

**WaterSMART Grant: Middle and Lower Yampa River Watershed  
Management and Yampa River Scorecard Project Phase I Grant Application**

**Submitted by:**

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**Submitted to:**

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## 1. Executive Summary

Date: January 19, 2021

Applicant Name: Friends of the Yampa

Location: Steamboat Springs, Routt County, Colorado

Grant Request Amount: **\$97,827**

Friends of the Yampa (FOTY), a nonprofit organization based in Northwest Colorado, will work to grow as a watershed organization in the Yampa River Basin by building stakeholder partnerships and developing a Yampa River watershed health assessment in the form of a River Health Scorecard, focusing on the Middle and Lower Yampa River Basin. The Lower and Middle segments of the Yampa River have very little long term data or information about overall watershed health. The River Health Scorecard, a long term monitoring program, will seek to combine current planning efforts and data collection for the Yampa River Basin. The Scorecard will be a comprehensive report on overall river health to guide the direction of future river projects and planning efforts. This award will help us develop a program to increase our outreach in the Lower and Middle Yampa Segments, allow our continued participation in river planning groups and committees, and allow us to develop a long term monitoring program with active stakeholder engagement. We hope to engage additional stakeholders and continue our existing partnerships with the National Resource Conservation Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Parks Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the City of Craig, and Moffat and Routt Counties. The Yampa River is an important watershed in the greater Colorado River Basin and it has been relatively untouched by major water diversions or impoundments. Negative impacts to the river are noticed in low flow conditions and arise from cumulative and small scale river management and diversion practices. Stakeholder engagement and river segment evaluation can identify opportunities and challenges where watershed scale evaluation is lacking. Friends of the Yampa is in a position to fill this role and provide a level of collaborative planning that is necessary for the Yampa River to continue to function as a healthy river. Portions of the outreach area will include Bureau of Land Management parcels that are adjacent to the Yampa River and its tributary waterways. Project implementation will start in July of 2021 and end in July 2023, encompassing a 2 year period.

## 2. Background Data

The Yampa River, located in Northwest Colorado, starts at its headwaters in the Flat Tops Wilderness 30 miles southwest of Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The river passes through the towns of Yampa, Steamboat Springs, Hayden, and Craig before joining the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument.

The Yampa River serves as the lifeblood for Northwest Colorado in many ways. This river, due to its limited reservoir storage, still retains a natural hydro-graph that sees very high peaks and low base flows. This dynamic flow regime still floods its banks on big snow years, connecting the river to the cottonwood, red-osier dogwood and box elder tree communities that are endangered in other, more developed river systems. Due to the mostly unrestricted flows in the Yampa River, there are also endangered fish present that are now forever gone from other Western rivers.

River-based recreation is a big part of the western lifestyle that the Yampa holds true. Fishing, rafting, kayaking, bird watching, hiking, exploring and other fun-filled and active recreation types are a paramount use of this river. Estimated recreational visits alone range to as high as 0.5 million a year. Beyond the non-consumptive uses of the Yampa River, there are other consumptive uses like agriculture, municipal and industrial uses of the Yampa that make this river a very important system.

The name 'Yampa' is a Native American name for a white flowering, parsley-like plant, *Periderrida gairdneri*. It can be simplified to "water plant" or "common plant." The roots were eaten by the Snake people or the Bannock, Shoshone, and the White River Ute tribes which comprised the Yamparika Utes. Human presence in the basin can be traced back to 7000 BC. The first homesteaders moved into the Yampa River drainage after the forcible removal of the Utes, bringing with them cattle grazing, established senior water rights, and the city of Steamboat Springs in 1885. More than 70% of the water diversion from the Yampa today goes to agriculture.

Along the canyons of the Yampa River one can observe the Uinta Mountain Group Formation; metamorphosed sand, mudstones, and fossils about 650 million years old. There are also sedimentary rocks ranging back to 280 million years of age and igneous rocks, originating from molten rock and lava, including limestone and sandstone. Remains of volcanoes can be seen throughout such ranges as well, including Rabbit Ears Peak and the Flat Tops Wilderness Area. The river carved these amazing canyons, and through high spring flooding, land rising, downcutting erosion, and millions of years they were formed to be what we see here today.

The Yampa River does have some reservoirs in the basin and some of these are on the main stem of the river. Elkhead, Steamboat Lake, Catamount, and Stagecoach Reservoir are small-scale reservoirs that do not impede the Yampa's peak flows. The limited impact of these impoundments allow the Yampa River to annually access its floodplain and function in a "wild" state. Despite these reservoirs, the Yampa remains one of the only rivers in the state of Colorado to function as a "free-flowing" system. The Yampa provides about one-third of Colorado's contribution to the Colorado River.

