Project Title: **Lower Cache la Poudre Priority Reach 16 80% Design Project**

Applicant Name: Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed
Project Manager: Hally Strevey, Executive Director
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Executive Summary

December 1, 2023
Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW)
Fort Collins, Larimer County, Colorado
EIN: 46-2850042
UIN: CMPJMQ3HXRD7

The Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit watershed group whose mission is to improve and maintain the ecological health of the Poudre River Watershed through community collaboration. We work across the entire watershed- from its headwaters in Rocky Mountain National Park to its confluence with the South Platte River. Our working area was expanded to the lower watershed (east of I-25 to the confluence with the South Platte) in 2017, with the completion of our Lower Poudre Resiliency Master Plan. The Plan prioritized reaches of the river that had the greatest need for restoration and resiliency issues. In 2019, we received funding from a CWMP Phase I grant to expand our Lower Poudre Steering Committee, increase our engagement in the lower watershed, and complete ~30% design for a priority river restoration project. This project was completed in 2021, and we have since continued to expand upon that work with our lower Poudre steering committee which includes representatives from the City of Greeley, Town of Windsor, University of Northern Colorado, Northern Water, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. With our steering committee, we identified Reach 16 as our next priority for restoration. Reach 16 is in the City of Greeley and is 0.9 miles in length. It was identified as priority #5 out of 28 reaches in our Master Plan because of its high potential to reconnect the river to its floodplain, reduce flooding issues and opportunity for instream habitat/function improvements. A large portion of the reach is also owned by Greeley. Our second proposal to the CWMP Phase I grant will build upon the progress made during our first grant funded by CWMP. We are requesting funds for Task C; Watershed Management Project Design to support the creation of an 80%/construction ready design for Reach 16. For this project phase, we have two primary goals. The first is to expand our engagement and outreach efforts in the lower watershed and to complete an 80% design for the restoration of Reach 16. Funds from the CWMP grant will be used to support staff time to conduct critical community outreach, work with lower Poudre stakeholders, and lead the project management for the 80% design project. We will hire a river design/engineering firm to complete the design. We anticipate the Reach 16 project will take 2 years to complete. The project location does not involve federal facilities or federal land.

Project Location

The Lower Cache la Poudre (lower Poudre) is located in Larimer & Weld County in Colorado (Figure 1). The lower Poudre flows for ~ 36 miles east of the I-25 interstate until the confluence with the South Platte. The project location lies ~20 mi east of I-25. The Towns of Timnath and Windsor, and the City of Greeley are all located in the lower Poudre working area. The proposed project planning area called Reach 16, lies within the 10190007 HUC. Reach 16 starts at Greeley Number 3 headgate and ends at N 71st Ave (Figure 2).

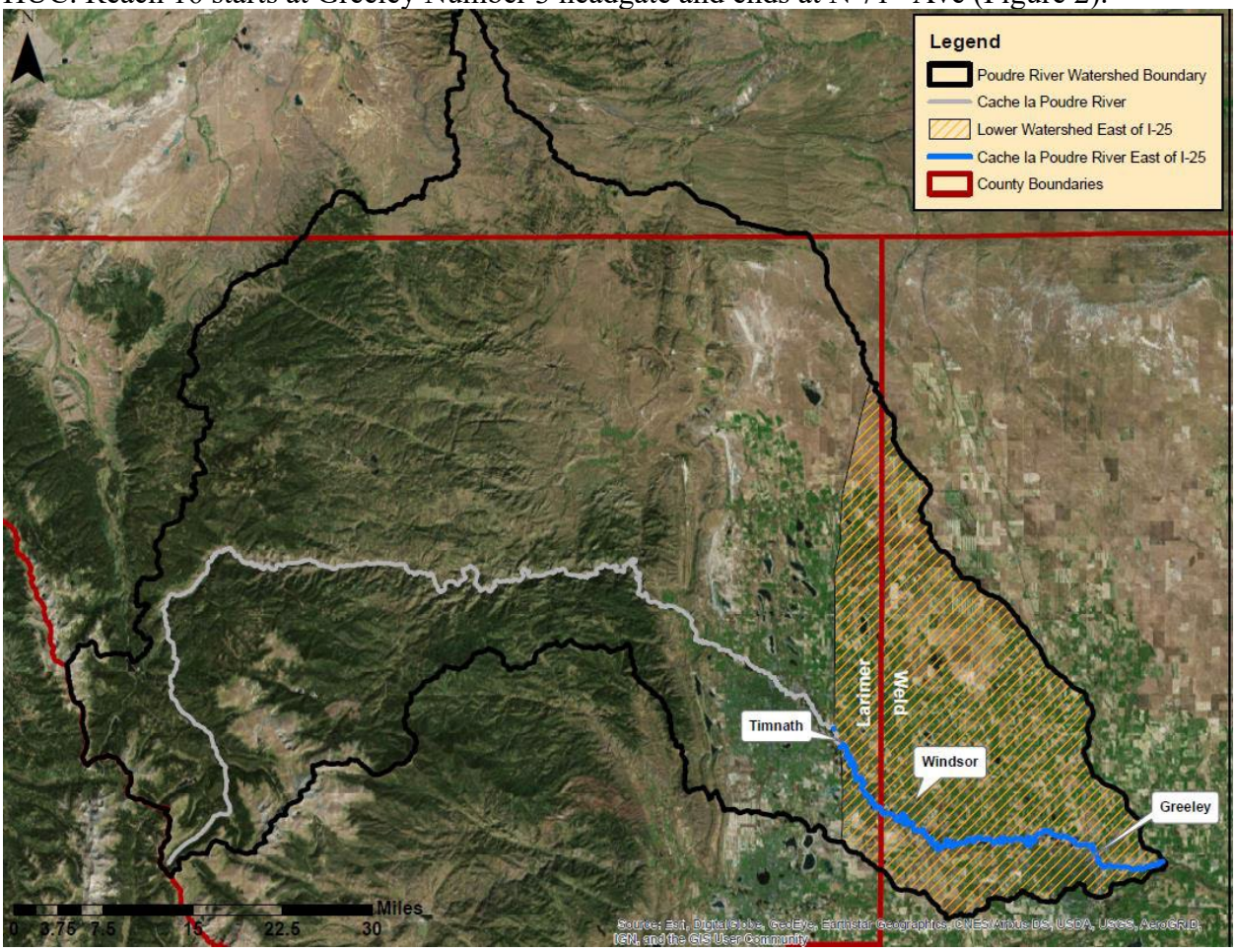

Figure 1. Extent of CPRW's working boundaries - the Cache la Poudre watershed from headwaters to confluence. The hashed orange area shows the lower portion of the watershed. Our planning & outreach efforts focus on the river, east of the I-25 (dark blue line)

