



# BRWG

BLUE RIVER WATERSHED GROUP

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## Watershed Group Development and Watershed Restoration Planning for the Blue River Watershed in Colorado

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date: January 30, 2018

Applicant Name: Blue River Watershed Group

City, County, State: Frisco, Summit, Colorado

Project Summary:

The mission of the Blue River Watershed Group (BRWG) is to promote, protect and restore a healthy Blue River watershed through cooperative community education, stewardship, and resource management. Examples of issues affecting the watershed include: extensive river and floodplain disturbance and water quality degradation from historic mining activities; sediment loading and potential hazardous material spills from roadways and paved surfaces; invasive aquatic species; drought and the potential for a Colorado River Compact Call; and the impacts of the mountain pine beetle epidemic on forest health, erosion control and wildfire prevention. BRWG is seeking grant funding for further watershed group development, and watershed and river restoration planning, in order to strengthen its capacity to engage in and address such issues. The funding will be used to conduct activities that fall under four main categories: organizational development and staffing; stakeholder and public outreach; information gathering; and watershed and river restoration project development. BRWG will hire a part-time Coordinator to expand the group and its activities in the watershed and strengthen its role as a champion of education and collaborative partnership. Through outreach and information gathering, BRWG will develop project priorities and funding opportunities, research environmental and permitting compliance requirements, and develop site-specific concept plans for one or more high priority projects. These activities will promote resiliency for the group while creating a dynamic and cohesive network of watershed stakeholders. Our proposed actions will empower a more thorough survey and assessment of watershed priorities and catalyze a strategic plan for future restoration activities. At the end of the grant period, BRWG will be well positioned to apply for additional funding for project implementation.

Project Dates: October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2020 or upon execution of a contract for a term of two years.

Federal facility: The Federal government owns the majority of land in the watershed.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The Blue River watershed is a headwaters region for the Colorado River in the central Rocky Mountains west of the continental divide in Colorado. The Blue River is approximately 65 miles in length and flows northward from Quandary Peak, in the Ten Mile Range, at an elevation of 14,270 feet, to the confluence with the Colorado River just south of the town of Kremmling, at an elevation of 7,400 feet. Significant snowfall occurs between December and May and most of the annual stream flow results from snow melt during spring and early summer. Thunderstorms, though typically short in duration, can produce significant rainfall events in July and August. Stream flows above major water

storage facilities have marked seasonal variability, with highest flows occurring during the snow melt, and low flows, sustained by groundwater, occurring in late fall and throughout the winter.

The Blue River watershed mostly aligns with the boundaries of Summit County. The county was a prosperous region during the gold rush and mining booms of the late 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the lingering effects of historical mining and abandoned mine sites are significant issues of concern today. Summit County's modern economy is primarily driven by recreation-based tourism and real estate development. The county is known for its scenic beauty and abundant outdoor recreation opportunities, many of which rely on adequate stream flows and healthy river systems. Coined "Colorado's Playground", it is home to some of North America's most visited ski resorts, and its waters and forests, including the White River National Forest, offer a myriad of activities such as fishing, boating, biking, hiking, and camping. The county attracts outdoor enthusiasts from all over the world and hosts well over 4 million user days per year.

Two significant water storage facilities are located in the watershed: Dillon Reservoir and Green Mountain Reservoir. Dillon Reservoir has a capacity of 254,036 acre-feet and a surface area of 3,233 acres and is centrally located in Summit County, along Interstate 70 (I-70). The reservoir was completed in 1963 and is owned and operated by Denver Water. It is their largest water storage facility and accounts for more than thirty percent of Denver's municipal water supply, providing water for more than 1.4 million people. Water is diverted from Dillon Reservoir to the South Platte River Basin via the 23.3-mile Harold D. Roberts tunnel, one of the largest diversion tunnels in the world, ultimately delivering water to the Denver Metro area.

Green Mountain Reservoir has a storage capacity of 154,600 acre-feet and a surface area of 2,125 acres and is located approximately 12 miles southeast of the Town of Kremmling, along Highway 9. The reservoir was completed in 1943 and is owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. Approximately 75% of Colorado's precipitation occurs on the western slope of the continental divide (which includes the Blue River watershed), while approximately 80% of Colorado's population lives along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains (Denver and the Front Range). The primary purpose of the reservoir, up to two-thirds of its storage capacity, is to provide compensatory water storage for the western slope for water being diverted to the eastern slope through the Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) project. The C-BT project stores, regulates, and diverts water, more than 200,000 acre-feet each year, from the Colorado River via the 13.1-mile Adams tunnel, providing supplemental water for irrigation of approximately 720,000 acres of land, and for municipal and industrial use, hydroelectric power, and water-oriented recreation opportunities within Northern Water's service area between Denver and Ft. Collins.

The remaining one-third of the reservoir's capacity is augmentation water for the C-BT project itself. The Bureau of Reclamation also operates a hydroelectric power plant located at the base of Green Mountain Dam, with a generating capacity of 26 megawatts.

The watershed is divided into two main sub-watersheds: the Upper Blue River and the Lower Blue River. The Upper Blue River watershed is formed by three major tributaries that each contribute approximately one-third of the flow into Dillon Reservoir:

- 1) Snake River, a westerly flowing tributary with its source originating at Webster Pass on the continental divide;

2) Blue River, a northerly flowing tributary with its headwater at the continental divide at Hoosier Pass; and

3) Tenmile Creek, a northeasterly flowing stream with its source at the continental divide at Fremont Pass.

The Lower Blue River watershed extends from Dillon Reservoir to the confluence with the Colorado River. It is approximately the same size as the Upper Blue River watershed and includes portions of the Congressionally Designated Ptarmigan Wilderness Area to the east and Eagles Nest Wilderness Area to the west. It also includes Green Mountain Reservoir to the north.

Major water uses in the watershed include: storage/reservoirs; trans-mountain diversions (approximately 75,000 acre-feet per year); agricultural irrigation; industrial/mining; snowmaking; golf course irrigation; municipal/domestic water providers; hydropower; recreation; and fish/wildlife habitat.

Most agricultural activity and irrigated land is located in the Blue River valley downstream from Dillon Reservoir. Agricultural products consist mainly of livestock, hay, and timber. Diversions to the Front Range are also made for agricultural uses.

Two hydroelectric power plants are located in the watershed; a 26 megawatt plant at Green Mountain Dam owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, and a 1.8 megawatt plant at Dillon Dam, owned by Denver Water.

In 2010, CLIMAX Mine resumed Molybdenum mining operations in the area after a prolonged shutdown. The CLIMAX Mine lies within the Tenmile basin.

The watershed is home to a diversity of fish and aquatic species, including native Colorado River Cutthroat Trout, designated as a species of special concern in Colorado due to impacts from invasive non-native fish populations and other environmental stressors.

Approximately 3,500 wells operate in the watershed with most classified as exempt, restricted to indoor use only, while the remainder are non-exempt or 'fee' wells. The majority of the wells draw from alluvium tributary to the Blue River. In addition to wells, there are more than 1,500 legally decreed water rights throughout the Blue River Basin, including: surface water rights (ditches, pipelines, springs, and reservoirs); trans-mountain diversions; minimum instream flows (Colorado Water Conservation Board); and numerous exchange reaches and plans for augmentation.

Major issues in the watershed are listed below and are discussed in more detail in **Section 5.B. Evaluation Criterion B – Addressing Critical Watershed Needs.**

- Impacts from historical dredge mining and hard rock mining of gold, silver, lead, copper and zinc, including: loss of surface water flows during low stream flow periods, loss of channel stability, loss of aquatic and riparian habitat, and heavy metal and mineral contamination that compromises water quality.

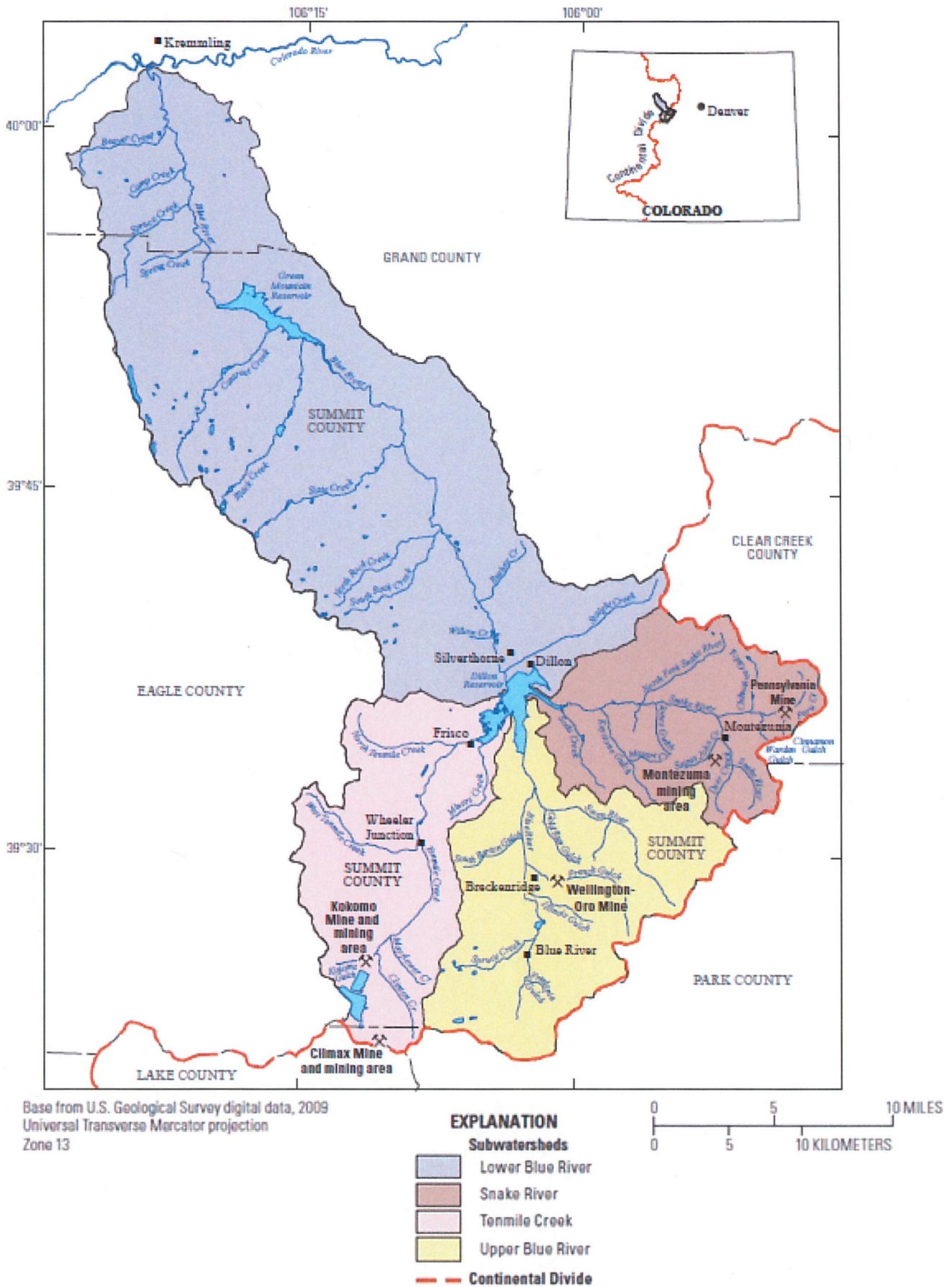
- Deforestation and negative impacts to forest health from the mountain pine beetle epidemic resulting in increased risk of catastrophic wildfire, erosion control issues and threats of mudslides.
- Impacts from roadways including: sediment loading into streams, particularly into Straight Creek, along the I-70 corridor; chemical disbursement from routine highway operations; and hazardous material spill events which can impact both surface and ground water.
- Impacts from invasive and non-native aquatic species, such as northern pike and brook trout, as well as preventing infestation of invasive zebra and quagga mussels.
- Loss of Gold Medal fishing status on a 19-mile stretch of the Blue River in 2016.
- Water availability and impacts from trans-mountain diversions, drought, and the possibility of a Colorado River Compact Call.

