

**Application and Submission Information**

**for**

**U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Management Program  
Phase 1 Grant - Watershed Group Management, Planning and Design**

**Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R22A500163**

**Watershed Group Development & Watershed Restoration Planning  
Lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River  
HUC 100700006**

Submitted by:

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**March 31, 2022**

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**Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership: Watershed Group Development & Watershed Restoration Planning for the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River, Carbon County Montana and Park County Wyoming.**

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Date:** March 29, 2022  
**Applicant Name:** Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership  
**City, County, State:** Silesia, Carbon County, Montana  
**Project Dates:** January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025

During this proposed project, Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership (CFYP) will complete Phase 1 of an Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) for river miles 0 through 71 (Lower Reach) and river miles 71 through 98 (Middle Reach), which combined, comprise the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River.

The IWMP project approach for the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River watershed is as follows:

1. Build Key Stakeholder & Community Partnerships CFYP will categorize and identify key watershed stakeholders and build lasting partnerships centered on water-related topics.
2. Plan Restoration Projects A 2019 River Assessment recommended roughly 100 potential restoration projects and studies to be undertaken. Within Phase 1, CFYP will assess the projects and studies and move them to the next level of planning.
3. Provide TMDL Program Outreach Beginning in 2022, Montana DEQ will set TMDLs for the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River mainstem and six of its tributaries. CFYP will engage the community on this critical program and integrate feedback to assemble an eventual Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP).
4. Evaluate Draft Water Budgets The lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone watershed is subject to numerous stresses that impact river flow and water quality. CFYP will collaboratively identify and preliminarily quantify these issues of concern (IOC) while preparing and evaluating screening-level water budgets.
5. Evaluate a River Health Score Card CFYP and key stakeholders will evaluate applicability of a River Health Score Card system, aimed at maintaining the community aware of lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River health.
6. Conduct a Middle Reach River Assessment CFYP will conduct a screening-level River Assessment to identify potential IOC in the Middle Reach. This will begin the process of integrating Middle and Lower reaches into a single comprehensive IWMP.

Outcomes from Phase 1 will chart the course for: Conducting a range of Lower Reach restoration projects; Crafting a comprehensive IWMP for the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River watershed; and, Developing a Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP), as TMDLs are assessed in coming years.

Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership (CFYP) is a local grassroots nonprofit watershed group, incorporated in November 2021. As part of this Phase 1 project, CFYP will: Increase its operational, project execution and fundraising capacity; Create and strengthen stakeholder relationships within both Montana and Wyoming; Expand membership size and diversity; and, Build community awareness of watershed issues through outreach and engagement programs.

## 2. PROJECT LOCATION

In partnership with stakeholders throughout the watershed, CFYP is intent on protecting and restoring river miles 0 through 98 of the mainstem Clarks Fork Yellowstone River (Figure 1). The US Geological Survey Hydraulic Unit Code (HUC) for the Clarks Fork Yellowstone Watershed is 100700006.

The downstream project boundary is at river mile 0.9, located east of Laurel, Montana, at the confluence of Yellowstone River (45.65063, -108.715458). The upstream project boundary is at river mile 98, located west of Clark, Wyoming at the east boundary of the Wild and Scenic River Act (WSRA) corridor (44.84132, -109.3173). The project area lies in both Carbon County, Montana and Park County, Wyoming.

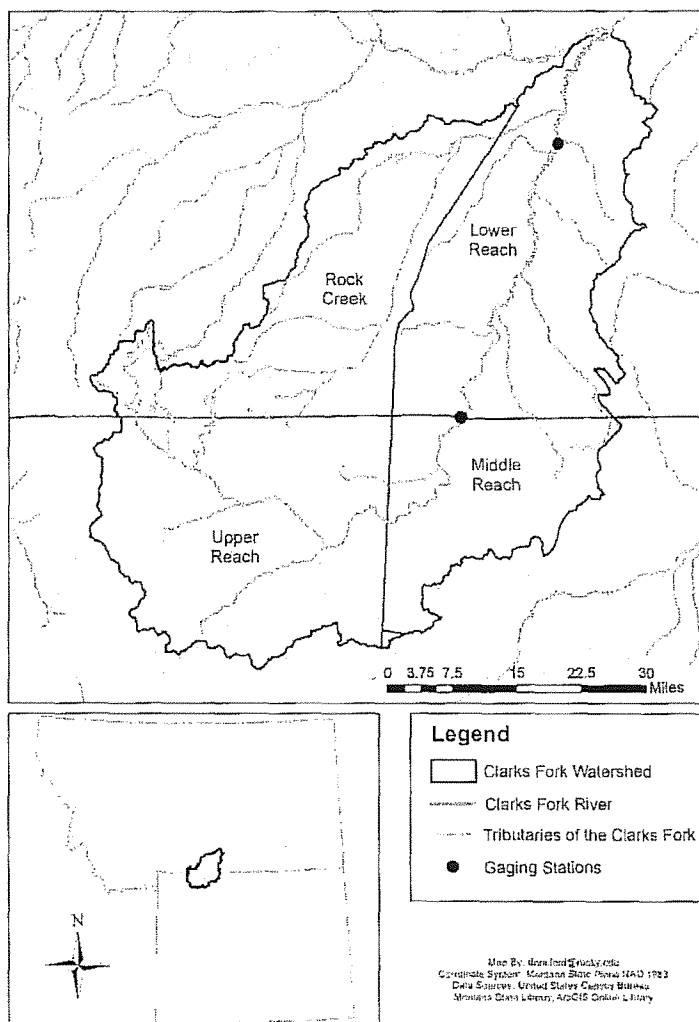


Figure 1. Location map.

### 3. BACKGROUND DATA

Section 5.B.2 provides back ground data in the form of detailed IOC descriptions.

### 4. TECHNICAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### 4.A Applicant Category

Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership is applying for this grant as an existing though new watershed group, formed and registered with the State of Montana in November 2021. CFYP is registered in Montana as a nonprofit, community benefit corporation with a stated focus on water-related outreach and education, diverse stakeholder engagement, advocacy for sustainable water use and watershed restoration where it is supported by the stakeholder community.

CFYP was founded by a group of local residents interested in determining the cause(s) of a perceived decline in lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River water quality. CFYP's administrative leader has over 30 years of engineering project management and nonprofit board leadership experience within Montana, outlined as follows:

- Founder and director of a multi-discipline, multi-state, Montana-based engineering firm focused on remediation of industrial sights, wastewater treatment upgrade and discharge permitting.
- Founder of a septic system equipment distribution company including securing state-level approval of new technologies.
- Served as Board member of over 10 nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

CFYP's technical team leader has over 35 years of experience in geology, hydrology and hydrogeology in Montana and Wyoming. Among his professional experiences:

- Served as Lead Montana researcher on impacts to water resources from coal-related energy extraction.
- Developed a program to educate farmers/ranchers on water resources in rural southeastern Montana.
- Served as Researcher on impacts to water resulting from conversion of flood-irrigated agricultural land to other uses.

As of March 2022, CFYP membership is at approximately 15 and growing. Demographically, the membership includes male and female farmers, ranchers, elected municipal leaders, realtors, construction contractors, educators, professionals and outdoor enthusiasts. Age range is from 27 to over 70. Geographically, CFYP membership represents a 30-mile corridor within the lower watershed and therefore geographic expansion of the membership is a near-term objective.

CFYP gages its value by the strength and diversity of alliances it holds within its membership, the community and region. CFYP is grateful for the support it has received within its first months.

#### **4.B Eligibility**

CFTP is a nonprofit, community benefit corporation, registered and in good standing with the Montana Secretary of State. In lieu of being registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c) (3), CFYP has Red Lodge Area Community Foundation (EIN 20-0192255) as its Fiscal Sponsor and accountant throughout the funding. CFYP is a grassroots organization and meets the definition of “watershed group” as defined in Section 6001(5) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act. CFYP is applying to this funding opportunity as an existing though new watershed group.

#### **4.C Goals**

CFYP is a local nonprofit watershed group focused on building a diverse, inclusive and multi-generation community of well-informed lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River stakeholders, focused on ensuring a desirable quality of life for water users, valley residents and the River itself.

CFYP goals are to:

- Engage the full range of watershed stakeholders and inform the community on important issues affecting the River while building consensus and direction for solutions.
- Collaboratively plan and complete projects and formulate water-related plans that restore and ensure the quality and resiliency of surface and ground water supplies.
- Grow and maintain a strong network of organizations working for a more healthy and sustainable Clarks Fork Yellowstone River.

CFYP is proposing to: Increase its operational capacity; Create and strengthen relationships among stakeholders; Expand membership; Build community awareness of watershed issues; Complete a comprehensive IWMP; and, Define and prioritize restoration projects that are supported by the community.

#### **4.D Approach**

If awarded, this Phase 1 IWMP project, CFYP will begin the process of improving water supply resilience and water quality for all uses in the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone project area. This will be achieved by understanding and protecting existing uses, assessing river health and rebuilding healthy riverine ecosystems. CFYP acknowledges that gaining stakeholder buy-in and collaboration requires time, effort and building of trust. In overview, the Phase 1 project

proposed by CFYP involves two major components: Task A - Watershed Group Development and Task B - Watershed Restoration Planning.