In recent years the Yampa has begun to reveal concerns related to water quality and environmental degradation. A 303(d) designation for temperature standard exceedance has been assigned to the Yampa River upstream of the confluence of Elkhead Creek. Additionally, nutrient loading seems to be increasingly prevalent in low flow conditions with toxic algae blooms present in many of the impoundments, especially at Stagecoach Reservoir and Steamboat Lake. Sediment deposition downstream of the confluence of the Elk River has begun to require frequent channel modification and push up dam repair at many irrigation head gates. Noxious plant species, including Whitetop (*Lepidium draba*) and Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) are emerging threats to the riparian areas with Leafy Spurge presenting an especially dire concern due to the catastrophic effects to agriculture and riverine environments. The cumulative impacts of climate change, urbanization, and water user interface with the river is a condition that warrants study, stakeholder engagement, monitoring, and when necessary restoration.

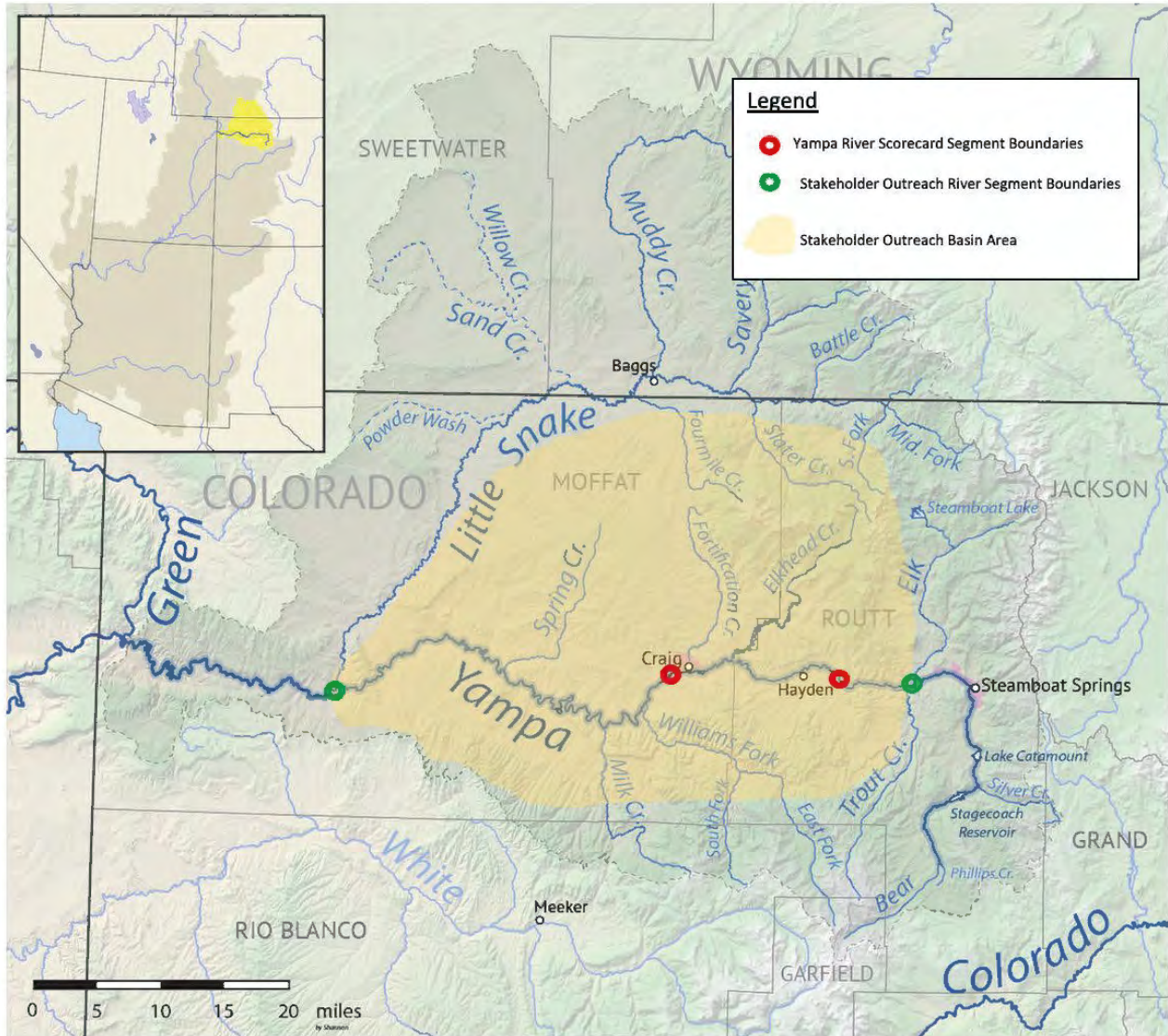
### 3. Project Location

This project will focus on a segment of the Yampa River in Routt and Moffatt counties. The reach begins at the Xcel Hayden Power Station pump house, west of Hayden Colorado and terminates at the TriState Energy Power station pump house location downriver from Craig Colorado. Both of the beginning and end of the segment also have Colorado Parks and Wildlife managed river accesses. These recreation boat ramp locations are respectively referred to as Pumphouse and South Beach. The reach also contains the municipal water intakes for the town of Hayden and the city of Craig and additional Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Parks. Along the segment there are extensive agricultural water diversions including an area known as Morgan Bottom, which is upstream of Hayden and includes the Carpenter Ranch. This reach represents a blend of river users including municipal, industrial, agricultural, and recreational.

FOTY will focus on stakeholder engagement and outreach in the Middle and Lower portions of the Yampa River, from the confluence of the Yampa with the Elk River (40.48261, -106.96761) to the confluence of the Yampa with the Little Snake River

(40.45399, -108.45424), approximately 180 river miles. The River Health Scorecard will evaluate a segment of the Yampa River from the pump station upriver of the Carpenter Ranch, just west of Hayden, Colorado, to the pump station downriver from Craig, Colorado, at the South Beach access point (the Segment). See map on the next page.

- Upper Yampa Subbasin: HUC 14050001
  - Project location includes 10-digit HUCS: 1405000105, 1405000111
- Lower Yampa Subbasin: HUC 14050002
  - Project location includes 10-digit HUCS: 1405000202, 1405000204, 1405000205



Background Map Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Yampa\\_river\\_basin\\_map.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Yampa_river_basin_map.png), 19 May 2018. Overlays created by Friends of the Yampa, 2021.