### 3. PROJECT LOCATION

The US Geological Survey Hydraulic Unit Code for the Blue River Watershed is 14010002. **Figure 1** below shows a detailed map of the watershed and an inset of its location within Colorado. The Blue River drains an area of approximately 680 square miles in the central Rocky Mountains. The watershed includes all of Summit County, which encompasses approximately 619 square miles and is located about 65 miles west of Denver. Approximately 61 square miles of the watershed lie within Grand County and the headwaters of the Tenmile basin lie within Lake County. The watershed's permanent population is close to 30,000 people but can grow to over four times that amount during the height of the tourist seasons. The four primary population centers are the towns of Breckenridge, Frisco, Silverthorne, and Dillon. The incorporated towns of Blue River and Montezuma plus the unincorporated areas of Keystone, Copper Mountain, and Heeney, comprise the other population areas.

The watershed includes major road corridors. Summit County is traversed east-west by I-70 and north-south by State Highway 9, a relatively major highway. Trucks carrying hazardous materials (hazmat) are generally prohibited from travelling through the Eisenhower/Johnson Tunnel located on I-70 in the eastern part of the county. Instead, these trucks are required to use U.S. Highway 6, which crosses over Loveland Pass at an elevation of 11,990 feet. However, during the winter, adverse weather frequently closes the Pass. When this occurs, the Colorado Department of Transportation will escort hazmat trucks through the Tunnel at regular intervals, stopping traffic so the trucks do not travel through the tunnel with other vehicles, due to safety concerns.

**Figure 1. Map of Blue River Watershed**



## 4. TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

### 4.A Applicant Category

The Blue River Watershed Group (BRWG) is applying for grant funding as an existing watershed group. BRWG began in 2004 as a gathering of concerned local citizens to engage in topics affecting the watershed through outreach, education and community involvement. Formal articles of incorporation were filed with the Colorado Secretary of State on October 20, 2004. The group's steering committee met on December 2, 2004, and officially formed a board of directors, elected a chairperson and established by-laws. The group received 501(c) (3) status from the IRS on September 8, 2005. BRWG is managed by a volunteer board of directors who have expertise in various fields related to water, land use and environmental stewardship and represent a number of vital stakeholders.

In the initial years of the group, public meetings and educational sessions were held covering a host of water topics such as the Colorado River Compact, flood protection, water law, snowmaking, water and land trusts, the Snake River Watershed Plan, and water conservation. BRWG continues this educational effort by co-hosting, along with the Colorado River District, the annual State of the River event in Summit County. The State of the River is an opportunity for local residents, visitors and watershed stakeholders to learn about important issues affecting the watershed, provide input and feedback, and get updates on the status of on-going projects.

In 2007, BRWG developed a website and received a grant from the EPA, administered by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, to develop a watershed plan for the Snake River basin, one of the most disturbed river basins in Summit County. Water-quality problems in the basin are a combination of natural acid-rock drainage and anthropogenic, mine related water-quality degradation. BRWG, in cooperation with the Snake River Task Force, finalized and published The Snake River Watershed Plan in 2009. The plan identified many needed mine remediation projects in the basin and prioritized the worst problems.

In 2010, in cooperation with the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments and the Colorado Department of Reclamation Mining and Safety, BRWG facilitated another grant to implement three of the remediation projects identified in the Snake River Plan: the Silver Spoon Mine, the Delaware Mine and the Cinnamon Gulch realignment. These projects were completed in 2013.

In 2009 and 2010, BRWG was a member of the Steering Committee for the Blue River Watershed Source Water Protection Plan. BRWG participated in the process along with a number of other watershed stakeholders such as the U.S. Forest Service, Town of Dillon and Vail Resorts.

BRWG has been an important partner in the Swan River Restoration Project, a multi-phase project to restore 2.3 miles of river and 100 acres of the surrounding valley located in the upper Swan River drainage near the Town of Breckenridge. Dredge mining in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century decimated the project area, which is now generally devoid of natural vegetation and ecological function. Summit County Open Space and Trails owns the lower portion of the Swan River and, in 2009, developed a preliminary concept plan for restoration of that portion. In 2012, BRWG completed a concept plan for the restoration of the upper Swan River, which lies mostly on U.S. Forest Service, Town of Breckenridge and privately owned land. In 2013, BRWG received funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board to commission a Preliminary Design Plan for the project, which combined the

previously completed concept plans. The Design Plan ensured continuity and compatibility of restoration activities across all landowners and created a master design for the entire project. Summit County completed major work on the first reach of the river in 2017.

In 2016, BRWG, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and Copper Mountain Ski Resort, restored a crucial part of Tenmile Creek that had been heavily impacted by historic mining, timber harvesting, land use development, and railroad and highway construction. The project restored 2,800 linear feet of stream and rehabilitated 6 acres of associated stream banks, wetlands and floodplains. The project has enhanced floodplain connectivity, fish habitat quality, scenery, and wetlands function, and improved recreational opportunities and public access to Tenmile Creek.

BRWG has experience managing grant funding from a number of private and public sources including the Summit Foundation, Vail Resorts, Cliff Bar Flowing Rivers Campaign, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the National Forest Foundation.

#### 4.B Eligibility

The Blue River Watershed Group is a non-profit, non-regulatory, grassroots community organization and meets the definition of ‘watershed group’ as defined in Section 6001(5) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act. As detailed in **Section 4.A** above, BRWG has extensive experience working in partnerships to promote collaboration within the watershed and to forward results-oriented projects that significantly affect the quality of water and promote the sustainable use of water resources.

#### 4.C Goals

The mission of the Blue River Watershed Group is to promote, protect and restore a healthy Blue River watershed through cooperative community education, stewardship, and resource management. The group works to:

- Engage the Summit County audience and inform the community on important issues affecting the watershed
- Complete results-based projects that measurably improve the health of the Blue River watershed ecosystem
- Foster a strong network of organizations working for a more sustainable Blue River

To further this mission, BRWG is proposing activities that will help improve the organization’s operations; strengthen existing relationships and build new relationships among stakeholders; expand membership of the group; increase community awareness about watershed issues; reassess the critical issues in the watershed; develop a project priorities matrix; and begin preliminary project concept planning for additional restoration and conservation projects. BRWG also aims to ensure the continued sustainability of the group through further development of the organization and its role as champion of collaborative education and partnership in the watershed.

#### 4.D Approach

BRWG intends to undertake activities that fall primarily under Task A: Watershed Group Development and Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning as outlined below and detailed further in **Section 5. Evaluation Criteria**.

*Activity 1: Organizational Development and Staffing*

- **Staff:** BRWG's Board members are busy professionals who volunteer their time to oversee and carry out the work of the group. BRWG will strengthen its internal capacity to fulfill its mission by hiring a part-time Watershed Group Coordinator to organize the group, and coordinate and grow its activities in the watershed. The Coordinator will engage in outreach and information gathering and help the Board to identify and prioritize watershed restoration and conservation projects. This individual will create more forums for discussion and provide the Board with an on-going overview of the news and status of watershed related plans and activities. The Coordinator will also help the Board build a strategy for on-going sustainability and future project implementation by researching, monitoring and prioritizing grant and other funding opportunities. Finally, the Coordinator will relieve the Board of much of the administrative work involved in sustaining the organization, such as developing content for the website and newsletters, organizing calendars, planning public meetings and events like the Headwaters Hops Fest, as well as drafting reports to comply with grantor requirements. This will free the Board to focus more of its energy on addressing critical watershed issues and strategic planning.
- **Educational Capacity Building:** BRWG will join the Water Education Network of Water Education Colorado, a state-wide non-profit that has become one of the leading organizations for informing and engaging Coloradans on water issues. Membership will give BRWG access to their online directory of water-related educational resources as well as subscriptions to the Network's newsletters and Headwaters Magazine and provide networking opportunities with other water educators. Access to these resources will strengthen BRWG's capacity for public education and outreach initiatives.
- **Website/Social Media Development:** BRWG will develop its existing website, [www.blueriverwatershed.org](http://www.blueriverwatershed.org), into a more fully functional portal of watershed information, news and resource links. The website currently offers basic information about the watershed, the Board of Directors and a few restoration projects. However, some of this information is outdated and needs to be revised. BRWG will also create a new page to provide a more thorough history of the group and its projects and reports, create an education page to discuss local water quality and conservation topics, and create a resources page to highlight watershed stakeholders and link to stakeholder projects and other water-related statewide and federal organizations, reports, studies and resources. BRWG will also develop its Facebook account to create regular social media content.
- **Marketing Materials:** BRWG will design and print marketing materials including brochures, business cards, rack cards, a banner sign, and a logoed canopy tent for events. These materials will be used to promote the organization and provide the public with information about the watershed. They will be distributed as appropriate at stakeholder meetings, public forums and events and at local tourist information offices and community notice boards.