Task A - Watershed Group Development

1. Hiring a Facilitator
2. Build key stakeholder and community partnerships
3. Developing a Mission Statement
4. Conducting Outreach Activities
5. Increasing Funding Diversity
6. Gathering Information on Issues
7. Conducting Pre-Planning Activities

Task B - Watershed Restoration Planning

1. Lower Reach Work Scope
  - a. Plan restoration projects
  - b. Provide TMDL program outreach
  - c. Identify Issues of Concern
  - d. Evaluate Water Budgets
  - e. Evaluate a River Health Score Card
2. Conduct a Middle Reach River Assessment
3. Phase 1 Reporting Work Scope
  - a. Phase 1 Reporting
  - b. Community Engagement

***Task A - Watershed Group Development***

As a new watershed group, CFYP is organizationally limited relative to the challenges ahead. Therefore, the following Phase 1 Task A work scope will significantly increase CFYP capacity.

- A.1 Hiring a Facilitator. Given current membership growth and number of initiatives being targeted, CFYP anticipates hiring a full-time Manager in early-2023. Current CFYP leadership and labor is all-volunteer and therefore, to achieve its capacity and outreach goals, hiring a talented and aligned staff is necessary.
- A.2 Build Key Stakeholder & Community Partnerships. CFYP will prioritize identification and outreach to key stakeholders based on their potential to: Take responsibility for implementing the watershed plan; Be impacted by the watershed plan; Provide information on watershed issues and concerns; and, Provide knowledge, assistance or funding for inclusion in the plan. Section 5.A.1 provides a partial list of currently known stakeholder organizations, while it is certain that others will be added. Based on the nonpoint source nature of the impairments, CFYP anticipates that relatively numerous individual farmers, ranchers and residents will be added to the Phase 1 stakeholder list. CFYP recognizes that strong stakeholder partnerships require decades, and at times, generations to build. Within the Lower Reach, CFYP will employ stakeholder and community engagement tools, detailed in Task A, to begin building and maintaining partnerships throughout Phase 1 and beyond.

- A.3 Developing a Mission Statement CFYP has completed a draft mission, vision and goals statement, with membership currently working on objectives and strategies. It is anticipated to be adopted during Summer 2022. Organizationally, standing committees are being formed as membership talent and the need arise, with adoption of Committee Guidelines scheduled for Fall 2022. Bylaws will be adopted in Fall 2022 as well, followed by election of a diverse, inclusive and involved Board to ensure community and stakeholders are fully represented. CFYP strategy for ensuring Board diversity is to build membership throughout 2022 and recruit Board members from both within and outside of membership. Electing a Board is scheduled for early-2023 with quarterly meetings held thereafter. CFYP will continue to hold open monthly membership meetings with pre-published agenda and prior meeting notes.
- A.4 Conducting Outreach Activities CFYP will develop and implement an Outreach Plan in order to consistently engage the community and stakeholders on watershed-related issues. Importantly, the Plan will include guidance in conducting Task A.6 - Pre-Planning Activities, which is cornerstone to building long-term, generational partnerships. A website will be developed in Summer 2022 while a Story Map and quarterly email newsletter are scheduled for 2023. CFYP members attend meetings of local organizations such as the Conservation District, NRCS and an adjacent watershed group. Within 2023, CFYP will expand its meeting attendance to ditch companies, additional watershed groups, community groups and Trout Unlimited chapters to build alliances and gather input on watershed concerns. An important alliance group is with Wyoming-based stakeholders within the Middle Reach. Specific schedules and budgeting are planned for contacting Wyoming state agencies, NGOs, landowners and other stakeholders. Relationships will be maintained through ongoing project involvement and newsletter. A CFYP community outreach objective is to sponsor a water-related public lecture series, held every 6 months in a pot-luck dinner format. An ongoing CFYP alliance with Rocky Mountain College (RMC) in Billings, Montana is critical to achieving a portion of our education goals. RMC sponsors the Yellowstone River Research Center, an environmental research and learning center that is focused on regional riverine ecosystems. CFYP is interested in developing collaborative opportunities that will be mutually beneficial to both organizations and afford students the opportunity for hands-on project training. Outreach through CFYP's email list is critical and therefore addition of relatively simple marketing/contacting software will occur in 2023. CFYP is currently a member of Montana Watershed Coordination Council and Montana Nonprofit Association and budgeting is included for that continuation.
- A.5 Increasing Funding Diversity As a new organization, CFYP understands that a continuous focus on fundraising and grant applications is imperative. Pursuit and award of grants for both CFYP and its allied stakeholders will be developed as a strategic asset, as outlined in Task A.6 - Pre-Planning Activities. To that end, a Grant Applications Plan will be written and a Coordinator appointed as leader. Within 2023, CFYP will write a Members & Allies Plan with a focus on fundraising. Plan objectives will be: 1). Develop a membership program to encourage individual donors to give a small amount annually. In return for their annual donation, members will receive small perks which would likely



include discounts at local stores, monogram clothing, mugs and similar. Small business members will be included within this group. 2). Cultivate individual donors who wish to contribute at a higher level than the annual membership program. These are people with whom the Executive Director and Board members will have personal relationships to assist them in fashioning a legacy. 3). Secure grant funding from corporate and private foundations while expanding grant funding from state-level agencies. 4.) Develop CFYP's community fundraising events as a means to also build awareness of watershed issues. Events could include watershed cleanups and beer, wine and apple cider festivals.

A.6 Gathering Information on Issues Areas of CFYP investigation, learning and collaboration include: Drought Resilience planning: Legal and practical aspects of water rights leasing, banking and mitigation; River health score card development; Remote sensing of water quality; Impacts of climate change on mountain watershed flood modeling; Assemble references for Best Management Practices for Watersheds, on topics such as: AFO/CAFO siting and wastewater management; Channel Migration Zone management; Irrigation canal fish screens; and other. Budgeting for developing an online, publicly available Watershed Best Practices reference system, data on river conditions, reports, and data.

A.7 Conducting Pre-Planning Activities CFYP will build long-term, positive partnerships by providing assistance to ditch companies in targeting, writing and submitting grant and permit applications for maintenance and improvement of irrigation systems. This activity will involve providing field inspection, scoping assistance, and where appropriate, writing permit applications. This includes assistance on: 310 permits for construction within the flood plain; Engineering Requests for Proposal; and, Targeting and writing grant applications where funding is required. This outreach and engagement activity provides an opportunity to meet with stakeholders on their ground, regarding issues critical to them. It reinforces partnerships with the Conservation District and State and Federal agencies and assists landowners and engineers in application of Watershed Best Management Practices. This activity directly supports CFYP's initiative to keep irrigation systems efficient and fully functional to maintain or increase aquifer storage and watershed resiliency. This activity will also support: Installing/maintaining flow instrumentation and fish entrainment screens on headgates; Installing/maintaining fish friendly diversions and passages; and, Obtaining water flow data to increase water management awareness.

### **Task B - Watershed Restoration Planning**

The IWMP Phase 1 work scope is divided into Lower Reach and Middle Reach project areas within the mainstem Clarks Fork Yellowstone watershed. The Lower Reach project area encompasses roughly 520,000 acres and extends from river mile 0.9 to 70.9. The latter coincides with the Montana/Wyoming border (44.99975 -109.08215). The Middle Reach project area encompasses roughly 260,000 acres and extends from river mile 70.9 to 98, the latter coinciding with the WSRA boundary. The project area does not include the Rock Creek or Upper Reach portions of the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River watershed.

#### **B.1 Lower Reach Work Scope**

- a. **Plan Restoration Projects** – This sub-task will involve assessing and prioritizing the following Lower Reach projects identified within the 2019 River Assessment: Approximately 100 potential restoration projects; Six irrigation diversion studies; and, A channel migration zone (CMZ) study over the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River. These projects and studies are bounded by private land which will afford opportunity for stakeholder engagement. This funding will provide for stakeholder engagement, assessment and prioritization of identified restoration projects and studies.
- b. **Provide TMDL Program Outreach** A preliminary list of water quality IOC are documented within the EPA 303(d) listing of impairments for the lower mainstem Clarks Fork Yellowstone River and six of its tributaries. These impairments will be detailed and sources and causes identified by MDEQ, as TMDLs are set. Within Phase 1, CFYP will coordinate with MDEQ and provide for community engagement on and input to the TMDL process throughout. Completion of TMDLs is currently scheduled for 2027 and therefore water quality goals will not be quantified within this funding.
- c. **Identify Issues of Concern**. In parallel with the MDEQ TMDL process, CFYP will conduct outreach and stakeholder engagement to identify and prioritize other IOC. Referencing Section 5.B.1, such issues are anticipated to include: water supply shortages associated with prolonged drought; declining sport fish and native aquatic species populations; water balance and water quality impacts caused by changes in irrigation practice and land development; encroachment on floodplain and riparian areas; streambed and stream bank modification; and, other issues identified by stakeholders. Identifying the location, extent and water-related IOC will employ stakeholder engagement, remote sensing and GIS database development. IOC will be defined and categorized with respect to media involved, contribution, regulatory status, watershed best practice and other.
- d. **Evaluate Water Budgets** In collaboration with key stakeholders, CFYP will use preliminary water flow data, such as ditch company records and existing stream gage data, to arrive at preliminary consumptive and non-consumptive water use budget. Water needs for agricultural, municipal, recreational, residential and environmental uses will be evaluated and documented. Screening-level hydrology models will be used to develop a range of preliminary seasonal and annual water budgets within the Lower Reach. This will be followed by

determining if data gaps exist and, if so, collaboratively identifying a range of potential solutions for filling the gaps. Since only two river gage stations exist on the Clarks Fork River and no irrigation headworks are instrumented, this activity is anticipated to generate a list of data gaps to increase the water budget certainty prior to arriving at preliminary goals.

