

Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment

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Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

Executive Summary

February 14, 2017

Animas Watershed Partnership
Durango, La Plata County, Colorado

The Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment will analyze the Florida River and tributaries below Lemon Reservoir (Outlet Florida River HUC 10) to identify and prioritize reaches where developing, funding and implementing projects with willing landowners can most benefit water quality, habitat, channel stability and Russian olive/tamarisk control. Assessment of this sub-basin sized watershed will assist the Animas Watershed Partnership (AWP) and partners including the Southern Ute Water Quality Program and others to contact landowners to discuss project concepts. The AWP will also engage work to engage and involve new stakeholders in the Partnership and in the proposed assessment.

This is a 2 year project, with an estimated completion date of October 2020.

The Florida River watershed below Lemon Reservoir includes private, state, BLM, USFS and Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) lands. The majority of streamside lands are in private or tribal ownership. No component of the project is located on Federal land or a Federal facility.

Background Data

The largest tributary to the Animas River is the Florida River. It is the last perennial tributary to join the Animas River before the Animas flows into New Mexico from Colorado, about four miles downstream from the mouth of the Florida River. Stream flow in the Florida River is typical of mountain streams of the Southern Rocky Mountains, dominated by snowmelt runoff that occurs between April and July and peaks in late May to early June. Monsoon rains typically occur from July through October and sometimes produce significant stream flows. Low stream flow conditions exist from late August to March. Stream flow in the lower Florida River is driven by releases from Lemon Reservoir and by the diversion and return flows of irrigation water downstream of the reservoir.

Lemon Reservoir is part of Reclamation's Florida Project and was completed in 1963 to store runoff from snowmelt and precipitation after the snowmelt season. Reclamation turned over the Lemon Dam to the Florida Water Conservancy District in 1968. Regulated releases out of Lemon Reservoir can provide supplemental irrigation water for 19,450 acres.

The Florida River watershed comprises the Source Water Protection Area for seven public water suppliers, including Colorado Trails Ranch, Forrest Groves, Colvig Silver Camps, Edgemont Ranch Metro District, El Rancho Florida Metro District and the Durango La Plata Airport. The watershed contains a mix of public, private and tribal lands, with most of the headwaters under US Forest Service management and the lower elevation lands almost entirely private or tribal. Land uses are residential and irrigated agriculture, with oil and gas wells distributed across the lower watershed.

Florida River water is diverted or pumped for a variety of uses including irrigated agriculture; drinking water, storage and industrial uses. In-channel uses include swimming and fisheries (game trout and native fish). Stakeholders within the Florida River Watershed face several critical issues, including water quality, declining ecological resiliency and water supply. There are water supply issues on the Florida River related to aging infrastructure, as well as to periodic drought.

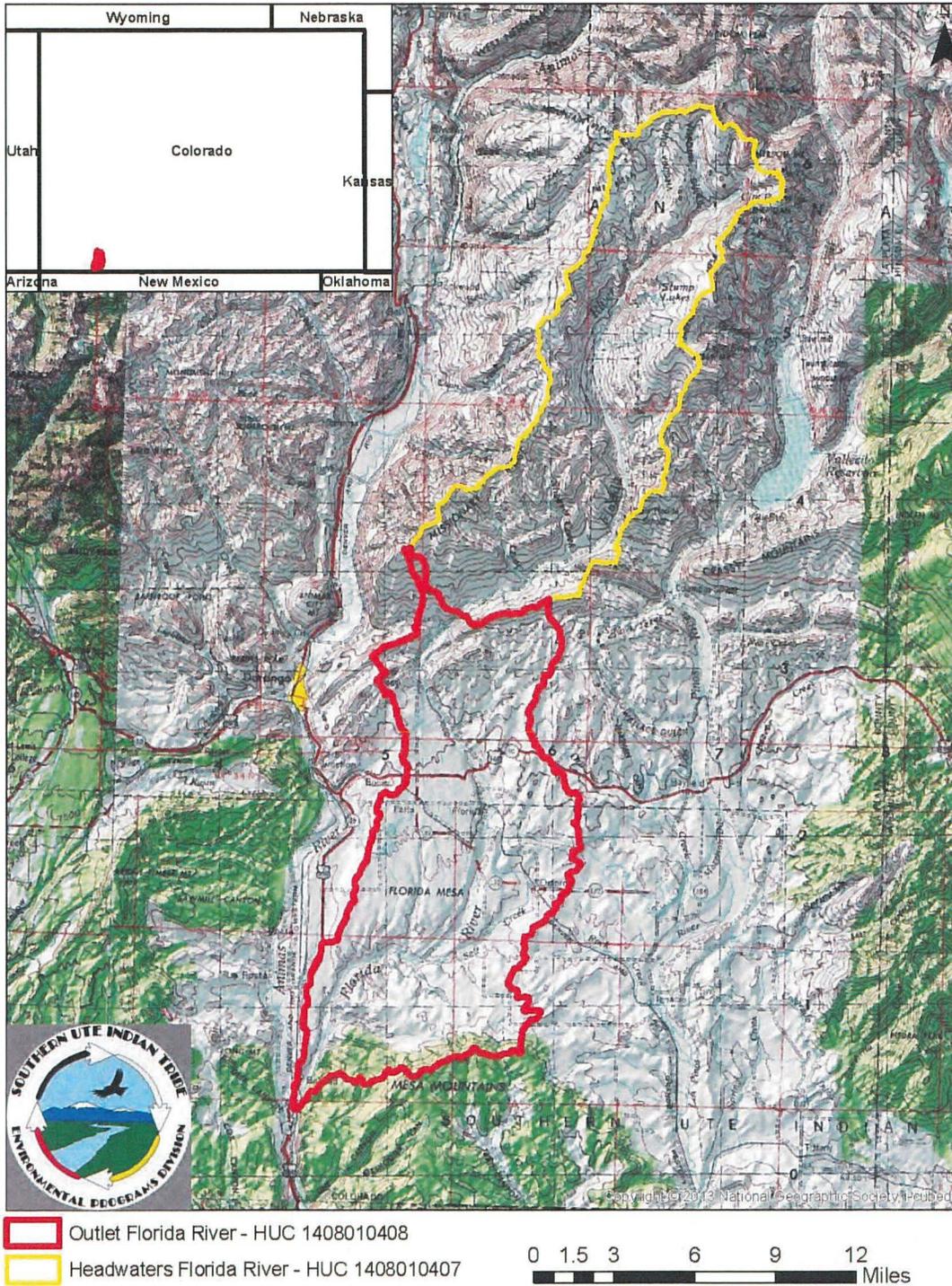
Significant nutrient and bacterial contamination exists in the lower reaches of the Florida River and the Salt Creek tributary, raising concerns around aquatic life and recreational use in the Florida River.

Key features that contribute to the ecological resiliency of a river appear diminished in the Florida River watershed downstream of Lemon Reservoir, and in the Salt Creek tributary. These include hydrology and flow regime, riparian vegetation, and channel stability. Several species of conservation concern have been documented using habitat in the Florida Watershed. These include the federally listed NM Meadow Jumping Mouse and Southwest Willow Flycatcher. Other species of concern include the northern leopard frog, and three species of native warm water fish: bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker and roundtail chub.

Project Description

The Florida River Watershed is located in La Plata County in southwestern Colorado. The Watershed is approximately 2.5 miles east of Durango, CO and 4.5 miles west of Ignacio, CO. The proposed assessment will cover United States Geological Survey (USGS) Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) Outlet Florida River 1408010408 (Figure 1). This HUC 10 watershed includes the following HUC 12 units: Cottonwood Gulch 140801040803, Outlet Florida River 140801040804, Salt Creek 140801040802 and Florida below Mud Spring Creek 140801040801.