*Activity 2: Stakeholder and Public Outreach*

- **Stakeholder Meetings and Partnership Building:** The Coordinator will conduct site visits and meet individually and collectively with stakeholders throughout the watershed to inform them of BRWG's work and mission, and discuss their watershed concerns, priorities and on-going or planned restoration or conservation projects. The Coordinator will attend relevant community and public meetings that address water topics or provide updates on on-going water related projects, such as the Snake River Task Force.
- **Board Recruitment:** The Board would benefit from additional perspectives representing water providers, agriculture, wildlife, and recreation such as river guiding or angling outfits. Through stakeholder and public engagement, BRWG will seek to identify and recruit additional Board members.
- **Public Education and Events:** BRWG will engage in community education and public outreach to increase community awareness and interest in the group and issues affecting the watershed. BRWG will distribute marketing materials, attend community events, continue to co-host the annual State of the River event, host the annual Headwaters Hops Fest, co-sponsor the Dillon Challenge boat race, and will host and partner on community clean-up and Earth Day events. BRWG will also buy advertising for events including interview segments on Summit County's TV8 Summit Sunrise television show and ads in the Summit Daily newspaper.
- **Mailing List and Newsletters:** BRWG has an e-mail contact list of roughly 250 people/organizations and aims to grow the list, through outreach efforts, to 500 by the end of year one and 750 by the end of year two. Newsletters will be sent, at minimum, once per quarter, but may be sent more often as BRWG adds events or receives important watershed or project news.
- **Educational Institutions and Non-Profit Outreach:** The Coordinator will meet with educational institutions and non-profit organizations in order to develop relationships, find areas of possible educational collaboration and sources of potential volunteers, often a required element to secure grant funding for implementation of restoration projects. Examples of educational institutions include local high schools; Colorado Mountain College; Keystone Science School; the Colorado Water Institute at Colorado State University; and the Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center at Colorado Mesa University. Examples of non-profits include:
  - *Friends of the Lower Blue River*, whose mission is to sustain and protect the traditional agricultural character of the Lower Blue River Valley; promote the safety of its residents, livestock and wildlife; and maintain its environmental integrity.
  - *The High Country Conservation Center*, whose mission is to promote practical solutions for waste reduction and resource conservation in the mountain community.
  - *Continental Divide Land Trust*, who seek to protect natural lands, water, wildlife habitat and rural mountain landscapes in Summit County through land preservation agreements, conservation easements, stewardship and public education.
  - *Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado*, a statewide organization dedicated to motivating and enabling people to become active stewards of Colorado's natural resources and a nationally recognized leader in outdoor volunteerism.
  - *Colorado Riparian Association*, whose mission is to promote the conservation, restoration, and preservation of Colorado's riparian areas and wetlands.

- **Statewide and Extended Outreach:** BRWG will expand its outreach efforts beyond the boundaries of the watershed and engage with statewide and Colorado River Basin stakeholders and watershed related organizations to build relationships, network, and contribute to information gathering (described below as *Activity 3*). BRWG will join the Colorado Watershed Assembly, whose mission is to provide support for collaborative efforts among diverse stakeholders to protect and improve the conservation values of land, water, and other natural resources of Colorado's watersheds. Other examples of organizations that BRWG will engage with include:
  - *Colorado Basin Roundtable:* In 2005, the Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act established nine permanent roundtables, one in each of the State's eight major river basins plus the Denver Metro area. The purpose of the roundtables is to facilitate discussions on water issues and encourage locally driven collaborative solutions to water supply challenges. The Coordinator will attend some of the Colorado Basin Roundtable's meetings in Glenwood Springs.
  - *South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership:* This partnership is one of the original seven pilot locations created in 2011 under the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. It is a collaboration of organizations, working across governmental and disciplinary boundaries, with the aim to protect and restore lands and waters in the South Platte River watershed. The partnership emphasizes stewardship and community connection, linking urban areas with forested watersheds and people with nature. Diversions from Dillon Reservoir contribute to the South Platte River and BRWG is interested in engaging with the Partnership. The Coordinator will attend some of the Partnership's meetings to learn about their mission, projects and initiatives.

### *Activity 3: Information Gathering*

- **Research:** The Coordinator will gather information about issues and needs in the watershed through stakeholder and public outreach efforts; familiarizing themselves with the breadth of existing watershed plans, studies and projects; monitoring local media and government newsfeeds for watershed-related stories and impacts; monitoring the status of new legislation, such as the Continental Divide Wilderness and Recreation Act that was recently introduced; reviewing watershed-specific best management practices established by Federal, State, and local government agencies; and attending regional educational forms (as detailed below). This research will help the Board assess restoration needs for the watershed, particularly those areas where BRWG may add the most value through coordination of stakeholders or as a partner on implementation.
- **Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference:** The Coordinator will attend the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference. Some Board members also attend this Conference annually on behalf of their employers. The conference is held by the Colorado Watershed Assembly each year to draw together conservation and restoration practitioners, water quality specialists, land use and water supply planners, elected officials and managers, watershed groups and coalitions, and citizens engaged in watershed work, for valuable networking and to learn about new watershed management issues and innovative projects.
- **Upper Colorado River Basin Water Forum:** The Coordinator will attend the Upper Colorado River Basin Water Forum hosted each year by the Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center at Colorado Mesa University. The forum provides an opportunity for learning, networking and dialogue amongst

students, water professionals and basin stakeholders to help Upper Colorado Basin communities understand and respond to new water challenges.

- **Reporting:** The Coordinator will present summaries of their information gathering research to the Board at monthly Board meetings, which will aid the Board in identifying critical issues, reassessing restoration needs, and strategic planning.

#### *Activity 4: Watershed and River Restoration Project Development*

- **Project Priorities Matrix:** BRWG will invite stakeholders to a set of collaborative meetings to develop a matrix to summarize and prioritize needed watershed conservation and restoration projects, identify and form partnerships, and identify where BRWG should take a supporting or lead role in coordinating project implementation.
- **Funding Matrix:** BRWG will create a funding matrix, outlining possible funding opportunities and their application deadlines, project eligibility, matching funds requirements and other pertinent information. This will enable BRWG to develop a solid funding strategy for project implementations.
- **Compliance Matrix:** BRWG will research environmental compliance and permitting requirements for priority projects and create a Compliance Matrix outlining those requirements and their associated costs. BRWG will consult with technical experts, if and as needed, while developing the matrix.
- **Site-Specific Project Concept Development:** BRWG will select one or more top priority projects and will establish a working group of necessary partners to meet and begin developing an initial, site-specific concept and a strategy for project funding. BRWG will contract with a Consultant to develop conceptual plans and an implementation strategy to a level of sufficient detail to provide the basis for funding applications. These would likely include sketch-level site plans, implementation recommendations and estimated costs for design, permitting and construction.

## **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 Blue River watershed is a vital headwaters region and there are many stakeholders vested in its management and use. These stakeholders come from a number of different sectors including private landowners, Federal, State and local governments and agencies, tourism and recreation, mining and industry, real estate development, agriculture, hydropower production, environmental conservation, emergency services, and transportation. Following is a list, though not exhaustive, of some of the major stakeholders in the watershed.

<b>ENTITY</b>	<b>SECTOR</b>
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Federal Agency (Water Storage, Conveyance and Hydropower)
U.S. Forest Service	Federal Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal Agency
Bureau of Land Management	Federal Agency
Summit County	Local Government
Lake County	Local Government
Grand County	Local Government
Town of Frisco	Local Government
Town of Dillon	Local Government
Town of Silverthorne	Local Government
Town of Breckenridge	Local Government
Northwest Colorado Council of Governments	Association of Local Governments
Summit Water Quality Committee	Intergovernmental Committee
Colorado Department of Transportation	State Agency, Transportation
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	State Agency
Colorado River District	State Agency
Denver Water	Water Provider
Heeney Water District	Water Provider
East Dillon Water District	Water Provider
Dillon Valley Water District	Water Provider
Snake River Water District	Water Provider
Breckenridge Red White & Blue Fire Protection District	Emergency Services
Summit Fire & EMS Authority (includes Lake Dillon Fire Rescue & Copper Mountain Fire Department)	Emergency Services
Friends of the Dillon Ranger District	Environmental Conservation
Snake River Task Force	Environmental Conservation
Friends of the Lower Blue River	Environmental Conservation, Agriculture
High Country Conservation Center	Environmental Conservation
Vail Resorts	Tourism/Recreation, Real Estate Development
Copper Mountain Resort	Tourism/Recreation
Arapahoe Basin Ski Resort	Tourism/Recreation
Trout Unlimited	Tourism/Recreation, Environmental Conservation
Climax Mine	Mining
Blue Valley Ranch	Agriculture
Shadow Creek Ranch	Agriculture

Current Group Membership

BRWG’s Board of Directors currently includes individuals with expertise in water, land use and environmental stewardship and representing affected stakeholders including local government, recreation, real estate development, and hydropower production. The current Board members are:

Name	Board Position	Occupation
<b>Joanna Hopkins</b>	President	Real Estate Development Consulting
<p>Joanna is Principal at Hopkins Development Strategies and has over 15 years of mountain and resort real estate development experience. She has worked on a range of projects including master planned communities, infill residential, affordable housing, commercial and industrial projects. She currently consults with several development entities in all aspects of project implementation ranging from feasibility and entitlements to construction and sales. Joanna has been on the board of the Blue River Watershed Group for over 10 years, serving as President for eight.</p>		
<b>Peggy Baily</b>	Vice-President	Water Resources Engineer, registered Professional Engineer in the State of Colorado, Certified Floodplain Manager
<p>Peggy has a diverse range of experience specializing in water resources and aquatic restoration including the award-winning Blue River Restoration in downtown Breckenridge and numerous aquatic habitat enhancement projects for endangered fish species on the Colorado and Green Rivers. Peggy has extensive experience on resilient design and stabilization of heavily impacted rivers from both human disturbance, such as mining, and flood related damage. Peggy has served on the BRWG board since 2005.</p>		
<b>Troy Wineland</b>	Treasurer/ Secretary	Water Commissioner for the Blue River Basin
<p>Troy earned his BA and MS in Environmental Studies from the University of Colorado, Boulder where he focused on water science and policy. Troy worked as a hydrologist for the U.S. Forest Service for nine years, primarily on the Dillon Ranger District of the White River National Forest. He has been a volunteer and/or Board member for BRWG since its inception.</p>		
<b>Bruce Hodson</b>	Member	Director of Operations, Copper Mountain Resort
<p>Bruce has been involved in grooming and snowmaking operations for the last 11 years and has worked in mountain and base operations since 1975. He also sits on the Board of the Clinton Ditch Reservoir Company representing Copper Mountain Resort.</p>		
<b>Jay Pansing</b>	Member	Real Estate Lawyer
<p>Jay has practiced real estate law in Colorado for over 40 years. He has an extensive background in access and rights-of-way laws, including RS 2477 roads, and has represented several landowners who have made conservation easement grants. Jay has served on the conveyancing subcommittee of the Real Estate Section of the Colorado Bar Association as well as the Advisory Committee of Attorneys Title Guaranty Fund. He was part owner and general counsel for New West Title Company.</p>		

<b>John Blackwell</b>	Member	Dam Operations and Hydropower Superintendent - Denver Water Board
<p>John holds a BS in Business and is currently completing the final stage of his MS in Management, specializing in Project Management, from Colorado State University-Global Campus. John has an extensive background in operations and facilities management and project management. He also serves as a board member for the Dillon Valley Metropolitan Water District.</p>		

Targeting Affected Stakeholders

BRWG’s Coordinator will outreach to affected stakeholders by setting up site visits and individual meetings to discuss:

- the mission and history of BRWG
- issues of concern and priority in the watershed
- projects and initiatives
- schedule of future meetings or other strategy to maintain contact and ensure on-going dialogue
- information or links they might want included on BRWG’s website

The Coordinator will also use these meetings to identify individuals who may be interested in joining the group as a Board member, particularly from an underrepresented sector like agriculture. They will also attend public meetings and events hosted by stakeholders, such as the Snake River Task Force and the Summit Water Quality Council.