- e. Evaluate a River Health Score Card Using data search of similar applications, CFYP will consider applicability of a River Health Score Card system. The use of score cards is well established both nationally and internationally, with Colorado watershed groups being recognized as leaders. Even though TMDL information will be pending, assessment of a score card system can be undertaken. Therefore, upon defining IOCs and preliminary water budgets, CFYP will contact similar western US watershed groups that have: Applied the score card for 5 or more years; or, Abandoned the score card system. Interviews will be conducted in consort with key stakeholders to determine if the system is potentially applicable. If judged potentially applicable, CFYP will document the recommended path forward and provide an assessment of data, schedules and funding needs for score card development, and similar for its ongoing maintenance. The greater community will then be engaged to assess broader reaction to a potential River Health Score Card system.

## B.2 Conduct a Middle Reach River Assessment

Conduct a Middle Reach River Assessment Relative to the Lower Reach, few prior water quality and/or geomorphological investigations exist for the Middle Reach project area. To that end, CFYP will conduct a desktop, remote sensing-based River Assessment, covering the available time span of data and include documentation of ongoing and anticipated regulatory processes and management actions. The assessment will preliminarily identify potential IOC and provide recommendations for future Middle Reach mainstem and tributary investigations. The Middle Reach River Assessment will be integrated with and made part of the Phase 1 IWMP

## B.3 Phase 1 Reporting Work Scope

- a. Phase 1 Reporting CFYP will compile and organize project information into an integrated draft IWMP. The document will be companioned by an Executive Summary document to serve as a condensed version. The draft IWMP will provide a road map for developing a comprehensive IWMP within later phases as well as input to a future Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP).
- b. Community Engagement CFYP will provide a dinner-style community engagement meeting for presentation of the draft IWMP. Public feedback will be gained in followup meetings with ditch companies, municipalities and open CFYP membership meetings. Website comments will be logged as well.
- c. Fiscal Sponsor/Accounting In lieu of being registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c) (3), CFYP has Red Lodge Area Community Foundation (EIN 20-0192255) as its Fiscal Sponsor and accountant throughout the funding.

## 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

### 5.A Evaluation Criterion A – Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope

#### 5.A.1 Sub-criterion No. A1. – Watershed Group Diversity

##### Description of Affected Stakeholders

The Clarks Fork Yellowstone River is an important and significant headwaters stream within the Yellowstone River basin and there are many stakeholders affected by its management and use. The Clarks Fork Yellowstone River joins the Yellowstone River roughly 12 miles upstream of Billings, Montana which is an industrialized city of 110,000 with an additional 50,000 people living nearby.

Lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River stakeholders come from different sectors including farmers, ranchers, ditch companies, private and municipal landowners, Federal, State and local governments, tourism and recreation, industry, oil production, real estate development, emergency services and transportation. Following is a list, though not exhaustive, of some of the major stakeholders in the watershed.

Entity	Sector
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Federal Agency
U.S. Fish Wildlife Service	Federal Agency
Bureau of Land Management	Federal Agency
Carbon County, Montana	Local Government
Park County, Wyoming	Local Government
Yellowstone County, Montana	Local Government
Carbon Conservation District	Local Government
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Federal Agency
Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks	State Government
Yellowstone River Conservation District Council	Environmental Conservation
20+ Ditch Companies	Private Corporations
Montana Natural Resources Damage Program	State Government
Montana Dept of Natural Resources	State Government
Montana Dept of Environmental Quality	State Government
Wyoming Dept of Environmental Quality	State Government
Wyoming Dept of Natural Resources	State Government
U.S. Forest Service	Federal Agency
Beartooth Resource Conservation District	Local Government
Montana Watershed Coordination Council	Environmental Conservation
Rocky Mountain College	Higher Education
City of Billings	Local Government
City of Fromberg	Local Government

Entity	Sector
City of Bridger	Local Government
City of Joliet	Local Government
City of Cooke City	Local Government
City of Red Lodge	Local Government
City of Laurel	Local Government
City of Cody	Local Government
East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited	Environmental Conservation
Magic City Flyfishers – Montana Trout Unlimited	Environmental Conservation
D H Ranch	Agriculture
Faye Ranches	Real Estate
Stillwater Mining Company	Private Corporation
Red Lodge Area Community Foundation	Local Foundation
USDA Plant Materials Center – Bridger	Federal Agency
Wild Bison Ranch	Agriculture
Schlemmer Farms	Agriculture
Braten Farms	Agriculture
Cottonwood Holdings	Real Estate
Stillwater River Watershed Group	Environmental Conservation

Specific stakeholders providing letters of support for CFYP are listed in Section 9.

Current CFYP Membership

Member Name	Profile
Jim Stevenson	CFYP President, landowner, irrigator, retired engineer, Silesia
John Wheaton	CFYP Treasurer, landowner, irrigator, retired hydrologist, Fromberg
Greg Schlemmer	Farmer, landowner, irrigator, livestock and crop producer, Fromberg
Timothy Nottingham	Mayor, Town of Fromberg, Montana, retired law enforcement
Pat & Steve Cole	Primary school educator, landowners, irrigators, Rockvale
Barrett Kaiser	Consultant, landowner, irrigator, Belfry
George Duke	Local rancher, landowner, irrigator, Edgar
Ben Bailey	Fisheries Technician, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, Roberts
Krist Walstad	Carbon County agent for NRCS, Joliet
Ward Braten	Local rancher, landowner, irrigator, Joliet
Dane Reed	Realtor, landowner, Fay Ranches realtor, Edgar
Tyrell Hoferer	Farmer, landowner, irrigator, livestock and crop producer, Silesia

Targeting Affected Stakeholders

CFYP will prioritize identification and outreach to key stakeholders based on their potential to: Take responsibility for implementing the watershed plan; Be impacted by the watershed plan; Provide information on watershed issues and concerns; and, Provide knowledge, assistance or funding for inclusion in the plan. A partial list of currently known stakeholder organizations is

presented, while it is certain that others will be added. Based on the nonpoint source nature of the impairments, CFYP anticipates that relatively numerous individual farmers, ranchers and residents will be added to the Phase 1 stakeholder list. Strong stakeholder partnerships require decades, and at times, generations to build. Within the Lower Reach, CFYP will employ stakeholder and community engagement tools, detailed in Task A, to begin building and maintaining partnerships throughout Phase 1 and beyond.

### **5.A.2 Sub-criterion No. A2. – Geographic Scope**

#### *Geographic Boundaries and Scope*

The Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership is intent on protecting and restoring river miles 0 through 98 of the mainstem Clarks Fork Yellowstone River watershed (Figure 1). The overall watershed is composed of four areas: Lower Reach; Middle Reach; Upper Reach; and, Rock Creek. The project area encompasses the Lower and Middle reaches of the mainstem Clarks Fork Yellowstone River while it does not take in the Upper Reach or Rock Creek.

The demographics, economy, land use, IOC and basic riverine characteristics of the Lower and Middle reaches are presented in Section 3. In summary, the project area is an agriculture-based valley with small, relatively isolated towns and a watershed with long-standing histories of significant water quality impairment. The towns and surrounding farms/ranches have a Rural Capacity index of 58 out of 100, as ranked by Headwaters Economics.

The Upper Reach of the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River is largely uninhabited and dominated by Federal land, Yellowstone National Park and the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness area. The Upper Reach has no town within it, no industry, mining or agricultural production, and only sparsely populated by seasonal homes and caretaker-operated scenic ranches. Cody, Wyoming is the nearest town and has a Rural Capacity index of 71 out of 100. Within its Upper Reach, the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River is a trout fishery with WSRA designation and receives strong conservation support from Federal and State agencies and a Cody-based chapter of Trout Unlimited. The Upper Reach was judged as stable and well-supported and therefore a low priority for the current project. Due to its importance to the overall watershed, CFYP nonetheless is intent on building relationships with Upper Reach stakeholders.

The Rock Creek drainage is home to Carbon County's largest town, Red Lodge, which is the county seat. The town and surrounding area have numerous seasonal homes, hotels and vacation rentals, a regional ski area and golf course, high-end restaurants, two clinics, relatively high land values and is a scenic gateway community to Yellowstone National Park. Rock Creek supports a healthy trout population over its entire length and has a relatively strong focus by conservation groups. Red Lodge and surrounding farms/ranches have a Rural Capacity index of 80 out of 100. Rock Creek was judged as sufficiently stable and well-supported and therefore a low priority for the current project. Due to its importance within the Lower Reach, CFYP maintains strong relationships with Rock Creek stakeholders.

Extent to which the planned membership of the watershed group will represent the full geographic extent of the area.

As of March 2022, CFYP membership is at approximately 15 and growing. Demographically, the membership includes male and female farmers, ranchers, elected municipal leaders, realtors, construction contractors, educators, professionals and outdoor enthusiasts. Age range is from 27 to over 70. Geographically, CFYP membership represents a 30-mile long corridor within the Lower Reach and therefore geographic expansion into the Middle Reach is a goal. CFYP holds 90-minute, open public meetings on the third Wednesday of every month, at the same time and public location, preceded by a published agenda. Current CFYP policy is that any and all meeting attendees are eligible and encouraged to forward motions and vote. CFYP believes that a consistent public meeting schedule and open format is supportive of building stakeholder diversity and involvement.

In summer 2022, CFYP will compile Bylaws that specify the demographic and geographic sectors to be represented on the Board, thereby ensuring stakeholders are fully represented. CFYP strategy for ensuring Board diversity is to build membership throughout 2022 and recruit Board members from both within and outside of membership. Electing a Board is scheduled for early-2023 with quarterly meetings held thereafter.

Ensuring the watershed group will target stakeholders representing the full geographic scope.