**Map Figure 1.** The Yampa River Basin with stakeholder outreach area (Middle and Lower Yampa River) indicated by yellow the highlight. Red circles indicate the upstream and downstream start and end points of the Scorecard focus area. Green circles indicate the upstream and downstream points of the entire Lower and Middle Yampa Segments.

## 4. Technical Project Description

### 4.1 Applicant Category:

FOTY is applying for this grant as an Existing Watershed Group. FOTY was established as an ad hoc group of river recreationists in 1981 advocating for recreational access and maintenance of the Yampa River with occasional involvement in long-term river planning and environmental efforts. In 2008, FOTY became a nonprofit organization with a mission

to protect and enhance the environmental and recreational integrity of the Yampa River and its tributaries, through stewardship, advocacy, education and partnerships. FOTY has maintained a connection to its recreational roots while expanding projects and programs focused on environmental stewardship of the river.

With a focus on the entire Yampa River Basin, FOTY has had limited capacity to expand outreach since achieving nonprofit status. The group hired its first full time staff member in 2019 with a goal to add staff and develop into a broader watershed group with evolving goals and new programs. Recent work includes expansion into the following areas:

- Helping to implement an Integrated Water Management Planning process, including environmental and recreational stakeholder engagement.
- Funding and facilitating volunteers in Dinosaur National Monument to advance long term environmental studies.
- Helping to establish the Yampa River Fund, a newly formed endowment for projects in the Yampa River.
- Creation of a Youth River Camp which teaches watershed science, ecology, river orientation and river safety.
- Co-host of the Yampa Basin Rendezvous, a climate change presentation informing the community about current climate change studies and findings related to the Yampa Basin.
- Serves as the fiscal sponsor of an ad hoc group called the Leafy Spurge Project, which is undertaking an infestation mapping project and teaming with the University of Wyoming to study mitigation efficacy in the riparian area to identify methods to slow or halt the loss of habitat and agricultural resources.
- Participation and funding for recreational access improvements, instream features for recreational attributes, and support of recreational interests as part of river planning.
- Establishment of an annual Citizen Science event in the Yampa headwaters to measure temperature, fish species, and adjacent land cover.
- Co-host a 5-day river trip through Dinosaur National Monument for lawmakers, water planners, conservancy districts, community members, and others that influence river decision making locally, regional and nationally to encourage a connection to the river and provide ongoing education about the Yampa River.