Improving dialogues and relationships with persons and entities bordering Federal lands, or entities relying on water deliveries from Reclamation.

The majority of the stakeholders in the watershed border Federal lands as around 80% of the land in Summit County, and about 30% of the land in the Grand County section of the watershed, are owned by either the U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Local ranchers and farmers in the Lower Blue River Valley, in addition to multiple water providers and water right owners throughout the Basin, rely on water replacements/exchanges from Reclamation’s Green Mountain Reservoir.

Further development of BRWG’s organization will improve dialogues and strengthen relationships between stakeholders by recruiting new members and expanding representation on the Board. Meetings are held on a monthly basis and offer a forum for collaborative discussion, information exchange, and strategic planning. In addition, BRWG will create new forums for wider community and stakeholder engagement and feedback, discussed in more detail below.

Expanding the lines of communication between Federal, state, and local governments; tribes; and local communities.

Engaging in stakeholder outreach activities will enable BRWG to identify areas where different organizations share overlapping or complementary watershed priorities or project initiatives. BRWG will make connections between these stakeholders to foster partnerships and reduce unnecessary duplications of effort, creating a tighter network of engaged actors.

BRWG will also create new opportunities for discussion and communication through the addition of stakeholder meetings to present its findings from its outreach and information gathering activities and to develop a project priorities matrix.

The enhancements BRWG will make to its website will provide links to stakeholder projects, websites, and reports and will make it easier for the public to engage with this information. A broad range of informative content about the Blue River watershed is posted online, however, significant time and research is required for the average person to find it. BRWG's website will serve as a more centralized portal to access this information.

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

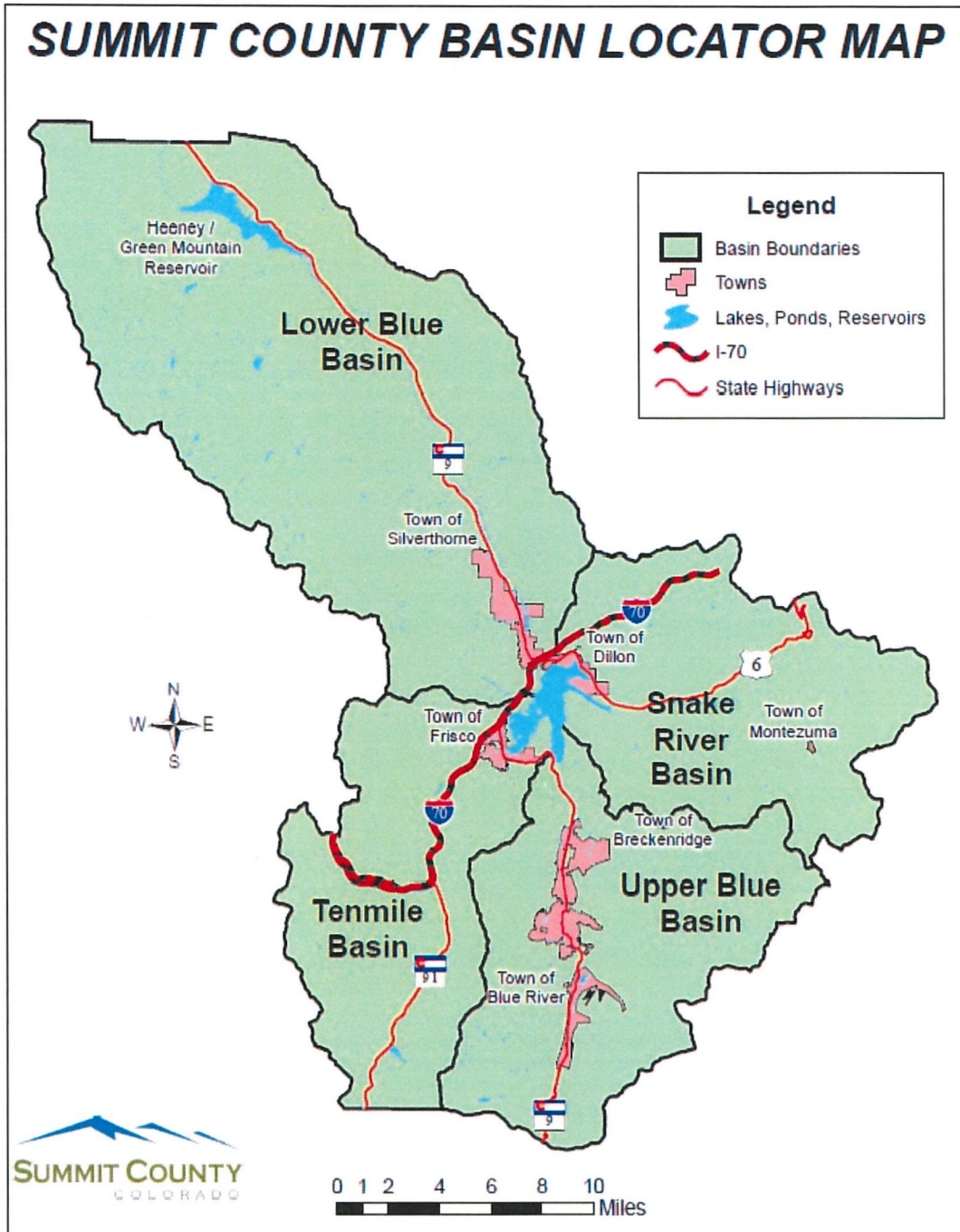
##### Geographic Boundaries and Scope

BRWG's work includes the full geographic scope of the watershed and a detailed map can be found as **Figure 1 in Section 3: Geographic Location**. The watershed uniquely aligns, almost in its entirety, with the boundaries of Summit County. The map found below as **Figure 2** shows the location of the major population centers, road corridors and water storage facilities within the county.

About 83% of the land in Summit County is publicly owned, roughly 80% by the U.S. Forest Service and BLM, while the State of Colorado, Denver Water Board, and local governments own around 3%. The remaining 17% are private lands and can mostly be found along the stream corridors and adjacent to the major road corridors. Public lands in the Blue River watershed within Grand County are also owned by the U.S. Forest Service and BLM and account for approximately 18 of the 61 square miles, or roughly 30%.

The majority of the population and economic activity is located in the Upper Blue River watershed and the upper reaches of the Lower Blue River watershed, just north of Dillon Reservoir. Four ski resorts are located in the watershed: Arapahoe Basin and Keystone Resort are in the Snake River Basin; Breckenridge Resort is in the Upper Blue Basin; and Copper Mountain Resort in the Tenmile Basin. The majority of historical and ongoing mining operations are also located in the Upper Blue River watershed, while the majority of irrigated agriculture and livestock production is located in the Lower Blue River watershed from Silverthorne to the confluence with the Colorado River.

Figure 2. Summit County Basin Map



*Extent to which the planned membership of the watershed group will represent the full geographic scope of the area*

BRWG has been involved in projects that span all three of the basins in the Upper Blue River watershed (e.g. Snake River Watershed Plan and restoration projects, Tenmile Creek restoration project and the Swan River restoration project in the Upper Blue Basin). There are opportunities for additional projects in these areas, particularly the remaining sites identified in the Snake River Watershed Plan that have yet to be addressed. BRWG would also like to explore projects in the Lower

Blue, particularly those affecting water quality and recreation. By expanding membership of the board and conducting outreach and information gathering activities, BRWG will be able to determine the projects and issues where it can add the most value in the Lower Blue.

The current Board has knowledge of the full geographic scope of watershed, including members who live and/or work throughout the region. The Board includes the Water Commissioner for the Blue River Basin, whose work encompasses the entire watershed. The Board President has extensive experience working with industry, government and development stakeholders in the Lower Blue and the Vice-President has implemented water resources projects throughout the watershed in her capacity as a water resources engineer.

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

BRWG will target stakeholders located throughout the watershed through outreach activities including conducting site visits, holding individual stakeholder meetings, and public engagement. BRWG will also be able to dedicate more time to cultivating relationships with the Bureau of Reclamation, Grand County, Lake County, Denver Water and Friends of the lower Blue to ensure that their perspectives are properly understood and represented.

5.B Evaluation Criterion B – Addressing Critical Watershed Needs

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

**Historical Dredge Boat Mining**

From 1889 to 1942, dredge boat gold mining was conducted in the Upper Blue River watershed, significantly affecting the Blue River and Swan River, a tributary to the Blue River. The mining operations required the dredging of the river alluvium to extract gold. The alluvium was sorted by size with the fines being washed downstream and the larger material, ranging from approximately 4 to 12 inches in diameter, placed in large piles within the riverbed and floodplain, often extending 20 to 30 feet above the valley floor. What remains are straight, trapezoidal channels with tailings causing portions of the rivers to flow subsurface, conveyed downstream through the highly porous gravel and cobble materials.

In general, dredge-mined sites are very unpleasant, and they are often mined for aggregate, leaving expansive areas of leveled dredge rock. The dredged sites are generally devoid of vegetation and have minimal value for riparian and wildlife habitat, fisheries or natural ecosystem functions and little to no ecologic connectivity with the reaches above and below the disturbed sites. The tailings are also highly mobile, resulting in very unstable riverbeds and banks. The sites are typically extensive in size, in both width and length of river corridor, and require extensive planning and coordination between multiple public and private landowners. They also require extensive permitting and a significant design effort. Portions of several effected reaches on the Blue and Swan Rivers have been restored or partially restored, but critical reaches remain unaddressed.