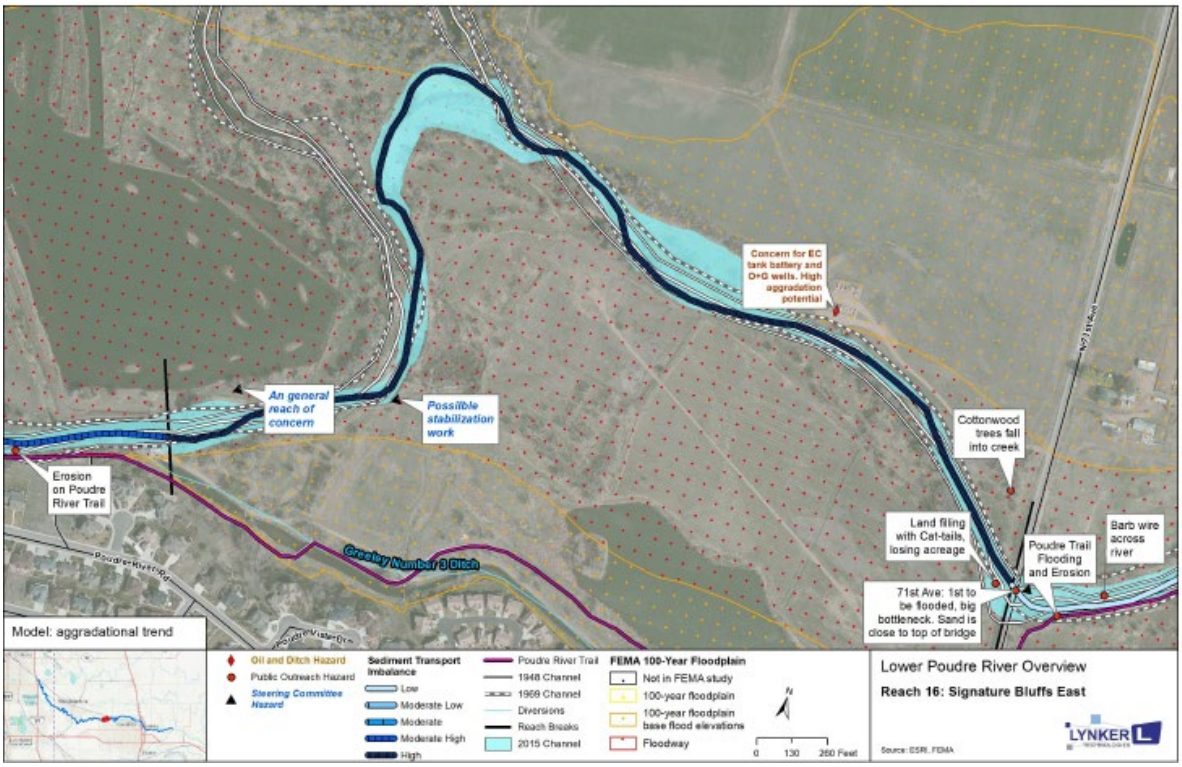

Figure 2. Priority Reach 16 project design extent (from CPRW's Lower Poudre Master Plan)

Applicant Category

CPRW is seeking funding as an existing watershed group. We are a 501(c)3 registered non-profit that was incorporated in 2013. CPRW is a non-regulatory entity. In the summer of 2012, the Hewlett Gulch and High Park fires burned 95,172 acres of the Cache La Poudre Watershed. At the time, the High Park Fire was Larimer County's most destructive wildfire. In addition to the loss of homes and trees, the charred watershed also saw enormous increases in runoff, flooding, sediment erosion, and debris flows. With every rain after the fires, sediment and ash flowed into the Poudre River, affecting not just the aesthetics of the river but its ecology and its ability to reliably deliver clean drinking water. The High Park Fire was a call to action for many organizations in Larimer County. Shortly after the fires began, a group of natural resource agencies, non-profits, representatives from the cities of Greeley, Fort Collins, and Larimer County, local businesses, and individuals gathered to discuss how they could work together to rehabilitate the lands affected by the burn. Initially formed as an informal network known as the High Park Restoration Coalition, the group was successful at identifying the top priorities for restoration efforts, finding funding to implement the plans, and training volunteers to help with implementation.

Based on the success of these early efforts, in May 2013, we evolved into a formal non-profit coalition – the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW) - with the goal of providing leadership and coordination for the collaborative stewardship of the Cache La Poudre River Watershed. To ensure the successful establishment of CPRW, the City of Fort Collins Utilities, the City of Greeley Water & Sewer, and Larimer County provided seed funding for our operating

costs. Because of the collaborative benefits that CPRW has brought to the watershed, Fort Collins & Greeley continue to fund our yearly operations. Our current board of directors is made up of individuals from local water utilities, county government, natural resource professionals, local landowners & business operators, non-profits, and recreational industry interests.

Our initial collaborative efforts were focused on the headwater areas of our watershed. We worked with representatives from United States Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Colorado State University, and local non-profits to create a Watershed Resiliency Plan for the Upper Cache La Poudre. CPRW worked with stakeholders to identify key watershed values (forest, river health, community values, and water supply) and the most pressing threats to those values (wildfires, catastrophic floods, climate change). The plan prioritized seventh level HUCs in the upper watershed that were least resilient to stressors like catastrophic wildfires. The plan was completed in 2016 and CPRW has since worked with partners and stakeholders to implement over 2,000 acres of watershed protection projects. CPRW has also played a critical role in the post-fire restoration efforts following the 2020 Cameron Peak Fire. The CPF burned over 208,000 acres across the Poudre, Laramie and Big Thompson watersheds, and is Colorado's largest wildfire.

At the request of stakeholders in the lower watershed, CPRW began working on river resiliency issues in the lower Poudre. In 2016, we received funding through the Community Block Development Grant Program for Disaster Recovery to complete a Flood Recovery & Resiliency Master Plan for the lower Poudre ("Master Plan"). The plan was completed in 2016, and we've been using it since then to guide our priority work along the lower Poudre River corridor. In 2018, we received funding through the CWMP program to grow our outreach and education efforts in the lower watershed and create a ~30% design of one of our priority reaches for restoration. This initial funding from the CWMP program allowed us to expand our Lower Poudre Steering Committee, grow our education/outreach efforts to private landowners along the river corridor in both Windsor and Greeley, and we developed a 30% design for the priority Reach 13 river restoration project. With additional funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, we have completed a 60% design for Reach 13. However, this project is currently delayed due to land use constraints. The Reach is owned by two gravel mining companies who are actively mining the area. Because of this, the project has been put on hold for the next 2-3 years until the mining projects are complete. With the Lower Poudre Steering Committee, we have selected Reach 16 as our next priority project to move forward with design and implementation.

Edibility of Applicant

CPRW has a record of success in managing large-scale restoration projects. We were formed in the aftermath of the High Park Fire in 2012. In the summer of 2012, representatives from over twenty entities including community non-profits, the cities of Fort Collins & Greeley, federal environmental agency representatives, and Larimer County came together in an informal coalition to start discussing & planning for the water quality impacts that would arise from the wildfires. This diverse array of stakeholders evolved into the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, a formal 501(c)3 non-profit in May 2013. Since that time, CPRW has completed four

large collaborative stakeholder watershed plans, has planned, & implemented ~10 large-scale post fire restoration projects, and has completed over 1,500 acres of collaborative wildfire mitigation forest projects. We have built and maintained a strong network of stakeholders and science advisors. We have also engaged over 200 private landowners in watershed resilience work and have worked extensively with volunteers and youth corps. Over the course of its existence, CPRW has managed over $4 million in federal grants. After the 2020 Cameron Peak Fire, CPRW played a critical role in leading the collaborative efforts for the restoration efforts. We have helped to raise over 15 million in post-fire recovery funds, which have gone towards over 11,000 acres of aerial mulching, over 100 acres of point-based mitigation work to protect water quality, and we have planted over 20,000 ponderosa pine trees as a part of our reforestation efforts.

CPRW also has experience managing a large-scale fish passage and diversion replacement project. In 2020, CPRW took over the management of the Godfrey Ditch Restoration & Fish Passage Project on the Middle South Platte River. The project was successfully completed in April 2021. We also have completed a 50% design for fish passage on the Whitney and BH Eaton Diversion structures located in the Town of Windsor. Finally, with funding from our previous CWMP grant and funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, we have completed a 60% design for the Reach 13 restoration project. This project has been put on hold due to active gravel mining operations along the Reach, which is why we have selected a second priority Reach to move forward for restoration.

Hally Strevey, Executive Director

Hally is the Executive Director of CPRW and has a Master of Science from Montana State University in Land Rehabilitation, and a Bachelor of Science from Colorado State University in Wildlife Biology. Hally has over nine years professional experience managing restoration projects across the Front Range, including the Poudre watershed. In 2019-2020, Hally successfully managed the Godfrey Diversion and Fish Passage project on the Middle South Platte River. Hally started her career at CPRW in 2015 as the Watershed Project Manager and has been the executive director since 2021. In that position, she has overseen all aspects of organizational management, fundraising, stakeholder coordination and project administration and implementation. Hally will coordinate all the project partners, ensure project deliverables, ensure funds & reporting needs are being met, and provide technical advice and input.