Through the diversity of its membership and Outreach Program, CFYP will target stakeholders throughout the project area and into the Upper Reach and Rock Creek areas of the watershed. An important group of alliances is with Wyoming-based stakeholders within the Middle Reach and specific actions and budgeting to that end are included. CFYP will make contact with Wyoming state agencies, NGOs, landowners and other stakeholders and maintain communication via newsletter and direct contact thereafter. CFYP has ongoing relations with the East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited which is based in Cody, Wyoming and owns a ranch on the Middle Reach of the lower Clarks Yellowstone River. CFYP will develop and implement an Outreach Plan as a means to consistently engage the community and stakeholders on watershed-related issues. CFYP maintains communications with the Water Quality Specialist for the City of Billings, a downstream community of 110,000. As well, Rocky Mountain College of Billings, Montana is a CFYP member that will provide CFYP with interns. A website and Story Map will be developed in Summer 2022 while a quarterly email newsletter is scheduled for 2023.

## **5.B Evaluation Criterion B – Addressing Critical Watershed Needs**

### **5.B.1 Sub-criterion No. B1. – Critical Watershed Needs or Issues**

EPA 303(d) Listing

In 1996, the lower mainstem Clarks Fork Yellowstone River plus six of its tributaries (Silver Tip Creek, Bear Creek, Bridger Creek, Bluewater Creek, Elbow Creek and Rock Creek) were placed on the EPA 303(d) list by MDEQ. Two listed tributaries, Elbow Creek and Cottonwood Creek are in the Lower Reach. The 303(d) listings were made for exceeding one or more standard for

nutrients, sediment, metals and physical alteration. The probable causes are nitrogen species, chlorophyll-a, metals, low flow alterations, solids (suspended bedload) and water temperature. The probable impairment sources include: habitat modification other than hydromodification; impacts from hydrostructure flow; flow regulation/modification; irrigated crop production; and, streambank modifications. MDEQ affirmed the listing in 2006 and the streams are currently scheduled to have total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) assessed and set within the 2023 to 2027 timeframe. CFYP will collaborate with MDEQ as TMDLs are developed while providing stakeholder engagement and outreach on the topic. It is anticipated that development of a Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) will be pursued within a later phase or another funding source.

#### Natural Sediment Load

Within the Lower and Middle reaches of the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River, land use is dedicated to approximately 20% irrigated cropland, 18% dry hay/pasture land and 60% range and forest land, with the balance comprised of waterways, roads and infrastructure. In 1806, Lewis and Clark characterized the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River as “cold and cloudy” at its confluence with the Yellowstone River. Multiple studies from the 1960’s to present have documented a variable background level of sediment. The primary sources and causes are high intensity storms, erosive soils and steep slopes all contributing to variable background level of river sediment loading. Consistent with the foregoing, project area soils are primarily of Cretaceous age, steep to vertical slopes are present within many of the Lower and Middle reach tributaries and the region is both arid and frequented by high intensity storms. Large forest and rangeland wildfires which result in vegetative cover loss, also contribute to erosion and river sediment loading.

#### Agricultural Sediment and Nutrient Loads

Livestock and sugar beet production are the primary sources of income to the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River valley. Cropland irrigation is by far the largest water use, with over 20 private ditch companies on the River within the project area. Referencing a 1973 study of high soil erosion and river sedimentation in the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River and a 2019 River Assessment, the primary anthropogenic sources and causes of sedimentation are:

- Reduced vegetative cover, roads, stream bed and bank disturbances, feedlots and over-grazing accounts for a portion of human-caused sediment loading. Improvements in land and water management practice were recommended.
- Aging irrigation infrastructure, inefficient irrigation systems and streambed modification as diversions account for the balance of human-caused sediment loading. Improvements in both irrigation infrastructure and irrigation efficiency and a reduction in seasonal stream diversions were recommended.

#### Water Balance & Drought

Water rights on the mainstem Clarks Fork Yellowstone River date to 1890, with the majority of water distributed via canal and ditch systems. Historically, river flows have been sufficient to where irrigation demands have been met, even during late-summer and early-Fall. The sufficiency would appear due in large part to the Middle and Lower reaches receiving



groundwater inflow and irrigation return flows. This appears to enable irrigation water to be extracted from and returned to the River multiple times. Several potential issues may be of concern:

- Water quality appears to progressively degrade with river flow distance. This is based on increased salinity, suspended solids and other constituents.
- Due to a severe multi-year drought, the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River has reached critically low summer flows to where full-width streambed modifications are at times used to meet irrigation demand. In such instances, the river is completely dewatered at one or more locations within the Lower Reach. As drought deepens, water shortages may increasingly impact the agricultural economy.
- Watershed hydrologic responses to changes in climate, farming practice and land development are complex and uncertain due to geology, acreages involved, River flows and climate. These potentially large changes in water budget are underway, however monitoring and quantifying such change is challenged by: None of the irrigation canals are flow-instrumented or gaged; only two active stream gages are in place on the river; Most irrigation headworks, siphons and canals are aging and in need of replacement; and, Only limited groundwater and surface water monitoring is occurring.

#### Land Development & Water Rights

The Clarks Fork Yellowstone valley is a 35-minute commute west of Billings and lies halfway to the Beartooth Mountains. In conjunction with nearby Yellowstone National Park, the mountains are a popular recreation area. In response, farmland is being increasingly converted to residential use with its attendant change in both water use and water rights ownership.

Potential IOC are:

- Loss of irrigation ditch operation which may result in decreased aquifer storage and release to the river.
- Increased groundwater extraction by domestic wells.
- Increased groundwater nutrient loading from septic systems.
- Increased sediment and/or nutrient loading to surface water from small plot livestock operations.
- Encroachment on floodplain, channel migration zones and/or riparian areas.

#### Low Aesthetics & Recreational Use

Relative to the nearby Stillwater, Yellowstone, Shoshone and Bighorn rivers, the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River has not realized its full potential as a multi-use, recreational resource. A 2019 River Assessment of the Lower Reach yielded the following: 45 bank stabilization sites incorporating junked vehicles; Streamside debris and refuse dumps; Streamside animal feedlot operations; Abandoned pump installations; and, other. Low recreational use can likely also be attributed to relatively few public access points.

Upstream of approximately river mile 50, the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River begins to support a brown trout population in response to increasingly conducive cold-water habitat. Based on MTFWP surveys, rainbow trout can survive as well. However, the frequently high sediment load

is a likely impairment. Increasing sport fish populations through improved water quality could increase recreational use.

### Native Species

The lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River supports a healthy cold-water fishery at the upstream project boundary and transitions in the Lower Reach to a cool water fishery that extends to its confluence with the Yellowstone River. The foregoing EPA 303(d) impairments would appear to be impacting sport fish and native species populations within the project area. This includes, the spiny softshell turtles (*Apatone spinifera*) a “Species of Concern”, and burbot (*Lota lota*) a “Potential Species of Concern”, both of which are present in the Lower Reach. These species may be particularly sensitive to water temperature, dissolved oxygen and in-stream barriers such as permanent and seasonal irrigation diversions.

A cold-water fishery exists within the Middle Reach, however, native Yellowstone cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkia bouvieri*) a “Species of Concern” are no longer present. Cold water sport fish are present in the Middle Reach however high sediment loading appears to limit some populations.

The Lower and Middle reaches are within the MTFWP Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program area. The habitat conservation program goal is to sustain viable sage grouse populations so a future listing under the Endangered Species Act is unwarranted. Restoration projects that disturb Clarks Fork Yellowstone River streambanks require Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program administrative review and approval in the permitting process.

### Invasive Plant & Aquatic Species

Russian olive and salt cedar (tamarisk) are the primary invasive shrubs in the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River project area, plus an array of noxious weeds. Likely due to low recreational use, the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River has seen relatively few invasive aquatic species. New Zealand mud snails (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) have been detected in a tributary, Bluewater Creek, however in general relatively few aquatic invasives are present. State- and county-level agencies lead efforts to manage these invasive species and CFYP’s goal within Phase-1 is to provide mapping of Russian olive and salt cedar in the Lower Reach via remote sensing.

### Community Capacity & Source Water

The lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River flows through or nearby four small communities (Belfry, Bridger, Fromberg and Edgar), ranging from 50 to 800 residents each. Based on Headwaters Economics <https://headwaterseconomics.org/equity/rural-capacity-map/> analysis of 2020 census data, these communities and the overall project area, have an average Rural Capacity Index of 58 out of 100. This rating is in the 61<sup>st</sup> percentile within Montana and the 55<sup>th</sup> percentile nationally, indicating the project area is significantly lagging in its socioeconomic capacity to manage the impacts of climate uncertainty such as aridification, flooding and wildfire. All of the foregoing communities use groundwater as public source water

which could be subject to nutrient loading as land development and/or livestock production increase. The well water supply of one community, Fromberg, is currently at threat due to Clarks Fork Yellowstone River channel migration.

## **5.B.2 Sub-criterion No. B2. – Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs or Issues**

### *Task A: Watershed Group Development*

The lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River impairments are complex, long-standing and persisting. CFYP recognizes that progress on a stewardship level may require multiple generations and therefore we are approaching our partnership-building with patience. Our strategy is to be a useful, technical partner to ditch companies, municipalities, residents and agencies. CFYP's objective is to build and maintain stable relationships, connected by a common interest in achieving a stable and resilient water supply and improved riverine ecosystems. Our goal is to be a vital community resource, measured by its capacity for outreach, education and strong, long-term stakeholder partnerships.

Referencing the Task A work scope presented in Section 4.D, CFYP has a clear view of its organizational capacity-building objectives and the strategies necessary to achieve them. As a grassroots watershed group, CFYP membership already includes farmers, ranchers, educators, realtors, contractors, municipalities, a local university and agency employees. CFYP membership connects it directly to the watershed and local/regional economy. Therefore, a stronger, higher capacity CFYP directly strengthens both the watershed and local economy.

