom or call meetings in between formal WEP meetings, reviewing documents, and similar activities necessary achieve WEP's goals.

In addition, steering committee members will be travelling to meetings, events and site visits, at a combined anticipated cost of \$2,000 for the entire period. The total in-kind contribution by WEP steering committee members is estimated at \$23,405.

In addition, TU expects to spend no less than 120 hours as a Program Manager, at a rate of \$50 per hour for a total of \$6,000, which TU is contributing as an in-kind contribution to the project.

Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs

While the project involves assessment of estimated environmental and regulatory compliance costs, the project itself does not trigger any environmental or regulatory compliance expenses.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs have been applied at the 13.74% rate contemplated in the Indirect Cost Negotiation Agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior and Trout Unlimited dated April 27, 2020 and currently in effect.

Letters of Support

Please see Appendix A for letters of support from the following partners:

- Archuleta County
- Banded Peak Ranch
- Mountain Studies Institute
- Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District
- Pagosa Outside
- San Juan Conservation District
- The Nature Conservancy
- Town of Pagosa
- WEP Steering Committee
- Western Wildscapes

Official Resolution

The official resolution is under review by Trout Unlimited's Board of Trustees and will be submitted within the allowed 30-day period after the application deadline.

Appendix A: Letters of Support



March 29, 2022

United States Bureau of Reclamation
WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Planning Program (CWMP)

Dear Grant Administrator,

As a County Commissioner, whose constituents are affected by water availability in the Upper San Juan Watershed, I strongly support the Upper San Juan River Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) endeavors to date, as well as their efforts to continue those efforts through Trout Unlimited's application, on behalf of the WEP, for a WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Management Plan grant.

Archuleta County has supported the WEP with cash matches for previous grants used for their accomplishments. The WEP has been very successful in engaging our San Juan River watershed's diverse water users that include: environmental, recreational, municipal and agricultural interests for developing an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) expected to be completed in June 2022. WEP spearheaded those efforts that resulted in collaborative discussions among water user groups that identified important physical projects that can help address the various user groups water needs and issues.

Given WEP's successful efforts, I fully support WEP's continuance of its efforts in helping our watershed community members work together for the sustainability of our local water resources for all water users. Funding available from the CWMP program will be critical for WEP to continue its collaborative community work, by hiring a coordinator to spearhead their incorporation, developing grant applications for funding implementation of the IWMP and for conceptual project design for future construction opportunities.

I encourage you to consider WEP's benefit to our small rural community and to provide the requested funding for WEP's continued and important work within the Upper San Juan River Watershed. This long-term commitment to proper management and continuous improvement of the entire watershed are key ingredients to maintaining our quality of life and help us prepare for living in a warmer and drier climate.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren M. Brown', written in a cursive style.

Warren M. Brown
Archuleta County Commissioner District-1



PO BOX 159
Chromo, CO 81128
970.264.9268
info@bandedpeakranch.com

March 29, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning Office
Po Box 25007
Denver, Co. 80225

Re: Letter of Support

Dear WaterSMART CWMP Program Grant Administrator,

The Banded Peak Ranches consist of 52,000 contiguous acres of private ranchland located in the Upper Basin of the Navajo River. Our stewardship goals include enhancing resilient forests, watershed protection, and wildlife habitat improvement using science-based adaptive management. While the ranches are a significant agricultural user of the Navajo River, our objectives are always to be conservation-minded and responsible in our water use. To this end, we eagerly participate in many of the regional collaborative efforts on forest and watershed protection. The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) is one of these community-based stakeholder groups we have actively engaged with. WEP has worked tirelessly to identify opportunities to engage in collaborative projects that benefit all water uses.

As manager of the Banded Peak Ranches, I have represented the ranch owners as a stakeholder on the WEP steering committee since forming in 2018. By developing an Integrated Water Management Plan, WEP has successfully engaged our San Juan River watershed's diverse water users, including agricultural, environmental, recreational, and municipal interests. WEP has done an excellent job bringing this diverse group of water users to the table and identified many important issues and potential projects.

