

FY 2018 Cooperative Watershed Management Program Project Selections

New Watershed Groups

Arizona

Industrial Development Authority of Gila County, Cobre Valley Watershed Partnership **Reclamation Funding: \$100,000** **Total Project Cost: \$100,000**

The Industrial Development Authority of Gila County, Arizona, will establish the Cobre Valley Watershed Partnership (Partnership). The Cobre Valley Watershed has water supply and quality concerns due to urban development and population growth. The Partnership will facilitate cooperation within a watershed with a diverse set interests. For example, the Resolution Copper Company and the San Carlos Apache Tribe, which opposes Resolution's mine, both support the Partnership. In addition, thirteen entities, including municipalities, state and Federal agencies, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, community organizations, and non-profit and industry groups, are already engaged with the Partnership. The Partnership will identify and engage additional affected stakeholders; develop a collaborative process to identify water resource issues and needs; develop a consensus-based process to prioritize needs and issues; identify near-term and long-term watershed management solutions; and prepare a written action plan to address prioritized needs and associated solutions.

Watershed Management Group, Inc., Forming a Tucson Basin-Santa Cruz Watershed Collaborative and Restoration Plan **Reclamation Funding: \$99,847** **Total Project Cost: \$167,521**

The Watershed Management Group, Inc. will establish a Santa Cruz River watershed group in the Tucson Basin and develop a watershed restoration plan. The watershed, located near Tucson, Arizona, encompasses a complex mix of urban communities, agricultural lands, tribal, Federal and local public lands. Water supplies consist primarily of diversions from the Colorado River delivered by the Bureau of Reclamation's Central Arizona Project Canal and groundwater pumping. Drought and land use changes are significant threats to the current municipal water supply and local springs that support riparian habitat. The new group will establish stakeholder working groups, develop a community meeting training plan, organize community meetings, and develop a comprehensive watershed restoration plan. The restoration plan will address complex water management issues in the watershed including, drought, the need for long term sustainable water supplies, and restoration of streams and associated riparian habitat.

California

Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, South Lassen Watersheds Group Collaborative Development Project

Reclamation Funding: \$99,669

Total Project Cost: \$124,669

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment will develop the South Lassen Watershed Group, which will work within the Upper North Fork of the Feather River, Upper Mill Creek, and Upper Deer Creek watersheds, a critical headwaters region for the California State Water Project. The group will focus on water quality and quantity concerns, forest health, reduction in catastrophic wildfires, and building cooperative partnerships across the watershed. The group will develop a diverse membership, gather baseline water quality and quantity data, and develop a watershed restoration plan. Development of the plan will include mapping, technical analysis and the creation of fire models. Planning efforts will focus on upstream land management to protect the watersheds.

Sonoma Resource Conservation District, Petaluma River Watershed Consortium

Reclamation Funding: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$100,000

The Sonoma Resource Conservation District located in Santa Rosa, California, will establish a collaborative watershed group for the Petaluma River Watershed. The Petaluma River Watershed Consortium will bring together state agencies, local municipalities, recreation managers, recreational user groups, agricultural groups, domestic water supply entities, and land developers. The stakeholders will collaboratively create a mission, vision, and develop goals to address natural resource issues through a watershed enhancement plan. This plan will determine priority projects to address water quality concerns, water quantity, saltwater intrusion, and land development.

Colorado

Tamarisk Coalition, Development of the White River Partnership

Reclamation Funding: \$87,257

Total Project Cost: \$126,265

The Tamarisk Coalition in Grand Junction, Colorado, will establish the White River Partnership (Partnership) for the lower White River Watershed. Invasive Tamarisk and Russian Olive have established along much of the river in the watershed, which has negatively impacted the function and dynamics of the aquatic, riparian, and wetland areas. The Partnership will develop outreach materials, encourage collaboration between stakeholders, develop governance structure for the Partnership, and undertake initial watershed restoration planning focused on restoration in areas invaded by Tamarisk and Russian Olive.

New Mexico

Isleta Reach Watershed Restoration Group, Middle Rio Grande Basin Watershed Group Development and Restoration Plan

Reclamation Funding: \$99,964

Total Project Cost: \$99,964

The National Audubon Society, Inc., will establish a new watershed group for the Isleta Reach of the Middle Rio Grande River in New Mexico. The Isleta Reach of the Middle Rio Grande River has been significantly modified by surface water diversions, groundwater pumping, flood control, channelization, and land use changes, which has impacted native fish and wildlife populations, water quality, and recreation. The new watershed group will recruit stakeholders and develop a watershed restoration plan, taking advantage of the extensive stakeholder experience with restoration in the watershed.