Cory Dick, Watershed Project Manager

Cory is the Watershed Project Manager for CPRW and has a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He also has a master's degree in Natural Resources and Fisheries from Cal-Poly Humbolt. Cory has been with CPRW since July 2022. Cory will assist with the day-to-day management needs of the project and will oversee the project deliverables. He will also lead the stakeholder outreach including biweekly ditch board meetings and Lower Poudre Steering Committee meetings.

Megan Maiolo-Heath, Marketing and Communications Manager
Megan is CPRW's Marketing and Communications Manager. She has a Masters of Public Administration with certificates in Non-Profit Management and Environmental Policy, Management & Law from University of Colorado Denver's School of Public Affairs. Megan will assist with a variety of stakeholder engagement and outreach needs throughout the life of the project.

Project Description

In 2018, CPRW received funding from the CWMP Phase I grant to expand our outreach efforts in the lower watershed and to create a 30% design for priority reach as identified in our Lower Poudre Master Plan. For this proposal, we are applying to Task C: Watershed Management Project Design. This project will build off of our previous project funded by the CWMP grant by expanding our restoration efforts across the lower Poudre River corridor. With our first CWMP grant, we created a 30% design for the priority "Reach 13" project. Reach 13 was identified as a prime location for restoration focused on river health, resiliency, and showcasing innovative restoration techniques. The Reach is 1.2 miles long, spanning the Town of Windsor and City of Greeley's growth management within Weld County. Landownership includes three landowners who have initially been receptive to the designs. The 30% design was completed in 2021 by Stillwater Sciences. Over the last year, CPRW received funding from Wildlands Restoration Volunteers and the Colorado Water Plan to complete a 60% design for the Reach.

However, there is currently active and planned gravel mining along Reach 13 by two different landowners, including Great Western and Martin Marietta. To-date, representatives from both companies have shared best available information that the mines are planned to be reclaimed as water storage reservoirs on grade with the existing floodplain and will be offset at least 200-400 feet from the existing active channel bank. The design currently includes a 200-foot buffer to prevent encroachment on the reservoirs while still providing functional floodplain area. As of fall 2023, the gravel mining operations are anticipated to be completed by mid-2025. After the operations are completed and reservoirs installed, implementation for the Reach 13 restoration project can begin. Because of this, the implementation of Reach 13 has been delayed until the gravel mining operations are complete. CPRW and the Lower Poudre Steering Committee selected a second priority Reach to advance a restoration design to ensure we continue to make progress on implementing the Master Plan to increase the resiliency of the lower Poudre River.

Early this year with our steering committee we selected Reach 16 as our next focus area. Reach 16 was identified as the 5th priority for restoration out of the 28 total reaches in the Lower Poudre Master Plan (Lynker 2017). There are two large landowners along this reach including the City of Greeley and Aggregate Industries. Because a large portion of the Reach is owned by Greeley and is not undergoing active gravel mining, we anticipate reaching the design-build phase more quickly than Reach 13. Also, between 2015-2019 the City of Greeley Natural Areas worked with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to restore a native grassland and wetland habitat in the upland areas of Reach 16. If implemented, this project will help reconnect the river to its floodplain which will further enhance the existing restoration work. Earlier this spring, CPRW received funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to complete a 30%

design for Reach 16. The initial phase of design is expected to be completed by December 2024, which will align well with the expected award of our current proposal to the CWMP grant program.

This project has two major goals: to build off of the 30% design funded by our new CWCB grant (estimated completion Dec 2024) to an 80% design/construction ready project for implementation, and to facilitate and build landowner and community understanding for understanding watershed health.

To achieve the project goals, we propose the following measurable objectives:

1) **Engage with Reach 16 landowners, land managers and stakeholders:** We will work with the lower Poudre Steering Committee, Reach 16 landowners, partners and stakeholders through monthly or bi-monthly meetings, site visits to existing restoration projects, and via online platforms. To increase awareness and understanding of water and watershed issues in the Poudre we will organize ~3-5 community forums in Greeley.

2) **Complete the 80% design for Reach 16:** The project team will complete the 80% design for entire 0.9-mile Reach 16 that will complement the 30% design that will be completed next December. This design will provide the appropriate foundation to progress with design-build opportunities in the next two years.

3) **Develop a realistic timeline for final design documents, permitting, and construction for Reach 16:** The Reach 16 project is large, and will require constant communication with the landowners including the City of Greeley. Given the scale of the project, there will be several key permits that will need to be obtained prior to implementation. To ensure that the project can go from the 80% design to implementation with no delays, this objective will be critical.

<u>Project design activities will include the following:</u>

CPRW will undergo a competitive bid process to select the consulting team to create the 80% design for Reach 16. The Lower Poudre Steering Committee will assist with the selection process.

Once the team has been selected and the contract awarded, the development of the 80% design will begin. The design will require field assessments and surveying of Reach 16 to inform the 30% design and existing condition of the reach, complete cross sections to understand site specific geomorphology and engineering constraints and ground truth any desktop analyses. The team will select the most appropriate analysis tools and lines of evidence based on the results of the field work. The completed 1D FDP model will be used to help inform the conceptual design along with a sediment transport analysis of the Reach. Both 2D and 3D hydraulic modeling will occur during this phase. The team will work with the City of Greeley and ACOE to incorporate and enhance the existing restoration work that was completed into the design.

Subtask 1: Complete field assessments and survey

- Site Visit/Assessment
- Survey and Post-Processing
- Using the completed existing Conditions Modeling (1D) from the 30% design phase, 2D and 3D hydraulic modeling will be completed

Subtask 2: Draft 80% design

- Restoration treatment options
- Sediment transport analysis
- Engineer's opinion of probable cost estimates
- Permitting needs and implementation schedule
- Aquatic and Terrestrial Species Habitat Requirements, including listed or species of concern, significant barriers etc.
- Define seasonally appropriate floodplain, lateral and longitudinal connectivity requirements
- Define the riparian vegetation target community
- Develop a realistic timeline for design, permitting and construction for Reach 13. This will be a critical step to get to implementation of the project and will include careful coordination with the landowners to verify our timeline and milestones
- Develop the 80% Basis of Design Report (including construction cost estimates and implementation planning)

The team will create a Basis of Design report for Reach 16. The report will include field assessment and surveying results, 2D and 3D existing conditions modeling results, design drawings, a narrative summary of the 80% design, stakeholder identification, permitting needs, cost estimates, funding opportunity summaries, and implementation schedule.

D.2.2.3. Project Budget

FUNDING SOURCES	Amount
Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program- Phase 1 Request	$ 270,170.04
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	$ 270,170.04

Table 1. Project Budget. See Budget Narrative for details in Appendix A & Appendix B

E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion A—Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope

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

Current Coalition Membership/Diversity

Since our inception, we have been driven by a desire to find meaningful mechanisms to involve an array of stakeholder opinions and expertise to help us solve watershed problems and maintain a balance of views. Our coalition's board of directors currently has representation from the City of Fort Collins and City of Greeley water utilities, Larimer County, individuals representing natural resources nonprofits (Trout Unlimited), agriculture (Colorado Open Lands), local businesses (Carestream Health) and foundations, and natural resource management (USFS). The City of Fort Collins and Greeley have seen enough value in CPRW and its ability to improve and maintain stakeholder relationships and critical watershed implementation work that they fund our annual operations every year and have since our first inception in 2013.

In addition to our board, we have built and maintained the Upper Poudre Stakeholder Committee for our work in the headwaters that has been meeting since 2015. The Upper Poudre committee includes representatives from the United States Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado State University, Rocky Mountain Research Station, local nonprofits, and local government. As we expanded downstream in 2016, we established our Lower Poudre Steering Committee to ensure that our work adequately represents the lower portions of our watershed. The Lower Poudre Steering Committee includes representatives from the City of Greeley Natural Areas and Water & Sewer Departments, the Town of Windsor, the University of Northern Colorado, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Northern Water. We meet bi-monthly with the Lower Poudre Steering Committee to help guide our work and plan for future projects, including the Reach 16 restoration.

