



Federal Funding for Implementation

Stream Management Plan Peer Learning Call

January 19th, 2023, 10:00 – 11:30am MDT

NOTES, PRESENTATION SLIDES & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Presentation Slides

- [Federal Funding Overview](#), Elle Benson, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- [Summitting the Funding Mountain: Peaks and Valleys using NRCS Grants to Achieve Healthy Rivers](#), Jesse Kruthaupt and Kyle Balint, Trout Unlimited
- [PL-566 Funding and a Sponsor Experience](#), Blongshia “B” Cha, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service; Scott Griebing, Saint Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (SVLHWCD)
- [CWCB Federal Technical Assistance Grants & Team](#), Anna Mauss, Colorado Water Conservation Board

Presenters

- Elle Benson, Southwestern Water Program Coordinator, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, lbenson@trcp.org
- Kyle Balint, Farm Bill Associate, Trout Unlimited, Kyle.Balint@tu.org
- Jesse Kruthaupt, Upper Gunnison Project Manager, Trout Unlimited, Jesse.Kruthaupt@tu.org
- Blongshia “B” Cha, Watershed Program Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, blongshia.cha@usda.gov
- Scott Griebing, Water Resource Specialist, St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, scott.griebing@svlhwcd.org
- Anna Mauss, Chief Operating Officer, Colorado Water Conservation Board, anna.mauss@state.co.us

River Network General Information

- Learn more about [River Network membership](#)
- Learn more about our [Colorado Stream Management Plan \(SMP\) Peer Learning Network](#) and visit the [SMP Resource Library](#)

River Network Environmental Flows Peer Learning Cohort Information

- Is your coalition interested in setting or meeting environmental flow recommendations on your river?
- Would working alongside your peers in a cohort be helpful?
- [Learn more and indicate your interest here.](#)
- **We will accept indications of interest until Friday, February 10th, 2023.**

WaterSMART Funding Resources

- [WaterSMART Funding Calendar](#)
- Funding Opportunities are available at www.grants.gov

Other Bureau of Reclamation Funding Programs

- [Department of Interior WaterSMART Program](#)
- [Title XVI - Water Reclamation and Reuse](#)
- [Large-Scale Water Recycling Program](#)
- [Desalination](#)
- [Baseline Assessments](#)
- [Reservoir Operations Pilots](#)
- [Applied Science Grants](#)
- [Drought Response Program](#)
- [Water Marketing Strategy Grants](#)
- [WaterSMART Basin Study Program](#)

Federal Funding Opportunities Database

- [Rural Partnership Network Ten Strategies](#)

Colorado Funding Resources

- [Moving Colorado Forward](#) (state-managed site highlighting IIJA/ARPA updates)
- [Colorado Water Funding Opportunity Navigator](#) (managed by Colorado DNR) includes upcoming deadlines for Federal and State funding opportunities, including agency contact information.
- [Natural Resources Grants Database](#) (managed by Colorado State Forest Service)
- [Building a Better America](#) (federal-managed site providing information on IIJA implementation)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) RCPP and CIG Programs

- [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) (RCPP) funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural lands.
- [Conservation Innovation Grants](#) (CIG) supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands.

NRCS Watershed Programs

- [Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations](#) (WFPO) addresses natural resource concerns on a watershed scale. Also known as the “Watershed Operations Program” and “**PL-566**” Program.
- [Watershed “Dam” Rehabilitation](#) (WHRB) rehabilitates NRCS watershed project dams.
- [Emergency Watershed Protection](#) (EWP) protects lives and property after a natural disaster.

Colorado Water Conservation Board Resources

- [Federal Technical Assistance Grants for Colorado Water Projects](#)
- Point of Contact: Michael Regan, michael.regan@state.co.us

Notes from Peer Call

- Overview: Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Trout Unlimited, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Saint Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board presented information about current federal funding opportunities that can support implementation of Stream Management Plans and Integrated Watershed Management Plans. Trout Unlimited and SVLHWCD shared their experiences navigating NRCS grant funding programs and CWCB will provide information on their new capacity building grants.
- Announcements
 - Nicole Seltzer invited anyone who is interested to opt into an environmental flows cohort that will start in early summer 2023 and last 12-18 months. [Learn more and indicate your interest here.](#)
- Q&A notes from “Summitting the Funding Mountain: Peaks and Valleys using NRCS Grants to Achieve Healthy Rivers” presentation
 - It was not difficult for Trout Unlimited to get local NRCS support because of their long-standing relationship and reciprocal benefits.
 - CIG program has more streamlined contracting and fewer administrative burdens than the RCPP program.
- Q&A notes from “PL-566 Funding and a Sponsor Experience” presentation
 - Be aware that federal funding triggers federal permitting requirements but permitting through NRCS presents strategic opportunities.
 - SVLHWCD has not used much staff time yet for getting these projects off the ground; they have mainly used contractors to help them work through the Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report (PIFR) process.
 - This funding source pairs well with an SMP.
 - SVLHWCD is leveraging or planning to leverage both state and local funds to help meet match requirements.
- Q&A notes from “CWCB Capacity Building Grants & Team” presentation
 - CWCB is excited to disburse these funds so they can show how much federal funding CWCB helped bring to Colorado.
 - There’s a rolling deadline and has been a fair bit of demand so far, with the expectation of the grants becoming more competitive as time goes on.
 - The CWCB Technical Assistance grants haven’t fully launched yet; the consultant is ABT Associates out of Boulder.
 - If someone has a prioritized list of projects that came out of their SMP, but no other ideas/information, that’s enough to go to CWCB with to get a conversation started.
 - The average ask has been around \$120k; the match requirement (25%) is a limiting factor.