Northern Arizona University, Developing a Watershed Restoration Strategy for the Eastern Jemez

Reclamation Funding: \$97,673

Total Project Cost: \$97,673

Northern Arizona University and the New Mexico Chapter of the Nature Conservancy will establish the East Jemez Watersheds Group in New Mexico. The eastern Jemez Mountains have been impacted by severe fires, floods, debris flows, and drought over the last twenty years. These past events have resulted in closures of public lands to the public due to safety concerns. This group will bring together Native American Pueblos, Federal agencies, state agencies, and private landowners to develop a landscape scale watershed restoration plan that will allow historic access of public lands to continue. Restoration planning efforts will focus on increasing biodiversity, increasing water holding capacity of the soil, and decreasing erosion.

Oklahoma

Grand River Dam Authority, Development of a Stakeholder Group to Protect and Restore the Lake O' the Cherokees Sub-Watershed

Reclamation Funding: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$112,000

The Grand River Dam Authority in Vinita, Oklahoma, will facilitate a Lake O' the Cherokees Watershed Group and development of the Grand Lake Watershed Restoration Plan. The Lake O' the Cherokees encompasses land within four states, nine tribal jurisdictions, and contains Grand Lake, a terminal reservoir that receives runoff from eight sub-watersheds that comprise the Grand Lake Watershed. Sedimentation is a primary concern for Grant Lake; therefore, the Group will work collaboratively with stakeholders upstream of Grand Lake in efforts to reduce sedimentation. Lake O' the Cherokees Watershed also has impairments for dissolved oxygen, fecal bacteria, and heavy metals. This project will establish the watershed group, build collaborative relationships, and develop a Grand Lake watershed restoration plan. The restoration plan will include a process for identifying, prioritizing, and planning watershed management projects designed to improve water quality within the watershed.

Existing Watershed Groups

Arizona

Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, Collaborative Watershed Restoration Plan for the Altar Valley Watershed

Reclamation Funding: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$254,285

Altar Valley Conservation Alliance (Alliance), which represents a diverse group of stakeholders, including ranchers, Federal, state, and local government agencies, environmental groups, and universities, will develop a restoration plan for the Altar Valley Watershed in Pima County, Arizona. The restoration plan will focus on developing general project plans for 15-20 high priority projects that address channel incision and erosion, which are two of the largest concerns in the watershed. By addressing these concerns, the Alliance hopes to increase groundwater infiltration, reducing sediment transfer, and enhancing ecological site condition. The Alliance works closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, which is located in the southern portion of the watershed, and the restoration plan will complement Refuge initiatives.

Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership, Growth of the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership

Reclamation Funding: \$98,668

Total Project Cost: \$98,668

The Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership (Partnership) will complete stakeholder outreach and restoration planning activities to assist in meeting the water needs of the Coconino Plateau in northern Arizona. The Partnership, which represents a diverse group of stakeholders including, Federal and state agencies, tribes, municipalities, water providers, and conservation organizations, has identified sustainable water management and reducing conflict as critical needs in the watershed. To help address those needs, the Partnership will provide key information to regional decision makers through modeling the groundwater aquifer, building on an existing ecosystems services assessment, updating water source and demand maps, and conducting workshops to gain input and support from stakeholders. The Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, and Navajo Nation participate in the Partnership.

Friends of the Rio de Flag, Advancing Watershed Planning for the Rio de Flag

Reclamation Funding: \$99,565

Total Project Cost: \$99,565

Friends of the Rio de Flag will further develop and complete a watershed restoration plan for the Rio de Flag Watershed near Flagstaff, Arizona. Urban development has resulted in water supply concerns, stream channelization, erosion, and degradation of the riparian ecosystem, which have increased the risk of flooding and caused water quality concerns. The group will facilitate conversations between a diverse group of stakeholders to inform the watershed planning process. The group will also seek to engage the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation as the Rio de Flag Watershed is of cultural significance to both tribes.

California

Alpine Watershed Group, Upper Carson River Watershed Planning and Partnership Development

Reclamation Funding: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$170,000

The Alpine Watershed Group will conduct community outreach and partnership development, information gathering and data collection, and restoration planning focused on the Upper Carson River Watershed at the headwaters of the Carson River in Alpine County, California. The group is comprised of local landowners, conservation groups, recreation groups, Federal, state, and local agencies, ranchers, and local businesses, and works closely with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Over the past 150 years the watershed has experienced degradation due to extensive mining, grazing, timber harvesting, and road building; more recent stressors include, recreation, invasive species, and urban development. The group will complete stakeholder outreach and partnership building and gather data to inform a comprehensive watershed plan for the Upper Carson Watershed, which will lay the groundwork for determining priority restoration projects.