The heart of CPRW's mission is community collaboration – it is the primary tool we use to plan and prioritize watershed needs and to implement projects. This project will be no different for us. We are committed to bringing as many voices as needed to ensure that the Reach 16 project and its processes reflect the diverse array of interests and needs in the project area. The first phase of the project funded by the CWMP Phase I program helped us build a solid foundation to achieve our aim to ensure the needs and interests in the Reach 16 project area are included.

Affected Stakeholders:
Affected stakeholders in this portion of the watershed include local water utilities, stormwater and floodplain managers, farmers, ditch operators, gravel mining companies, oil and gas operators, river adjacent residents, land managers, & landowners, Poudre Trail users, housing developers, and other key river-adjacent businesses like Kodak, Carestream, and gravel mining companies including Broe/Great Western and Martin Marietta.

The City of Greeley Natural Areas is a key stakeholder that will be critical to the project's success. Greeley owns a significant portion of Reach 16 and manages the Signature Bluffs

Natural Area located along the Reach. The City of Greeley Natural Areas has provided a Letter of Support for this project (Appendix D).

The Army Corps of Engineers will also be a key stakeholder in this project because of their previous wetland restoration efforts along Reach 16. We will work with the ACOE and the City of Greeley to ensure the project design complements the work that has already been completed.

The Cache la Poudre Natural Heritage Area is also an affected stakeholder in the Reach 16 project. The Natural Heritage Area (NHA) extends for 45 miles and includes the lands within the 100-yr floodplain of the Poudre. It begins in Larimer County at the eastern edge of the USFS, and ends east of Greeley, ¼ miles west of the confluence with the South Platte. In fact, CPRW was recently awarded a $15,000 grant ($5,000/year for 3 years) from the NHA to support our education and outreach efforts associated with the Reach 16 project. Greeley Irrigation Company is also an affected stakeholder. The Greeley Number 3 ditch is at the upstream extent of the Reach 16 project. The City of Greeley owns approximately 25 percent of the shares in the Company. The initial outreach efforts to the Greeley Irrigation Company will begin during our 30% design phase, and we will involve them throughout the entire 80% design project. Finally, the University of Northern Colorado is also located in the planning area. They are an important community of researchers, students, & scientists that may have expertise and interest in the effort that can benefit our coalition and the outcomes of the project.

We do not have significant tribal populations in our watershed.

Engaging Affected Stakeholders

CPRW is proposing to use multiple levels of engagement to ensure that we reach the diverse array of stakeholders we need to be inclusive and help our project goals are achieved. We will rely on our e-newsletter to reach a broad array of stakeholders & interested individuals. During the first phase of the project funded by CWMP, we started gathering names and contact information of people interested in learning more about the lower Poudre, the work we are doing, and issues along the river. We will continue to build this list by reaching out through partners established networks, attending community events, presenting at University of Northern Colorado, and by soliciting input along the Poudre Trail. We will invite the Greeley Irrigation Company and private landowners along the Reach to attend key planning meetings and will solicit feedback during the 80% design phase.

There are over 50 landowners with property adjacent to Reach 16. This project will also be of interest to the public because the project extent includes Signature Bluffs Natural Areas and the Poudre River Trail, both of which are important components of the community. The project's success is directly tied to landowner and community outreach. It will be critical to secure landowner buy-in and engage the broader Greeley community around the project goals and benefits. It can take months to years to establish trusted relationships with landowners. This funding will provide the needed capacity to build these important relationships before the project reaches the design-build implementation phase. The project

also provides a unique opportunity to educate the lower Poudre community around themes of river resiliency and the importance of the river to our livelihoods. To engage the broader community, we will hold several community meetings, webinars, and tours of the project site and similar restoration projects that have already been completed (i.e. River Bluffs restoration project in Larimer County).

We will also meet bi-monthly with our Lower Poudre Steering Committee, and monthly with the City of Greeley Natural Areas throughout the project.

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

The Cache la Poudre watershed is in the 10190007 HUC. CPRW works within the entire boundary of the watershed. However, this project will focus on the lower portion of the watershed east of I-25 until it meets the confluence with the South Platte (Figure 1). This portion of the watershed represents the plains region of the watershed. Major urban areas in the project area include the Towns of Windsor and Timnath and City of Greeley. The lower watershed is in both Larimer and Weld County, but the Reach 16 project is in Weld County. These entities are already involved in the project process. There are also seven water diversions managed by seven ditch companies in the project area. Entities such as these are not on the steering committee, however, CPRW has been working closely with several ditch companies and entities involved with water management including the Whitney and BH Eaton Irrigation Companies (located in Windsor), the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District, and Northern Water. The Greeley No 3 diversion is located at the upstream extent of the Reach 16 project and is operated by Greeley Irrigation Company.

CPRW also has representation from the whole spatial extent of the watershed. We have representation at different levels from each county, from the City of Greeley on the eastern downstream end, to the city of Fort Collins in the middle & upper portions of the watershed, to the United States Forest Service in the headwaters. We are always working to develop the diversity of representation of the watershed on our board of directors and steering committees. For example, we are currently working to recruit ~2 new board members to represent interests in the lower Poudre watershed.

Our project proposes to work within the priority Reach 16 portion of the river corridor. This Reach was identified as 5th priority in our 2016 Lower Poudre Master Plan. While the project extent is smaller (0.9 miles of river), we plan to engage the broader lower Poudre community throughout the project. This Reach is an important part of the lower Poudre community and includes the popular Poudre River Trail and Signature Bluffs Natural Area. Reach 16 is a prominent area along the river corridor and provides a unique opportunity to engage the community around watershed resiliency (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Aerial image of Reach 16 showing Signature Bluffs Natural Area, Poudre River Trail & Greeley No. 3 Ditch.

Further, when the Reach 16 project has been implemented it will be a part of the landscape-wide restoration efforts across the entire lower river corridor. For example, once the gravel mining is completed along Reach 13, we will seek design-build funding to complete that restoration project. Greeley is also exploring funding options for a restoration project along Reach 15, and along the upstream Reaches 11 and 12. If/when these projects are complete, we will have restored over 8 miles of the lower Poudre River.

Targeting key stakeholders

To ensure that we include representation from the Lower Poudre, we will undertake several key steps. As we did during the first phase funded by CWMP, we will make an effort to keep important community groups informed on the project and our work in the lower watershed. This includes presentations to the Poudre Trail Board, Weld County Commissioners, the City of Greeley Water and Sewer Planning Board and the Town of Windsor City Council. We will continue this in the next phase of the project but will also expand our efforts to key agricultural groups like ditch operator board meetings including the Greeley Irrigation Company.

One of our continued gaps that we aim to expand and build upon is reaching vulnerable residential populations that may be impacted by our work. We were just awarded funding from the Cache la Poudre Natural Heritage area to help us engage with these diverse communities in Greeley around our priority restoration projects like Reach 16. We will ensure that our communication materials related to the project and our work in the lower watershed are available

in Spanish. We are exploring ideas to develop educational programs to highlight the importance of river restoration and its benefits in a way that is accessible to the Spanish speaking community. We will work with local community groups and leaders who are trusted in the Greeley community to help us build partnerships with the community.

One of the most important stakeholder engagement actions we will be relying on is conducting individual meetings with landowners and land managers along Reach 16. We will reach out to these individuals and work directly with them to assess their land, discuss their concerns/interest, and gauge their willingness to work with us further on restoration design and planning at their site. Finally, just as we did during our first phase funded by CWMP, we will continue to use interactive community meetings to foster dialogue around key issues in the corridor. We will use data gathered from surveys we conducted during the 2016 master plan to inform what the themes should be for dialogue at community meetings including how to protect communities/property from catastrophic flooding, how to protect the Poudre Trail, how to design river resiliency projects that don't harm water rights, how to use river restoration to protect water quality and sediment transport. All of these will lead up to community meetings to choose which high priority reaches to move forward to the next stage of design and gather input on those design goals.

