



## ***Coalition for the Upper South Platte***

PO Box 726  
Lake George, CO 80827

EIN 84-1469785

September 15, 2022

South Platte Basin Roundtable  
Garrett Varra, Needs Committee Chair  
via email: [gvarra@varracompanies.com](mailto:gvarra@varracompanies.com)

RE: Lake George Diversion Structure Removal  
Water Plan Grant Request

Dear Mr. Varra,

Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) and our partners have been planning and working for the removal of the Lake George Diversion Structure since 2016. The structure is located at the mouth of Eleven Mile Canyon, just south of Lake George in Park County. The obsolete structure has not been in use since the 1990s.

The partnership which includes the US Forest Service, Colorado Springs Utilities, Park County, S. Park Enhancement Board, Trout Unlimited, and Colorado Parks & Wildlife are combining several funding sources to remove the diversion structure and restore the natural river form on approximately 1,200 feet of river. The work will enhance habitat, increase recreation access, and improve safety.

The contractor is in place and 95% construction engineering will be completed by the end of 2022. Initial mobilization will begin in July/August of 2023, with construction anticipated to commence in early fall depending on funding. The construction schedule will depend on water flow requirements, as well as fledging of eaglets from a nearby Bald Eagle nest.

The project budget is anticipated to be approximately \$3 million. CUSP is requesting \$350,000 from the Water Plan Grant Program. These funds will be leveraged as grant match for other funding opportunities.

Upon completion of the removal and river work, the environmental and recreation attributes of this portion of the South Platte River will be vastly enhanced. Aquatic species connectivity from Eleven Mile Dam and Cheesman Reservoir will be restored, with improvements that will benefit aquatic species and riparian species and habitat.

Please contact me for any questions. I am available to present this request to the Roundtable at the November meeting.

Sincerely,

John Geerdes  
CEO/ED  
Coalition for the Upper South Platte



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

**Water Plan**

**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Coalition for the Upper South Platte
Name of Water Project	Lake George Diversion Structure Removal and River Restoration
Grant Request Amount	<b>\$350,000.00</b>
Primary Category	\$350,000.00
<i>Watershed Health &amp; Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	<b>\$2,919,079.00</b>
Applicant Cash Match	\$2,919,079.000
Applicant In-Kind Match	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	<b>\$3,000,000</b>
US Forest Service – Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration – confirmed	\$500,000
US Forest Service - Collaborative Aquatic Landscape Restoration – expecting in FY 23	\$1,000,000
US Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Passage Program – expecting decision early 2023	\$1,500,000
Park County Land and Water Trust Fund – applied and expect decision late 2022	\$500,000
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – America the Beautiful Grant – decision expected early 2023	\$500,000
America the Beautiful	
Total Project Cost	<b>\$3,269,079.00</b>

**Applicant & Grantee Information**

Name of Grantee: Coalition for the Upper South Platte  
Mailing Address: PO Box 726 Lake George CO 80827  
FEIN: 841,469,785

Organization Contact: John Geerdes  
Position/Title: Executive Director  
Phone: 719-748-0033

Email: john.geerdes@cusp.ws

Organization Contact - Alternate: Jane Mannon  
Position/Title: Outreach and Development Coordinator  
Phone: 719-748-0033

Email: jane@cusp.ws

Grant Management Contact: John Geerdes

Position/Title: Executive Director

Phone: 719-748-0033

Email: john.geerdes@cusp.ws

### Description of Grantee/Applicant

CUSP is a non-profit watershed collaborative organization. We specialize in river restoration, forest health, trail restoration and other natural resources projects. CUSP mission is to protect the water quality and environmental health of the Upper South Platte Watershed through the cooperative efforts of watershed stakeholders with emphasis on community values and economic sustainability.