Colorado

Animas Watershed Partnership, Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment

Reclamation Funding: \$79,000

Total Project Cost: \$79,000

The Animas Watershed Partnership (Partnership) located in Durango, Colorado, will engage new stakeholders in the Florida River Watershed, a sub-basin of the Animas Watershed, and develop the Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment. The Partnership includes private landowners, environmental groups, local, state, and Federal agencies, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, and works across the Colorado-New Mexico state boundary and tribal boundaries. The Florida River Watershed, which encompasses the Source Water Protection Area for seven public water suppliers, is impacted by nutrient and bacterial contamination; declining ecological resilience due to changes in flow regime, riparian vegetation, and channel stability; and water supply concerns due to aging infrastructure and drought. The Partnership will analyze the Florida River and tributaries below Lemon Reservoir to identify and prioritize reaches where projects will most benefit water quality, habitat, channel stability and Russian Olive and Tamarisk control.

Blue River Watershed Group, Watershed Group Development and Watershed Restoration Planning for the Blue River Watershed

Reclamation Funding: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$107,000

The Blue River Watershed Group located in Frisco, Colorado, will complete organizational development, stakeholder outreach, and restoration planning in the headwaters of the Colorado River, west of the continental divide in Colorado. The group includes a diverse group of stakeholders, including private landowners, Federal, state and local government agencies, tourism and recreation groups, the mining industry, real estate development, farmers and ranchers, hydropower production, environmental groups, emergency services, and the transportation sector. The watershed suffers from water quality concerns due to historic mining activities and roads, degraded ecosystem health due to the mountain pine beetle epidemic

and invasive species, and water supply concerns due to pressure from transmountain diversions to Colorado's rapidly growing cities. The group will build new relationships among stakeholders; reassess the critical issues in the watershed; develop a matrix of priority projects; and begin preliminary project concept planning for restoration projects that will address water quality and quantity concerns and ecosystems health in the watershed.

Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, River Resiliency Master Plan Lower Cache La Poudre - Phase 2

Reclamation Funding: \$99,707

Total Project Cost: \$99,707

The Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (Coalition) located in Fort Collins, Colorado, will continue to develop their presence in the Cache la Poudre River watershed by expanding stakeholder engagement and competing restoration planning in the lower portion of the watershed. The Poudre River watershed has been heavily impacted by fire and damaging floods as well as declining ecological resilience, degraded riparian habitat, and water quality concerns. The Coalition brings together local agencies, natural resources nonprofits, academia, local business owners, and natural resource management. As part of this project, the Coalition will recruit and engage diverse interests in the lower watershed, work collaboratively with local stakeholders to prioritize critical river reaches, and identify specific projects aimed at improving resiliency. The outreach, planning, and design process will foster communication and collaboration among stakeholders, including water users that rely on Reclamation's Colorado-Big Thompson Project, while improving riparian habitat and restoring river resiliency.

Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek Stream Management Plan

Reclamation Funding: \$35,000

Total Project Cost: \$273,030

The Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation located in Alamosa, Colorado, will expand upon larger Rio Grande Basin planning to create three stream management plans for the high priority Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek watersheds. The watersheds have experienced prolonged drought, forest fires, extensive beetle kill, aging water infrastructure, endangered species, and degraded habitat. The plans will result in identified goals that will further the efforts of communities in the San Luis Valley to improve flows and physical conditions for environmental, recreational, and community benefits.

Dolores Water Conservancy District, Planning and Development to Further the Dolores Watershed and Resilient Forest Collaborative

Reclamation Funding: \$99,530

Total Project Cost: \$109,759

The Dolores Water Conservancy District will further develop the Dolores Watershed and Resilient Forest Collaborative (Collaborative) in Dolores and Montezuma Counties in southwestern Colorado. The Collaborative will complete source water protection planning in the Dolores Watershed from the headwaters in the San Juan National Forest to the Dove Creek pump station. The watershed is at risk of large fires and subsequent water quality concerns due to low snowpack and drought. The Collaborative will further develop their organizational structure, collect missing baseline data to inform planning, incorporate critical source-water protection issues to reduce risk that are identified in the watershed wildfire protection plan, including GIS support and a risk-based vulnerability assessment, and develop a monitoring plan. The

Dolores Watershed encompasses Reclamation's Dolores Project, which provides water to Ute Mountain Ute tribal water users. Source water protection in the Dolores Watershed will protect the McPhee Reservoir, a primary storage feature of the Dolores Project, from water quality contamination.