E.1.2. Evaluation Criterion B— Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs

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

Flooding

CPRW began work in the lower Poudre because of a growing concern about impacts of flooding to the river, communities, and infrastructure. The September 2013 flood event in Colorado's Front Range caused widespread flooding and triggered disaster declarations across 14 counties including Larimer and Weld. The Cache la Poudre River reached flood stage of 8,000 cfs in Fort Collins, 7,000 cfs in Timnath and damaged the flow gage in Greeley rendering it unable to accurately measure flow. The expensive and devastating aftermath of the flood revealed the necessity to minimize risk & improve resilience along the lower Poudre River corridor. After September 2013, flooding problems persisted in the Poudre River east of I-25, with high flows occurring in both 2014 and 2015 causing flooding and erosion problems that were damaging ecosystem/habitat, impairing riparian function, and causing sediment problems around infrastructure. These persistent flooding problems prompted the City of Greeley to ask CPRW to help local jurisdictions collaborate around this river issue.

Flooding also poses a hazard to critical community and social infrastructure in this area. Results from our Lower Poudre Master Plan show 688 critical facilities in the floodplain. Additionally, our analysis showed significant vulnerable populations at risk from increased exposure to floods, especially in or near urbanized Greeley. Although the 2013 floods did not destroy the water supply infrastructure in the project area, experiences in other rivers have shown the vulnerability of these critical water supply infrastructure to floods, leading to costly repairs and risks to water rights (Lynker 2017).

In 2017, CPRW sent surveys to residents and business owners in the lower Poudre. From the results, we also know that flooding is a top concern for local residents. Respondents to our survey identified flooding and erosion as their top 2 hazards to the river. Respondents also noted that the three most important aspects about the Poudre were river health to support ecosystems, a natural river setting, and water supply.

As part of our first phase analysis, we also performed a rapid assessment of the whole river corridor to define and prioritize reaches by their level of ecological resilience. While our analysis did find areas of high ecological resilience, the assessment also found that ecological resiliency has declined. The riparian habitat along the Lower Poudre River has been substantially degraded because of anthropogenic activities. Much of the historic floodplain area and its riparian habitat has been either lost or badly degraded by grazing and agriculture; gravel-mining; and/or industrial, commercial, residential, and other infrastructure development. Although some of these land uses involve large areas of undeveloped land along the river that may seem natural (namely grazing and gravel-mining), most of the native vegetation has been lost or altered. This large-scale degradation of habitat is mainly a result of historic floodplain areas no longer being wetted by seasonal overbank flows and essentially being "disconnected" or cut-off from the main river channel. This generally creates conditions that are too dry and that lack the necessary regular disturbance for woody riparian habitat (especially cottonwoods) to establish or persist.

Additional concerns include competing pressures from the conversion of farmland into residential areas. Not only does this pose challenges for water supply planning and water quality, but it adds to the pressure on the river by converting previously open space (agricultural areas that return flows back to the water table) to urban spaces with increased impervious surfaces, which can significantly alter hydrology and water quality. Jurisdictions in the area are working to try to protect the riparian corridor while respecting land and water rights.

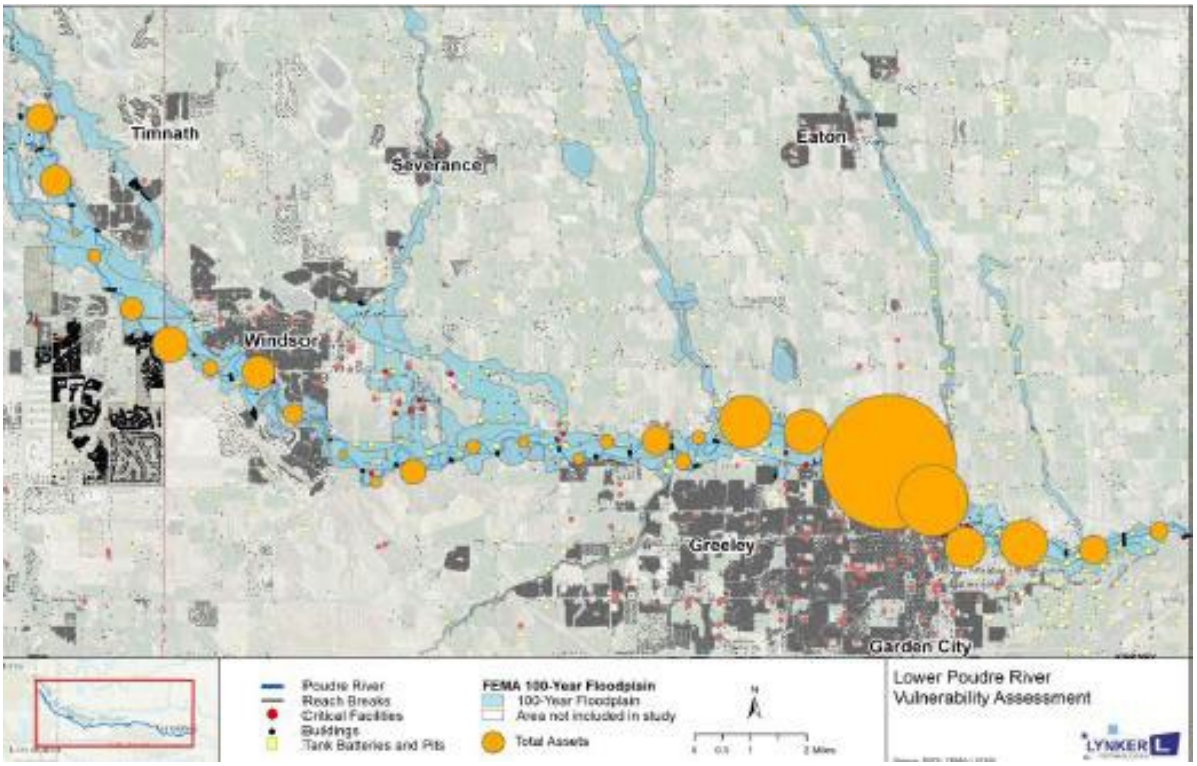

Figure 4. Map showing critical assets in floodplain that are vulnerable to floods.

Wildfires

While the Lower Poudre River is not in a typical high-risk area for wildfires, it is downstream of a high-risk area. In fact, over 300,000 acres of the upper watershed have burned in the last decade, including Colorado's largest wildfire, the 2020 Cameron Peak Fire. Wildfires primarily impact the Upper Poudre Watershed since the Lower Poudre is comprised of urban and agricultural land. However, communities in the lower watershed are specifically impacted by these fires when reservoirs and water supply infrastructure are within a burn zone. This did in fact happen in the 2020 Cameron Peak Fire, when several City of Greeley high mountain reservoirs were burned. In addition, the Cities of Greeley and Fort Collins had to shut off their intake structures on the Poudre for 40+ days in 2021 and 2022 due to the high amounts of sediment and ash in the river.

Water Quality

E. coli is listed on the 303(D) list along the entire 36 miles of the Lower Poudre River Corridor (LRE Water 2020). In addition, concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus tend to increase the farther the river flows downstream, coinciding with increasing point and nonpoint sources from urban and agricultural sources. There are also multiple industrial and municipal wastewater discharges that flow into the river, all affecting the water quality in the system.

Threats to both water supply and water quality are also exacerbated by the predicted growth in the watershed. In fact, the State Demography office forecasts that Weld and Larimer Counties

will double their populations by 2050. This increased pressure on the Poudre's already limited water supplies in the face of increasing drought and climate change. Further, there are several large water supply projects planned for the watershed, including Northern Water's Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP), which also has the potential to impact water quality and supply. The Project recently received the Record of Decision from the US Army Corps of Engineers. Because of this, Northern Water is beginning to move forward with partnering on some of their identified mitigation projects. Thay have expressed preliminary interest in the Reach 16 restoration project.

Climate Change

In Colorado, the statewide annual average temperatures have increased by 2 °F over the past 30 years (CWCB 2014), and further temperature increases are predicted. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency of drought, insect epidemics, floods and large wildfires in the Poudre watershed and across the state (Funk and Saunders 2014). Drought is also common in the Poudre watershed, as well as across Colorado. The most severe drought in the last 100 years was in 2002. Approximately seventy-five percent of annual precipitation occurs from mid-April through late September. Mean average annual precipitation in the watershed ranges from 12-18 inches per year. Precipitation in winter is snow, and the average snowfall ranges between 20 inches to 49 inches (USDA 1990). In Greeley and Fort Collins, the average snowfall is 41-57 inches per year (US Climate Data 2019). As the climate warms, impacts to watershed and river health include altered river flows- i.e., reduced snowpack and/or earlier snowmelt can result in decreased summer flows.

