



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE YOU BEGIN

1. This document is the application form with instructions for watershed planning projects. After you complete this form, you will submit it as your application.
2. Instructions are in orange text. Once filled out, please delete all instructions (in orange) and place your project title in the footer.
3. Please note the proposal limit of 15 pages for Sections 2-7.
4. Refer to the RFA Announcement as well as supporting documentation for important information about eligibility and other requirements and evaluation of applications, including priority points.



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

Request for Application Cover Sheet and Signatures Page

Date RFA Published: 10/25/2024
RFA #: 30226669
Electronic Submittal Deadline: December 4, 2024
CDPHE Contacts: Jamie Duvall
cdphe_wgcd_nonpointsource+managers@state.co.us
720-504-9123

All applicants must attest to the following by signing and dating below:

By signing and submitting the attached application, the authorized official agrees that the information provided in this application is, to the best of the applicant's knowledge and based on reasonable inquiry, true, accurate and complete. By signing and submitting, the authorized official also agrees the project meets the eligibility and contracting requirements identified in Section III of the Request for Applications.

Print Name and Title of Authorized Official:_____

Signature of Authorized Official:_____

Date: _____



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

Project Title	Please make it concise 1) where the project is 2) what the project is doing e.g. "Update to the 2014 Purgatoire Watershed Plan"
Category:	Enter which category you are applying for: Category 2 (new) OR Category 3 (update)

1.0 - Project Proposal Summary (maximum points possible for this section: 6/100)

Project Sponsor Entity that signs the contract with the state, receives the money, pays the bills and is responsible for meeting the contractual obligations, including deliverables			
Organization Name			
E-mail address			
Mailing Address			
City, State and Zip			
Telephone Number			
Tax ID Number:		SAM Unique Entity ID:	
Project Coordinator The person in charge of doing the work and will report to the project sponsor. This person may or may not be the project sponsor			
Name			
Title			
E-mail Address			
Mailing Address			
City, State and Zip			
Telephone Number			
Type of Entity (check one)			
☐	Intergovernmental Agency (e.g. conservation districts, special districts, conservancies...)		
☐	Interagency & Local Public Health Agencies (e.g. state agencies, institutions of higher education...)		
☐	Non-profit or for-profit entities		
Project Start Date	The earliest start date is Spring 2026	Project End Date	The latest end date is January 2030

Project Funding Use the numbers generated from your NPS Program Budget Spreadsheet. Make sure that the amounts are the same in the "Funding Sources Summary" tab and "Project Master Sheet" tab from the Budget Table. Match must be non-federal.			
NPS Funds Requested \$	+ Match (cash/in-kind) \$	=	Total Project Cost \$
Federal Funds (please do not include in the total) \$			
Other Funds (please describe) \$			
Project Location (Place an "X" in all boxes that apply)			



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

WQCC Regulation River Basin * = receive priority points	Regulation 32: Arkansas River Basin Regulation 33: Upper Colorado River & North Platte River Basins* Regulation 34: San Juan and Dolores River Basins Regulation 35: Gunnison River/Lower Dolores River Basins Regulation 36: Rio Grande Basin Regulation 37: Lower Colorado River Basin* Regulation 38: South Platte Basin
Latitude (in decimal degrees): Add Latitude	Longitude (in decimal degrees): Add Longitude
12 digit USGS Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs)	Identify the HUC12(s) for the proposed project. Contact NPS program staff for more information.
Waterbody ID (WBIDs)/Assessment Unit ID (AUIDs)	Current information about WBIDs and “listed portion”/AUIDs, is available on the Map of Stream Segmentation and Regulation #93 Dashboard.
EPA 9-Element Watershed-Based Plan (WBP) if applicable	Consult the 2025 RFA Announcement for more information. For Category 2, identify the plan if it is older than 15 years or state that the plan does not exist. For Category 3, identify the plan that is being updated.
Restoration and/or Protection?	Restoration: Impaired segments are identified as category 4a or 5 on the Map of Stream Segmentation. Protection: Unimpaired segments are identified as category 1 and 2 on the Map of Stream Segmentation and as Healthy Watersheds on the NPS Priority Dashboard.
Disproportionately Impacted Communities? And how your project benefits DI Communities	Disproportionately Impacted Communities (DI Communities): This term refers to areas that meet the definition of Disproportionately Impacted Community as defined in Colorado’s Environmental Justice Act (House Bill 21-1266). Use the Colorado EnviroScreen map. Select “Open Street Map” as the base map and “Disproportionately Impacted Community (May 2023)” and “DI Community Mobile Home Community” as the map layers. Projects that occur in an area with one category identified in the legend receive 10 priority points during project scoring. Projects that occur in an area with two categories or “more than one category” identified in the legend receive 20 priority points during project scoring. For more information refer to Section V.A.d. of the RFA Announcement and Attachment H, “EnviroScreen Instructions”.