Purgatoire Watershed Partnership, Inc., Restoring the Ecology and Channel Processes of the Purgatoire River along the Trinidad River Walk through Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

Reclamation Funding: \$92,080

Total Project Cost: \$246,380

The Purgatoire Watershed Partnership, Inc. (Partnership) located in Trinidad, Colorado, will conduct watershed management project design focused on restoring a 4.5 mile stretch of the Purgatoire River as it flows from the Trinidad Dam through the City of Trinidad. This stretch of the Purgatoire River currently suffers from flooding, declining ecological resilience due to invasive species encroachment, and lack of fishery habitat and recreation access. The Partnership was established and developed an initial watershed restoration plan through a 2012 Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant and previously convened a group of diverse stakeholders to determine management priorities for a the 4.5 mile stretch of the Purgatoire River. The Partnership will complete an analysis to prioritize watershed management projects and identify specific project locations; complete site-specific project design and engineering; and develop project timelines and milestones. Design work will include completion of a hydrology assessment to determine how to best manage controlled releases of storm water from Trinidad Reservoir with the goal of preparing for the potential maximum release of 5,000 cfs as is required under the Arkansas River Compact; to determine how to best manage winter flows to create a self-sustaining fishery; and to develop a protocol for a collaborative flow management program. The project area is immediately downstream from Reclamation's Trinidad Dam.

San Miguel Watershed Coalition, Expansion of the San Miguel Watershed Coalition

Reclamation Funding: \$99,303

Total Project Cost: \$130,828

The San Miguel Watershed Coalition (Coalition) in Telluride, Colorado, will conduct stakeholder outreach, organizational development, and restoration planning in the San Miguel watershed in southwest Colorado. The San Miguel Watershed is impacted by mining-related water quality concerns and low instream flows in the San Miguel River, which pose a threat to native fisheries, during periods of high irrigation demand. The Coalition will broaden its membership through targeted outreach and build on its history of stakeholder engagement to address watershed issues among a diverse partnership including Federal, state, and local government agencies, local conservation groups, and agricultural, mining, and recreational interests. In working toward a watershed restoration plan, the Coalition will monitor water quality throughout the watershed, engage with stakeholders to identify water quality and quantity concerns, and facilitate discussion among the varied interests in the watershed. The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, which are active participants in the Coalition, are the largest landowners in the watershed.

Idaho

Trout Unlimited, The Wood River Water Collaborative

Reclamation Funding: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$107,906

The Wood River Water Collaborative (Collaborative) in Hailey, Idaho, will work to create a long-term water management framework to balance the needs of water users both now and in the future. Due to a decrease in snowpack and spring runoff and an increase in consumptive use, ground and surface water supplies in the watershed are in decline. This has caused tension in the watershed and could ultimately lead to curtailments, which could negatively impact economies in areas with more junior water rights. In addition, historical alterations to the river channel and floodplains have resulted in degraded habitat. The Collaborative will partner with Trout Unlimited, the Wood River Land Trust, and The Nature Conservancy to lead a group of state, local, and private stakeholders in creating an open forum to share information and solutions, complete restoration planning, and prioritize restoration projects.

Montana

Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group, Watershed Restoration Planning and Project Development in the Lower Clark Fork Watershed

Reclamation Funding: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$100,000

The Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group located in northwest Montana will complete a watershed restoration plan and priority project scoping for the Lower Clark Fork Watershed in western Montana. The mainstem of the Lower Clark Fork River and many of its tributaries exceed Total Maximum Daily Loads for many impairments, the most prevalent of which is sediment. In addition, the watershed has declining ecological resilience and the federally endangered Bull Trout and Montana state endangered Cutthroat Trout are in decline due to habitat fragmentation and degradation. The group has previously coordinated on-the-ground restoration projects and successfully facilitated watershed management planning conversations between the private citizens, state and Federal agencies, county governments, and local non-profits. The watershed group plans to complete a watershed restoration plan for the Lower Clark Fork Watershed, with an emphasis on project prioritization; feasibility and scoping activities on already identified priority projects; a survey and engineered design of restoration projects to improve priority Bull Trout spawning habitat.