### Type of Eligible Entity

- Public (Government)
- Public (District)
- Public (Municipality)
- Ditch Company
- Private Incorporated
- Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- Non-governmental Organization
- Covered Entity
- Other

### Category of Water Project

- Agricultural Projects  
*Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.*
- Conservation & Land Use Planning  
*Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.*
- Engagement & Innovation Activities  
*Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.*
- Watershed Restoration & Recreation  
*Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.*
- Water Storage & Supply  
*Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.*

### Location of Water Project

Latitude 38°58'4.93"N  
 Longitude 105°22'1.28"W  
 Lat Long Flag  
 Water Source South Platte River  
 Basins South Platte  
 Counties Park  
 Districts

### Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Environmental  
 Type of Water Project Construction  
 Scheduled Start Date – Design Final design  
 in process  
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction 7/1/2023  
 Description

This project will complete the removal of the Lake George Diversion Structure and restoration of the river above and below the existing structure. The diversion structure was built for Colorado Springs Utilities water diversion and was abandoned in the 1990s. The structure is a barrier to aquatic species passage and traps sediment above and below. Improvements will also be made for visitor access, parking, and restroom facilities.

## Measurable Results

	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
1,200	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
3	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

### Other

Opens up connectivity for approximately 45 miles of South Platte River, and another 35 miles of contributing tributaries.

## Water Project Justification

This project will remove an obsolete diversion structure on the South Platte River, south of Lake George, Colorado. In collaboration with US Forest Service, Colorado Springs Utilities, Park County, Trout Unlimited, area residents, and the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, this project has been identified as a benefit to the watershed ecosystem and the community. Removal of the structure will restore aquatic species passage for approximately 35 miles of river and restore approximately 1,200' of river habitat. Wetland and riparian areas will be improved to encourage native species. The area is very popular for fishing, hiking, and wildlife watching. Access to the river will be improved with an ADA-compliant trail, improvements to the parking area, and relocation of the bathroom facility. This project will improve the ecosystem structure and processes. The South Platte Basin Implementation Plan Strategic Plan for the Future includes Channel Restoration: "projects can benefit both in-stream aquatic habitat and species as well as riparian species and vegetation." "Channel Restoration can benefit recreational uses such as fishing, flatwater boating, rafting, and kayaking." This project meets the Environment and Recreational vision to Protect and Enhance Watersheds.

## Related Studies

The diversion structure removal was identified in the 2015 Roads to Rivers report for the US Forest Service, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Coalition for the Upper South Platte. Removal of the diversion structure is also recommended in the South Platte Baseline Study Completed in 2018.

## Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A



Last Updated: May 2021

<b>Colorado Water Conservation Board</b>
<b>Water Plan Grant – Statement of Work – Exhibit A</b>

<b>Statement Of Work</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>September 20, 2022</b>
<b>Name of Grantee:</b>	<b>Coalition for the Upper South Platte</b>
<b>Name of Water Project:</b>	<b>Lake George Diversion Structure Removal and River Restoration</b>
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<b>Water Plan Grant</b>
<b>Water Project Overview:</b>	
<p>Community partners, Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP), the South Park Ranger District of the Pike - San Isabel National Forests &amp; Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands (USFS), Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU), Trout Unlimited (TU), Park County, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), are working together to remove the Lake George Diversion Structure, a low head diversion structure at the mouth of Eleven Mile Canyon, near the town of Lake George, Colorado. The structure remains one of the only existing barriers to aquatic species passage between the Eleven Mile Dam and Cheesman Reservoir, resulting in significant sediment deposition above and below the structure. Currently, the public is accessing the river via a rough dirt trail and unstable river bank.</p>	
<b>Project Objectives:</b>	



Last Updated: May 2021

The goal of the project is to completely remove the unnecessary structure. Additionally, the project would return the river to a natural river channel design and will improve stream health and fish passage in a popular sport fishing segment of the South Platte River. The objective of the project is to restore hydrologic and geomorphologic connectivity and function, and improve continuity of approximately 45 river miles of aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitat to benefit both aquatic and terrestrial species. It will provide passage for fish from Eleven Mile Reservoir to Cheesman Reservoir. The stream restoration would also improve connectivity for an additional 30 river miles between the Upper South Platte River and its tributaries including Tarryall, Turkey, and Twin Creeks. The visitor experience will also be enhanced with parking improvements, relocation of outhouse facilities, and accessible trail improvements.