### *Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning*

This IWMP Phase 1 project is preceded by several water quality investigations of the lower Clarks Fork River watershed:

- 1960's: Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks and US Geological Survey conducted a series of investigations into high levels of sedimentation in tributaries to the Lower Reach. Results indicated significant human-caused impairments of the tributaries due to irrigation return flows.
- 1973: The 42<sup>nd</sup> Montana Legislature directed completion of a comprehensive study of high soil erosion and river sedimentation in the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River. It resulted in a detailed listing of natural and human-caused sedimentation.
- 1996: Montana DEQ placed the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River plus six of its Montana tributaries on the EPA 303(d) "threatened or impaired" list.
- 2006: Montana DEQ affirmed the 1996 303(d) listings.
- 2019: A River Assessment of the lower 45 miles of the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River was completed by Carbon Conservation District, Montana Department of Justice and Yellowstone River Conservation District Council. The report identified roughly 100 sites of concern, ten tributaries and six irrigation diversions to be considered for assessment and/or restoration.

The foregoing indicates that human-caused water quality impairments have been recognized and studied within the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River for over half a century though to date, few restoration projects have been undertaken.

Referencing the Task B work scope presented in Section 4.D, CFYP strategy for developing restoration projects is to first engage stakeholders and community regarding known potential restoration projects and IOCs. Second, incorporate public response and document potential projects/IOCs not yet identified. In collaboration with key stakeholder, CFYP will prioritize potentiation projects/IOCs and develop a plan for each.

CFYP will facilitate development of a preliminary water budget and River Health Score Card for the lower reach of the river. These are tools that can help the community better understand the river and become involved in improving river health.

A screening level river assessment has not yet been performed on the middle reach. CFYP will undertake to work with a contractor to complete this aspect of documenting and understanding the river conditions.

Outcomes from Phase 1 will chart the course for: Development of a range of Lower Reach restoration projects; Eventual development of a Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP); and, Integrating a range of water use and water quality needs into a comprehensive IWMP for the entire lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River watershed.

## **5.C Evaluation Criterion C – Implementation and Results**

### **5.C.1 Sub-criterion No. C1. – Project Implementation**

The timeframes below are primarily within the proposed grant period. Some of Phase 1 IWMP activities will begin outside the grant period though will not be supported with USBR funding.

ACTIVITY	DATES	MILESTONES	COST
<b>Task A: Watershed Group Development</b>			
A.1 Hiring Full-Time Facilitator	10/01/22 to 03/30/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One full-time equivalent Facilitator for duration of funding with time distributed over tasks, based on level of effort for each.</li> </ul>	N/A
A.2 Build Key Stakeholder & Community Partnerships	01/01/23 to 12/31/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create database and initial list of key stakeholders, in 4 categories</li> <li>Down select to "key" stakeholders in each category using pre-determined scoring system</li> <li>Conduct interviews/meetings to determine issues of concern. Partner with key stakeholders for balance of project.</li> </ul>	\$19,200
A.3 Develop a Mission Statement	01/01/23 to 12/31/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grow membership and conduct monthly meetings.</li> <li>Grow working committees.</li> <li>Complete Bylaws, nominate/elect first three Board members, conduct quarterly meetings.</li> </ul>	\$14,400
A.4 Conducting Outreach Activities	01/01/23 to 12/31/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write &amp; publish 2/yr newsletter</li> <li>Attend 3 meetings/mo of ditch companies, NGOs and City/County/State agencies.</li> <li>Travel 1/qtr to build Wyoming alliances.</li> <li>Meet with 3 high school FFA groups/yr.</li> <li>Grow monthly membership meeting attendance by 25 members/yr</li> <li>Develop Story Map, build Watershed Best Management Practice page.</li> <li>Pay membership fees for Montana Watershed CC and Montana Nonprofit Association.</li> <li>Sponsor 2 public interest lecture-updates/yr</li> </ul>	\$16,400

A.5 Increasing Funding Diversity	01/01/23 to 12/31/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write Grant Pursuit Plan and submit applications.</li> <li>• Write Members &amp; Allies Plan.</li> <li>• Add 2 corporate or foundation donors/sponsors per year.</li> <li>• Conduct or participate in 2 fund-raising event/yr.</li> </ul>	\$4,800
A.6 Gathering Information on Issues	01/01/23 to 12/31/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect data as noted in Task A.6, develop online, publicly available reference system for BMP, data on river conditions, reports, and data.</li> </ul>	\$4,800
A.7 Conducting Pre-Planning	01/01/23 to 06/30/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field inspection, education and assistance in writing 310 permits or Engineering RFPs or Grant applications.</li> </ul>	\$4,800

ACTIVITY	DATES	MILESTONES	COST
<b>Task B-1. Watershed Restoration Planning</b>			
B.1.a Plan Restoration Projects	07/01/23 to 06/30/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use remote sensing and stakeholder engagement to preliminarily assess and prioritize approximately 100 Lower Reach restoration projects, six irrigation diversion studies and one channel migration zone (CMZ) study.</li> <li>• Conduct landowner/stakeholder engagement to gather additional data and determine potential for participation.</li> <li>• Document and prioritize all projects.</li> <li>• Provide preliminary planning and cost estimating on top 10 restoration projects, top 4 diversion studies and the CMZ study.</li> </ul>	\$9,600
B.1.b Provide TMDL Program Outreach	01/01/23 to 12/31/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct 8 quarterly tele-meetings with MDEQ.</li> <li>• Attend MDEQ TMDL Working Group meetings.</li> <li>• Attend MDEQ Nutrient Work Group.</li> <li>• Conduct related community outreach.</li> </ul>	\$4,800

B.1.c Identify Issues of Concern	01/01/23 to 12/31/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop preliminary list of IOC, characteristics, locations. Identify potential related stakeholders, including beyond watershed.</li> <li>• Review prior studies, remote sensing data, experts, current literature, State/Federal standards, guidance and handbooks on issue.</li> <li>• Update lists and write assessment reports.</li> <li>• Participate in community outreach on issues to gather views and broader input.</li> <li>• Conduct followup with key stakeholders to finalize lists and incorporate into database.</li> </ul>	\$4,800
B.1.d Prepare Draft Water Budgets	01/01/24 to 12/31/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect and analyze flow data (water rights, ditch company records, gage data, etc). Quantify uses.</li> <li>• Assess and select water budget model</li> <li>• Conduct screening-level modeling to bound historic annual, seasonal, max, med, min ranges.</li> <li>• Assess level of modeling certainty to identify data gaps and options for filling gaps prior to setting preliminary water use goals.</li> <li>• Evaluate results with key stakeholders. Collaboratively document recommendations and path forward options.</li> <li>• Engage community and document feedback.</li> </ul>	\$6,800
B.1.e Evaluate a River Health Score Card	01/01/24 to 12/31/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familiarize key stakeholders with River Health Score Card systems and develop user interview questions.</li> <li>• Investigate other western US watersheds using or that have abandoned score card system. Summarize and rank for contacting.</li> <li>• Interview score card users with key stakeholders. Document, assess and</li> </ul>	\$9,800

		<p>rank.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate results with key stakeholders. Collaboratively document recommendations and path forward options.</li> <li>• Engage community and document feedback.</li> </ul>	
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ACTIVITY	DATES	MILESTONES	COST
<b>Task B-2. Middle Reach Work Scope</b>			
Conduct Middle Reach Preliminary River Assessment	01/01/24 to 12/31/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use remote sensing to document tributary and mainstem seasonal responses, landform and land use changes over a period 40 years, depending on available data.</li> <li>• Document regulatory actions, land use, agricultural programs, transportation construction and related.</li> <li>• Write Preliminary River Assessment, providing narrative and cataloging of data.</li> </ul>	\$19,600
<b>Task B-3. Phase 1 Reporting Work Scope</b>			
B.3.a Phase 1 Reporting	07/01/24 to 12/31/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compile and organize information into draft IWMP.</li> <li>• Document path forward for next phase of IWMP.</li> <li>• Document path forward for Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)</li> <li>• Prepare stand-alone IWMP Executive Summary document.</li> </ul>	\$9,600
B.3.b Community Engagement	01/01/23 to 12/31/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide dinner-style community engagement meeting for presentation of the draft IWMP.</li> <li>• Conduct followup meetings with ditch companies, municipalities and open CFYP membership meetings.</li> <li>• Provide final documentation and close project.</li> </ul>	\$4,800
B.3.c Fiscal Administration	01/01/23 to 12/31/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal administration over entire project.</li> </ul>	\$13,420

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## 5.C.2 Sub-criterion No. C2. – Project Implementation

CFYP is integrally involved with state and regional planning efforts. As such, our proposed activities will complement and directly contribute to the goals of the MDEQ Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Program. As part of the NPS Management Program, this project will be listed with and reviewed by the Montana TMDL Working Group.