Given WEP's successful efforts, Banded Peak Ranches support Trout Unlimited's application, on behalf of the WEP, to continue its efforts in helping this diverse group of water users collaboratively work together. I believe that funding from the CWMP program will be critical for WEP to continue its essential community work and overall watershed enhancement.

I strongly encourage you to consider Trout Unlimited's application. WEP has already proven to be a strategic, forward-thinking partnership, and the funding will allow this effort to continue more effectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Haarmann', written in a cursive style.

Tim Haarmann, PhD
Ranch Manager
thaarmann@bandedpeakranch.com



March 29, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning Office
Po Box 25007
Denver, Co. 80225

Dear WaterSMART CWMP Program Grant Managers,

On behalf of Mountain Studies Institute (MSI), please accept our sincere recommendation for Trout Unlimited's application for the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) WaterSmart CWMP grant on behalf of the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP). MSI has had the privilege of working with this motivated and knowledgeable watershed group since 2018, with first-hand experience of what the WEP is able to accomplish, even with the challenges of working in rural communities and during a global pandemic. With several demonstration river projects underway already, MSI has no doubt the WEP will continue to foster resilient watersheds and implement on-the-ground improvements within the Upper San Juan Watershed if they receive an award from the CWMP Program.

Based in the headwaters of the San Juan River, a major tributary to the Colorado River system, MSI considers WEP a leader within the Upper San Juan Watershed, serving as a critical link to environmental, recreational, agricultural, and municipal water perspectives via their diverse steering committee and partnerships. WEP and community stakeholders have invested hundreds of hours to create an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) that includes priority projects to address unique watershed needs in the following categories: agriculture, angling, drinking water, forest health & wildfire, wildlife & biodiversity, and whitewater boating. If the BOR were to approve TU's application for the WEP, these funds would ensure the IWMP is utilized by local entities and an organized watershed group capable of carrying these plans and projects into action immediately. We hope the BOR joins MSI in supporting the continuation of WEP's efforts to become a formalized group and development of water/river projects for the San Juan, Blanco, and Navajo Rivers.

Please feel free to contact MSI should you have any questions regarding our interest, commitment, or partnership with the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership.

Sincerely,

Aaron Kimple and Mandy Eskelson
Mountain Studies Institute
Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership Coordinators
akimple@mountainstudies.org, mandy@mountainstudies.org
679 E. 2nd Avenue, Suite 8, Durango CO 81301
O- 970-387-5161
www.mountainstudies.org

Jim Smith, President/Chairman
Blake Brueckner, Vice President
Gordon McIver, Secretary



Glenn Walsh, Treasurer
Paul Hansen, Director

March 24, 2022

United States Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning Office
Po Box 25007
Denver, Co. 80225

Re: WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Planning Program (CWMP)

Dear Grant Administrator:

The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) is a community-based stakeholder group leading an effort to understand our current and future water needs in the Upper San Juan River Basin, and to identify opportunities to engage in collaborative projects that benefit all water uses.

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (District) is a Colorado Special District that provides potable water to over 70% of Archuleta County Residents. 100% of the water that the District provides to Archuleta County residents comes directly from the San Juan River or tributaries of the San Juan River.

The District Engineer has been representing the Town as a stakeholder on the WEP steering committee since forming in 2018. WEP has been very successful in engaging our San Juan River watershed's diverse water users that include; environmental, recreational, municipal and agricultural interests for developing an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) expected to be completed in June 2022.

WEP has spearheaded efforts that have resulted in collaborative discussions and agreements among water user groups that identified important projects that can help address each user groups water needs and issues. Water can be a divisive issue, however, WEP's leadership has proven that it can be a productive and respectful process that can find cohesiveness amongst individuals with sometimes conflicting needs.

Given WEP's successful efforts, the District supports Trout Unlimited's application, on behalf of the WEP, to continue its efforts in helping our watershed community members work together for the sustainability of our local water resources for all water users.

Funding available from the CWMP program will be critical for WEP to continue its important community work, by hiring a staff coordinator to assure WEP's continued success in developing projects and staging grant applications for funding, implementing on the ground projects and provide funding for conceptual project design for future construction grant opportunities.