Figure 1 Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment Area.



Technical Project Description

The Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment will analyze the Florida River and tributaries within the Outlet Florida River HUC to identify and prioritize reaches where developing, funding and implementing projects with willing landowners can most benefit water quality, habitat, channel stability and Russian olive/tamarisk control. This rapid assessment will analyze existing aerial photography, GIS data (e.g. ditches, irrigated lands, wildlife occurrence, roads, water quality sampling, etc.) and channel geometry surveys, together with onsite visual confirmation to categorize reaches. The assessment will assist the Animas Watershed Partnership to engage new stakeholders. It will also assist AWP and partners to discuss potential projects with private landowners in segments of the river where greater restoration/enhancement benefits can be achieved. The project milestones and activities to be accomplished are detailed below in the Approach section and also in the Implementation Plan located in the Evaluation Criteria section.

Applicant Category: The Animas Watershed Partnership has been active in the Animas River for over ten years and has worked with landowners in the Florida Watershed, a significant tributary of the Animas River, for over five years; therefore, we are seeking funding as an Existing Watershed Group.

The AWP is a stakeholder driven, collaborative, watershed-based group made up of partners representing diverse interests across the watershed in Colorado, the Southern Ute Tribal Lands and New Mexico. Current membership is over 100 individuals and entities. The AWP works together across state and Tribal boundaries to protect and improve the quality of water resources in the Animas River. Our partners include private landowners, environmental groups, municipalities, counties and states, as well as the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe.

The AWP grew out of the Animas River Nutrient Workgroup (ARNW). The ARNW was formed in December 2002, out of concern for high nutrient levels in the Animas River. The ARNW included personnel from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, New Mexico SWQB, State of Colorado WQCD, CPW, and other watershed partners. The ARNW conducted synoptic nutrient and macroinvertebrate sampling on the Animas from Durango to the confluence with the San Juan River in Farmington, NM.

To date the AWP has brought stakeholders together across the various jurisdictional boundaries to assess water quality, identify and discuss concerns, and to plan and implement projects. From 2007 through 2010 AWP stakeholders met monthly to draft an Animas River Watershed-Based Plan (WBP), completed in December 2011 (BUGS Consulting 2011). Between 2013 and 2016, AWP implemented the Florida River Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Project to reduce nutrient and bacterial loading from the Florida River. This project involved securing funds to partner with four private landowners to implement BMPs along 2 miles of the Florida River.

Since 2011, AWP has been applying the Animas River Watershed-Based Plan (2011) as an overall restoration plan for water quality in the Animas River Watershed. Based on this plan, and as a next step toward refining the restoration needs of the watershed, the group identified five priority tributary areas to the Animas River in Colorado for focused pre-planning, stakeholder engagement, and action. One of these priority tributaries is the Florida River. Between 2013 and 2015 AWP engaged volunteers to sample nutrients and E. coli at four sites within the lower Florida drainage to begin to identify source areas for these contaminants. Through the support of a WaterSMART CWMP grant (# R13AP80030_003 AWP Expansion Project), AWP was able to compile some water quality data, meet with some stakeholders and develop initial restoration goals for the lower Florida River in Colorado.

Eligibility of Applicant: The Animas Watershed Partnership is a grassroots, non-regulatory, non-profit watershed group located in Durango, Colorado. The Partnership is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders who both affect and are affected by the quality of water resources in the Animas Watershed. The AWP mission is to protect and improve the quality of water resources to benefit the Animas River, now and in the future.

AWP has established by-laws for governance and in 2017 incorporated as a non-profit in the state of Colorado. AWP holds regular meetings and seeks to make decisions based on consensus. As stated on our website, AWP holds monthly Steering Committee meetings from 1-3pm on the first Thursday of the month, and quarterly full partnership meetings. Meetings rotate between Farmington, Ignacio, and Durango (<http://animaswatershedpartnership.org>).

Since 2007, AWP has shown, through its success at securing funding and implementing planning, education and on-the-ground projects, that it is capable of and successful at promoting the sustainable use of water resources.

Goals: The Animas Watershed Partnership's current Strategic Plan identifies the following goals and objectives:

1. Community Engagement

- A. Increase awareness, interest, planning and action on the part of local communities for priority issues affecting the health of the Animas River and its tributaries.

2. Water Quality Projects

- A. Work with partners to protect and improve water quality within the Animas River watershed.
- B. Collect, compile, analyze, interpret and make accessible reliable data that can support and inform efforts to manage water quality in the Animas River and its tributaries.

3. Capacity Building and Fundraising

- A. Define the AWP's organizational goals and corresponding objectives for Water Quality Improvement, Community Engagement and Fundraising.
- B. Develop staff and volunteer capacity and momentum to plan for and implement water quality improvement projects for priority areas within the Animas River Watershed and continue to engage the community in the mission and work of the Partnership.

Approach: The Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment proposes to address Task Areas A (Watershed Group Development) and B (Watershed Restoration Planning). Below we detail the activities we will undertake under each Task Area.

1. Hire a coordinator to:

- a. Task Area A: Conduct stakeholder meetings to maintain and increase broad-based, diverse membership. This will include working with watershed group members, landowners, and the Southern Ute Tribe to determine how the watershed can be improved.
- b. Task Area B: Coordinate, manage, and report on the Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment.
- c. Task Area A: Interview stakeholders in prioritized reaches to gain an idea of potential projects.

2. Task Area A: Create information materials including a video and up-to-date website that address stakeholder concerns about the watershed and promote citizen/landowner actions that can improve water quality and river resilience.
3. Task Area B: Hire a contractor to conduct the Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment. This assessment will:
 - Analyze the Outlet Florida Watershed (HUC 10) to identify and prioritize reaches where enhancement projects implemented in partnership with willing landowners can most benefit watershed management objectives including water quality, habitat, channel stability and control of Russian Olive/Tamarisk.
 - Improve on the existing level of planning that AWP accomplished for the Florida River with support from the CWMP Phase I grant in 2013 (see note below).
 - Conduct mapping and obtain/synthesize existing data. This rapid assessment will analyze existing aerial photography, GIS data (e.g. ditches, irrigated lands, wildlife occurrence, roads, water quality sampling, etc.) and channel geometry surveys, together with on-site ground truthing and photography to prioritize reaches.
 - Identify general watershed management project concepts.

Note: The Animas Watershed Partnership received a CWMP Phase I grant for the “Animas Watershed Partnership Expansion Project” between April 15, 2013 and April 30 2016.

The scope of work of the Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment Project differs from and builds upon the efforts completed under the previous Phase I grant. The previous grant set out the following Milestones:

- A. Increase the paid hours of the coordinator, obtain an OSM/Vista Volunteer, and provide office equipment and supply support.
- B. Complete an Outreach Plan to establish broad-based membership.
- C. Establish a relationship with the Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative, and identify information needs and watershed management project concepts that are complementary to the goals of the Southern Rockies LCC.
- D. Partner with local conservation districts to conduct outreach workshops with landowners to identify problems and needs relating to nutrient management.
- E. Increase AWP’s ability to learn from other watershed groups and to share its own lessons.
- F. Develop the final report to the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grant.
- G. Hire a non-profit management consultant/facilitator to facilitate annual AWP meeting, to assist in the development of the group’s vision and by-laws, and to update the strategic plan and capacity plan.
- H. Meet with municipalities, ditch companies and permitted dischargers to discuss information, problems and needs related to stormwater management and Animas River water quality, and to develop project concepts.
- I. Compile and map existing baseline water quality and land use data for priority tributaries to the Animas mainstem. Meet with stakeholders to share existing data, hear concerns and develop goals for each priority tributary.

