Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Charitable Trust Receives Grant for Flow and Fish Habitat Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver, Colorado, April 20, 2020 – Colorado Watershed Assembly (CWA) announces the Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Charitable Trust (YVSICT) as one of eight Colorado organizations to receive a Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund (CHRF) grant for the 2019 grant cycle. Colorado Watershed Assembly Executive Director Casey Davenhill expressed, “Congratulations to the Yampa Valley Stream Improvement Charitable Trust and a big thank-you for your efforts, since 1981, to provide public access and improve stream conditions on the Yampa River through Steamboat Springs. Removing 88 car bodies and other metal debris previously employed for stream stabilization, the Trust has also been responsible for implementing a more natural approach to river stewardship, using boulders and other innovative techniques. The value to the community is enormous and strong partnerships with land, dam, and reservoir managers have been established that will endure for years to come. The Pleasant Valley Project will correct historic impacts to improve river health, function, and angling opportunities on close to a mile of the Yampa River. This award recognizes the values promoted by the Healthy Rivers Fund: to work collaboratively with diverse interests in communities throughout Colorado, so we can all share the benefits of healthy streams, landscapes, and people.”

YVSICT will receive $20,000 from the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund for their Pleasant Valley Project. Fly fishing recreation contributes significantly to the Yampa Valley economy, and the Pleasant Valley Project will provide high quality water with year-round fishing access. This Project will improve the health and function of 4,300 linear feet of reach of the Yampa River between Stagecoach Reservoir and Lake Catamount, including the recently acquired Hubbard Cabin property. Historic impacts to this reach of the river include highway encroachment, channel straightening, and relocation of large boulders out of the channel toward streambanks. The Pleasant Valley Project sets goals to improve river health and function: restore instream complexity, increase deep water holding areas for adult fish, improve existing juvenile trout habitat, increase areas of instream cover, and minimize negative siltation effects from upstream tributaries.

The Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund grant program awards annual grants through a competitive application and review process. These funds support on-the-ground projects that contribute to cleaner water, healthier wildlife habitat, improved recreation and vibrant local economies throughout the State of Colorado. The program was established jointly by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission, in cooperation with the Colorado Watershed Assembly. The Colorado Water Conservation Board is the state executive branch agency responsible for state water policy and planning. The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission is the administrative agency responsible for developing specific state water quality policies in a manner that implements the broader policies set forth by the General Assembly in the Colorado Water Quality Control Act. The Colorado Watershed Assembly is a 501(c)(3) Colorado organization that supports collaborative efforts to protect and improve land, water, and other natural resources by providing the network to connect a diversity of interests with Colorado’s watershed groups and other decision makers. To learn more about the Colorado Watershed Assembly, visit coloradowater.org.

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