#### **4.2 Eligibility of Applicant:**

Friends of the Yampa is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Colorado in 2008, with a mission to protect and enhance the environmental and recreational integrity of the Yampa River and its tributaries, through stewardship, advocacy, education and partnerships. We are a grassroots, non-regulatory legal entity that meets the definition of



A.2 as defined in the grant requirements. We address water availability and quality issues in the Yampa River Basin by engaging with stakeholders to define, plan for, and address concerns throughout the watershed. Our group includes a nine person Board of Directors representing recreational, environmental, and governmental interests and a diverse group of stakeholders including land developers, private property owners, municipal water suppliers, environmental organizations, local, state and national government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and agricultural irrigators. We hope to expand the reach of the organization by connecting with stakeholders representative of the entire basin including energy producers (Tristate and Xcel Energy), ranching operations (The Carpenter Ranch, Monger Ranch), recreation and tourism organizations (American Whitewater, Moffat County Tourism Board, Craig Chamber of Commerce), and private businesses with a history of stewardship and commitment to the Yampa Valley and Yampa River Basin.

### **4.3 Goals and Objectives:**

Our project has two goals:

1. FOTY seeks to grow our organizational outreach and engage stakeholders in the Middle and Lower segments of the Yampa Basin and become the primary watershed organization for the Yampa Valley. With increased outreach and capacity we hope to increase community engagement, river stewardship, education, long term planning for river health, restoration and enhancement projects, and river management activities and partnerships.
2. Through this grant opportunity we hope to implement the River Health Scorecard, a long term monitoring program. This program will leverage existing data, identify data gaps, and collect data to assess the river's ecological health and community benefits. Data will be compiled into a report that will provide an understanding of what the data mean, what we can do to improve and maintain the health of the river, how river management is beneficial to the Yampa, and how the Yampa River serves the community.

FOTY intends to create a data driven Scorecard that is interactive, community-approved, and visually-appealing. The Scorecard will be used to assess different geographic segments of the Yampa Basin over time, and assessments will be repeated for each segment on a recurring timeline.

Our objectives for the River Health Scorecard are to:

- Leverage existing data collection efforts
- Identify data gaps and fill gaps as needed
- Work with existing planning efforts, and meet other Yampa River monitoring goals
- Connect with a diverse stakeholder group for river planning efforts

- Connect the Yampa Valley and Yampa River communities to monitoring by presenting data in an easily digestible, visually appealing multimedia format to ensure easy access for everyone
- Identify needs and opportunities for river restoration and enhancement projects to inform future grant requests and seek out new funding opportunities
- Build the appeal of the Yampa River and ensure economic opportunity for river communities in the valley
- Use the data collected, stakeholder feedback, and the Scorecard to inform and develop a Watershed Restoration Plan.

#### **4.4 Approach**

1. To start the project, FOTY will build an initial Stakeholder Group and Technical Advisory Committee from entities in the Middle and Lower Yampa to guide the direction of the Yampa River Scorecard. The two groups will determine what indicators of river health the Scorecard will measure, including elements such as water quality, riparian health, or the status of fisheries. The groups will determine how to measure the chosen river health indicators, considering sampling criteria, feasibility, frequency, or cost to measure an indicator. Finally the Stakeholder Group and Technical Advisory Committee will develop scoring criteria to grade each indicator.
2. The next step will be increasing stakeholders to ensure diversity in representation while also expanding our outreach opportunities. We plan to develop brochures, update our web pages, contact existing stakeholders, issue press releases, and conduct interest meetings online and in person when possible. As we add stakeholders to the organization, we will hold stakeholder meetings monthly through the duration of this grant.
3. As we are building stakeholders we will also be increasing our outreach in the following ways:
  - a. Public meetings online and in person (when possible) will be held to update the community about progress of the Scorecard, river planning efforts, future projects, and FOTY's mission.
  - b. FOTY will develop a website to track the progress of Scorecard development. The website will be user friendly and graphically appealing.
  - c. FOTY will develop a plan for summer field work , including funding ideas and data collection.
  - d. FOTY will work with educational partners to implement opportunities for students to participate in field studies, data management and analysis, and scoring criteria.