E.1.2.2. Sub-criterion No. B2. Project Benefits

Critical Watershed Issues Addressed

The proposed Reach 16 project will provide a multitude of benefits to address the critical issues impacting the Poudre watershed. Once completed, the project will help increase the resiliency of the Lower Poudre River to future floods, drought, and water development projects. Reach 16 was identified as the 5th priority for restoration out of the 28 total reaches in the Lower Poudre Master Plan. There are two large landowners along this reach including the City of Greeley and Aggregate Industries. Because a large portion of the Reach is owned by Greeley, we anticipate reaching the design-build phase more quickly than the Reach 13 project where active gravel mining is taking place. Reach 13 was funded to a 30% design level with our previous CWMP grant. Because CPRW and the Lower Poudre Steering Committee want to maintain our momentum in advancing priority projects, we submitted a grant to fund the 30% design of the Reach 16 project to the Colorado Water Plan earlier this year. We received the grant in fall of 2023 and are on track to complete the 30% design by December 2024. If this project is funded, it will allow us to take the completed 30% design to an 80% or construction ready design. The 80% design will include the following features: floodplain reconnection and habitat complexity, re-establishment of large wood and riparian and wetland enhancements.

Flooding

Tremendous opportunity exists in Reach 16 for restoration activities to increase river health and function and provide flood resiliency for the long-term. Reach 16 is a depositional reach and its

hydrology has been extensively modified by diversions and reservoirs, including the Greeley No. 3 Diversion at the upstream end of the reach. The channel has since responded through incision, floodplain disconnection, and reductions in riparian vegetation. There is also reduced wood supply and beaver activity, which are both essential for complex, healthy river systems.

The design features that will be incorporated into the project will include floodplain reconnection, incorporation of large wood, and revegetation. Floodplain reconnection is critical to reduce flooding hazards. Where possible, we will reconnect Reach 16 to its floodplain, which will allow water to spread out over the floodplain during large flow events. The floodplain then acts as a natural buffer, absorbing and slowing down floodwaters. By reconnecting the floodplain, we will also help to reestablish the riparian habitat. Vegetation will help to stabilize the riverbank, reducing erosion and preventing downstream sedimentation. Finally, we will also incorporate large wood into the project design which also plays an essential role in reducing flooding risk. During periods of high flow, large wood can create obstacles to slow down and redistribute water, reducing speed and force of the flood. Large wood also increases habitat complexity and connectivity between the river channel and its floodplain. This also enables the flood waters to spread out on the floodplain. Finally, large wood can also help to stabilize riverbanks and reduce erosion during high flow events (Stillwater 2022).

Water Quality

The project is also expected to provide benefits to downstream water quality. By reestablishing the riparian vegetation along Reach 16, the river is likely to see water quality improvements. Plants help filter sediments and nutrients and other contaminants, thus improving water quality. Because vegetation also helps to stabilize the riverbank, it can also reduce erosion and sedimentation. Reach 16 also recently underwent a wetland restoration project with the City of Greeley Natural Areas and the Army Corps of Engineers. Because this project will help reconnect the river to its floodplain, it will benefit the recently created wetland habitat. Wetlands act as natural filters, removing pollutants, nutrients and sediment from the water supply.

Expected Benefits of Proposed Activities

As listed above, we anticipate a variety of benefits for the river after the Reach 16 project is implemented, including floodplain reconnection, increased structural and habitat diversity and enhanced riparian and wetland habitat. These outcomes will result in a more resilient lower Poudre River.

Floodplains play a critical role in managing flood impacts, providing habitat and protecting water quality. When floodplains are not periodically inundated, they will support less functions and provide fewer benefits for rivers and people (Tockner and Stanford 2002). The Reach 16 project is no exception to this- and has experienced channelization and floodplain disconnection. After the 2013 flood event, many rivers and communities along the Front Range of Colorado experienced devastating impacts due to the lack of floodplain connection, riparian vegetation and other natural features and infrastructure in the floodplain (Lynker 2017). After this flood event, many restoration projects have been implemented that incorporate similar features as proposed for the Reach 16 project.

Stakeholders Benefited

The project area is located within the Lower Poudre Watershed and will directly impact community members in the City of Greeley. The City of Greeley's population is ~109,000. Our aim is to continue to implement projects identified in our Lower Poudre Master Plan. The ultimate goal is to increase the landscape scale impacts of our restoration work across the entire lower Poudre. Connecting these river restoration projects together will increase the resiliency of the river and watershed while providing a multitude of benefits for communities along the river corridor. Some of the key stakeholders that will benefit from this project include The City of Greeley Natural Areas Department, downstream water users, and river adjacent landowners. River adjacent landowners and downstream water users will benefit from a restored reach of river that is more resilient to floods and drought. Finally, this project will also have added benefit for recreation along the river, including the Poudre River Trail and Signature Bluffs Natural Area. Reconnecting the floodplain where feasible and adding habitat complexity will help protect trail from being undermined along the project reach in future flood events, while also maintaining access for the community. The restoration project will also enhance the riparian habitat along the reach including Signature Bluffs Natural Area which will also improve other recreational opportunities like bird watching and fishing.

E.1.3. Evaluation Criterion C—Readiness to Proceed

The proposed Reach 16 80% design project will meet the specific requirements program requirements for watershed management project design. The project goal is to build off of the 30% design to create an 80%/construction ready design for Reach 16. Ultimately, after project completion, Reach 16 will be more resilient to future flood, drought and development impacts.. All of the preliminary design pieces will be completed with our current funding by next December, which puts the project in a good position to start immediately after entering into a financial assistance agreement. We are proposing a two-year project period, with the project wrapping up by Q4 2026.

To complete the 80% design, CPRW and stakeholders from the Lower Poudre Steering Committee will select a project design team through a competitive bid process to complete the major tasks and milestones associated with the project.

The project will include the following deliverables:

1) 80% Basis of Design report for Reach 16
2) Timeline and plan for construction
3) 3-5 community outreach events attended by a diverse stakeholder group

Schedule, Tasks & Milestones

See Table 2 for estimated project schedule and milestones. We anticipate the project starting in February 2025 after the anticipated project award in December 2024. CPRW will take the lead on day-to-day project and grant management and will lead the stakeholder outreach and coordination tasks associated with the project. CPRW will work with the selected design team on a weekly basis to ensure that the major tasks and milestones are completed within the project

period. CPRW will also meet with the Lower Poudre Steering Committee on a bi-monthly basis to share project updates and to solicit feedback. We will also meet monthly with Greeley and other landowners along Reach 16 to ensure they are informed and that concerns are addressed.

We anticipate contracting with a design/engineering company in Q1 2025. The team will be selected via a competitive bid process. Once hired, the design team will use the 30% conceptual designs as a basis for the 80% design project. With the design team, CPRW will plan the education and outreach components of the project. This will include 3-5 community meetings between 2025-2026 to seek project feedback and to better understand the community's concerns and/or values along the reach. These meetings will be shared with the broader Greeley community, as well as Poudre Trail and Signature Bluff Natural Area users. We will organize site visits to similar restoration projects in the lower Poudre for landowners and other key stakeholders. We will also hold various webinars, pub talks and/or informational meetings.