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

NPS Pollution Source categories to be addressed (Place an "X" in all boxes that apply). The NPS categories are closely related to the impairments and/or NPS pollution threats associated with the WBID(s)/AUID(s) identified above.			
	Agriculture		AML
	Atmospheric Deposition		Forestry (includes wildfires and flooding)
	Hydromodification (changes to water flow as in reservoir, diversions, etc.)		Habitat Alteration (drainage/filling wetlands, stream bank destabilization)
	Urbanization		Other:
NPS Pollutants to be addressed (Place an "X" in all boxes that apply). NPS pollutants are closely related to the impairments and/or NPS pollution threats associated with the WBID(s)/AUID(s) identified above.			
	Nitrogen		Pesticides
	Phosphorus		Selenium
	Sedimentation		Temperature
	Pathogens/Bacteria		pH
	Metals		Habitat impact
	Low dissolved oxygen		Other:



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

Project Description:

Short concise summary of the project. **No more than one paragraph.** If this proposal includes priority points for projects in disproportionately impacted communities, or for projects identified in the Attachment E, “Proposal Priorities”, please state that here.

2.0 - Statement of Need (maximum points possible for this section: 17/100)

Please clearly identify how this project is consistent with the NPS program’s priorities specified in the RFA Announcement and Colorado’s [NPS Management Plan](#).

2.1 - General Watershed Information

Provide a brief description of the watershed (physical description, land uses, source water protection areas, historical/baseline data, including source(s) of data and how they support the statements about the waterbody, pollution discharge point sources, irrigation ditches, monitoring sites and other water quality projects in the area including historic NPS projects.

2.2 - Water Quality Priorities and Problems

- Identify the NPS water quality impacts and restoration and/or protection need;
- Explain how this project is needed and supported in the community/watershed;
- If there is a current watershed plan, why does the plan need to be updated and what has changed that was not included in the current plan;
- If other water quality/water resources plans exist, identify how those plans will be cited, referenced and/or incorporated (County Master Plans; Stream Management Plans; etc.)
- If other local water quality/water resources planning efforts are underway, identify how this watershed planning project will coordinate with these other planning efforts;
- Demonstrate if there is local buy-in;
- Identify the NPS impacts and monitoring strategy to link potential water quality concerns with the goal of identifying sources of NPS pollution to implement best management practices to improve water quality. If this is a watershed-based protection plan, identify NPS threats to the waterbody and why it is a high quality waterbody (e.g. outstanding water or healthy watersheds designation). Reference available water quality data;
- Complete the following table detailing impaired water body information if applicable to your watershed planning area. Current information about WBIDs and “listed portion”/AUIDs, is available on the Map of Stream Segmentation and Regulation #93 Dashboard. If applicable, TMDL load allocation information can be found on the [Total Maximum Daily Loads \(TMDLs\)](#) webpage.

WBID/AUID	Beneficial Uses	WQ Impairment(s) or Protection Need	TMDL Load Allocation (if applicable)

2.3 - Map of Watershed Location (*Complete in Appendix B*)



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

Please insert a map of the watershed in Appendix B that clearly identifies the watershed location. If possible, please include flow arrows, overview of geographic area, and land ownership.

3.0 - Project Description (maximum points possible for this section: 25/100)

The intent of this section is to describe the details of the project and to *demonstrate how the need or problem identified in Section 2.0 will be addressed, which entity from Section 4.0 is responsible for the activities, how the project will be evaluated and monitored as described in Section 5.0*, and identifies deliverables for this project. This section is developed in tandem with the budget table in **Section 6.0** which includes detailed cost information and timelines for activities.