The current proposal constitutes an “innovative approach” suggested by one of the project concepts identified in Milestone H. The project concept was to “12. Continue to build relationships with landowners in Salt Creek and the lower Florida River drainage and implement BMPs including irrigation improvements and riparian fencing. Partner with NRCS, La Plata Conservation District, Pine

River Conservation District and the Southern Ute Tribe partner with landowners along Salt Creek and the Florida River downstream of Salt Creek to develop innovative approaches to developing and maintaining riparian buffers on these highly sinuous reaches.”

This proposal also builds upon the water quality sampling and limited land use information collected under the previous effort (for only the lowest portion of the Outlet Florida Watershed HUC 10), by synthesizing those products with additional existing GIS information to produce a map-based assessment and prioritization of restoration opportunity for all stream reaches in the larger HUC 10. In addition, the current proposal expands the watershed management objectives to include those of AWP and partners: not only water quality improvement, but also habitat, channel stability and Russian Olive/Tamarisk Control.

The current proposal builds on the relationships built and strengthened in the previous effort. Whereas the previous grant included presentations and meetings with stakeholders in order to introduce them to AWP and to share data, the proposed Restoration Opportunities Assessment will be designed and conducted in close cooperation with the Southern Ute Tribe’s Water Quality Program and other partners.

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criterion A: Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope (30 pts)

Up to 30 points may be awarded for this criterion. Sub-criteria are listed in descending order of importance. The purpose of this criterion is to ensure that funding is prioritized for watershed groups that will restore trust with local communities by encouraging collaboration between a diverse array of stakeholders, and improving dialogues and relationships between stakeholders within the watershed. Proposals demonstrating that the new or existing watershed group will represent the maximum diversity of interests, including representatives of the different sectors that exist within the watershed (e.g., hydropower production; livestock grazing; agriculture; industry; state, local, and tribal governments) (see: Section A.2. Objective of this Funding Opportunity Announcement), will receive the highest priority consideration under this criterion. For example, in previous years, successful applicants targeted a diverse array of stakeholders that included farmers, irrigators, tourist and recreation groups, industry, environmental organizations, universities, and local governments. Priority will also be given to those proposals that target stakeholders and project concepts for small to medium sub-basin sized watersheds, for example an approximate 8-digit hydrological unit code as defined by the USGS water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html, and which represent the full extent of the watershed.

Sub-criterion No. A1. Watershed Group Diversity

Points shall be awarded to proposals based on the extent to which the watershed group will restore trust with local communities by encouraging collaboration between a diverse array of stakeholders, and improving dialogues and relationships between stakeholders within the watershed.

Please describe the efforts that you will undertake to ensure that the watershed group will include a diverse array of stakeholders, including outreach to stakeholders or collaborating with other groups or partners.

The Animas Watershed Partnership is comprised of and guided by a diverse group of stakeholders who both affect and are affected by the quality of water resources in the Animas Watershed. The efforts of the AWP are guided by a 9-seat Steering Committee comprised of two local governmental and two citizen seats each from CO and NM, and 2 Tribal seats. The Steering Committee meets monthly, rotating between Farmington, NM, Ignacio, CO and Durango, CO.

Current members on the Steering Committee represent the City of Farmington, NM; City of Durango, CO; Southwestern Water Conservation District, CO; San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District, Trout Unlimited 5 Rivers Chapter, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and includes two unaffiliated citizens.

Membership in AWP is open and includes participation by:

Private Landowners and Individuals	Mountain Studies Institute
Animas River Community Forum (ARCFForum)	New Mexico Environment Department
Animas River Stakeholders Group	Natural Resources Conservation District
BHP Billiton	Reclamation
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies	San Juan Basin Health
City of Durango	San Juan Citizens Alliance
City of Farmington	San Juan RC&D
CO Non-Point Source Program	San Juan National Forest
Conservation Legacy	SJ Soil & Water Conservation District

CO Parks and Wildlife
CO Water Conservation Board
CO Water Quality Control Division
CO RiverWatch
Durango Nature Studies
La Plata County, CO
La Plata Conservation District

San Juan Water Commission
San Juan Watershed Group
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Southwestern Water Conservation District
Southwest Wetland Focus Area Committee
The Nature Conservancy
Trout Unlimited 5 Rivers Chapter
Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe

AWP proposes to continue and expand a current collaboration with partners, under ARC Forum, to develop “Our Animas 2018,” a concise and accessible outreach tool which summarizes data to address citizens’ concerns about the health and safety of the Animas River. The partners identified these concerns through a survey conducted following the Gold King Mine Blowout. One goal of this effort is to help restore trust in the river and in the many entities involved in managing the river, as well as to enhance the level of dialogue by citizens about the river and the values it supports. This grant will allow AWP’s coordinator to continue the collaboration and to contribute to outreach and dialogue around the published document with schools and community organizations throughout the whole Animas watershed, and will support production of a short video to aid in this effort.

Many of our members live in, or are active in the Florida River sub-basin of the Animas River, and AWP has partnered with six landowners along the Florida River to conduct water quality sampling and/or to implement fencing and irrigation improvements. Nevertheless, we would like to continue to expand our engagement with partners that affect or are affected by water resources in the Florida River drainage.

In order to ensure that AWP represents a diversity of stakeholders within the Florida River sub-basin of the Animas River, we will collaborate closely with Southern Ute Tribe to develop the Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment. AWP will also seek to engage new partners in developing and reviewing the assessment, which experience shows is an effective and constructive way to open and expand communication among a diversity of participants. Potential new partners in the Florida watershed include the private landowners, the Florida Grange, Oxford Grange, Pine River Conservation District, Florida Water Conservancy District and ditch companies/associations within the Outlet Florida Watershed, some of which rely on water deliveries from the Florida Project.

Sub-criterion No. A2. Geographic Scope

Under this sub-criterion, higher priority will be given to proposed or existing watershed groups representing the full geographic extent of the watershed. Applicants will receive points based on the extent to which they intend to do work across the entire extent of the watershed.

In addition, proposals that target small to medium sub-basin sized watersheds, for example an approximate 8-digit hydrological unit code as defined by the USGS, water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html, will be given priority over large or very small watersheds.

The Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment will target the Florida River watershed, a medium sized sub-basin. AWP intends to focus the development of the technical assessment to categorize stream reaches by restoration opportunity on the portion of the watershed downstream of Lemon Reservoir, mostly within the HUC 10 “Outlet Florida River” (Figure 1). The reason for this

focus is that this portion of the watershed is hydrologically different than that above the reservoir, is primarily in private ownership, and holds the most potential for restoration action and impact.

The Outlet Florida River HUC is 117 square miles (Figure 1). The lower 66% (77 square miles) of this area is located within the Southern Ute Tribal Boundary, and 14% of the HUC is Tribal Trust land. The majority of the area within the HUC is private land (76.5%), followed by small areas in BLM (6%), State (3%) and National Forest (0.5%) management. Stakeholders within the Florida watershed include (but are not limited to) the private, tribal and governmental landowners as shown on the map, irrigators, seven public water providers, farmers, livestock producers, Reclamation, Durango Nature Studies, La Plata County, San Juan Basin Health, BP and other oil and gas producers, Trout Unlimited, CO Parks and Wildlife, La Plata Open Space Conservancy, Mountain Studies Institute, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, NRCS, La Plata Conservation District. Most of these partners are active throughout the Florida Watershed. The La Plata Conservation District serves all of the watershed except for the Salt Creek drainage.

Many AWP members live in, or are active in the Florida River sub-basin of the Animas River, and AWP has partnered with six landowners along the Florida River to conduct water quality sampling and/or to implement fencing and irrigation improvements. Nevertheless, we would like to continue to expand our engagement with partners that affect or are affected by water resources in the Florida River drainage.