100 Lyn Avenue
Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147

www.pawsd.org

(970) 731-2691

United States Bureau of Reclamation

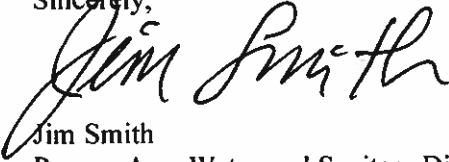
March 24, 2022

Page 2

We encourage you to consider Trout Unlimited's application/WEP's benefit to our small rural community and to provide the requested funding for WEP's continued and important work within the Upper San Juan River Watershed.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Smith
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitary District Board
President

CC:
Enclosure(s):



Justin Rohwer
PO BOX 2106
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970.264.4202
tobi@pagosaoutside.com

March 28, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning Office
Po Box 25007
Denver, Co. 80225

Re: WEP Grant application letter of support

Dear Grant Administrators,

As a member of the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership steering committee and a local business owner that depends on a healthy river, I strongly support Trout Unlimited's grant application on behalf of the WEP. CWMP funding will allow this community-led group to begin the process of implementing the potential improvements identified in our 3+ year planning effort and technical assessment.

The WEP has identified many potential collaborative projects and opportunities that will benefit agricultural, environmental, municipal, and recreational water users. An example of a single project includes multiple efficiency improvements to an agricultural irrigation system, removal of hazards to recreational boating passage, aquatic habitat restoration in an area negatively affected by significant erosion, bank stabilization and protection of infrastructure in a flood prone area, and the development of public recreational access for fishing and floating. Without paid staff and the ability to pursue grant funding, the culmination of this multi-year water management planning effort will simply gather dust on a shelf and these multi-beneficial projects are unlikely to be completed.

Your grant will have a widespread benefit for the entire Upper San Juan watershed including improving the community's economic stability, protecting the quality of life at a river's headwaters, and helping to sustain a healthy watershed in the face of a potentially hotter and dryer future. I hope you find our efforts thus far—and our future potential—worthy of your funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin T. Rohwer".

Justin T. Rohwer



505A County Road 600 – Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone (970)731-3615 – Fax (844)496-7211

March 28, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning Office
PO Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

Dear WaterSMART CWMP Program Grant Reviewers,

The community-based stakeholder group, Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP), has been instrumental in leading an effort to engage all water users including environmental, recreational, municipal, and agricultural interests to better understand our local water values and needs. This process has allowed the group, with public input, to identify opportunities to engage in collaborative projects that will benefit all water users.

The San Juan Conservation District was contracted to perform the agricultural irrigation assessment and needs inventory to be included in the Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) to be completed this summer. Over \$9 million in agricultural irrigation improvements were identified through this process. Our District Manager has been representing the interests of agricultural producers since the group's formation.

Given WEP's successful efforts to spearhead collaborative discussions among water user groups to identify on-the-ground projects, the San Juan Conservation District supports Trout Unlimited's application, on behalf of WEP, to continue its efforts in bringing together diverse water users to collectively work toward multi-use projects for the sustainability of our local water resources.

Funding from the CWMP program will be critical for WEP to continue its collaborative community work by hiring a staff coordinator to spearhead their incorporation, developing projects and staging grant applications for funding, implementing on-the-ground projects and providing funding for conceptual project designs that will enable WEP to pursue construction grant opportunities and communicate with stakeholders and the community.

We encourage you to consider Trout Unlimited's application/WEP's benefit to our small rural community and to provide the requested funding for WEP's continued and important work within the Upper San Juan River Watershed so that the IWMP becomes an action-document rather than a plan that sits on a shelf waiting for implementation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Barsanti".

Ron Barsanti
President



The Nature Conservancy in Colorado
2424 Spruce Street
Boulder, CO 80302

tel (303) 444-2950
fax (303) 444-2985
nature.org/colorado

March 30, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning Office
Po Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

Re: Support for Trout Unlimited CWMP Application – Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership

Dear CWMP Application Review Team,

The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) is a community-based stakeholder group leading an effort to understand local water-related values and needs in the Upper San Juan River Basin, and to identify opportunities to engage in collaborative projects that benefit all water uses.