**Historical Hard Rock Mining**

During the 1800's, hard rock mining for zinc, lead, silver, copper and gold was conducted in the Upper Blue River watershed. Underground workings (tunnels, adits, drifts, stopes and crosscuts) from these mine sites are significant sources of metals loading as groundwater and surface water seeps through the

workings and associated waste piles. The result is metal and mineral contamination of the streams, compromising water quality in all three major tributaries of the watershed.

The Snake River basin drains a heavily mineralized area that had significant hard rock mining operations in the late 1800's and has continued to have some ongoing mining related activities since then. The Snake River and several of its tributaries are on the Colorado 303(d) listing as streams that do not meet water-quality standards due to low pH and high concentration of four trace metals: dissolved cadmium, copper, lead and zinc.

Much has been done to study the problems in the Snake River watershed, beginning around at least the early 1970s. Most of this work has focused on the Peru Creek tributary, which is home to the Pennsylvania Mine, the largest, longest serving mine in the watershed and targeted as the largest source of anthropogenic pollution. The BRWG, in cooperation with the Snake River Task Force, developed the Snake River Watershed Plan (Plan) to contextualize and summarize the problems that exist and the actions taken to try and solve the water-quality issues. The Plan identifies and prioritizes the numerous sources of water-quality degradation and identifies ten "Priority One" potential remediation-project sites. At each selected site, an estimate was made of the contribution of annual zinc load from that site. The Plan then proposes Best Management Practices (BMPs) at each of these sites and estimates the level of zinc removal that might be possible if remediation was implemented. Many sites remain at the planning stage, but remediation has begun at several others.

### **Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic and Forest Health**

The mountain pine beetle has destroyed significant areas of lodgepole pine forest throughout Colorado, including the Blue River watershed. Normally, these insects attack old or weakened trees, allowing for the development of a younger forest in a balanced, sustainable manner. However, the pine beetle has thrived in the last few decades because of mild winters and forests highly populated with mature lodgepole pine. The result is significant deadfall with the increased risk of catastrophic wildfire, erosion control issues and threats of mudslides.

### **Impacts from Roadways**

Roadways and paved surfaces can lead to excessive sediment loading into streams, particularly over the last thirty years of I-70 operation in the Straight Creek corridor. Straight Creek parallels I-70 for nine miles, from the point where it crosses under the west portal of the Eisenhower/Johnson Tunnel, to the confluence with the Blue River below Dillon Dam. Straight Creek is a shared water source for the Town of Dillon and the Dillon Valley Metropolitan District, as well as a potential (i.e. conditional) surface water diversion for the Denver Water Board.

Sedimentation is caused by both cut and fill slope erosion and winter maintenance practices, when traction sand is applied to I-70 for road safety. Relatively small contributions of sediment come from ambient loading of the surrounding watershed. Sediment is transported into the natural environment from the I-70 right-of-way by surface water runoff, depositing into streams, lakes, and wetlands. Excessive sediment loading can impair water quality, increase maintenance necessary at drinking water system intakes and plants, increase nuisance nutrient concentrations, reduce fish habitat, and inundate wetland vegetation, thereby impacting terrestrial species as well. For the past couple of decades, the Colorado Department of Transportation has been incorporating BMPs into their road maintenance practices and instituting sediment control and mitigation measures.

Hazardous materials also travel along this same route, and along U.S. Highway 6 over Loveland Pass, creating the potential for spill events which can impact both surface and ground water.

### **Invasive and Nuisance Aquatic Species**

The watershed is home to a number of invasive and nuisance aquatic species. For example, the northern pike has been found in Green Mountain Reservoir. These fish are aggressive predators and could have significant impacts on the other fish in the reservoir and, potentially, the Blue and Colorado rivers. If the fish were to make it to federally listed critical habitat in the Colorado River, they could prey upon the State's endangered native fish species: the Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, razorback sucker and bonytail.

Proximity to the Front Range and increasing numbers of boaters make both Dillon Reservoir and Green Mountain Reservoir high-risk locations for potential infestation from zebra and quagga mussels. These freshwater mollusks require high levels of nutrients from the water, including high quantities of plankton, which also act as food for juvenile fish. The mussels create food chain and water quality degradation concerns, can cause severe damage to existing water infrastructure and are almost impossible to remove. For Green Mountain Reservoir in particular, funding for boat inspection and other prevention measures is difficult to secure due to budget cuts over the past few years at the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW). Stakeholder efforts to raise funding were underway last year, led by Summit County and CPW.

### **Loss of Gold Medal Fishing Status**

Gold Medal designation is the highest ranking a fishery can achieve in Colorado for wild trout. These fishing areas have been designated by the CPW as providing the necessary water quality and habitat to support healthy populations of large trout. They are defined as being able to produce 60 pounds of trout per acre, and at least twelve trout over 14 inches long per acre. Only 322 miles of Colorado's 9000 miles of trout streams, and three lakes, carry the "Gold Medal" designation. Gold Medal fisheries are protected with special regulations limiting harvest numbers and the size of fish allowed to be kept in order to ensure quality fly fishing in the future

In 2016, a 19-mile stretch of the Blue River from Dillon Dam, through the Town of Silverthorne to Green Mountain Reservoir, lost its Gold Medal designation. Some limiting factors and challenges that may/may not reduce the potential for trout growth include: water releases from Dillon Reservoir that are below the ideal temperature range for trout; a narrower time-frame for critical life-stages of trout (due to managed flows); and lower nutrient/detritus levels in the water (subsequent reduction in primary production and fewer insects for the fish to consume). The Blue River Enhancement Work Group, headed by CPW, was formed to further address the river's Gold Medal status.

### **Water Availability**

Each year approximately 75,000 acre-feet of water is diverted from the Blue River watershed to the front range including: Denver Water through the Roberts Tunnel, Colorado Springs through the Con-Hoosier Tunnel, City of Golden through the Vidler Tunnel, City of Englewood through Boreas Ditch No. 2, and MillerCoors through the Straight Creek Tunnel. On average, a total of 500,000 acre-feet of water is diverted from the Colorado River basin to Colorado's Front Range. Trans-mountain diversions are 100% consumptive for the basin-of-origin and result in diminished flows, reduced water availability, reduced assimilative capacity, and can have negative impacts upon aquatic and terrestrial

biota. Diversions can be a contentious issue among stakeholders, particularly when new diversion projects are introduced or during periods of drought.

An extended (and enduring) drought in the Colorado River basin from 2002 – present, has raised the specter of a Colorado River Compact Call, where the Upper Basin, including Colorado’s West Slope, would have to curtail water use, sending water down river under the provisions of the 1922 Colorado River Compact. The impacts and increasing likelihood of extended / more severe drought and the potentiality for a Colorado River Compact Call are of significant concern throughout the Blue River Basin.

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

Over the past 14 years, BRWG has proven to be an effective partner in the stewardship of the watershed. BRWG’s proposed activities will enable the group to grow on its past success, strengthen its long-term sustainability and enhance its ability to contribute to addressing critical issues in the watershed. There are many actors engaged in the management of the watershed and the role BRWG plays with regards to an issue or project depends on the circumstances and changes over time. For example, on the Swan River Restoration Project, BRWG took a leading role in the early planning and design stages while Summit County Open Space and Trails took the lead as they began implementing the project on their reach of the river. For some issues, such as trans-mountain diversions, BRWG’s role may be more focused on information gathering, education and outreach, and generally supporting stakeholder dialogue. For others, such as mine remediation or river and floodplain restoration, BRWG may play a more central role creating partnerships, and planning, designing and implementing projects. By strengthening the organization and enhancing outreach and project planning, BRWG will determine where it can add the most value in each issue area, select new projects to develop, and seek funding for implementation.

#### **Stakeholder Outreach and Partnership Building**

BRWG will conduct stakeholder outreach through site visits, individual and collective meetings, and attending public forums and events. BRWG will look for overlapping work, priorities and initiatives to make introductions, facilitate cooperation and partnership, and create synergies between stakeholders. BRWG will engage in public education and outreach activities, growing its mailing list and sending, at minimum, quarterly newsletters highlighting an important watershed issue or conservation topic, giving updates on watershed related projects and promoting BRWG sponsored events and activities.

BRWG’s Coordinator will attend community events and partner with other organizations, such as the High Country Conservation Center, to plan and host a community clean-up event and an Earth Day event each year. BRWG will also co-sponsor the Dillon Challenge, an annual 5k rowing race held in Lake Dillon that celebrates “green”, healthy recreational uses of the lake and environment. The race is open to all categories of rowing shells including kayaks, canoes, paddle boats, and stand-up paddle boards. Examples of community events that the Coordinator will attend include the Silverthorne Annual Community Picnic, Breckenridge Town Party, Frisco’s Founders Day, and the Dillon Open Regatta.

BRWG will continue to co-host the annual State of the River community event each spring and host the annual Headwater Hops Fest in late summer. These events highlight important watershed topics,

include presentations and guest speakers, and provide an open forum for networking and community feedback. For example, the topics covered at the State of the River in 2016 included: updates on the Tenmile Creek and Swan River restoration projects; loss of Gold Medal fishing status on the lower Blue; aquatic nuisance species and Green Mountain Reservoir; status of Dillon Reservoir operations for the coming year; and 2016 snow and runoff forecasts; as well as guest speaker Joel Gratz, founder and CEO of the weather forecasting website OpenSnow.com.

The Headwater Hops Fest is also BRWG's annual community fundraising event and is held at Dillon Marina. Attendees can sample from local brewing companies, who highlight the importance of clean water to the quality of their craft products. The Fest includes live music, a catered dinner, silent auction and, weather permitting, boat tours of Lake Dillon. The Coordinator will plan the event and the group will use grant funding to pay for advertising, however, BRWG will contribute \$3,500 each year to pay for the expenses of the event, such as venue rental fees, catering, and entertainment.

BRWG will buy interview segments on Summit County's TV8 Summit Sunrise television show. These 4-minute segments will allow BRWG to discuss water related issues and promote events in an interview format with the show's host. TV8 enjoys wide viewership in the region among both locals and visitors and BRWG will be able to link to the segments on its website.

#### *Building on previous partnership building efforts*

BRWG has a solid history of working in partnership with many of the major stakeholders in the watershed. For example, the group partnered with the U.S. Forest Service and Copper Mountain Ski Resort on the Tenmile Creek restoration project; has partnered with Summit County Open Space and Trails, the U.S. Forest Service, the Town of Breckenridge and private landowners on the on-going Swan River restoration project; and developed the Snake River Restoration Plan in cooperation with the Snake River Task Force. BRWG will continue to build upon these existing relationships and develop new relationships through its stakeholder and other outreach activities.

Letters of support are provided in **Section 9** from Summit County, Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, Town of Dillon, Town of Silverthorne, Town of Frisco, Trout Unlimited and Denver Water.