## 5.D Evaluation Criterion D – Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities

### 5.D.1 Sub-criterion No. D1. – Climate Change

The Phase 1 IWMP is driven by and geared to:

- Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change & Help Combat the Climate Crisis Through startup of CFYP, the first watershed conservation group on this highly impaired river, long-term stewardship will be established. A primary goal of CFYP is to build partnerships to develop an IWMP in pursuit of improved watershed resilience. A key IWMP driver is a multi-year regional drought, in-line with climatic forecasts for long-term aridification of the West. Increasing watershed resilience will maintain the local agricultural economy and avoid socioeconomic disruption caused by water supply shortages.
- Protecting Public Health A primary goal of CFYP is to work collaboratively with MDEQ and the community to assess and eventually achieve TMDLs on the mainstem lower Clarks Fork River and six of its tributaries. For over half a century, the listed impairments have impacted not only the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone watershed, but a large downstream community situated on the Yellowstone River as well.
- Conserve Our Lands The Phase 1 project will address land use management to conserve and protect riparian areas which are critical to water and riverine ecosystem conservation. Water budget investigations within Phase 1 will likely provide data to a large and potentially far-reaching NRCS project within the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River valley. The NRCS project holds the potential to significantly reduce soil loss from farmlands, conserve irrigation water and decrease application of fertilizers; all aimed at conserving productive farmland.
- Increasing Biodiversity The lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River supports a healthy cold-water fishery at the upstream project boundary and transitions in the Lower Reach to a cool water fishery that extends to its confluence with the Yellowstone River. “Species of Concern” and “Potential Species of Concern” within the project area may be particularly sensitive to water temperature, dissolved oxygen and in-stream barriers. The IWMP Phase 1 project will directly address the foregoing impairments.

### 5.D.2 Sub-criterion No. D2. – Disadvantaged and Underserved Communities

Based on Headwaters Economics <https://headwaterseconomics.org/equity/rural-capacity-map/> analysis of 2020 census data, the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River valley has a Rural Capacity

Index of 58 out of 100. This rating is in the 61<sup>st</sup> percentile within Montana and the 55<sup>th</sup> percentile nationally, indicating the project area is significantly lagging in its socioeconomic capacity to manage the impacts of climate uncertainty such as aridification, flooding and wildfire.

CFYP has the specific goal of increasing the capacity of the lower Clarks Fork Yellowstone River community for multiple generations. The area has been underserved for many decades and remains remote from services. This IWMP project will first help to stabilize the agricultural economy by increasing watershed resilience. Second, improvements in water quality, flow and river aesthetics will increase recreation which will diversify the local economy. CFYP is already providing technical support the small town of Fromberg in protecting its community water supply from imminent threat of river erosion. If funded, CFYP will be assured in its ability to continue this and other community projects.

## 6. OVERLAP or DUPLICATION OF EFFORT STATEMENT

No portion of the proposed Phase 1 IWMP project will overlap with or in any way be duplicative of any other active or anticipated proposals or project in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel.

## 7. PROJECT BUDGET

### 7.A Budget Narrative

#### Salaries and Wages – \$45,000/yr or \$90,000/2-yr

Facilitator - Montana has a low unemployment rate and costs of living in Carbon County Montana are moderate due to lack of sales tax though relatively long daily travel distances. The pay rate of \$45,000/yr for a full-time Facilitator position reflects the costs of living in Carbon County and also takes into account experience and professionalism needed for this type of position. The only use of funds that CFYP is requesting from USBR is to create a stable source of funding for our Facilitator position. Required employer taxes will be withheld from salary, no fringe benefits will be provided.

College Students – Students will be hired from a local college to assist with fieldwork, river assessment and data management. They will contribute to project and receive exposure to conservation issues.

#### Supplies - \$3,000/2-yr

Office and Educational Supplies - These items include printer ink, paper, copying, postage, markers and similar.

Fiscal Sponsorship % Accounting - \$10,000/yr or \$20,000/2-yrAs Fiscal Sponsor for CFYP, Red Lodge Area Community Foundation (EIN 20-0192255) provides both IRS 501(c)3 registration and project accounting for federal grants at a rate of 10%.

### Project Budget

Budget Item Descriptions	Computation		Quantity Type	Cost: Year 1	Cost: Year 2	Total Grant	Funding Source
	\$/Unit	Qty					
<b>Salary &amp; Wages</b>							
Facilitator	\$3,750	24	Month	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$90,000	USBR
College Students	\$15	600	Hour	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$9,000	USBR
<b>Supplies</b>							
Office & Educational Supplies	\$1,500	1	Year	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000	USBR
<b>Travel</b>							
Mileage	\$0.585	30,000	Mile	\$8,775	\$8,775	\$17,550	USBR
Per Diem (Food & Lodging)	\$155	15	Days	\$2,325	\$2,325	\$4,650	USBR
<b>Contractors</b>							
GIS for Assessment Planning	\$10,000	1	Contract	0	\$10,000	\$10,000	USBR
<b>Administration/Accounting</b>							
501(c)3 Fiscal Sponsor Red Lodge Area Community Foundat.	10%	1	Total Grant Funding	\$5,920	\$7,500	\$13,420	USBR
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>						\$147,620	USBR
<b>Indirect Costs</b>						\$0	
<b>Total Estimated Project Costs</b>						\$147,620	

#### Travel \$11,100/2-yr

Travel expense will be for community outreach, stakeholder engagement and meeting attendance. Expenses are estimated based on prevailing Federal rate of \$0.585/mile for 15,000/yr and \$155/night at 15 nights/2-yr. Per diem will not be paid for local trips that do not include overnight lodging.

#### Contractors - \$10,000/2-yr

A software/database contractor will be hired to assist with GIS mapping, database and preparation for stream assessment.

#### Sponsor/Accounting - \$13,420/2-yr

CFYP is a nonprofit, community benefit corporation, registered and in good standing with the Montana Secretary of State. In lieu of being registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c) (3), CFYP has Red Lodge Area Community Foundation (EIN 20-0192255) as its Fiscal Sponsor and accountant throughout the funding.

**8. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE**

CFYP will not engage in monitoring, measuring or fieldwork activities utilizing these grant funds. These endeavors will be undertaken under separate funding resources. CFYP will research and summarize environmental compliance for project concepts identified in the IWMP.

**9. REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS**

CFYP does not intend to do work under this grant that requires permits or formal approvals but will research and summarize permitting and approval requirements for project concepts.

**10. LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

Letters of Support from stakeholders in CFYP are attached and summarized as follows.

Entity	Watershed Interest	Relationship to CFYP	Support Letter
Carbon Conservation District	County conservation Agency	Partnered agency	X
Fay Ranches	Bozeman-based realtor with local office	CFYP member	X
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Federal conservation agency	Partnered state-agency	X
Montana Watershed Coordination Council	Statewide advocate of watershed organizations	CFYP is a member	X
Yellowstone River Conservation District Council	Statewide advocate of watershed organizations	Partnered NGO	X
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks	State agency	Partnered state-agency	X
Rocky Mountain College	Private college, Billings, MT	Partnered university in Billings, Montana	X
Montana Department of Environmental Quality	State agency	Partnered state-agency	X
Magic City Flyfishers	Regional conservation	Partnered NGO	X
Montana Trout Unlimited	State-level conservation	Supporting NGO	X

## **11. OFFICIAL RESOLUTION**

Page 31 of this application presents a copy of the Official Resolution of CFYP membership, signed by CFYP president.

## **12. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

Per FAIR, 2 CFR Sect 1402.112, no actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission of this application on March 31, 2022.

## **13. SINGLE AUDIT REPORTING STATEMENT**

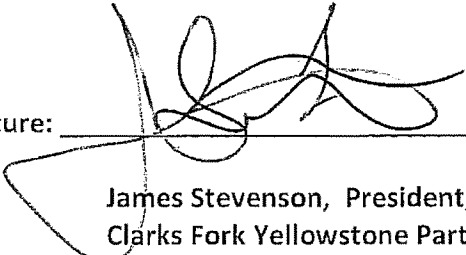
CFYP was not required to submit a Single Audit report for fiscal the year closed on December 31, 2021.

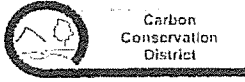
## Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership Official Resolution

As set forth in Item 5.3 of Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership (CFYP) Membership Meeting minutes for March 16, 2022, Membership motioned, seconded and approved by acclaim that a Review Committee be formed and empowered to, on behalf of Membership, review and either approve or disapprove submittal of CFYP grant application for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation NOFO R22AS00163. Membership nominated and appointed by acclaim the following to the Review Committee; Dane Reed, Pat Cole and Tyrell Hoferer to serve with John Wheaton, Treasurer, and Jim Stevenson, President, on a 5-member committee.

All Review Committee members were emailed a copy of the draft application on March 18, 2022 and then polled on March 23, 2022 to determine each member's approval or disapproval. The votes were three to approve (Hoferer, Wheaton, Stevenson), one abstained (Cole) and one absent (Reed). Therefore, submittal of the grant application for NOFO R22AS00163 was approved by the Review Committee and Membership.

I hereby certify this Official Resolution to be true and accurate in all manner.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/28/22  
James Stevenson, President/CEO  
Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership



Carbon Conservation District ▪ PO Box 510  
606 W. Front Street ▪ Joliet, Montana 59041 ▪ (406) 962-3641 x 105

US Bureau of Reclamation

March 23, 2022

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program

Denver Office

Dear Sirs:

Carbon Conservation District would like to give full support to the Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership. They will be working independently and with us for water conservation.

Thank you,

Darlene Schwend

Administrator

Carbon Conservation District

**Fay Ranches, Inc.**

800.238.8616 / fax 406.586.4020

2650 Overland Ave Billings, Montana 59102

[www.fayranches.com](http://www.fayranches.com)

**George Duke** / Ranch Sales

[gduke@fayranches.com](mailto:gduke@fayranches.com) / 406.670.7258

James-

I really want to thank you for your tireless work on Clarks Fork Yellowstone River Partnership and efforts in getting the 'idea' of a true association of landowners, farmers, ranchers, and recreationists who use the river kickstarted into a living, breathing organization capable of making a real difference in the health of the river that means so much to all of us.