In order to ensure that AWP represents a diversity of stakeholders within the Florida River sub-basin of the Animas River, we will collaborate closely with Southern Ute Tribe to develop the Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment. AWP will also seek to engage new partners in developing and reviewing the assessment, which experience shows is an effective and constructive way to open and expand communication among a diversity of participants. Potential new partners in the Florida watershed include the private landowners, the Florida Grange, Oxford Grange, Pine River Conservation District (serves the Salt Creek drainage within the Florida watershed), Florida Water Conservancy District and ditch companies/associations within the Outlet Florida Watershed, some of which rely on water deliveries from the Florida Project.

Evaluation Criterion B: Addressing Critical Watershed Needs (35 points)

Up to 35 points may be awarded under this criterion based on the extent of the critical issues or needs within the watershed that can be addressed by the New or Existing Watershed Group. The purpose of this criterion is to ensure that funding is prioritized for watershed groups that will contribute to the Department of the Interior's conservation stewardship legacy by utilizing science to identify best practices to manage water resources and adapt to changes in the environment. Sub-criteria are listed in descending order of importance.

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

Please describe in detail the critical issues or needs occurring within the watershed including, for example: declining ecological resiliency, water shortages, flooding, structural impairments, water supply, water quality issues (e.g., addressing Total Maximum Daily Loads, or targeting high priority activities in your state's "Measure W" watersheds), endangered species issues, conflicts over water supply, and other related issues faced by affected stakeholders. Endangered species issues may focus on, but are not limited to, USFWS), and appropriate state natural resource agencies.

Applicants should consider contacting Federal, state, and local agencies; nongovernmental organizations; and other affected stakeholders to discuss what critical issues are affecting the watershed.

Stakeholders within the Florida River Watershed face several critical issues, including water quality, declining ecological resiliency and water supply.

AWP's **water quality** sampling efforts in 2014 and 2015 in the lower portion of the Outlet Florida River HUC 10 documented significant nutrient and bacterial contamination in the lower reaches of the Florida River and the Salt Creek tributary. E. coli concentrations near the mouth of the Florida River consistently exceeded the Colorado standard, raising concerns around recreational use of the Florida River. Durango Nature Studies, hosts school groups and summer camps for children, with an emphasis on hands-on engagement with the natural environment, including the Florida River.

Key features that contribute to the **ecological resiliency** of a river appear to be changed or diminished in the Florida River watershed downstream of Lemon Reservoir, and in the Salt Creek tributary. These include hydrology and flow regime, riparian vegetation, and channel stability. The condition of these resiliency factors can affect habitat values along the river. Several species of conservation concern have been documented using habitat in the Florida Watershed. These include the federally listed NM Meadow Jumping Mouse and Southwest Willow Flycatcher. Other species of concern include the northern leopard frog, and three species of native warm water fish: bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker and roundtail chub.

Water supply issues on the Florida River are related to aging infrastructure, as well as to periodic drought. Some climate models appear to predict hot and dry scenarios for the Four Corners region. Increasing frequency of drought can result in increased conflict around water supplies, affecting all water uses and values: agricultural, municipal, industrial, environmental and recreational.

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

Please describe in detail how the group plans to positively contribute to the management of the issues and needs of the watershed through the activities described in the proposal in order to resolve conflict and maximize the water supply for beneficial use (i.e., through outreach and partnership building, through watershed restoration planning activities, and through the project design). Please address the following when responding to this sub-criterion:

AWP plans to positively contribute to the management of the issues and needs of the watershed through stakeholder outreach and partnership building, and through watershed restoration planning activities in order to resolve conflict and maximize the water supply for beneficial use.

Stakeholder Outreach and Partnership Building: Describe the stakeholder outreach and partnership building that will be conducted and explain how it will contribute to the management of the critical watershed issues and needs?

AWP proposes to contract our coordinator to conduct regular stakeholder meetings in order to maintain and increase our broad-based and diverse membership and to coordinate the production of information materials, including a video and up-to-date website.

The proposed stakeholder meetings include monthly partnership meetings, as well as meetings with partners to collaborate on developing outreach materials. These meetings serve to maintain and build the ongoing dialogue between our current partners, as well as to engage and integrate new partners into our group and into the dialogue about the water quality and ecological resiliency issues in the Florida Watershed, as well as the larger Animas Watershed. Our experience demonstrates that through this dialogue and coordinated regular meetings partners are able to address potential conflicts and work together to identify and pursue strategies to address the issues facing the watershed.

The proposed stakeholder outreach and partnership building meetings will build on previous efforts. The AWP holds monthly stakeholder meetings and on each quarter endeavors to offer meetings with speakers, movies or other ways to more effectively engage the broader public in learning about the issues that affect the river. These meetings are time consuming to coordinate and often depend on pro-bono time from our coordinator. This grant will allow AWP to continue to invite and engage new partners, especially those in the Florida watershed, in our meetings and to collaborate with partners to keep our quarterly outreach meetings fresh and interesting.

Since 2016 AWP's coordinator has been leading a diligent collaboration of Animas River Community Forum partners, including CO Parks and Wildlife, Mountain Studies Institute, San Juan Basin Health, La Plata County, San Juan Watershed Group and others to develop the "Our Animas 2018" stakeholder outreach document. The partners have specifically designed this document to share current data about 10 questions that surveyed citizens identified as important to them. These questions touch on human health, economic values, and ecological resilience. The proposed grant includes dependable funding that would allow the AWP coordinator to continue to lead this effort, especially the introduction of the outreach document to schools and community organizations throughout the watershed, as well production of a video to aid in fostering dialogue around the information included in the document.

Watershed Restoration Planning: *Describe the process the watershed group will use to develop a watershed restoration plan and how completing the plan will contribute to the management of the critical watershed issues and needs.*

The Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment will foster and **build partnerships** with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Water Quality Program, other partner organizations, as well as private landowners and irrigators within the Florida River Watershed. The Animas Watershed Partnership and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Water Quality Program, and other interested partners will work together to guide Basin Hydrology in designing and conducting the Florida River Restoration Opportunities Assessment. They will work together and with other partners including, but not limited to, the La Plata Conservation District, the Southwest Wetlands Focus Area Committee, and NRCS, to contact landowners about the assessment and to secure permission from landowners for a limited number of site visits to ground truth information used in the assessment.

The assessment will be designed to analyze the Outlet Florida Watershed (HUC 10) to identify and **prioritize** reaches where enhancement projects implemented in partnership with willing landowners can most benefit the water quality and ecological resilience issues: nutrient and bacterial levels, sedimentation, habitat, channel stability and Russian Olive/Tamarisk invasion. The assessment will **gather available information** regarding critical issues from the Southern Ute Tribe Water Quality Program and AWP past water quality monitoring, from La Plata County GIS data, aerial photography, as well as stakeholders' information on channel stability issues, habitat values, irrigation practices etc.

Basin Hydrology will integrate this information through mapping and analysis, together with their hydrologic and geomorphic expertise.

The assessment will **prioritize** stream reaches within the watershed where projects implemented in with willing landowners are most likely to benefit water quality and ecological resilience issues. One outcome of this assessment will be that reaches with apparent conflicts between land use goals may be identified (i.e. high priority reaches), and that we can work with stakeholders to understand these situations and to identify potential solutions. Basin Hydrology will identify **science-based best practices** (i.e. project concepts) that could be implemented within reaches where the assessment identifies opportunities for improvement.

The proposed Florida River Restoration Opportunities Assessment will allow the Animas Watershed Partnership, the Southern Ute Water Quality Program and other partners to focus their limited resources on partnering with willing landowners in reaches where projects can have the greatest impact on **watershed issues**.

The Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment **builds on** previous partnership building efforts completed under a Phase I Cooperative Watershed Management Grant as well as with support from state and local funding sources. These efforts included water quality sampling in 2014 and 2015 that identified the Florida River as a significant source of bacterial and nutrient contamination to the lower Animas River, and that identified Salt Creek as a major source area within the Florida River watershed. Previous partnership building efforts also included direct outreach to landowners and to organizations active within the Florida River watershed, including the Animas High School, Southern Ute Water Quality Program, the San Juan Basin Watershed Association of Conservation Districts, Durango Nature Studies, the Southwest Area Wetland Focus Area Committee, the Southwest Basins Roundtable, Southwestern Water Conservancy District, the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Mountain Studies Institute, Five Rivers Trout Unlimited, Animas River Community Forum, San Juan Basin Health, the City of Durango, the Water Information Program, and the Durango/La Plata Regional Airport. This grant will provide an opportunity for AWP to engage these and other partners in a planning effort that can integrate many goals and provide a chance for dialogue around issues, conflicts and tools.

From 2013 thru 2016 AWP worked with four adjacent landowners on the Florida River to implement BMP's aimed at water quality and fish and wildlife habitat improvement. AWP worked with four adjacent landowners to implement BMPs along the Florida River. The BMP's included fencing 2.2 miles of Florida River channel to protect roughly 48.3 acres of native riparian buffer, and converted 31.2 acres from flood to gated pipe irrigation. This grant proposal would allow AWP to build upon that successful project, by applying that experience to a broader assessment of similar opportunities, and sharing the results of that project with more partners.

Watershed Management Project Design: The Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment will include conceptual best management practices to address identified restoration opportunities. It will not design projects.

Evaluation Criterion C: Implementation and Results (25 points)

Up to 25 points may be awarded to proposals based on the extent to which the proposal demonstrates that the applicant understands program requirements, is able to implement planned activities within the required two year time frame, and the extent to which the proposed activities will complement existing Federal, state or regional planning efforts. Sub-criteria are in descending order of importance.

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

Applicants should describe their plan for implementing the proposed scope of work. Please include an estimated schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work. Applicants may refer back to their Technical Proposal if this information is provided there and do not need to provide duplicate information in addressing this sub-criterion if it exists elsewhere in the applicant’s proposal. The schedule should include:

- *Major tasks (e.g., stakeholder outreach; development of bylaws, a mission statement, and articles of incorporation; development of a watershed restoration plan and project design and concepts)*
- *Milestones for each task*
- *Start and end dates for each task and milestone*
- *Costs for each task*

Implementation Plan

Tasks and Milestones	Dates	Estimated Cost
Task A: Stakeholder Outreach and Partnership Building	November 2018 to October 2020	\$26525
Ann Oliver provides in-kind support to project development.	December 2017-January 2018	\$700
Volunteer Steering Committee of Stakeholder Partners provides in-kind project oversight and stakeholder outreach	November 2018 to October 2020	\$2112
AWP contracts Ann Oliver as Program Manager/Coordinator to conduct stakeholder meetings to maintain and increase broad-based, diverse membership, on a monthly basis and as appropriate with new partners and stakeholders.	November 2018 to October 2020	\$22080
AWP Coordinator contacts stakeholders in prioritized reaches to gain an idea of potential projects.	March 2020-October 2020	
SJRC&D maintains up-to-date AWP website	November 2018 to October 2020	\$360
AWP contracts videographer to create “Our Animas 2018” video	November 2018 to May 2019	\$1000
Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning	November 2018 to February 2020	\$40370

Identify, Complete, and secure review and approval of any Compliance Required.	November 2018 to April 2019	\$10000
Assessment Kick Off meeting: BHI meets with AWP, SUIT, and other partners to identify goals, expectations, methodologies, etc.	May 2019	\$1520
BHI gathers information, conducts assessment and field verification	June 2019-September 2019	\$10240
BHI completes draft report of results for review by AWP, SUIT and partners and completes final report.	October 2019- February 2020	\$11610
SUIT Water Quality Program provides in-kind support	November 2018 to February 2020	\$7000
Task C: Project Oversight and Reporting	November 2018-October 2020	\$22190
Ann Oliver, Program Manager provides Project Oversight on all Tasks, reports progress to Reclamation, and prepares and submits final report.	November 2018-October 2020	\$15190
SJRCD provides grant administration services	November 2018-October 2020	\$7000

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

Please describe how the proposed activities of the watershed group will complement or meet the goals of relevant Federal, state or regional planning efforts. Such plans may include but are not limited to:

- *Water conservation plans*
- *Drought contingency plans*
- *Plans that meet the criteria identified in the U.S Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Nonpoint Source Management Program*
- *Plans that meet the EPA’s criteria for Watershed-Based Plans*
- *Or other relevant plans or planning efforts*

Applicants should describe how the proposed activities of the watershed group will complement or meet the goals of applicable Federal, state or regional water plans. Reclamation suggests that groups contact Federal, state, or local agencies in your area to identify existing goals and plans

relevant to the watershed group. Please reference any relevant plans, but do not include these plans as part of this application.

The proposed activities (stakeholder outreach and Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment) complement the goals of seven Federal, State and Regional planning efforts. These include the Colorado Water Plan (CWCB 2015), Southern Ute Indian Tribe Water Quality Non-Point Source Pollution Management Plan (1996), Southwest Basin Roundtable Implementation Plan (SWBRT 2015), Colorado Nonpoint Source Program 2012 Management Plan (CDPHE 2012), Animas Watershed Based Plan (AWP 2011), and the Lower Animas Watershed Based Plan (SJWG 2016). Each one of these plans includes several goals that the proposed activities will directly complement or help meet. Each plan has one or several goals for watershed restoration. Examples include the Animas Watershed Based Plan (2011) goal to “Improve and protect water quality on segments within the watershed that may be affected by emerging concerns,” the CO Non-Point Source Program 2012 Management Plan goal to “To restore nonpoint source water quality impacts in impaired waterbodies,” the Southwest Basin Roundtable’s Basin Implementation Plan (2015) goal to “Protect, maintain, monitor and improve the condition and natural function of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries, and to support native species and functional habitat in the long term, and adapt to changing conditions,” and the Colorado Water Plan goal to “Support Colorado’s agricultural industry to make it more efficient, resilient, and able to reduce water consumption without impacting agricultural productivity.”

Examples of goals that both the proposed Stakeholder Outreach and Partnership Building and watershed restoration planning activities will help address are the Colorado Water Plan goal to “Advance Education, Outreach, and Innovation [about water issues],” and the Southwest Basin Roundtable’s Basin Implementation Plan goal to “Promote dialogue, foster cooperation and resolve conflict among water interests in every basin and between basins for the purpose of implementing solutions to Southwest Colorado’s and Colorado’s water supply challenges.”

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe Water Quality Non-Point Source Pollution Management Plan (1996) specifically addresses the use of BMPs to target nonpoint source (NPS) pollution associated with streambank erosion, agriculture, construction runoff, and resource extraction, all of which are likely to be present in the Florida Outlet watershed. The Tribe is currently working to update this plan per current water quality data and national standards. Current data indicates exceedances of the Tribe’s draft water quality standards on the Florida for E. coli, likely due to agricultural runoff. As such, the Florida Outlet watershed remains of high concern to the Tribe’s NPS program.

Evaluation Criterion D: Nexus to Department of the Interior Initiatives (10 points)

Up to 10 points may be awarded based on the extent that the proposal demonstrates that the project will support a Department of the Interior initiative.

- *Will the development of the watershed group support implementation of a Department of the Interior initiative (e.g., the National Drought Resiliency Partnership, the Colorado River Pilot System Conservation Program, or the Urban Water Federal Partnership)?*

Yes. The Project implement goals of WaterSMART. Its collaborative and science-based approach to conservation at the watershed scale also supports the vision and goals of the Landscape Conservation Cooperative Network.