#### *Facilitating discussions about land use planning processes and land use designations that govern public use and access*

BRWG's activities are not specifically focused on facilitating land use planning processes and land use designations as that function has not been a part of BRWG's mission.

#### *Establishing relations with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands*

BRWG will outreach and engage with conservation organizations such as the High County Conservation Center, Continental Divide Land Trust and the Wilderness Land Trust, whose mission is to protect federal wilderness areas by acquiring and transferring private lands to public ownership that complete designated and proposed wilderness areas or directly protect wilderness values. It has helped transfer 56.77 acres of land in Summit County, in the White River National Forest.

## **Watershed Restoration Planning**

### *Gathering information regarding the critical issues and needs of the watershed*

BRWG will gather information regarding the critical issues and needs of the watershed through stakeholder and public outreach. BRWG will also engage with local educational institutions, attend watershed-related conferences and review existing watershed reports, studies and literature, as described in **Section 4.D**, *Activity 2: Stakeholder and Public Outreach* and *Activity 3: Information Gathering*.

### *Identifying Opportunities to Resolve Conflicts*

BRWG has historically been an independent organization that tries to foster discussion and cooperation in the watershed and educate on water-related issues and so the Board does not typically take official positions on contentious issues, such as whether or not a development should occur or on land use planning. BRWG does seek to identify opportunities to find mutually acceptable solutions for watershed and river protection and enhancement, such as facilitating an agreement for a conservation easement.

### *Analyzing and prioritizing issues within the restoration plan*

BRWG will host a set of collaborative meetings to review the group's findings from its outreach and information gathering activities and to develop a priorities matrix of needed restoration and conservation projects. BRWG will then select one or more projects and create working groups to develop partnerships, funding strategies, and contract with a Consultant to develop initial site-specific concept plans.

### *Building on previous watershed plan development efforts*

The group has already developed some plans and designs that it will include as it prioritizes and strategizes its work in the watershed. The Snake River Watershed Plan provides much of the technical background needed for planning mine remediation projects and the Swan River Restoration Plan outlines the next steps for restoring the remaining reaches of the river. Having this information already on hand means BRWG can move fast to seek funding for project implementation once it determines its highest priorities.

## **Watershed Management Project Design**

One of the main objectives of the activities listed in this proposal is to identify necessary restoration projects and select one or more to develop initial site-specific project concept plans that are of sufficient detail to move forward with additional funding applications. The group will look closely at remaining projects from the Snake River Watershed Plan along with other projects identified throughout the grant period. BRWG will cross-reference projects with its funding matrix to develop initial project timelines. BRWG will contract with a Consultant to develop conceptual plans and an implementation strategy that would likely include sketch-level site plans, implementation recommendations and estimated costs for design, permitting and construction.

BRWG will also research and create a compliance matrix, summarizing environmental compliance and permitting requirements for priority watershed projects. The group will work with Reclamation's

environmental and cultural resource staff and other government agencies, as well as contract with a technical expert, as needed, while developing the matrix.

5.C Evaluation Criterion C – Implementation and Results

5.C.1 Sub-criterion No. C1. Understanding of and Ability to Meet Program Requirements

The timeframes listed below assume a start date of October 1, 2018, but will be adjusted based on actual award and execution of the financial assistance agreement.

ACTIVITY	DATES	MILESTONES	COST
<b>1</b>	<b>Organizational Development and Staffing</b>		<b>\$72,259</b>
Staff: Part-Time Coordinator	10/1/18 - 9/30/20	See Below	\$68,013 (wages \$60,000; fringe \$5,500; accounting \$1,200; laptop \$658; printer \$130; office supplies \$525)
Education Capacity Building	10/1/18 - 9/30/20	Yearly Water Educator Network Membership	\$130
Website/ Social Media Development	10/1/18 - 9/30/20	Website & Social Media updated by 1/31/19, then ongoing maintenance and content development.	\$3,000
Marketing Materials	10/1/18 - 12/31/18	First delivery by 11/30/18	\$1,116
<b>2</b>	<b>Stakeholder and Public Outreach</b>		<b>\$6,818</b>
Stakeholder Meetings Partnership Building	10/1/18 - 9/30/20	18 engagements per quarter (individual/public meetings, introductions, events, etc.)	\$6,818 (mileage for 4,442 miles \$2,420; advertising \$1,758; copies \$240; canopy tent \$850; event supplies \$1,100; sponsorship \$350; Colorado Watershed Assembly membership \$100)
Board Recruitment	10/1/18 - 9/30/20	New Members by 2/28/19, and as needed	
Public Education and Events	10/1/18 - 9/30/20	-Attend at least 4 community/public events per year -State of the River event in spring 2019, 2020 -Headwaters Hops Fest in late summer 2019, 2020 -Clean-up event fall 2019, 2020 -Earth Day event spring 2019, 2020 -Dillon Challenge Sponsorship	
Mailing List and Newsletters	10/1/18 - 9/30/20	-Grow contact list to 500 by 9/30/19 -Grow contact list to 750 by 9/30/20 -Minimum of 4 newsletters per year	
Educational and Non-Profit Outreach	10/31/18 - 9/30/20	4 engagements per quarter	
Statewide and Extended Outreach	10/31/18 - 9/30/20	-4 engagements per quarter -Colorado Watershed Assembly Membership	
<b>3</b>	<b>Information Gathering</b>		
Research	10/1/18 - 9/30/20	Board Meetings	No direct costs

Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference	10/8/18 - 10/10/18, Oct. 2019	Attendance at Conferences	\$757 (registration \$600; mileage for 288 miles \$157)
Upper Colorado River Basin Water Forum	11/7/18 - 11/8/18, Nov. 2019	Attendance at Forums	\$1,166 (registration \$320; hotel \$372; per diem \$92; mileage for 700 miles \$382)
Reporting	11/1/18 - 9/30/20	Board Meetings	No direct costs
<b>4</b>	<b>Watershed and River Restoration Project Development</b>		<b>\$19,000</b>
Project Priorities Matrix	7/1/19 - 10/31/19	Matrix	No direct costs
Funding Matrix	12/1/18 - 9/30/20	Matrix – development of initial draft from 12/1/2018 to 10/31/19, then cross reference with project priorities matrix 10/31/19 to 12/1/19, and ongoing updates until 9/30/20.	No direct costs
Compliance Matrix	7/1/19 - 6/30/20	Matrix	\$19,000
Site-Specific Project Concept Plans	7/1/19 - 8/30/20	Concept Plans (dates may be adjusted to better coincide with funding opportunity deadlines)	

#### 5.C.2 Sub-criterion No. C2. Building on Relevant Federal, State, or Regional Planning Efforts

BRWG’s proposed activities will compliment and contribute to the goals of the 2015 Colorado Water Plan, including water conservation, improving watershed health, and education and outreach. The Water Plan Grant funding opportunity will be considered as part of BRWG’s overall project development strategy. Further, BRWG’s continued work on the Swan River restoration project will complement and help meet Summit County’s objectives to reclaim highly disturbed aquatic systems and the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s goals to reconnect streams and enhance aquatic habitat.

#### 5.D Evaluation Criterion D – Nexus to Department of the Interior Initiatives

##### Supporting Implementation of a Department of Interior Initiative

BRWG will engage with South Platte Urban Waters Partnership and periodically attend the Partnership’s meetings as part of its Statewide and external stakeholder outreach strategy. The South Platte Urban Waters Partnership is part of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership program.

##### Benefiting a Basin Where a Reclamation Project, Facility or Activity is located

The activities outlined in this proposal will benefit a basin where a Reclamation facility and project is located. Reclamation owns and operates Green Mountain Reservoir and its hydropower plant as part of the Colorado Big-Thompson Project.

Supporting a complementary initiative of another Department of the Interior agency

The watershed includes portions of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, which is part of BLM's National Landscape Conservation System. The activities outlined in this proposal are not directly designed to support this initiative, but there may be indirect benefits realized from general stakeholder and community engagement, particularly strengthening of stakeholder relationships that may overlap with BLM priorities.

Positive impacts to federally threatened or endangered aquatic or riparian species

The Colorado River Basin is home to four endangered native fish species, the Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub, razorback sucker and bonytail. These endangered fish are found only in the Colorado River system. Green Mountain Reservoir is part of a coordinated release program for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program. Reclamation and Upper Basin water users manage releases from 10 reservoirs to provide spring and base flows to assist with endangered fish recovery. Any efforts within the watershed that benefit Green Mountain Reservoir (e.g. increased storage, enhanced water availability/conservation, improving water quality/security, improving long-term sustainability/resilience) stand to benefit the endangered Colorado River fish species.

Benefiting Tribes

There are no formal tribal communities located in the watershed. However, as a tributary headwater to the Colorado River, tribal communities located in the Colorado River Basin downstream will benefit from the proper management and stewardship of the watershed.

**6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE**

BRWG will not engage in monitoring, measuring or fieldwork activities utilizing these grant funds. However, BRWG will research and summarize environmental compliance for projects it identifies during the grant period for future implementation.

**7. REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS**

BRWG does not intend to do work under this grant that requires permits or formal approvals. However, BRWG will research and summarize permitting and approval requirements for projects it identifies during the grant period for future implementation.

## 8. PROJECT BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	\$/UNIT	QUANTITY	UNIT	COST
<b>Salary and Wages</b>				<b>\$60,000</b>
Watershed Group Coordinator	\$30	2,000	HRS	\$60,000
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>				<b>\$5,500</b>
Employer Payroll Taxes/Worker's Compensation for Coordinator	\$2.75	2,000	HRS	\$5,500
<b>Travel</b>				<b>\$3,423</b>
Mileage	\$0.545	5,430	MILES	\$2,959
Hotel for Upper Colorado River Basin Water Forum (2 nights per year)	\$93	4	NIGHTS	\$372
Per Diem for Upper Colorado River Basin Water Forum (2 nights per year)	\$23	4	NIGHTS	\$92
<b>Supplies and Materials</b>				<b>\$4,619</b>
Laptop Computer & Accessories	\$658	1	EACH	\$658
All-in-One Printer/Scanner	\$130	1	EACH	\$130
Office Supplies	\$175	3	LOTS	\$525
Copies for Meetings	\$0.12	2,000	PAGES	\$240
Marketing Materials	\$558	2	LOTS	\$1,116
Canopy Tent with Logos	\$850	1	EACH	\$850
Supplies for Events	\$275	4	EVENTS	\$1,100
<b>Contractual</b>				<b>\$23,200</b>
Payroll Accountant	\$50	24	MONTHS	\$1,200
Website Development	\$3,000	1	SITE	\$3,000
Consultant	\$19,000	1	LOTS	\$19,000
<b>Other</b>				<b>\$3,258</b>
Memberships				
1. Water Education Colorado	\$65	2	YRS	\$230
2. Colorado Watershed Assembly	\$50			
Sponsorship – Dillon Challenge	\$175	2	YRS	\$350
Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference Registration	\$300	2	YRS	\$600
Upper Colorado River Basin Water Forum Registration	\$160	2	YRS	\$320
Advertising for Events				
1. Summit County TV8	\$100	6	EACH	\$1,758
2. Summit Daily Newspaper	\$193			
Indirect Costs				\$0.00
<b>TOTAL - GRANT COSTS</b>				<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>BRWG's Contribution</b>	\$3,500	2	EACH	\$7,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>				<b>\$107,000</b>

8.A Budget Narrative

**Salaries and Wages - \$60,000**

BRWG will hire a part-time Coordinator who will work up to 1,000 hours per year at a pay rate of \$30 per hour. This estimate includes 16 hours per quarter that will be dedicated to compliance with grant reporting requirements.