3.1 - Goal, Objective, Activities, Sub-activities and Deliverables Table

The table below addresses the nine elements of watershed-based planning and will be used for contracting as well as for the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) for EPA approval to move forward with the project. Complete the table by providing information about the five activities for your project. The instructions in orange are meant to provide guidance about the type of information that should be included for each of the activities.

*** Please note that the sub-activities listed in this table are suggestions. Each project is unique and may require more or less than the table outlines. If a suggestion is not applicable to the project it may be removed. For watershed-based plans it is important to meet all [9 elements of a watershed-based plan](#).***

Goal: The goal identified here should be the overall goal for the project. For example: "Develop a nonpoint source pollution reduction plan for the XXXX River/watershed."			
Objective: The objective identified here should be a specific, measurable action that leads to achieving the goal. For example, "No later than the expiration date of this contract, develop a nine-element watershed-based plan (WBP) for the XXXX River/watershed."			
		Responsible Party	Deliverables/Products
Activity 1	Build and Maintain Partnerships Activity 1 should include the education and outreach components of the project. The activity listed here should be a broader statement. For example: "Build and maintain partnerships in the XXXX watershed." Ensure the activities are meeting the required 9 elements of a watershed plan . This example of Activity 1 meets the following elements of the watershed-based plan: #5.	<i>List who will be responsible for each activity and sub activity</i>	The deliverables/products listed in this row are examples of what you might expect to achieve/create based on the suggested activities.



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

Sub-activity 1	Each sub-activity 1 should align with the projects plans relating to types of stakeholder groups, types of input collected from stakeholders, number of meetings planned, etc. You can have as many or as few sub-activities as needed to fit your project's needs. For example: <i>"Form a stakeholder group to inform the watershed planning process in the XXXX watershed."</i>	For example: <i>"Project sponsor; Sub-contractor; Watershed Group; Facilitator"</i>	Identification of key stakeholders
Sub-activity 2	For example: <i>"Collect input from stakeholders concerning water quality in the XXXX watershed."</i>		Identification of comments/concerns from stakeholders in the watershed
Sub-activity 3	For example: <i>"Organize no less than X (#) of stakeholder meetings."</i>		A scheduled plan of meetings with stakeholders.
Sub-activity 4	For example: <i>"Organize no less than X(#) of technical advisory committee meetings."</i>		A scheduled plan of meetings with technical advisory group
Activity 2	Characterize the Watershed Activity 2 should include the goal of the watershed characterization. The activity listed here should be a broader statement. For example: <i>"Characterize the XXXX watershed."</i> Ensure the activities are meeting the required 9 elements of a watershed plan. This example of Activity 2 meets the following elements of the watershed plan: #1 & #3.		Causes and sources of water pollution identified
Sub-activity 1	Each sub-activity 2 should detail the scope of the watershed plan (ideally at the HUC 12 level), the identification of any gaps in existing data (if applicable), plan to address gaps in data, analyzing of pollutant source and estimating of pollutant loads. You can have as many or as few sub-activities as needed to fit your project's		Map of scope of planning effort



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

	needs. For Example: <i>“Define the scope of the watershed planning effort.”</i>		
Sub-activity 2	For example: <i>“Gather existing data & create an inventory for XXXX Watershed.”</i>		Downloaded water quality data from EPA’s Water Quality Exchange (WQX)
Sub-activity 3	For example: <i>“If applicable: Identify data gaps and collect additional data in XXXX watershed.”</i>		Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP) and upload of any data collected to the EPA’s Water Quality Exchange
Sub-activity 4	For example: <i>“Analyze data to characterize the XXXX watershed and pollutant sources in the XXXX watershed.”</i>		Pollutant sources identified
Sub-activity 5	For example: <i>“Estimate pollutant loads from sources in the XXXX watershed.”</i>		Pollutant loads from sources estimated
Activity 3	Set Goals and ID Solutions Activity 3 should include the identification of solutions and goal setting based on the watershed management objectives and the pollution cause/source. The activity listed here should be a broader statement. For example: <i>“Set goals and identify solutions for XXXX watershed.”</i> Ensure the activities are meeting the required 9 elements of a watershed plan. This example of Activity 3 meets the following elements of the watershed plan: #2, #3 & #7.		Watershed plan goals identified
Sub-activity 1	Each sub activity 3 should detail the identification of pollutant/source load reductions needed within the watershed, identify potential management strategies, and an evaluation and selection of the management strategies. You can		Load reductions identified to meet water