As a farmer and rancher here in Carbon County with almost 4 miles of river frontage, and someone who irrigates, swims, fishes in and hunts along this river I am acutely aware of a lot of the problems we face in supporting the general health and stability of the river corridor and associated ecosystem. The changes I have seen with my own eyes in the 26 years I have owned my ranch here near Edgar have been alarming. If your group can improve such things as the turbidity, salinity, nitrate levels from farming and just basic overall health of the river for things like fish and amphibians by identifying projects and solutions and raising the money to implement and follow through with hard work it would be something we could all be proud of!

I support wholeheartedly Clarks Fork Yellowstone River Partnership and what you are trying to do and pledge my unwavering support and assistance towards your efforts.

Best regard,

George Duke

D H Ranch

289 Homestead Road, Edgar, Montana 59026





United States Department of Agriculture

---

Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Montana State Office

10 East Babcock  
Street, Room 443  
Bozeman  
Montana, 59715

Voice 406.587.6811  
Fax 855.510.7028

March 22, 2021

Jim Stevenson  
81 River Rd.  
Silesia, MT 59041

Jim,

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is committed to helping people conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources and the environment. NRCS's goal is to maintain a healthy and productive land that sustains food and fiber production, as well as to protect and restore critical natural systems, such as the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River. The NRCS recognizes the importance of groups such as the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Partnership (CFRP), a local community group taking action to address resource concerns affecting the local river.

Having a WaterSMART grant in place, will allow for future grant opportunities from various entities and agencies, including the NRCS to fund conservation planning and implementation of projects benefiting the river, local community, as well as downstream water users. The NRCS sees this a great local partnership for pursuing watershed health projects.

Sincerely,

THOMAS  
WATSON

Digitally signed by  
THOMAS WATSON  
Date: 2022.03.23  
12:24:33 -06'00'

Tom Watson  
NRCS, State Conservationist



To the Cooperative Watershed Management Program Review Committee:

The Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) fully supports the Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership's (CFYP) proposal for Phase 1 funding through the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program. CFYP already has an incredible amount of momentum and dedication within their all-volunteer board. Their ability to protect and restore the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone will only be enhanced through increased community outreach and the process of establishing a Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) as outlined in their proposal.

MWCC supports watershed groups across the state of Montana, and we know the challenges that new watershed groups often face, including a lack of a clear plan to tackle necessary work in their watersheds and communities, and a lack of funding to achieve meaningful and equitable community engagement. In the case of CFYP, the cross-border nature of the Clarks Fork Yellowstone's course only increases these challenges.

The process of establishing a WRP will help CFYP and the Clarks Fork Yellowstone communities to monitor, evaluate, and establish priorities for future restoration. Funding for additional community outreach will hugely improve the process and the future of community support for mutually agreed-upon watershed goals. Combined with the hard work of the current CFYP Board, CWMP Phase I funding will set this new watershed group – and the communities they support – on a course for success.

Thank you for considering CFYP's funding proposal.

Sincerely,

*Terri Nichols*

Terri Nichols  
Watershed Programs Coordinator  
Montana Watershed Coordination Council  
[terri@mtwatersheds.org](mailto:terri@mtwatersheds.org)  
(406) 210-1217



**YELLOWSTONE RIVER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
3120 Valley Drive East  
Miles City, MT 59301  
Phone: 406-232-7905, Ext. 3242

↓  
Dan Rostad  
Coordinator  
406-930-0594

↓  
Michael Perkins  
Conservation Specialist

↓  
David Pratt  
Technical Advisor

CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
COUNCIL MEMBERS

↓  
Dr. Don Youngbauer, Chairman  
ROSEBUD COUNTY/MACD

↓  
John Moorhouse Vice-Chairman  
AT-LARGE

↓  
CUSTER COUNTY, FISCAL AGENT  
Walter Rolf

↓  
DAWSON COUNTY  
Kenny Nemitz

↓  
PARK COUNTY  
DeWitt Dominick

↓  
PRAIRIE COUNTY

↓  
RICHLAND COUNTY  
Shawn Conradson

↓  
STILLWATER COUNTY  
Steven Story

↓  
SWEET GRASS COUNTY  
Steve Story

↓  
TREASURE COUNTY  
Phil Fox

↓  
Yellowstone County  
Leroy Gable

↓  
MCKENZIE COUNTY, ND

↓  
MEMBERS AT-LARGE  
John Moorhouse  
Craig Wagner

↓  
[yellowstonerivercouncil.org](http://yellowstonerivercouncil.org)

↓  
"Working relationships yield a  
shared vision..."

March 16, 2022

US Bureau of Reclamation  
WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program  
Denver, Colorado

Re: Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership

To all concerned:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council in strong support of the Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership's application for a Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management program grant.

The Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (Council) is made up of representatives of the eleven Conservation Districts which border the Yellowstone River Corridor.

In 2017, the Council, in a co-equal partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers, completed the Yellowstone River Cumulative Effects Analysis (CEA) of human impact on the river system. This comprehensive scientific study provided the basis for the Yellowstone River recommended management practices.

The Council's focus is to provide local leadership, assistance, and guidance for the wise use and conservation of the Yellowstone River's natural resources to sustain the system's natural resources and improve social, environmental, and economic values along the river corridor.

Following the completion of the river study, we have met with hundreds of stakeholders in the river system to assist them in their efforts to provide resource protection and improvements to the river system.

The Council managed the contract and provided professional services that led to the completion of a reconnaissance-level reach assessment of the lower Clarks Fork River. This assessment has provided many beneficial improvement recommendations and serves as the foundation for the formation of the Clarks Fork Yellowstone Watershed Partnership.

Support for the watershed partnership is essential and will provide the much-needed funding to support capacity building and group development activities.

The Council's recommended practices affirm the need for strategic planning that will summarize the stakeholder engagement and identify long range planning and improvement project implementation of its recommendations. This WaterSMART program is a perfect fit for the needs of the Clarks Fork Yellowstone Watershed Partnership, and we strongly support their efforts to secure funding through your program.

Feel free to contact me if you need further information regarding the Council and our efforts to provide guidance to our stakeholder partners on the Clarks Fork Yellowstone Watershed Partnership.

Sincerely,



Dr. Don Youngbauer, Chairman

Phone: 406-930-0594

[www.yellowstonerivercouncil.org](http://www.yellowstonerivercouncil.org)



March 15, 2022

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Management Program

**Regarding: Clarks Fork River - Integrated Watershed Management Plan**

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

I am writing to express our support for the Clarks Fork River Partnership.

The Clarks Fork Yellowstone River supports valuable native fish and sport fish populations. Fisheries in the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River endure chronic dewatering, nutrient loading, and elevated turbidity. To date, there has been little effort to identify or address the sources of these impairments. The Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership is committed to addressing total watershed health and has demonstrated the knowledge, energy, and enthusiasm required to develop their proposed Water Management Plan.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks monitoring has shown a decline in trout populations in a standardized monitoring section near the Montana/Wyoming border. Elevated levels of turbidity are one suspected driver of this trend. Further downstream, the river supports a diverse native fish assemblage, including burbot, a potential species of concern in Montana. The burbot population in the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River have declined, likely due to habitat fragmentation caused by diversion dams, chronic dewatering, and habitat degradation. Efforts to restore connectivity, decrease turbidity, and improve habitat through a Water Management Plan would be a benefit to native and sport fisheries in this often-neglected watershed.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks supports drought mitigation plans that address the needs of water users and fish. A Water Management Plan put forth by Clarks Fork River Partnership will be the first step towards a more comprehensive water management plan. In addition to addressing water quantity needs in the basin, the outreach goals of the Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership will help build the stakeholder consensus that is necessary for an effective management plan. Additionally, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is committed to monitor fish populations in the basin to evaluate the success of any future restoration project.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks wholeheartedly supports the Clarks Fork River Partnership in the development of a Water Management Plan to identify and scope potential restoration projects in the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River.

Sincerely,

Mike Ruggles  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Region 5 Supervisor



ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN  
COLLEGE

US Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

Dear WaterSMART Review Committee,

I recently learned of the efforts of the recently formed Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership (CFYP) from a colleague who works for Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. We have both lamented the condition of Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River over the years. While the Yellowstone River receives much attention this important tributary tends to be overlooked or considered a lost cause for restoration work. I have worked on this river for the past six years studying a species of concern, the spiny softshell turtle, which exists in the Clarks Fork River. We also conduct a large river cleanup effort each year and to date have removed 150,000 lbs of trash.

I am heartened and excited by the level of knowledge that exists in the founders of this watershed organization and the team they are developing. Both the Technical Team Leader and the Administrative Leader have a wealth of experience with managing all facets of large hydrology related projects. We have discussed a number of opportunities for collaborative efforts which would engage undergraduate research students and faculty to help address some of their key concerns related to water quality, river dynamics and flow. The Yellowstone River Research Center already provides technical expertise and research support (invasive species and wildlife monitoring, and water quality and flow monitoring programs) for the Yellowstone Conservation District, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and the Bighorn River Alliance.

The CFYP has shared their vision and goals of improving outreach and communication efforts in their community and the use of a River Health Scorecard to begin to develop and prioritize watershed level restoration projects. The 141-Mile Clarks Fork River crosses the Montana Wyoming border, so cross border partnerships have also been formed. However, Phase 1 of this project will focus on the lower 98 mile reach.

I am encouraged by the steps already taken by CFYP and hope you will strongly consider their application to help further develop this organization into a healthy and successful watershed organization.