	YEAR 1												YEAR 2											
TASK	Q1 2025			Q2 2025			Q3 2025			Q4 2025			Q1 2026			Q2 2026			Q3 2026			Q4 2026		
Coordinating project																								
Steering committee meetings																								
Project Reporting																								
Outreach & engagement																								
Meetings with Lower Poudre Steering Committee																								
landowner/manager site visits																								
Community meetings																								
site visits to other similar restoration projects																								
Design/Engineering																								
landowner/stakeholder meetings																								
Site assessment and survey																								
2D and 3D modeling																								
sediment transport analysis & large wood analysis																								
revegetation design																								
Draft 80% design																								
Basis of Design report																								
environmental compliance & permitting																								

Table 2. Timeline of tasks and milestones

Specific design tasks are as follows:

1) Landowner and stakeholder engagement (ongoing)
    a. Kick-off meeting with landowners
    b. Lower Poudre Steering Committee meetings (bi-monthly or monthly)
    c. Landowner site visits/check-in meetings
    d. 3-5 community events
    e. Site visits to similar river restoration projects
2) Complete 80% design for Reach 16 (Q3 2026)
    a. Complete field assessments
    b. Design analysis including 2D and 3D HEC-RAS hydraulic model
    c. Revegetation designs & large wood structures
    d. Engineers Opinion of Probable Construction Costs
    e. Permitting planning & environmental compliance
3) Complete 80% Basis of Design report (Q4 2026)

a. Site specific drawings, plansets, modeling information, construction details/specifics for construction, cost estimates and proposed schedule to complete work

Policies or Administrative Actions

There are no new policies or administrative actions that will be needed to implement the design project.

E.1.4. Evaluation Criterion D—Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities

E.1.4.1. Climate Change

This project will contribute to increasing the resiliency of the lower Poudre River to future climate impacts like flooding. Shifts in the timing of flows have also been observed and are expected to continue. Droughts also become more severe where there are disconnected floodplains which reduces the capacity to store groundwater. The occurrence of large precipitation events are also projected to increase which in turn results in increased flooding risk.

Managing and restoring floodplains like what is proposed at Reach 16 will increase the climate resiliency of the Poudre. After the Reach 16 project is implemented, the 0.9 miles of restored river corridor will help combat the climate crisis through a variety of methods including carbon sequestration, flood mitigation, enhanced biodiversity, improved water quality, reconnection of habitats and overall climate resilience.

Healthy rivers and their floodplains can act as carbon sinks. When rivers are restored, they can sequester carbon from the atmosphere in the form of plants material and soil. This helps reduce greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, which is a key factor in climate change. Restored rivers can also reduce the severity of floods by slowing down and storing excess water. This is vital in the face of climate change, which is expected to bring more intense and frequent rainfall events. Reducing flood risk can protect communities and infrastructure while also preventing erosion and sedimentation. This project will incorporate the enhancement or creation of habitats for diverse aquatic and riparian species. Biodiversity is crucial in maintaining ecosystem stability and can help ecosystems adapt to changing climate conditions. With the restoration of riparian vegetation along the river corridor, there is also the potential that the project will aid in filtering pollutants from runoff, improving water quality, which becomes even more critical during times of drought or extreme weather events. Finally, the project will also improve the resiliency of the river in the face of climate change. Natural features, such as meanders, large wood, and floodplain connection can reduce impacts of future floods or drought. These natural features have been shown to be more effective than hardened infrastructure (levees, rip rap etc.) in reducing flooding impacts.

E.1.4.2. Benefits to Disadvantaged, Underserved, and Tribal Communities

According to the White House Council on Environmental Quality's interactive Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, the City of Greeley, including the project area is identified as disadvantaged. The project area meets more than one burden threshold and the associated

socioeconomic threshold. As a part of CPRW's Lower Poudre Master Plan, we also assessed the social vulnerability for the lower Poudre River corridor. The plan used the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) that groups the vulnerability of every U.S. census tract by ranking tracts on 15 social factors including income, housing type, and disability. It also groups the factors into four themes including socioeconomic status, household composition and disability, minority status and language, and housing and transportation. The higher the social vulnerability, the higher the SVI ranking from 0 to 1. The river corridor had an especially high SVI ranking, indicating that there are many vulnerable communities close to the river. The proposed Reach 16 project will benefit the community in a variety of ways. Once implemented, the project will help mitigate the risk of future flooding, thus reducing the threat to homes, infrastructure and safety for the vulnerable communities that may live along the river corridor. This project will also help to protect the Poudre River Trail and Signature Bluffs Natural Areas. The Poudre Trail and Natural Area provide important green spaces and access to the river and are used by diverse community members. The Poudre Trail is 21 miles in length and runs to the south of Reach 16 (Figure 3) Signature Bluffs Natural Area also has 1.8 miles of accessible trails. The Reach 16 project will help reduce the risk of damage to the trail and Natural Area to future flood events. Protecting access to outdoor spaces is vital for communities and their connection with green spaces, regardless of their socioeconomic status. Accessible outdoor spaces like the Trail and Natural Area also provide educational opportunities, economic benefits, and community empowerment.

Tribal Benefits

There are no significant tribal populations in the lower Poudre watershed.

D.2.2.4. Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

The Reach 16 80% design project will not include any earth disturbing work and will not impact any air, water or habitat within the project area. Any potential impacts from construction will be addressed during the implementation phase. However, the project will require a wetland delineation as there are likely Waters of the United States within the project area. The Army Corps of Engineers' wetland restoration project is also located along Reach 16.

At the upstream end of the project is the Greeley No. 3 Ditch which was built in 1870. The design won't include any modifications or impacts to the ditch or diversion structure. There may be a potential to explore a fish passage project here at a later date. There are no buildings within the project reach that are listed on the Natural Register of Historic Places, and there are no known archeological sites along the project reach.

Once completed, this project has the potential to positively impact several listed threatened or endangered species. Although this is just a planning phase, ultimately when implemented our projects will improve river and riparian habitat and provide a more diverse and resilient riverine ecosystem. Federal documentation indicates that the proposed project area provides potential habitat for several threatened and endangered fish, wildlife & plant species including the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse, Least Tern, Mexican Spotted Owl, Piping Plover, Whooping Crane, Pallid Sturgeon, Colorado Butterfly Plant, Ute Ladies'-Tresses, and Western Prairie Fringed

Orchid. There is no identified critical habitat in the project area. Any associated surveying with the 80% design will not impact these listed species.

There will be no adverse effect on low income or minority populations, and there are no Tribal lands located in Reach 16. The design project will not contribute to any introduction or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species. During subsequent construction phases, specific BMPs will be put in place to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species.

D.2.2.5. Required Permits or Approvals

To complete the design there are no required permits that will be needed. However, to expedite the future Phase 3 construction project, there will be several permits that we will acquire during this project phase. These permits include the following:

- 404 permits for Reach 16
- Floodplain Development Permit through Weld County/City of Greeley
- FEMA/other Floodplain Permits
- NWP 3 (Maintenance) for the diversion replacement
- NWP 27 (Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities)
  These permits are also detailed in *Section E.1.3 Evaluation Criterion C*.

CPRW will also acquire landowner access agreements for the private landowners and City of Greeley. This will ensure the design team has access to the planning reach and diversion structures to complete the project.

D.2.2.6. Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

There is no overlap between the Reach 16 80% design project and any other anticipated proposals or projects. Additionally, this proposal does not duplicate any other proposal or project submitted for funding consideration. The project will build upon current funding to create a 30% design for the Reach. The 30% design project is estimated to be completed by December 2024.

D.2.2.7. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

At the time of the grant submission, there are no actual or potential conflict of interest associated with this proposed project.

City of Greeley Colorado

Bureau of Reclamation Water Resources
and Planning Office
Attn: Ms. Robin Graber
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

RE: Support for Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed application to the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program- Phase 1

To Whom it May Concern:
On behalf of the City of Greeley Natural Areas (Greeley), I am writing to express our support for the grant request submitted by Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CPRW) to the Colorado Water Plan – Watershed Health grant program. Greeley works to manage public lands set aside as natural areas, and trails within them, for recreation and public enjoyment of these sites. We believe CPRW's proposal to restore and enhance reaches on the Cache la Poudre River (Poudre) benefits the watershed, the City of Greeley, and its residents.

