

Project ID: YW-2023-0004

Project Description: Yampa River Stewardship Program

Reason for Project: 1) Assess current river health conditions, 2) identify desired future conditions and strategies for achieving those conditions, and 3) conduct outreach and provide training and resources to practitioners, landowners, and land managers for how to implement these strategies.

Project Status: Planned

Lead Proponent: Friends of the Yampa

Lead Contact: Lindsey Marlow

Estimate Cost: \$750,000 for 5 years

Water District: N/A

Project Key Words: Land Use, Watershed Health, Environment & Recreation, Agriculture

Estimate Yield: N/A

Water Right Needed: No

Latitude/Longitude: 0, 0 (No specific location, as this program is basin-wide)

Funding Sources: Walton Family Foundation and applied for CWCB Water Plan grant (12/1/23 cycle)

Schedule: Estimated to begin in Spring 2024

BIP Obj. Addressed: Goal 6: Quantify and protect environmental and recreational water uses

2 Recommend potential site-specific solutions and projects in collaboration with local water users. Recommended solutions may include an initial analysis of the hydrology, the impact of climate change, interstate compacts, cost, financing, and permitting

4 Recognize that floodplains, riparian areas, and wetlands are natural storage reservoirs, and implement restoration projects to maintain and improve these storage reservoirs. Rehabilitation of degraded riparian areas and reconnection of floodplains in degraded stream systems allows spring floods to recharge groundwater tables for slow release to the stream system later in the summer, which supports low flows and helps maintain non-consumptive benefits

8 Research and design multi-purpose projects to improve riparian or aquatic ecology and bank stability without changing the existing flow regime while voluntarily modernizing irrigation diversion systems and reducing bedload deposits. Similar projects will be researched and

designed to improve recreational boating for existing flows while voluntarily modernizing irrigation systems.

10 Analyze the impact of projects on non-consumptive needs. Ascertain whether further non-consumptive projects need to be identified.

14 Invest in education and outreach efforts that inform a broader audience (both in-basin and statewide) about E&R water needs and how they can be met in the basin, and provide a forum for a two-way exchange of ideas to enhance participation

Goal 7: Maintain and consider the existing natural range of water quality that is necessary for current and anticipated water uses

2 Evaluate solutions to address how stream temperature problems might be alleviated in the face of a warming climate.

8 Facilitate public awareness of threats to water quality, including catastrophic wildfire, and promote participation in efforts to mitigate those threats

Needs & Next Steps: Next step is securing full funding for the first few years of the program.