Colorado currently has a historically low unemployment rate and the costs of living and housing in Summit County are higher than average. The pay rate reflects these circumstances in order to attract a talented individual.

**Fringe Benefits - \$5,500**

Fringe costs included in the budget are for the employer portion of payroll taxes and worker's compensation insurance based on the rates listed below and a wage of \$30 per hour. No other fringe benefits, such as health insurance or paid leave, are included.

Social Security at 6.2%:	\$1.86 / hour
Medicare at 1.45%:	\$0.44 / hour
Worker's Compensation at 1.5%	<u>\$0.45 / hour</u>
Total	\$2.75 / hour

**Travel - \$3,423**

The Coordinator will make site visits, attend meetings, events and conferences throughout the watershed as well as further afield in Denver, Avon, Glenwood Springs and Grand Junction. The mileage reimbursement rate included in the budget is the 2018 Federal rate of 54.5¢ per mile. Mileage was calculated based on roundtrip distances from the Town of Frisco as follows:

Destination	Roundtrip Miles from Frisco	Frequency	Total Miles (Over 2 Years)	Total Cost (Over 2 Years)
Stakeholders in the Lower Blue River Valley (using Green Mountain Reservoir as reference point)	56	1 / month	1,344	\$732.48
Breckenridge	10	4 / month	960	\$523.20
Silverthorne/Dillon	7	4 / month	672	\$366.24
Golden – South Platte Urban Waters Partnership Meetings	129	3 / year	774	\$421.83
Avon – Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference	72	2 / year	288	\$156.96

Grand Junction – Upper Colorado River Basin Water Forum	350	1 / year	700	\$381.50
Glenwood Springs – Colorado Basin Roundtable Meetings	173	6 / year	692	\$377.14
TOTAL MILES			5,430	\$2,959.35

Upper Colorado River Basin Water Forum (\$464): The Coordinator will require accommodation to attend this event in Grand Junction, which is 175 miles from Frisco each way. The budget includes two night’s accommodation each year for the 2018 and 2019 Forums at the \$93 per night Federal per diem rate. Breakfast and lunch is included in the registration fee for the event, so the \$23 Federal per diem rate for dinner is also included in the budget for each night.

Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference: This event is held annually in Avon, CO, which is only 36 miles one way from Frisco and therefore no meals or accommodation are included in the budget, only roundtrip mileage for each of the two days of the conference, per year.

**Supplies and Materials - \$4,619**

Supplies and materials included in the budget are:

- Laptop computer and accessories (\$658), which include a wireless mouse and laptop case, for use by the Coordinator. Cost is based on the online pricing from stores such as Best Buy and Amazon.
  - Laptop with Microsoft Office and anti-virus software: \$600
  - Wireless mouse: \$18
  - Laptop Case: \$50
- All-In-One Printer Scanner (\$130), for use by the Coordinator. The cost is based on the online price for the Canon TS9120 Wireless All-In-One Printer with Scanner and Copier.
- Office Supplies (\$525), for use by the Coordinator. The cost is a general estimate based on experience and includes items such as printer paper, printer ink cartridges, pens, notebooks, stapler, staples and sticky notes.
- Copies for Meetings (\$240), which may include maps, meeting agendas or reports for board meetings, and stakeholder and public meetings. The cost is based on an estimated 2,000 pages at \$0.12 per page for black and white copies.
- Marketing Materials (\$1,116), for promotional use and at events. The cost is based on a quote from a local copy shop in Frisco, Colorado for 1,000 brochures, 250 business cards, 300 rack cards and one outdoor vinyl sign.
- Canopy Tent with Logos (\$850), for use at events. The cost is based on a quote for a 10’ x 10’ pop-up canopy with custom screen print logo graphics.

- Supplies for Clean-Up Events (\$1,100). The cost is a general estimate for supplies for one clean-up and one Earth Day event each year such as garbage bags, work gloves and catering expenses to provide lunch or refreshments to attendees. BRWG will also seek sponsors for catering.

### **Contractual - \$23,200**

Contractual expenses included in the budget are:

- Payroll Accounting (\$1,200). BRWG received two quotes and included the lowest quote in the budget. The payroll accountant will issue a paycheck every two weeks, and remit payroll taxes and reports, including W-2's, as required by the IRS and State of Colorado.
- Website Design (\$3,000). BRWG contacted three website design companies in Summit County to get estimates. These companies either did not work on the Weebly platform (that hosts the BRWG's website), or the project was too small for their firms to take, though they did provide rough cost estimates. BRWG will contract with a freelance website developer that works with the Weebly platform.
- Consultant (\$19,000). BRWG will contract with a technical Consultant to research and advise on environmental compliance and permitting requirements, if needed, as well as develop initial project concept plans. This cost is based on a rate of \$100 per hour, assuming 190 hours of work.

### **Other Expenses - \$3,258**

Other expenses included in the budget are:

- Memberships (\$230), which includes \$65 per year for the Water Educator Network of Water Education Colorado and \$50 per year for the Colorado Watershed Assembly. The costs are based on the current membership rates of each organization.
- Sponsorship (\$350) for the Dillon Challenge rowing race. The cost is based on their Platinum Sponsorship Package of \$175 and will include a listing on the regatta website with link to BRWG's website; BRWG's logo on their banners and posters; a listing on their T-shirts; BRWG's publicity materials in their registration packets; and a BRWG tent on site during the packet pickup and race events.
- Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference registration (\$600). The budget includes the cost for the Coordinator to attend this conference in October 2018 and 2019. BRWG contacted the Colorado Watershed Assembly and they have not yet begun planning the 2018 event and thus could not provide the registration fee. Therefore, the amount included in the budget is based on the 2017 event member rate of \$275 plus an additional \$25 in case of future registration fee increases. The registration fee includes lunch.
- Upper Colorado River Basin Water Forum registration (\$320). The budget includes the cost for the Coordinator to attend this forum in November 2018 and 2019. The cost is based on the registration fee for the upcoming 2018 event, provided by Colorado Mesa University.

- Advertising (\$1,758), which includes three segments on TV8's Summit Sunrise morning show and three ¼-page color newspaper ads per year in the Summit Daily newspaper, to advertise the State of the River, the Headwaters Hops Fest, and the clean-up event that BRWG will host.

### **Total Project Costs**

The total cost of BRWG's proposed activities is \$107,000, which includes:

Grant Funding: \$100,000

BRWG Contribution: \$7,000

BRWG's contribution is cash for expenses associated with the Headwaters Hops Fest event. It is based on historical experience and includes such costs as catering, venue rental and live music.

## **9. LETTERS OF SUPPORT**



Dear Interested Party,

The Dillon Ranger District of the White River National Forest is a vested stakeholder in the health and vitality of the Blue River watershed. We are writing in support of the Blue River Watershed Group's (BRWG) application for the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant.

The BRWG was established as a community group in 2004 and has since played a major role in a number of watershed management planning initiatives and restoration projects. For example, BRWG was co-author of the Snake River Watershed Management plan which assessed and made recommendations for 12 mine sites for the purpose of improving water quality. In furtherance of the plan, BRWG has helped to implement three mine remediation projects in the Peru Creek drainage. It was also a leading partner in the design and implementation of the completed Ten Mile Creek restoration project and the on-going Swan River restoration project.

The mission of the Blue River Watershed Group is to promote, protect and restore a healthy Blue River watershed through cooperative community education, stewardship, and resource management. BRWG's mission aligns well with the White River National Forest's goal of restoring and sustaining high quality watersheds for municipal, commercial, and agricultural needs as well as non-consumptive uses such as aquatic and riparian habitat, wetlands, fisheries, and recreation. Approximately 25 percent (30,000 acres) of the riparian/wetland communities that occur on the White River National Forest are found in the Blue River basin. As a result, the Dillon Ranger District in coordination with many partners, has expended a great amount of resources improving these riparian/wetland habitats in the Blue River basin through projects such as road decommissioning and realignments, culvert replacements (creating aquatic organism passages), fuels reduction, tree/shrub plantings, invasive plants eradication, and mine reclamation. As a non-profit community organization, BRWG is often uniquely positioned to coordinate these projects and represent the diverse stakeholders and interests found within the Blue River basin. Therefore, we welcome and support their efforts to strengthen and further develop their internal organization, their community outreach and education activities, and their participation and partnership in important watershed management and restoration projects.

We ask that you please favorably consider funding the Blue River Watershed Group's grant application to help our community bolster its ability to address our critical watershed needs.

Sincerely,

*Cedera Bianchi FOR WILLIAM JACKSON*

WILLIAM F. JACKSON,  
Dillon District Ranger





COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

CPW Assistant Director of Wildlife and Natural Resources  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216  
Phone: 303-866-3203 ext. 4665

January 26, 2018

Bureau of Reclamation  
Financial Assistance Support Section  
Attn: Mr. Darren Olson

Dear Mr. Olson:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is submitting this letter in support of the Blue River Watershed Group's (BRWG) application for the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant.

For the past two years, CPW has coordinated a Blue River Enhancement Work Group (BREW) to restore the aquatic environment and fishery of the Blue River downstream of Dillon Dam. Through cooperation with interested and affected agencies and individuals, and with public support, we have worked to identify limiting factors and sought potential solutions. A representative of the BRWG has actively participated in BREW, providing valuable input and interest in restoring the Blue River.

A successful WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant application could potentially provide the necessary resources to the BRWG to fulfill their endeavors, and assist with collaborative projects. Further, an award from the BOR could advance development and strengthening of the BRWG, as well as their coordination and outreach efforts. As a non-profit community organization, the BRWG is uniquely positioned to represent the diverse stakeholders and interests within the Blue River watershed.