- *Will the development of the watershed group benefit a basin where a Reclamation project, facility, or activity is located?*

The proposed Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment will benefit the Florida River basin, where the Florida Project is located, as well as the Animas River downstream of the Animas La Plata Project is located. The proposed Project will involve a diversity of partners in assessing opportunities to benefit non-point source water quality issues, habitat and channel stability in reaches of the Florida River that are downstream of the Florida Project.

- *Will the development of the watershed group positively impact federally threatened or endangered aquatic or riparian species?*

The proposed activities will identify segments where projects could be implemented with willing landowners to improve riparian habitat. Such improvements could benefit two federally threatened riparian species: the southwest willow flycatcher and the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse.

- *Will the development of the watershed group benefit any tribe(s)?*

The Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment will benefit the Southern Ute Tribe Water Quality Program efforts to improve water quality, habitat and channel stability within the tribal boundary. The majority of the Florida Outlet watershed is located within the outer boundary of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and the Water Quality program plans to use the assessment to work with willing landowners and/or tribal assignees to understand where critical areas for streambank degradation/down cutting/instability exist and to have conceptual level BMPs to address the identified issues. They plan to use the assessment to seek EPA competitive 319 grant funds for restoration on both tribal lands and with willing private landowners within the tribal boundary. They have found that such an assessment provides useful and compelling grant information.

Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

If the project includes monitoring, measurement, or other field work, environmental and cultural resources compliance may be required. Applications containing these activities must budget for all associated compliance work and should discuss the required compliance. We recommend contacting your local Reclamation office (www.usbr.gov/main/offices.html) to discuss the required environmental and cultural resource compliance and associated costs prior to submitting your application.

AWP has inquired about compliance work with our local Reclamation office, but at this writing have not yet learned what might be required. The assessment will primarily be a desktop review of Google Earth, other imagery, and spatial information. Once this level of mapping is completed, BHI will perform a handful of visits to different segments to take photos and make visual assessments of the channel, riparian and upland condition. Where possible, typical condition photographs will be taken of each reach. These visits to see each reach would not involve monitoring or measurement and would take place outside of the Southwest Willow Flycatcher nesting season. We are not clear on whether environmental and cultural resources compliance would be required given this limited level of work in the field. However, we will include a budget that we think would cover the costs of any such requirements.

Required Permits or Approvals

Applicants must state in the application whether any permits or approvals are required and explain the plan for obtaining such permits or approvals.

AWP is aware and respectful of the fact that in order to access private or tribal property, we will need to secure permission from the landowner or from the tribal government. Other than these situations, we are not aware of a need for any permit or approval.

Project Budget

Budget Proposal

The budget proposal should include detailed information on the categories listed below and must clearly identify all Project costs, including those that will be contributed as non-Federal cost share. Unit costs must be provided for all budget items including the cost of work to be provided by contractors. The budget proposal should also include any in-kind contributions or donations of goods and services that will be provided to complete the project. It is strongly advised that applicants use the budget proposal format shown below on Table 1 or a similar format that provides this information. If selected for award, successful applicants must submit detailed supporting documentation for all budgeted costs.

Table 1 Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment Budget Proposal.

Budget Item Description	COMPUTATION		Quantity Type (hours/days)	TOTAL DIRECT COST
	\$/Unit	Quantity		
Salaries and Wages				
SUIT Water Quality Technician - In-kind	\$ 25.00	40	per hour	\$ 1,000.00
SUIT Water Quality Specialist - In-kind	\$ 37.50	80	per hour	\$ 3,000.00
SUIT Water Quality Program Manager - In-kind	\$ 50.00	20	per hour	\$ 1,000.00
Fringe Benefits				
SUIT Full-time Employees - In-kind	40.00%	5000	per hour	\$ 2,000.00
Travel				
Project Manager travel to field visits and stakeholder meetings.	\$ 0.60	1450	per mile	\$ 870.00
Basin Hydrology Inc. travel to meetings	\$ 0.60	400	per mile	\$ 240.00
Contractual				
Ann Oliver: AWP Coordinator, Project Manager	\$ 70.00	520	per hour	\$ 36,400.00
Ann Oliver Project Development - In-kind	\$ 70.00	10	per hour	\$ 700.00
Basin Hydrology Inc.- Restoration Opportunities Assessment	\$ 95.00	198	per hour	\$ 18,810.00
Basin Hydrology Inc.- mapping	\$ 60.00	72	per hour	\$ 4,320.00
SJRC&D Grant Administration	\$ 7,000.00	1	lump sum	\$ 7,000.00
SJRC&D Website Administration	\$ 15.00	24	per month	\$ 360.00
Video Production	\$ 1,000.00	1	per video	\$ 1,000.00
Other				
Volunteer Steering Committee of Stakeholder Partners - In-kind	\$ 22.00	96	per hour	\$ 2,112.00
Environmental Compliance Cost Estimate	\$ 10,000.00	1	lump sum	\$ 10,000.00
Total Direct Costs				\$ 88,812.00

Budget Narrative

Submission of a budget narrative is mandatory. An award will not be made to any applicant who fails to fully disclose this information. The budget narrative provides a discussion of, or explanation for, items included in the budget proposal. Include the value of in-kind contributions or donations of goods and services and sources of funds provided to complete the Project. The types of information to describe in the narrative include, but are not limited to, those listed in the following subsections. Costs, including the valuation of in-kind contributions and donations, must comply with the applicable cost principles contained in 2 CFR Part §200, available at the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (www.ecfr.gov).

Salaries and Wages

Indicate the program manager and other key personnel by name and title. Other personnel should be indicated by title alone. For all positions, indicate salaries and wages, estimated hours or percent of time, and rate of compensation. The labor rates must identify the direct labor rate separate from the fringe rate or fringe cost for each category. All labor estimates must be allocated to specific tasks as outlined in the applicant's technical project description. Labor rates and proposed hours shall be displayed for each task.

The budget proposal and narrative should include estimated hours for compliance with reporting requirements, including final project and evaluation. Please see Section F.3.2. Program Performance Reports for information on types and frequency of reports required.

Generally, salaries of administrative and/or clerical personnel will be included as a portion of the stated indirect costs. If these salaries can be adequately documented as direct costs, they should be included in this section; however, a justification should be included in the budget narrative.

We anticipate 140 hours of in-kind labor contributions from three staff of the Southern Ute Tribe Water Quality Program in support of Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning, including participation in the development and completion of the Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment, valued at \$5000 and potentially including completion of any required environmental and cultural resources compliance.

The Program Manager will be the Animas Watershed Partnership Coordinator, Ann Oliver. The Animas Watershed Partnership contracts Ms. Oliver at a rate of \$70/hr. Ms. Oliver will provide 5 hours/week to the Project, an estimated 520 hours total. The estimated breakout of this time will be 303 hours to Task A: Stakeholder and Partnership Building; and 217 hours to Task C: Project Oversight and Reporting. An estimated 100 hours will be spent on complying with reporting requirements, including final project and evaluation. This contract is reflected in the budget proposal Table under the Contractual category.

The contracted hydrologist will be Mark Oliver, Owner, Basin Hydrology Inc. Mr. Oliver is the hydrologist selected by Animas Watershed Partnership. He will be contracted by Animas Watershed Partnership to complete Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning, at a rate of \$95.00/hr for approximately 198 hours designing, completing and reporting the Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment, and \$60/hr for approximately 72 hours of desktop mapping and Russian olive field verification.

In-kind contributions in this category include Animas Watershed Partnership Coordinator's time for project development (all Tasks). We also anticipate volunteer contributions of labor from four AWP Steering Committee members toward 96 hours of organizational oversight and stakeholder outreach under Task A, valued at \$22/hr.