Kayhan Ostovar  
Rocky Mountain College Associate Professor Environmental Science  
Director - Yellowstone River Research Center

Date: 3/24/2022



March 30, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation  
Cooperative Watershed Management Program  
PO Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership WaterSMART Grant Application

Dear CWMP Grant Review Committee:

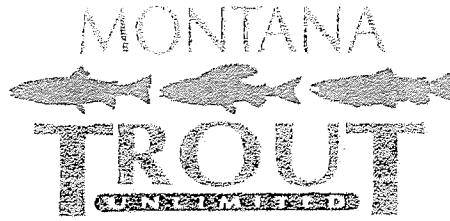
The DEQ Nonpoint Source Management program would like to express support for the Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership (CFYP) grant proposal to the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program. As DEQ expands its water quality monitoring and TMDL development eastward across the State, local, grassroots watershed group partners are critical. In the next few years, DEQ hopes to begin the water quality assessment work that will eventually lead to TMDL development within the Clarks Fork Yellowstone watershed. The work for which CFYP is seeking funding will build a strong foundation of community engagement and will help identify key water resource issues.

The work CFYP is proposing will also pave the way for future water quality improvement projects and the ability for local organizations to tap into Clean Water Act Section 319 funding to specifically address nonpoint source pollution. Please fund CFYP's WaterSMART grant proposal. Together, we can make significant, lasting improvement to water quality in the Clarks Fork Yellowstone watershed.

Thank you for supporting these critical steps toward restoring water quality.

Sincerely,

Mark Ockey, Water Quality Specialist  
DEQ Nonpoint Source Management Program  
1520 E 6th Ave; Helena, MT 59601  
Email: [mockey@mt.gov](mailto:mockey@mt.gov) // (406) 465-0039



March 28, 2022

Montana Trout Unlimited  
PO Box 7186  
Missoula, MT. 59807

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

**RE: Support for WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program**

Dear WaterSMART Review Committee,

Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU) fully supports the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase 1 proposal submitted by the Clarks Fork River Partnership (CFRP). We have witnessed numerous watersheds across Montana that have markedly improved when comprehensive support was provided to watershed groups and their projects that improve water quality, quantity, and fisheries for many years. Chartered in 1964, MTU represents nearly 4,500 individual Trout Unlimited members and friends and is the umbrella organization for 13 TU chapters around the state, including the robust Magic City Fly Fishers TU Chapter in Billings. MTU's mission is to conserve, protect, and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in Montana.

CFRP's efforts align with our mission and we commend their enthusiasm, expertise, and progress they've made as a volunteer-led organization. The Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River basin, south of Laurel Montana, provides valuable, but declining, water resources for many water users, including recreationalist and significant agricultural production. Water resources could be improved through communication, education, data collection, and project implementation, but it must be locally-led. The CFRP has positioned themselves to be best organization in the region to lead this effort. CFRP is doing their due diligence with diverse stakeholders to achieve shared conservation outcomes.

This Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River has not received the attention and resources found in other areas of Montana. There is a lot to be gained in this geography concerning water quality and quantity by funding CFRP's grant proposal.

Thank you for considering our input. Please contact me with any questions regarding our comments.

Sincerely,

Chris Edgington,  
MTU Project Manager  
[chris@montanatrout.org](mailto:chris@montanatrout.org)  
406.451.3035




## Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership Official Resolution

As set forth in Item 5.3 of Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership (CFYP) Membership Meeting minutes for March 16, 2022, Membership motioned, seconded and approved by acclaim that a Review Committee be formed and empowered to, on behalf of Membership, review and either approve or disapprove submittal of CFYP grant application for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation NOFO R22AS00163. Membership nominated and appointed by acclaim the following to the Review Committee; Dane Reed, Pat Cole and Tyrell Hoferer to serve with John Wheaton, Treasurer, and Jim Stevenson, President, on a 5-member committee.

All Review Committee members were emailed a copy of the draft application on March 18, 2022 and then polled on March 23, 2022 to determine each member's approval or disapproval. The votes were three to approve (Hoferer, Wheaton, Stevenson), one abstained (Cole) and one absent (Reed). Therefore, submittal of the grant application for NOFO R22AS00163 was approved by the Review Committee and Membership.

I hereby certify this Official Resolution to be true and accurate in all manner.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



James Stevenson, President/CEO  
Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3/29/22

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

<b>* 1. Type of Submission:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	<b>* 2. Type of Application:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	<b>* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):</b> _____ <b>* Other (Specify):</b> _____
---	---	--

<b>* 3. Date Received:</b> Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.	<b>4. Applicant Identifier:</b> _____
--	--

<b>5a. Federal Entity Identifier:</b> _____	<b>5b. Federal Award Identifier:</b> _____
--	---

State Use Only:

<b>6. Date Received by State:</b> _____	<b>7. State Application Identifier:</b> _____
---	---

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

**\* a. Legal Name:** Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership

<b>* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):</b> 88-0802243	<b>* c. Organizational DUNS:</b> _____
--	---

d. Address:

**\* Street1:** 81 River Road  
**Street2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**\* City:** Silesia  
**County/Parish:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**\* State:** Montana  
**Province:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**\* Country:** USA: UNITED STATES  
**\* Zip / Postal Code:** 59041

e. Organizational Unit:

<b>Department Name:</b> _____	<b>Division Name:</b> _____
----------------------------------	--------------------------------

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

**Prefix:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\* First Name:** James  
**Middle Name:** A  
**\* Last Name:** Stevenson  
**Suffix:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** President

**Organizational Affiliation:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\* Telephone Number:** 406-861-2683 **Fax Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Email:** jim.stevenson2212@gmail.com

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

\* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

Nonprofit

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

\* Other (specify):

\* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Bureau of Reclamation

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

CFDA Title:

\* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

R22AS00163

\* Title:

WaterSmart - Cooperative Watershed Management Program  
Watershed Group Development & Watershed Restoration Planning

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

\* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership: Watershed Group Development & Watershed Restoration Planning for the Lower Clarks  
Yellowstone River, Carbon County Montana and Park County Wyoming

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

\* a. Applicant

\* b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

17. Proposed Project:

\* a. Start Date:

\* b. End Date:

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="\$147,620"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="0"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="0"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="0"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="\$147,620"/>

\* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?

- a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

\* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)

Yes  No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

21. \*By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications\*\* and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances\*\* and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)

\*\* I AGREE

\*\* The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix:  \* First Name:   
Middle Name:   
\* Last Name:   
Suffix:

\* Title:

\* Telephone Number:  Fax Number:

\* Email:

\* Signature of Authorized Representative:  \* Date Signed:

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0006  
Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. Task A.1 thru A.7 Watershed group development	15.554	\$	\$	\$ 64,400	\$	\$ 64,400
2. Task B.1 Lower Reach Work Scope	15.554			35,800		35,800
3. Task B.2 Preliminary Middle Reach Assessment	15.554			19,600		19,600
4. Task B.3 Reporting	15.554			27,820		27,820
5. Totals		\$	\$	\$ 147,620	\$	\$ 147,620

**SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES**

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1) Task A.1 thru A.7 Watershed group development	(2) Task B.1 Lower Reach Work Scope	(3) Task B.2 Preliminary Middle Reach Assessment	(4) Task B.3 Reporting	
a. Personnel (Salary, no fringe)	\$ 48,750	\$ 22,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 11,250	\$ 90,000
b. Students	2,000	7,000			9,000
c. Travel	9,506	4,388	1,463	2,194	17,550
d. Equipment					
e. Supplies	1,625	750	250	375	3,000
f. Contractual			10,000		10,000
g. Construction					
h. RLDC Admin				13,420	13,420
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)					\$
j. Indirect Charges					\$
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ 64,400	\$ 35,800	\$ 19,600	\$ 27,820	\$ 147,620
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

Authorized for Local Reproduction

SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES					
(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS	
8. Task A.1 thru A.7 Watershed group development	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="0"/>	
9. Task B.1 Lower Reach Work Scope	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
10. Task B.2 Preliminary Middle Reach Assessment	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
11. Task B.3 Reporting	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
<b>12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)</b>	\$ <input type="text" value="0"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="0"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="0"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="0"/>	
SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS					
	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ <input type="text" value="65,120"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="15,455"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="16,115"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="16,775"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="16,775"/>
14. Non-Federal	\$ <input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)</b>	\$ <input type="text" value="65,120"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="15,455"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="16,115"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="16,775"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="16,775"/>
SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT					
(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (YEARS)				
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth	
16. Task A.1 thru A.7 Watershed group development	\$ <input type="text" value="44,480"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="19,600"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
17. Task B.1 Lower Reach Work Scope	<input type="text" value="12,000"/>	<input type="text" value="23,800"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
18. Task B.2 Preliminary Middle Reach Assessment	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="19,600"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
19. Task B.3 Reporting	<input type="text" value="8,320"/>	<input type="text" value="19,500"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
<b>20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)</b>	\$ <input type="text" value="65,120"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="82,500"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="0"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="0"/>	
SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION					
21. Direct Charges: <input type="text" value="147,620"/>	22. Indirect Charges: <input type="text" value="0"/>				
23. Remarks: <input type="text"/>					

### ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.**


**NOTE:** Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee- 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.



9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (Identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE President
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership	DATE SUBMITTED 03/30/2022

## CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

### Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

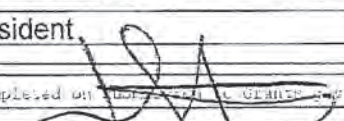
(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

### Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

* APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATION	
Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership	
* PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
Prefix: Mr	* First Name: James Middle Name: A
* Last Name: Stevenson	Suffix:
* Title: President	
* SIGNATURE: 	* DATE: 3/20/22