The Nature Conservancy has been engaged as an advisor on the WEP steering committee and provided matching funds since the group formed in 2018. The WEP has been very successful in engaging the San Juan River watershed's diverse water users including environmental, recreational, municipal, and agricultural interests to develop an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) expected to be completed in June 2022.

The WEP spearheaded efforts that resulted in collaborative discussions among water user groups which identified important physical projects to help address each user groups water needs and issues. The WEP's leadership has proven that planning for the future can be a productive and respectful process in the Upper San Juan River Basin.

The Nature Conservancy fully supports Trout Unlimited's application, on behalf of the WEP, to continue its efforts helping watershed community members collaborate to support sustainable local water resources for all water users. Funding available from CWMP will be critical for the WEP to continue its important community work, by hiring a staff coordinator to pursue incorporation, developing projects and staging grant applications for funding, implementing on the ground projects, and providing funding for conceptual project design in support of future construction grant opportunities.

We encourage you to consider Trout Unlimited's application and the WEP's benefit to the local water user community and to provide the requested funding for the WEP's continued and important work within the Upper San Juan River Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mickey O'Hara".

Mickey O'Hara
Freshwater Project Director, Southwest Colorado
michael.ohara@tnc.org

P.O. Box 1859
551 Hot Springs Boulevard
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147



Phone: 970.264.4151
Fax: 970.264.4634
www.pagosasprings.co.gov

March 24, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning Office
Po Box 25007
Denver, Co. 80225

Re: Letter of Support

Dear WaterSMART CWMP Program Grant application reviewers,

The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) is a community-based stakeholder group leading an effort to understand our local water-related values and needs in the Upper San Juan River Basin, and to identify opportunities to engage in collaborative projects that benefit all water uses.

The Town of Pagosa Springs Planning Director has been representing the Town as a stakeholder on the WEP steering committee since forming in 2018. WEP has been very successful in engaging our San Juan River watershed's diverse water users that include; environmental, recreational, municipal and agricultural interests for developing an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) expected to be completed in June 2022.

WEP spearheaded efforts that resulted in collaborative discussions among water user groups that identified important physical projects that can help address each user groups water needs and issues. We all know water can be a divisive issue, however, WEP's leadership has proven that it can be a productive and respectful process.

Given WEP's successful efforts, the Town supports Trout Unlimited's application, on behalf of the WEP, to continue its efforts in helping our watershed community members work together for the sustainability of our local water resources for all water users.

Funding available from the CWMP program will be critical for WEP to continue its important community work, by hiring a staff coordinator to spearhead their incorporation, developing projects and staging grant applications for funding, implementing on the ground projects and provide funding for conceptual project design for future construction grant opportunities.

We encourage you to consider Trout Unlimited's application for WEP's continued benefit to our small rural community and to award the requested funding for WEP's continued and important work within the Upper San Juan River Watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Phillips".

Andrea Phillips

Town Manager

Town of Pagosa Springs

970.264.4151 x 236

aphillips@pagosasprings.co.gov



March 28, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning Office
Po Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

Re: Letter of Support

Dear WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) Grant Managers,

On behalf of the steering committee members of the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP), please accept our support for Trout Unlimited's application for the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) CWMP grant. As WEP nears the completion of our Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) and kick off our first—of hopefully many—river restoration projects this summer in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, our local watershed group is excited to take the next steps to turn this plan into action and implement even more projects within the Upper San Juan Watershed.

Since 2018, WEP steering committee members have shared their diverse perspectives and expertise on complex water issues, values, and needs for the upper San Juan, Blanco, and Navajo Rivers, guiding the creation of the IWMP and priority projects to address the unique needs for each of these drainages. WEP and community members have devoted hundreds of hours towards this planning process to identify needs categories and specific projects, processes or plans to address them in the short, medium, and long-term.

Next, WEP hopes to continue its work with community stakeholders and champion these concept level projects into reality, with the help of the BOR's support. To do so, many of our committee members have committed to remain involved in WEP's future and help hire a coordinator that will organize our group into an incorporated nonprofit capable of applying for funds, developing project designs, and managing future projects.