Fringe Benefits

Identify the rates/amounts, what costs are included in this category, and the basis of the rate computations. Indicate whether these rates are used for application purposes only or whether they are fixed or provisional rates for billing purposes. Federally approved rate agreements are acceptable for compliance with this item.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe Water Quality Program will contribute the time of three full-time staff members, valued at \$5000, as an in-kind contribution to the project. The Tribe calculates fringe at approximately 40% of salary. The budget reflects an in-kind contribution of fringe benefits at \$2000, calculated by multiplying 0.4 times \$5000.

Travel

Include purpose of trip, destination, number of persons traveling, length of stay, and all travel costs including airfare (basis for rate used), per diem, lodging, and miscellaneous travel expenses. For local travel, include mileage and rate of compensation.

Mileage reimbursement is included to cover local travel for Basin Hydrology, Inc. to complete Task B: approximately 400 miles at 0.60/mile roundtrip from Durango to meetings and site visits. Mileage reimbursement is also included to cover local travel for Program Manager Ann Oliver to complete Task A and Task B: Stakeholder Outreach and Partnership Building: approximately 1480 miles at .6/mile roundtrip from Durango.

Equipment

Equipment purchased with a value equal to or greater than \$5,000 is not eligible for reimbursement. Note: if the value is less than \$5,000, the item should be included under "Materials and Supplies."

If equipment is being rented, specify the number of hours and the hourly rate. Local rental rates are only accepted for equipment actually being rented or leased.

The proposal does not include any purchase or rental of equipment.

Materials and Supplies

Itemize supplies by major category, unit price, quantity, and purpose, such as whether the items are needed for office use, research, or construction. Identify how these costs were estimated (i.e., quotes, past experience, engineering estimates, or other methodology).

The Project does not involve the purchase materials or supplies.

Contractual /Construction

Identify all work that will be accomplished by sub recipients, consultants, or contractors, including a breakdown of all tasks to be completed, and a detailed budget estimate of time, rates, supplies, and materials that will be required for each task. Identify how the budgeted costs for sub-recipients, consultants, or contractors were determined to be fair and reasonable. Note: If a sub-recipient, consultant, or contractor is proposed and approved at the time of award, no other approvals will be required. Any changes or additions will require a request for approval.

The contracted Program Manager will be the Animas Watershed Partnership Coordinator, Ann Oliver. The Animas Watershed Partnership will contract Ms. Oliver at a rate of \$70/hr. Ms. Oliver will be contracted to provide 5 hours/week to the Project, an estimated 520 hours total. The estimated breakout

of this time will be 303 hours to Task A: Stakeholder and Partnership Building; and 217 hours to Task C: Project Oversight and Reporting. An estimated 100 hours will be spent on complying with reporting requirements, including final project and evaluation. This contract is reflected in the budget proposal Table under the Contractual category.

The San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council, a Colorado 501c3, will serve as AWP's fiscal agent and will also maintain an up-to-date AWP website. SJRCD will charge a fee of \$7000 for grant administration and \$15/month for website maintenance. The SJRC&D manager will receive and pay invoices and complete the bookkeeping for the Project.

The contracted hydrologist will be Mark Oliver, Owner, Basin Hydrology Inc. Mr. Oliver is the hydrologist selected by Animas Watershed Partnership. He will be contracted by Animas Watershed Partnership to complete Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning, at a rate of \$95.00/hr for approximately 198 hours designing, completing and reporting the Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunities Assessment, and \$60/hr for approximately 72 hours of desktop mapping and Russian olive field verification.

AWP will contract a videographer to produce an outreach video in support of the "Our Animas 2018" partnership effort around stakeholder education. We estimate the cost to be \$1000.

In-kind contributions in this category include Animas Watershed Partnership Coordinator's time for project development (approximately 10 hrs at \$70/hr).

The budgeted costs for consultants was determined to be fair and reasonable based on the fact that they are the same rates charged to other non-related projects and services.

Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs

If the proposed project includes monitoring, measurement, or other field work, the applicant must include a line item in the budget to cover environmental compliance costs. "Environmental compliance costs" refer to costs incurred by Reclamation and the recipient in complying with environmental regulations applicable to an award under this FOA, including costs associated with any required documentation of environmental compliance, analyses, permits, or approvals. Applicable Federal environmental laws could include National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and other regulations depending on the project. Such costs may include, but are not limited to:

- The cost incurred by Reclamation to determine the level of environmental compliance required for the project*
- The cost incurred by Reclamation, the recipient, or a consultant to prepare any necessary environmental compliance documents or reports*
- The cost incurred by Reclamation to review any environmental compliance documents prepared by a consultant*
- The cost incurred by the recipient in acquiring any required approvals or permits, or in implementing any required mitigation measures*

The amount of the line item should be based on the actual expected environmental compliance costs for the project, including Reclamation's cost to review environmental compliance documentation.

How environmental compliance activities will be performed (e.g., by Reclamation, the applicant, or a consultant) and how the environmental compliance funds will be spent, will be determined pursuant to subsequent agreement between Reclamation and the applicant. The amount of funding required for Reclamation to conduct any environmental compliance activities, including Reclamation's cost to review environmental compliance documentation, will be withheld from the Federal award amount and placed in an environmental compliance account to cover such costs. If any portion of the funds budgeted for environmental compliance is not required for compliance activities, such funds may be reallocated to the project, if appropriate.

We have budgeted \$10000 to cover the costs associated with any Environmental and Cultural Compliance that may be required.

AWP has inquired about compliance work with our local Reclamation office, but at this writing have not yet learned what might be required. The assessment will primarily be a desktop review of Google Earth, other imagery, and spatial information. Once this level of mapping is completed, BHI will perform a handful of visits to different segments to take photos and make visual assessments of the channel, riparian and upland condition. Where possible, typical condition photographs will be taken of each reach. These visits to see each reach would not involve monitoring or measurement and would take place outside of the Southwest Willow Flycatcher nesting season. We are not clear on whether or why environmental and cultural resources compliance would be required given this limited level of work in the field. However, we include a budget that we think would cover the costs of any such requirements, based on estimates provided by local contractors and by Reclamation for a different project. If environmental and cultural resources compliance is required for this project, the Southern Ute Water Quality Program has offered to complete the compliance as part of their in-kind basis.

Other Expenses

Any other expenses not included in the above categories shall be listed in this category, along with a description of the item and why it is necessary. No profit or fee will be allowed.

We anticipate volunteer contributions of labor from four AWP Steering Committee members toward 96 hours of Task A organizational oversight and stakeholder outreach, valued at \$22/hr.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs that will be incurred during the project, which will not otherwise be recovered, may be included as part of the applicant's project budget. Show the proposed rate, cost base, and proposed amount for allowable indirect costs based on the applicable cost principles for the recipient's organization. It is not acceptable to simply incorporate indirect rates within other direct cost line items.

If the applicant has never received a Federal negotiated indirect cost rate, the budget may include a de minimis rate of up to 10 percent of modified total direct costs. For further information on modified total direct costs, refer to 2 CFR §200.68 available at www.ecfr.gov.

If the applicant does not have a federally approved indirect cost rate agreement and is proposing a rate greater than the de minimis 10 percent rate, include the computational basis for the indirect expense pool and corresponding allocation base for each rate. Information on "Preparing and Submitting

Indirect Cost Proposals” is available from the Department of the Interior, the National Business Center, and Indirect Cost Services, at www.doi.gov/ibc/services/finance/indirect-cost-services.

There are no indirect costs included in the Project Budget Proposal.

Total Costs

Indicate total amount of project costs, including the Federal and non-Federal cost share amounts.

The total project cost is \$88812, including total direct cost of \$79000. There are no Federal or non-Federal cost-share amounts in the project. In-kind contributions total \$9812.