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

	have as many or as few sub-activities as needed to fit your project's needs. For example: <i>"Identify load reductions needed to meet water quality goals. If applicable: incorporate TMDL load allocations in XXXX watershed."</i>		quality standards
Sub-activity 2	For example: <i>"Identify possible management strategies and estimated load reductions from the management strategies."</i>		Estimated load reductions per best management practice (BMP)
Sub-activity 3	For example: <i>"Evaluate options and select final management strategies for XXXX watershed."</i>		Action Strategy
Activity 4	Design the Implementation Program Activity 4 should outline the development and design of the implementation program for the watershed. <i>The activity listed here should be a broader statement.</i> For example: <i>"Design and develop the implementation program for XXXX watershed."</i> Ensure the activities are meeting the required 9 elements of a watershed plan. This example of Activity 4 meets the following elements of the watershed plan: #4, #6, #7, #8 and #9.		Implementation Program
Sub-activity 1	Each sub-activity 4 should detail the components of the implementation program. Be sure to include a monitoring component. For example: <i>"Include an information/education (I/E) component in the implementation program."</i>		Public Involvement
Sub-activity 2	For example: <i>"Identify an implementation schedule with interim, measurable milestones."</i>		Implementation schedule
Sub-activity 3	For example: <i>"Identify criteria to measure progress made in implementing the plan."</i>		Measurable milestones
Sub-activity 4	For example: <i>"Estimate financial & technical assistance needed to implement the plan."</i>		Sources of financial and technical assistance identified (a



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

			table is a nice way to summarize this per project/ management strategy)
<i>Sub-activity 5</i>	For example: <i>“Develop an evaluation framework for the implementation program and track progress.”</i> The framework of this program should include plan maintenance. It should also account for feedback from stakeholders on the implementation of the watershed plan and the associated outcomes that measure success.		Inputs, outputs and outcomes identified
<i>Sub-activity 6</i>	For example: <i>“Assemble and finalize the watershed plan for XXXX watershed.”</i>		Watershed-Based Plan
Activity 5	Project Administration Activity 5 should outline the administrative and deliverables for the project. The activity listed here should be a broader statement. For example: <i>“Project administration”</i>		
<i>Sub-activity 1</i>	Each sub-activity 5 should detail the various administrative and deliverable actions required for the project. For example: <i>“Complete progress reports.”</i>		Progress Reports
<i>Sub-activity 2</i>	For example: <i>“Complete invoices”</i>		Invoices and Match Tracked
<i>Sub-activity 3</i>	For example: <i>“Complete semi-annual reports”</i>		Semi-Annual Reports
<i>Sub-activity 4</i>	For example: <i>“Complete a final report”</i>		Final Report
<i>Sub-activity 5</i>	For example: <i>“Complete an exit survey”</i>		Survey Results

3.2 - Lead Project Sponsor Qualifications



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

- Describe why the project sponsor is the appropriate entity for this watershed planning effort; and
- Fill out matrix of cooperators in Appendix C.

4.0 - Coordination Plan (maximum points possible for this section: 12/100)

The intent of this section is to document how the project will be coordinated at the local level. Describe how the various entities will interact, how match will be captured, how efforts will be coordinated, and how this project will build on current projects without duplicating efforts?

4.1 - Lead Project Sponsor and Cooperating Organizations - *Complete in Appendix C*

- Describe roles and responsibilities for each sponsor and cooperating organization (refer to table in Section 3.0), including who is contributing match and how.

4.2 - Coordination with Other Watershed Projects and Organizations

- Describe evidence of community support and local buy-in for the project; and
- Identify similar efforts and/or existing plans that can be incorporated into this project.