By supporting this application, the BOR would be assisting WEP promote resilient river systems and communities in Southwestern Colorado facing significant drought and wildfire conditions this year. Through WEP, there is great potential to benefit many downstream water users and ecosystems via projects in the headwaters of these three major tributaries to the San Juan and Colorado River systems. Thank you for considering Trout Unlimited's application on behalf of our group.

Regards,

WEP steering committee members and partners:

Al Pfister (Western Wildscapes), Chris Pitcher (Southwest River Engineering), Cynthia Purcell (San Juan Conservation District), James Dickhoff (Town of Pagosa Springs), Joe Crabb (Colorado Division of Water Resources), Justin Ramsey (Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District), Mely Whiting (Trout Unlimited), Robin Young (Colorado State University Extension Office), Ryan Unterreiner (Colorado Parks & Wildlife), Tim Haarmann (Banded Peak Ranch), Tobi Rohwer (Pagosa Outside)



"Balancing the needs of wildlife and people"

March 28, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning Office
Po Box 25007
Denver, Co. 80225

Dear WaterSMART CWMP Program Grant application reviewers,

I am writing this letter of support for Trout Unlimited's (TU) application for the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSmart CWMP grant on behalf of the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP). The WEP is a community-based stakeholder group leading an effort to understand our local water-related values and needs in the Upper San Juan River Basin, and to identify opportunities to engage in collaborative projects that benefit all water uses. TU's application is to obtain funding so that the WEP can incorporate and continue their community based efforts.

I have spent the past 40 years working as a fish and wildlife biologist (mainly with endangered species) and natural resources manager in 7 western U.S. states for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, the Department of Army, and as a consultant since retirement. I have been exposed to the importance and value of water for all aspects of our lives, the watersheds those activities are conducted in, and the flora and fauna they support. I have also learned the importance of working collaboratively with communities - rural, suburban, and urban - in balancing all of the watershed's needs and uses.

Having been involved with the WEP since its inception, I have the greatest appreciation and admiration for their collaborative approach to determining projects/opportunities that address our local water related values and needs. It is in this light, that I strongly support TU's application, on behalf of the WEP, to enable the WEP to incorporate and continue the efforts being compiled in their Integrated Water Management Plan.

If I can be of further assistance, or answer any questions please contact me at westernwildscapes@gmail.com or (970) 985-5764.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan R. Pfister".

Allan R. Pfister
Western Wildscapes, LLC, President



Trout Unlimited Board of Trustees Resolution
Authorizing Application to Bureau of Reclamation Notice of Funding Opportunity
No. R22AS00163, Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY2022:

“Supporting the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership Efforts to Implement the Integrated Watershed Management Plan”

Whereas: Trout Unlimited has prepared an application for funding to support the expansion of the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership through formal incorporation, hiring of a coordinator, and implementation of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan;

The Board of Trustees of Trout Unlimited, upon motion made, seconded, and duly carried, it is hereby **RESOLVED** that:

1. Trout Unlimited is authorized to submit an application to the Bureau of Reclamation for grant assistance for the above-titled project.
2. Trout Unlimited has prepared and reviewed the application, and Chris Wood, President and Chief Executive Officer of Trout Unlimited, or his designee, is authorized to sign the application and enter into a funding agreement, if awarded.
3. Any grant assistance received under this application will be used for costs associated with implementation of the above-titled project. Trout Unlimited is authorized to commit to the provision of in-kind contributions and other resources identified in the funding application, and will work with Reclamation to timely meet all deadlines associated with an award of funding.
4. Trout Unlimited acknowledges that if the Bureau of Reclamation approves grant assistance for the project, the Bureau of Reclamation will pay Trout Unlimited only on a reimbursement basis. Trout Unlimited understands reimbursement basis means that Trout Unlimited will only request payment from the Bureau of Reclamation after Trout Unlimited incurs eligible and allowable costs and pays them.

Trout Unlimited
Board of Trustees

Attested by: Patricia Ishiyama
Position: Secretary
Date: 4/22/2022