Tasks	
<b>Task 1 - Mobilization and Site Preparation</b>	
Description of Task:	Contractor mobilization including equipment and staffing, construction and stabilization of access road Coordinate flow management with Denver water, Aurora Water and other water providers Install sediment fencing and signage Site closures Complete water control measures as called for in the final design
Method/Procedure:	Coordinate flow release opportunities through coordination with Denver Water, Aurora Water, Colorado Springs Utilities, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, while considering South Platte Protection Plan requirements. Use BMP's and USFS guidance for erosion and sediment control.
Deliverable:	



Last Updated: May 2021

Agreement for flow management.  
Installed water control and bypass approved by partners and engineer  
Installed sediment/erosion control approved by partners and engineer

### Tasks

#### Task 2 - Excavation of diversion structure

Description of Task:

Excavate river right, then river left  
Dispose of concrete material  
Remove approximately 16,000 cubic yards of sediment behind the structure and transport to sediment disposal areas

Method/Procedure:

Per the final design protocols outlined in the 95% design still in process of completion





Last Updated: May 2021

Deliverable:
Removal of aging diversion structure and built up sediment

Tasks
<b>Task 3 – Sediment Disposal and Natural Channel features</b>
Description of Task: Removal of approximately 16,000 cubic yards of sediment. Transport sediment to disposal sites which include Eleven Mile entrance area, County Road 96 and local parking area Create natural channel features to restore river bed to pre-diversion condition Create natural riffles and aquatic habitat
Method/Procedure: Excavation of sediment Grading and spreading sediment Seeding of areas with native seed approved by USFS Monitoring for re-veg success
Deliverable:



Last Updated: May 2021

Restoration of river bed to natural channel  
Seeding and growth of native vegetation in disposal areas  
Weed control in disposal areas

### Tasks

#### Task 4 - River Bank reclamation and revegetation

Description of Task:

Willow plantings  
Disposal of cattails  
Restoration of riparian habitat along river banks  
Long term monitoring of vegetation

Method/Procedure:

Specifications per the final revegetation plan which is being created as part of final design



Last Updated: May 2021

Deliverable:
Natural river banks with native vegetation that produces quality habitat for riparian and terrestrial wildlife species

Tasks
<b>Task 5 - Parking area and Trail restoration</b>
Description of Task:
Move vault restroom closer to parking lot Create ADA accessible trail with crusher fines Grade parking areas to create parking Fence parking area to protect surrounding habitat
Method/Procedure:
Grading and fencing Appropriate trail construction for ADA access Use a crane to move vault restroom Set new concrete vault for restroom, remove old concrete vault
Deliverable:



Last Updated: May 2021

Per the final design which is to be completed by the end of 2022

### Budget and Schedule

This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined Budget and Schedule that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in excel format.

### Reporting Requirements

**Progress Reports:** The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

**Final Report:** At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

The CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

### Payment



Last Updated: May 2021

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and must include invoices for all work completed. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by task, an estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire Project in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues, and proposed or implemented corrective actions.

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this contract are not reimbursable. The last 10% of the entire grant will be paid out when the final deliverable has been received. All products, data and information developed as a result of this contract must be provided to as part of the project documentation.

### Performance Measures

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

(a) Performance standards and evaluation: Grantee will produce detailed deliverables for each task as specified. Grantee shall maintain receipts for all project expenses and documentation of the minimum in-kind contributions (if applicable) per the budget in Exhibit C. Per Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per Grant Guidelines full documentation of project progress must be submitted with each invoice for reimbursement. Grantee must confirm that all grant conditions have been complied with on each invoice. In addition, per Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

(c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each Progress Report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary.

(d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the Grant Agreement.