New Mexico

Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc., Restoration Planning for Improved Water Quality and Quantity in the Cimarron Watershed

Reclamation Funding: \$99,994

Total Project Cost: \$150,634

The Cimarron Watershed Alliance, Inc. (Alliance), located in Colfax County, New Mexico, will expand the focus of the existing Cimarron Watershed Management Plan. The Cimarron Watershed is experiencing increased variability in surface water supply and an increased threat of high intensity wildfires due to drought. In addition, the watershed has water quality impairments and habitat degradation due to legacy land use activities. The Alliance will increase outreach to stakeholders across the watershed, with an

emphasis on the southern portion of the watershed where there has been less participation in the past. In addition, they will expand upon the existing Cimarron Watershed Management Plan, which currently focuses on water quality impairments, to include water supply reliability, drought resilience, and habitat restoration and to work with landowners to identify and prioritize watershed projects.

San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District, San Juan Watershed Group Outreach Expansion Project

Reclamation Funding: \$96,573

Total Project Cost: \$133,911

The San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District will sponsor the expansion of the San Juan Watershed Group, which will connect stakeholder interests across the Middle San Juan, Animas, and Upper San Juan watersheds and complete restoration planning. The group will expand and diversify its membership, focusing on the Middle and Upper San Juan Watersheds, and identifying stakeholder concerns regarding water quality and quantity. The group will also draft an outreach plan and outline a restoration plan. The Navajo Nation's Diné College has extended a letter in support of the group's development efforts, and has shown an interest in greater involvement with both future water quality projects and outreach activities. In addition, the development of the group will also benefit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program.

Save Our Bosque Task Force, Updating and Expanding the Restoration Plan for New Mexico's Middle Rio Grande through Socorro County

Reclamation Funding: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$100,000

The Save Our Bosque Task Force (Task Force) located in Socorro County, New Mexico, will update its 2004 Conceptual Restoration Plan. The Task Force will focus planning efforts on the Rio Grande floodplain through Socorro County, where flooding can devastate the farms, infrastructure, and small communities in the historic floodplain. Recent drought conditions have limited available surface water supplies in the watershed, increasing reliance on groundwater, straining aquifers, and increasing wildfire risk. The Task Force will work with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, New Mexico State Forestry, and numerous other local, state, and Federal agencies to complete outreach to stakeholders, complete an analysis of current conditions in the watershed, and create a prioritized restoration plan.

Oregon

Santiam Water Control District, North Santiam Watershed Management Program

Reclamation Funding: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$100,000

The Santiam Water Control District (District) will complete stakeholder outreach to increase stakeholder participation and engagement and complete watershed restoration planning in the North Santiam Watershed, located on the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains in Eastern Oregon. Waterways in the Santiam Watershed exceed summer temperatures for salmonid survival, and much of the high-quality fish habitat is located above major fish passage barriers. The District will work with municipalities, irrigation districts, Federal, state, and county natural resources agencies, tribes, industry, and local communities to prioritize restoration projects, such as instream habitat enhancement and fish passage barrier removal. The

District will engage stakeholder groups through one-on-one meetings and small group presentations, and planning efforts will build on their existing WaterSMART Drought Contingency Plan.

U.S. Virgin Islands

Coral Bay Community Council, Coral Bay Watershed Management Plan

Reclamation Funding: \$99,155

Total Project Cost: \$99,155

The Coral Bay Community Council (Council), on the island of St. John in the US Virgin Islands, will complete a 5-year update to their watershed management and develop a visioning document for the Coral Bay Watershed. This group has spent a significant amount of time characterizing source pollution into Coral Bay, which is largely a result of unmanaged stormwater, sediment transport, and an inadequate solid waste system. In addition, damages caused by back-to-back hurricanes in 2017 has increased the need for updated planning efforts. Over half of the land on the island is a National Park; however, outside the park the majority of the land is privately owned. To reach out to the private landowners, including business leaders, residents, and seasonal vacationers, the Council will hold stakeholder meetings to help inform the public of the importance of watershed planning and to incorporate diverse perspectives into their updated plan and visioning document.

Washington

Nisqually River Foundation, Revitalizing Sustainability and Stewardship Planning in the Nisqually Watershed

Reclamation Funding: \$79,940

Total Project Cost: \$144,290

Nisqually River Foundation (Foundation) located in Olympia, Washington, will develop an extensive baseline assessment to update the projects in their watershed management plan. The Nisqually River Watershed stretches from Mt. Rainier National Park to the Puget Sound and supports hydropower, municipal, tribal, agriculture, and forestry users, as well as providing habitat for federally threatened Nisqually Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Population growth and urban development and forestry practices have stressed water supplies, resulted in water quality concerns, and contributed to the need to recover a threatened fishery. The Foundation will use the updated watershed management plan to identify and prioritize new restoration projects.