We have been an active participant on CPRW's Lower Poudre Steering Committee Team where we've contributed to CPRW's Master Planning efforts and the Reach 13 design project. With CPRW, we selected the Reach 16 project as our next priority to move forward with implementation. The project was identified as a priority in the master plan, and it is also a priority project for the City. Greeley owns property along the reach, and we manage the Signature Bluffs Natural Area. Furthermore, we led a wetland restoration project with the Army Corps of Engineers that was completed in 2019. This project will help to increase the resiliency of Reach 16 and benefit our existing wetland project. We will be working with CPRW over the next year to complete the 30% design for the Reach 16 project. Funding from the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program will enable CPRW to advance the project to an 80% design which will be necessary for the successful implementation of the projects. Moreover, we believe the enhancement of these project locations along the Poudre will benefit Greeley's public lands and trail systems for recreation.

We believe the health and resiliency of the Cache la Poudre River and the vitality of the Weld County community depend on collaborative and innovative outreach and education. We are committed to continue cooperating with CPRW and other stakeholders on this project. Please let us know if you have any questions about our support of CPRW's application to the WaterSMART program.

Sincerely,

Karen Scopel

Karen Scopel
Environmental Planner

Budget Narrative

SECTION B – BUDGET CATEGORIES	
6. Object Class Category*	
a.	Personnel
b.	Fringe Benefits
c.	Travel
d.	Equipment
e.	Supplies
f.	Contractual
g.	Construction
h.	Other Direct Costs
i	**Total Direct Costs** *(sum 6a-6h)*
j.	Indirect Costs
k.	**TOTALS** *(sum 6i and 6j)*

**Other than personnel and fringe benefits costs, all construction-related costs should be included under Object Class Category 6g., Construction.*

*Cost-share instructions (if applicable): The budget must include at least the minimum Federal to non-Federal required cost share. Cost share encompasses all contributions to the project incurred and paid for during the project. This includes payments for personnel, supplies, equipment, activities and items necessary for the project. In-kind Cost Share encompasses all third party contributions to the project that do not involve a payment or reimbursement and represent donated items or services that are necessary to the performance of the project. This includes volunteer personnel hours, donated existing equipment, donated existing supplies, etc.

a. Personnel

CPRW will have three full-time employees involved in this project. CPRW's Executive Director, Hally Strevey, will oversee general project management, contracts and agreements, project vision and outcomes. We calculated salaries using our predicted 2024 rates. Her hourly rate is $53.87/hr and we anticipate she will spend 180 hours on the project over a two-year time period. Hally will spend ~80 hours on reporting and compliance associated with the project, the remaining 100 hours of her time will be spent on overseeing contracts/agreements and project vision/outcomes. CPRW's Watershed Project Manager, Cory Dick, will be the lead project manager and oversee project logistics including overseeing contractors' milestones, lead stakeholder and landowner outreach, and will be responsible for grant reporting and environmental compliance. His hourly rate is $28/hr, and we anticipate 600 hours managing the project. Cory will spend approximately 200 hours on compliance and 50 hours on project reporting, including the final report and evaluation, and the remaining 350 hours on project management, including stakeholder engagement. Finally, CPRW's Marketing and Communications Manager, Megan Maiolo-Heath, will assist with outreach and communication and education aspects of the project. She will help put together outreach and other communication materials related to the project such as social media, newsletter, and blog posts, and will help organize and lead community meetings. Her hourly rate is $30/hr, and we anticipate she will spend 400 hours helping with the project outreach components. The labor rates included in the budget proposal represent the confirmed labor rates for the three staff for 2024.

We anticipate that the level of effort should vary slightly between the two budget years of 2025 (Year 1) and 2026 (Year 2). We estimate that Megan will spend ~300 hours on the project in Year 1 and 100 hours on the project in Year 2. Hally will spend more time on the project in Year 2 as we work to wrap up the reporting and compliance on the project. We estimate she will spend ~80 hrs in Year 1 and 100 hours in Year 2. Cory's time should be largely split between Year 1 (300 hrs) and Year 2 (300 hrs).

Staff hourly rates are anticipated to remain the same between Year 1 and Year 2 of the project. The budget request for staff salaries for the project period is $38,497. CPRW's compensation rates are consistently applied to Federal and non-Federal activities. The labor rates included in the budget proposal represent the confirmed labor rates for the 2024 calendar year for the three staff involved with the project.

b. Fringe Benefits

CPRW includes the following elements in calculating fringe benefits: paid vacation time, paid holidays, sick leave, worker's compensation, a simple IRA plan, state and federal witholdings, and a salary stipend. CPRW does not provide health plans, therefore these are not incorporated into our fringe rate. Instead, the organization provides staff with a monthly stipend to compensate for some of those costs. That stipend is incorporated into our fringe rate. Our fringe rate is used for billing.

We use a fringe rate of 29.06%. CPRW's executive director's fringe rate is $15.66/hr, the Watershed Project Manager's fringe rate is $8.12/hour, and the Marketing and Communication Project Manager's fringe rate is $8.70. The total fringe rate budget requested for all three staff is $11,171.

c. Travel

The budget includes $407 in estimated travel costs. These costs include mileage from our office in Fort Collins to the project site in Greeley, and for community and stakeholder meetings. We estimated mileage costs using mileage to and from Reach 16 in Greeley to approximately 550 miles throughout the life of the project. We will use the current 2023 IRS mileage rate of 65.5 cents/mile. We do not use a different rate of compensation for travel time. We will not require lodging, airfare or per diems.

d. Equipment

We do not anticipate renting or buying equipment for this project.

e. Supplies

The budget request for supplies is $500. This budget is limited to purchasing supplies for community outreach and engagement. We expect costs such as printing maps and handouts for meetings and site visits, poster boards, markers, sticky pads etc. We will be able to rent rooms for community meetings through the City of Greeley for free. These prices are estimated based on pervious experiences and by comparison across online retailers like Amazon and Office Depot. FedEx typically charges between $40-$50 for the printing of large maps.

- Printing maps/handouts: $450
- Meeting supplies (markers, sticky pads etc.): $50

f. Contractual

We anticipate hiring a river restoration design and engineering specialist to complete the 80% restoration design for the Reach 16 project. The design consultant team will be selected by a competitive procurement process with CPRW staff and the Lower Poudre Steering Committee. Our procurement policies require that we obtain at least three quotes for services and the selection will be based on qualifications/experience and price.

We requested a quote from several river engineering firms we've worked with in the past to complete the scope of work for this project. The following proposed costs come from their estimate. We are confident that the budget reflects a realistic assessment of needs for the design component.

The contractual design work is broken out into eight different tasks. The consulting team provided the following estimated hours to complete each task with their average rate of $150.00 for each task in Table 1 below.

Contractual/Design Work – WaterSMART Request			
Task 1- landowner/stakeholder meetings & community outreach assistance	$150.00/hr	133 hrs	$20,000.00
Task 2-site assessment and survey	$150.00/hr	200 hrs	$30,000.00
Task 3-2D and 3D hydraulic modeling	$150.00/hr	100 hrs	$15,000.00
Task 4- revegetation design	$150.00/hr	66 hrs	$10,000.00
Task 5- sediment transport analysis	$150.00/hr	100 hrs	$15,000.00
Task 6- draft 80% design	$150.00/hr	200 hrs	$30,000.00
Task 7- basis of design report	$150.00/hr	266 hrs	$40,000.00
Task 8- environmental compliance and permitting	$150.00/hr	233 hrs	$35,000.00

Table 1. Contract/design work request & matching funds

The total contractual budget request to the WaterSMART program is $195,000.00

There will be no subawards made under this project.

g. Other

CPRW does not anticipate any additional costs in this category.

h. Total Direct Costs

The total direct costs requested is $245,575

Personnel	$38,497
Fringe Benefits	$11,171
Travel	$407
Equipment	NA
Supplies	$500
Contractual	$195,000
Construction	NA
Other Direct Costs	N/A
Total	$245,575

i. Indirect Costs

CPRW does not have a federally approved indirect cost rate agreement. We therefore rely on the de minimis 10 percent rate.

Personnel	$38,497
Fringe Benefits	$11,171
Travel	$407
Equipment	NA
Supplies	$500
Contractual	$195,000
Construction	NA
Other Direct Costs	N/A
Total	**$245,575 x 10% = $24,595**

j. Total Costs

The total request for the WaterSMART Planning & Design Project grant is **$270,170.**