Letters of Support

Please see Appendix A for Letters of Support for this project from the La Plata Conservation District, Southwest Wetland Focus Area, and Trout Unlimited Five Rivers Chapter.

Official Resolution

An official resolution meeting the requirements set forth above is mandatory. If the applicant is unable to submit the official resolution by the application deadline because of the timing of board meetings or other justifiable reasons, the official resolution may be submitted up to 30 days after the application deadline.

AWP’s next Steering Committee meeting is February 1, therefore we are not able to submit the official resolution by the application deadline. However, the Steering Committee has prepared, reviewed and will approve the official resolution on February 1. The official resolution will be submitted upon approval and prior to February 28.

Appendix A.
Letters of Support



January 25, 2018

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Services
Attn: Mr. Darren Olson
Mail Code: 84-27814
PO Box 25007
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Animas Watershed Partnership

Dear Mr. Olson,

This letter is to voice our support for the Animas Watershed Partnership (AWP) grant application to the WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Management Program and for AWP's efforts to improve the Florida River. The La Plata Conservation District (LPCD) would be pleased to participate in AWP's continued work.

LPCD, founded in 1947 has as part of its State of Colorado statute the responsibility:

"To sponsor, plan, construct, maintain, and operate flood prevention and watershed improvement projects for the development, conservation, control, and utilization of water resources..."

The Florida River falls within the boundaries of our Conservation District, and we support the Animas Watershed Partnership's efforts to improve the quality of water resources for the citizens of our District and the watershed as a whole.

The La Plata Conservation District frequently works with private landowners and agricultural producers to address natural resource issues on their land. With the problems with nutrient and bacterial loading to the Florida River, working with our landowners on water quality issues is an important priority.

We see value in the Florida River Restoration Opportunities Assessment proposed by the Animas Watershed Partnership. The assessment will help support voluntary efforts by landowners in our District to develop and implement projects of mutual interest in priority reaches of the Florida watershed.

The La Plata Conservation District fully supports the efforts of the Animas Watershed Partnership, and we recommend that this project be funded by the Bureau of Reclamation. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Gary A Thrash
LPCD Supervisor



Dr. Catherine Ortega, Chair
Southwest Wetland Focus Area Committee
catherine.p.ortega@gmail.com; Cell: 970-799-0901
Website: www.swcoloradowetlands.org

25 January 2018

Bureau of Reclamation Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: Mr. Darren Olson
Mail Code: 84-27814
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment

Dear Mr. Olson and Funding Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Southwest Wetland Focus Area Committee (SW-WFAC) in support of the Animas Watershed Partnership's (AWP) application to the Bureau of Reclamation's *WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Funding Opportunity*. Specifically, I will focus on (1) our partnership with AWP, (2) how the project will help meet goals of other partners, (3) values of the planned strategies, (4) transferability of knowledge gained by the project, and (5) likelihood of the project's success.

SW-WFAC's partnership with AWP

While the focus of our missions differ, AWP's focus on water quality is critically important to our focus on high-quality habitat for wetland wildlife species. Conversely, our habitat improvement projects contribute to higher quality water. The integral connection between water quality/quantity and wildlife habitat provides ample opportunities for collaboration and mutual benefits.

Meeting goals of local and regional partners

The Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment will not only help the Bureau of Reclamation achieve goals of the funding program, but the assessment will also achieve goals of SW-WFAC, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW, the six active WFACs are a program of CPW), the Southern Ute Tribe, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and many other organizations, partnerships, and agencies that seek to improve habitat and water quality. I would like to emphasize that each major phase of this program (initial assessment and prioritization [this project], restoration planning, implementation, and monitoring for success) contributes to the goals of these organizations. For example, the SW-WFAC can step in to facilitate funding of restoration projects through the Colorado Wetland Wildlife Conservation Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Partners for Fish and Wildlife. Assisting

landowners with restoration projects is one of our two major goals, and this project will help pave the way for the SW-WFAC by prioritization and identification of willing landowners.

Strategies of the proposed assessment

The strategies of this project are similar to those used by the Southern Ute Tribe on nearby Spring Creek. The tribe has already completed a similar assessment and is in the process of planning and seeking funding for implementation. The Southern Ute Tribe's Water Quality Program has expressed an interest in assisting AWP in any way possible with this project, including sharing successful strategies and lessons learned. The strategies/outcomes I find particularly useful and innovative include (1) data that will confirm the integrity of rapid assessment tools with ground-truthing, (2) monitoring data that will demonstrate potential incremental improvement with implementation of cumulative restoration projects, (3) prioritization areas, and (4) identification of willing landowners on a voluntary basis (a shared on-going strategy with the SW-WFAC).

Transferable knowledge

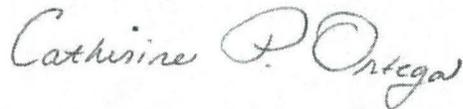
The knowledge gained from this project should be easily transferable to other projects and other watersheds. As indicated above, the multiple partnering opportunities AWP has sought will facilitate the transfer of knowledge regarding not only on-the-ground successes, measured through monitoring, but also recruitment of willing landowners and building trust within local communities.

Likelihood of project success

AWP has already proven a high capacity for success on planning and implementing restoration projects. Providing full funding for this regionally important project is a worthwhile investment for the benefit of landowners along the Florida River, the water users downstream, the Bureau of Reclamation, and all the other organizations that strive to make a positive difference by leaving a conservation legacy.

In summary, SW-WFAC strongly supports the Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment project. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Best regards.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine P. Ortega". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Catherine Ortega



Five Rivers Chapter

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Bureau of Reclamation Watersmart Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grant

As to the Animas Watershed Partnership (AWP) submission of the application for the Subject Grant, Five Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited (5RTU) is in complete support.

The proposal is to prepare a Florida Watershed Restoration Opportunity Assessment to analyze the Florida River and tributaries below Lemon Reservoir to identify and prioritize reaches where developing, funding and implementing projects with willing landowners can most benefit water quality, habitat, channel stability and Russian olive/tamarisk control. Upon completion of the Assessment, the Animas Watershed Partnership and partners will communicate with landowners in priority reaches to discuss potential projects. Our TU Chapter recognizes and values aquatic habitat on the Florida River and sees utility in the completion of the proposed Assessment.

Further, members of the Board of 5RTU serve on the Board of (AWP) and 5RTU will provide support manpower and funding as appropriate.

Respectfully,

Buck Skillen, Five Rivers TU – Board Member.

**CITY OF FARMINGTON**

800 Municipal Drive
Farmington, NM 87401-2663
Phone: (505) 599-1308
Fax: (505) 599-1299
www.fmtn.org

January 30, 2018

Mr. Darren Olsen
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Mail Code: 84-2874
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Mr. Olsen:

The City of Farmington writes in support of the grant application submitted by the Animas Watershed Partnership for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant as funded by the Bureau of Reclamation. This grant, BOR-DO-18-F005, will allow the Animas Watershed Partnership (AWP) to continue their restoration efforts on the Animas River.

Water quality studies have suggested upstream high levels of human-sourced bacteria and excessive loads of sediment. To improve water quality, the AWP is seeking funding to increase outreach with San Juan County residents and water users. AWP volunteers and staff will work with both stakeholders and landowners to develop solutions that keep septic waste from reaching the river, and reduce other forms of harmful runoff.

The City of Farmington, along with other Animas River stakeholders, has long been an active participant in the stewardship activities of the AWP and are proud to support the application submitted by the Animas Watershed Partnership for the WaterSMART Cooperative Management Program grant funded by the Bureau of Reclamation and requests that you give the application thorough consideration within your agency's guidelines.

Sincerely,

David Sypher, P.E.
Public Works Director

PUBLIC WORKS