CPW looks forward to continuing our partnership with the BRWG to restore the Blue River's aquatic environment and fishery. Your favorable consideration of the BRWG's grant application for WaterSMART funds is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Reid DeWalt  
CPW Assistant Director  
Wildlife and Natural Resources Branch



January 29, 2018

Ms. Avra Morgan  
Manager and Program Analyst  
Bureau of Reclamation Water Resources and Planning Division  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

**Re: Blue River Watershed Group's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grant Application**

Dear Ms. Morgan,

I write today to express Denver Water's support for the Blue River Watershed Group's (BRWG) application for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program.

Denver Water owns and operates Dillon Reservoir, which provides approximately 30 percent of Denver's municipal water supply that serves approximately 1.4 million residents on Colorado's Front Range. As such, Denver Water is a vested stakeholder in the health and vitality of the Blue River watershed.

Established as a community group in 2004, the mission of the Blue River Watershed Group is to promote, protect and restore a healthy Blue River watershed through cooperative community education, stewardship, and resource management. BRWG's mission aligns well with Denver Water's goals and interest in protecting the Blue River watershed. As a non-profit community organization, BRWG is positioned well to coordinate and represent the diverse stakeholders and interests within the watershed and across Summit County.

Denver Water appreciates the years of work performed by the BRWG, in particular the important roles the group has played in a number of watershed management planning initiatives and restoration projects on the Blue, Swan, and Snake rivers – all of which feed the Dillon Reservoir. One example project is from the Snake River, which terminates in Dillon Reservoir and has suffered from the results of historic mining activities. BRWG was co-author of the Snake River Watershed Plan, which assessed and developed recommendations for the remediation of 12 mine sites for the purpose of improving water quality. Guided by the Snake River plan, the BRWG has helped to implement three mine remediation projects in the Peru Creek tributary.

Please consider funding the BRWG's WaterSMART grant application, which would bolster its ability to address ongoing critical watershed needs as described in its application.

Sincerely,



Mike King  
Chief of External Affairs

Cc: Blue River Watershed Group



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

970.453.3402 ph | 970.453.3535 f  
www.SummitCountyCO.gov

208 East Lincoln Ave. | PO Box 68  
Breckenridge, CO 80424

December 27, 2017

U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Division

Dear Ms. Avra Morgan and WaterSMART Program,

I am writing to express support for the Blue River Watershed Group's (BRWG) application for the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant. The BRWG has been an important community organization in Summit County, providing education, facilitation of important events and water quality and quantity watershed restoration and management projects. The BRWG teamed with the US Forest Service to design and implement restoration of Ten Mile Creek, and provided support to Summit County in the master planning for the Swan River Restoration. The BRWG is co-author of the Snake River Watershed Management plan. Our community sees the BRWG as the respected and reliable voice for water education and leader in watershed improvements.

Summit County has a long history of mining pollution and more recently, water diversions to the Front Range. This combination of impacts will require our continued dedication to the same principles and efforts as the mission of the Blue River Watershed Group: to promote, protect and restore a healthy Blue River watershed through cooperative community education, stewardship, and resource management. The BRWG is an important partner with Summit County for outreach, education, community trust and watershed management and restoration.

We fully support their efforts to further develop and strengthen their internal organization. This structure is important for the BRWG to be able to continue their positive impacts on our watershed.

Please consider funding the Blue River Watershed Group's grant application to help us continue to improve our watershed and our community understanding of our most precious resource.

Thank you,

Karn Stiegelmeier  
Summit County Commissioner



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**Date:** 1/5/18  
**To:** United States Bureau of Reclamation  
**From:** Scott O'Brien, Public Works Director  
**RE:** WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program

The Town of Dillon is a vested stakeholder in the health and vitality of the Blue River watershed. We are writing in support of the Blue River Watershed Group's (BRWG) application for the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant.

The BRWG was established as a community group in 2004 and has since played a major role in a number of watershed management planning initiatives and restoration projects. For example, BRWG was co-author of the Snake River Watershed Plan which assessed and developed recommendations for the remediation of 12 mine sites for the purpose of improving water quality. The Snake River terminates in Dillon Reservoir and water quality has been impaired by historic mining activities. As a result of the Snake River plan, the BRWG has helped to implement three mine remediation projects in the Peru Creek tributary.

The mission of the Blue River Watershed Group is to promote, protect and restore a healthy Blue River watershed through cooperative community education, stewardship, and resource management.

BRWG's mission aligns well with the Town of Dillon's goals and interest in our watershed. Our primary drinking water source is Straight Creek, and this creek as well as others in the basin connect directly to the Blue River below the Dillon Reservoir. As stewards of this smaller watershed, we work directly with other stakeholders in the Blue River Basin to protect and promote this valuable resource. As a non-profit community organization, BRWG is uniquely positioned to coordinate and represent the diverse actors and interests found within our watershed. We welcome and support their efforts to strengthen and further develop their internal organization, their community outreach and education activities, and their participation and partnership in important watershed management and restoration projects.

We ask that you please consider funding the Blue River Watershed Group's grant application to help our community bolster its ability to address our critical watershed needs.

Scott O'Brien, PWD  
Town of Dillon  
[scotto@townofdillon.com](mailto:scotto@townofdillon.com)  
(970) 262-3408

December 28, 2017

Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240-0001

Dear WaterSMART Grant Representative,

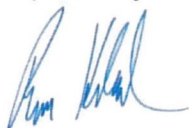
The Town of Silverthorne is a vested stakeholder in the health and vitality of the Blue River watershed. We are writing in support of the Blue River Watershed Group's (BRWG) application for the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant.

The BRWG was established as a community group in 2004 and has since played a major role in a number of watershed management planning initiatives and restoration projects. For example, BRWG was a co-author of the Snake River Watershed Management plan which assessed and made recommendations for 12 mine sites for the purpose of improving water quality. In furtherance of the plan, BRWG has helped to implement three mine remediation projects in the Peru Creek drainage. It was also a leading partner in the design and implementation of the completed Ten Mile Creek restoration project and the on-going Swan River restoration project.

The mission of the Blue River Watershed Group is to promote, protect and restore a healthy Blue River watershed through cooperative community education, stewardship, and resource management. BRWG's mission aligns well with the Town of Silverthorne's goals for our watershed. As a non-profit community organization, BRWG is often uniquely positioned to coordinate and represent the diverse actors and interests found within the watershed and we welcome and support their efforts to strengthen and further develop their internal organization, their community outreach and education activities, and their participation and partnership in important watershed management and restoration projects.

We ask that you please favorably consider funding the Blue River Watershed Group's grant application to help our community bolster its ability to address our critical watershed needs.

Respectfully,



Ryan Hyland  
Town Manager



# TOWN of FRISCO

P.O. Box 4100 • Frisco, Colorado 80443  
(970)668-5276

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January 24, 2018

United States Bureau of Reclamation  
WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program

RE: Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management  
Program Grant

Dear United States Bureau of Reclamation:

We are writing in support of the Blue River Watershed Group's (BRWG) application for the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant. For more than 10 years, The Blue River Watershed Group (BRWG) has been a valuable partner and facilitator in addressing critical issues and restoration needs within the watershed. They have a track record of working with a wide range of watershed stakeholders, including Summit County, U.S. Forest Service, local town governments and the local community on important education and restoration initiatives, such as the annual 'State of the River' public information meetings, the restoration of Tenmile Creek and the development of the Swan River Restoration Project.

The mission of the Blue River Watershed Group aligns well with our goals in the watershed and we support their effort to further develop and strengthen their organization, their coordination and outreach efforts and to continue to expand upon their role as collaborative watershed stewards. As a non-profit community organization, BRWG is often uniquely positioned to coordinate and represent the diverse actors and interests found within the watershed.

We ask that you please consider favorably funding the Blue River Watershed Group's grant application. We strongly support their proposal and look forward to continuing our collaboration with BRWG to address our critical watershed needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Ready".

Randy Ready  
Town Manager  
Town of Frisco

*January 18, 2018*

*The Gore Range Anglers Chapter of Trout Unlimited (Summit County, CO) is a conservation organization dedicated to the conservation of cold clear water. In that role we are a vested stakeholder and custodian in the health and vitality of the Blue River watershed. We are writing in support of the Blue River Watershed Group's (BRWG) application for the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant.*

*The BRWG was established as a community group in 2004 and has since played a major role in a number of watershed management planning initiatives and restoration projects. For example, BRWG was co-author of the Snake River Watershed Management plan which assessed and made recommendations for 12 mine sites for the purpose of improving water quality. In furtherance of the plan, BRWG has helped to implement three mine remediation projects in the Peru Creek drainage (a tributary to the Snake.) It was also a leading partner in the design and implementation of the completed Ten Mile Creek restoration project and the on-going Swan River restoration project.*

*The mission of the Blue River Watershed Group is to promote, protect and restore a healthy Blue River watershed through cooperative community education, stewardship, and resource management. BRWG's mission aligns well with Trout Unlimited's mission and conservation work in the watershed. As a non-profit community organization, BRWG is often uniquely positioned to coordinate and represent the diverse actors and interests found within the watershed and so we welcome and support their efforts to strengthen and further develop their internal organization, their community outreach and education activities, and their participation and partnership in important watershed management and restoration projects and we hope to be able to utilize their position to assist with some of the projects that we champion.*

*We ask that you please favorably consider funding the Blue River Watershed Group's grant application to help our community bolster its ability to address our critical watershed needs.*

*Respectfully,*

*Greg Hardy*

*President – Gore Range Anglers Chapter – Trout Unlimited*

**10. OFFICIAL RESOLUTION**

**SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE**

I, Troy Wineland, Secretary of the Blue River Watershed Group, hereby certify that the following Resolution was adopted by the unanimous consent of all member of the Blue River Watershed Group on January 18, 2018:

**RESOLUTION**

The Blue River Watershed Group's Board of Directors hereby adopts the following Resolution:

1. The Board President shall be the officer with legal authority to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. The current Board President is Joanna Hopkins.
2. The Board of Directors all took part in drafting the grant application for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grant and have reviewed and support the application submitted.
3. The Board of Directors affirm that the Blue River Watershed Group is willing and capable of contributing the amount of cash funds and/or in-kind contributions, if any, specified in the grant application and budget plan.
4. The Blue River Watershed Group affirms it will work with the Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement.

By: Troy Wineland 1/18/2018  
Troy Wineland, Secretary  
Blue River Watershed Group

## **11. UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFYER**

BRWG is registered on SAM.gov under DUNS 024616483. However, the account status is currently "Inactive." The previous administrator for BRWG's account is no longer with the organization. BRWG has requested the administrative access be updated and is in the process of reactivating the account. This will be completed within 30 days from submission of this proposal.