5.0 - Project Evaluation and Data Management (maximum points possible for this section: 20/100)

The intent of this section is to address the strategy for evaluating and monitoring the project and expand on information provided in the above table in Section 3.0. If a Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP) will not be completed, **a data management strategy still needs to be included as well as a monitoring strategy to evaluate success when implementing the watershed-based plan (the monitoring strategy can include models).**

5.1 - SAP Development

Collection of environmental data must have a project specific SAP approved by the NPS Program Coordinator. In this sub-section please address how the development of a SAP will be accomplished; who will be responsible for writing it and; estimate costs for the development of the SAP in the budget. The SAP must be included as a product in Section 3.0 and accounted for in the Section 6.0 budget table (including estimates for timing that includes at least eight weeks for NPS approval of the SAP and for sample collection, analysis and reporting costs). Sponsors are expected to use WQCD protocols for environmental monitoring and meet listing methodology sampling requirements.

5.2 - Monitoring Strategy

Include any additional details on top of evaluation methods described in the table in Section 3.0 to briefly summarize the measures used to evaluate the success of the project. The water quality monitoring strategy should result in potential load reduction calculations tied to implementing the plan.

5.3 - Data Management Strategy

Describe the data selection, integration, sharing, storage and maintenance process. Ensure that there is a mechanism to upload data to EPA's Water Quality Exchange (WQX) if water quality data is collected. This is one of the required deliverables in the table in Section 3.0.



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

5.4 - Models

Describe any models used to ultimately evaluate load reductions necessary for water quality improvements (e.g. flow modeling, chemical modeling). Include the rationale for using a particular model and explain why it would be the best fit for project-specific needs.

5.5 - Watershed Plan Maintenance

Describe how the watershed plan will be maintained over time. Please discuss:

- Where the plan will be stored.
- How the plan will be shared and maintained.
- How and how often it will be updated with new information.
- How the implementation of the action items in the watershed plan will be planned for, conducted, and evaluated.

6.0 - Budget (maximum points possible for this section: 15/100)

The NPS Program Budget Spreadsheet also serves as a project management tool. The budget table tracks activity expenses, deliverables, responsible parties, match information and timelines. Refer to the NPS Program Budget Spreadsheet instructions and guidance located in the first tab of the spreadsheet to ensure project costs are allowable, reasonable and allocable. Please use the correct rates identified in the budget spreadsheet. Match sources need to be non-federal and identified by entity.

6.1 - Budget Table

Complete in the NPS Program Watershed Plan Project Budget Spreadsheet Excel document—ONLY populate the white cells! The pink cells auto-populate based on embedded formulas!

7.0 - Public Involvement (maximum points possible for this section: 5/100)

Describe the process for ensuring public and stakeholder involvement in the project, including outreach, information/education - this is beyond the partnering entities collaborating on the project identified in Section 4.0. Example activities include public meetings, outreach events, newspaper articles and websites, and includes how the required element of information/education will be addressed when implementing the watershed-based plan. Make sure to include any project related activities as costs and match in section 3.1 and the NPS Program Budget Spreadsheet.

Appendices:

- A) Budget Table - *Complete and attach the entire NPS Program Budget Spreadsheet*
- B) Project Map - *Attach map that clearly identifies the watershed location*
- C) Lead Project Sponsor and Cooperating Organizations - *Add blocks as needed*

Lead Sponsor	
Agency Name	



RFA #30226669: NPS Program Watershed Planning Project Application

Agency Address			
Role/contribution			
Contact Person		Telephone	
E-mail address			
Match (non-federal)	\$	Describe:	Cash In-Kind
Other Federal Funds	\$	Describe:	

Cooperator			
Agency Name			
Agency Address			
Role/contribution			
Contact Person		Telephone	
E-mail address			
Match (non-federal)	\$	Describe:	Cash In-Kind
Other Federal Funds	\$	Describe:	

Cooperator			
Agency Name			
Agency Address			
Role/contribution			
Contact Person		Telephone	
E-mail address			
Match (non-federal)	\$	Describe:	Cash In-Kind
Other Federal Funds	\$	Describe:	

Cooperator			
Agency Name			
Agency Address			
Role/contribution			
Contact Person		Telephone	
E-mail address			
Match (non-federal)	\$	Describe:	Cash In-Kind
Other Federal Funds	\$	Describe:	