- e. By the Fall of 2022, FOTY should have most data collected and analysed with eval developed for each indicator.
  - f. By the end of 2022, FOTY will ensure the Scorecard is complete and accessible to the public. FOTY will conduct extensive outreach to ensure broad dissemination of Scorecard information. The Scorecard will be available online or in print.
  - g. In the first half of 2023, FOTY will work with the Stakeholder Group and the Technical Advisory Committee to look at the Scorecard results and determine which areas of river health need improvement. FOTY and the two groups will develop a watershed plan that outlines projects to address areas of improvement; each with a timeline, preferred approach, and project goals.
  - h. Also in the first half of 2023, FOTY will continue stakeholder engagement to expand the reach of the Scorecard for use in other segments of the Yampa. This segment evaluation will serve as a demonstration effort.
  - i. Beyond 2023, the long term goal is to develop a Scorecard for each segment of the river and then evaluate each segment's health on an annually rotating basis, Segment A in Year 1, Segment B in Year 2, Segment C in Year 3, and so forth. The long term goal is to evaluate river health in the entire Yampa Basin and expand stakeholder planning groups for additional segments, eventually bringing together an umbrella group representative of the whole basin.
4. Scorecard development will have a foundation in science and data to ensure river health is being properly measured. The Technical Advisory Committee will consist of experienced individuals, knowledgeable about each chosen indicator, to ensure proper method of data collection, analysis, and quality control. Riparian habitat health, wetland health, fisheries health, floodplain connectivity, river services, climate impact, and flow measurements will all be considered. Though the Scorecard will be based on science and data, FOTY intends to create an approachable and user friendly Scorecard that can be used broadly throughout the basin. Extensive outreach and an approachable Scorecard will ensure long-term implementation and monitoring of river health in the Yampa and inform future river planning and restoration projects.

#### **4.4.1 Task A:**

##### **1. Hiring an Outreach Coordinator to assist with stakeholder engagement**

In order to grow stakeholders from the Middle and Lower Yampa and increase recognition of FOTY as a watershed group for the entire Yampa Basin, FOTY will need to increase capacity and engage with stakeholders and community members in the segment, surrounding community, and in the Yampa Valley. A coordinator will provide the capacity to grow the organization as a broader watershed group. The coordinator will assist FOTY to

engage stakeholders in the Segment, work with educational partners, ensure the Scorecard is broadly available to the public, conduct outreach for river planning activities, and expand the reach of the Scorecard for use in other segments of the Yampa.

## **2. Conducting outreach activities**

FOTY will conduct regular Stakeholder and Technical Advisory Committee meetings to inform Yampa River Scorecard implementation and increase FOTY's recognition as the watershed group for the entire Yampa Basin. Other outreach activities will include field visits with the Stakeholder Group (considering COVID-19 restrictions) to provide educational opportunities, development of print materials to share Scorecard information, and Friends of the Yampa river planning activities. Community meetings will be held twice a year to provide updates on the State of the Yampa and current watershed group efforts.

## **3. Gathering information about issues and needs related to water quality and quantity**

FOTY will work with the Yampa River Scorecard Stakeholder Group and Technical Advisory Committee to:

- Compile and analyze existing data
- Identify data gaps and conduct field work to ensure complete data collection
- Use data to measure river health indicators, determine watershed needs, and inform future data collection and restoration planning.

## **4. Conducting pre-planning activities including, outlining watershed restoration plan**

Through general FOTY outreach, Scorecard implementation, and stakeholder input; FOTY will create a watershed plan that guides the goals and river planning activities within the watershed.

### **4.4.2 Task B:**

1. **Completing a watershed restoration plan:** At the end of the grant project period, FOTY and the Stakeholder group will use the results of the completed Scorecard and other restoration plans within the basin to complete a watershed restoration plan for the segment focus area. Within the Scorecard data collection period, water quality and quantity will be measured. This Scorecard will be the first in the Yampa Basin and will be the baseline to track trends in the future.
2. **Conducting mapping and other technical analyses:** Mapping will be completed for the final Scorecard development to inform data collection locations, present data online, and inform the public about the scoring criterion of each area within the defined segment. Field work and preexisting data will be collected and analyzed to create the scoring criteria for the segment's Scorecard.
3. **Obtaining project management services:** The contracting of a Watershed Health Consultant, will help manage the Scorecard implementation and fill in data

collection and data analysis gaps as needed. The FOTY Executive Director will also manage Stakeholder group meetings and project timing and budget.

4. **Interviewing watershed group members and stakeholders to gain an idea of projects that would improve the watershed:** A stakeholder group, in-basin partners, and the technical committee will discuss Scorecard implementation, general basin needs, other planning efforts, and the Scorecard results to understand needed watershed improvements.

#### **4.4.3 Task C:**

Task C will not be focused on within the grant project goals.

## **5. Evaluation Criteria**

### **5.1 Evaluation Criterion A-Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope**

#### **5.1.1 Sub-criterion No. A1 Watershed Group Diversity**

FOTY has been a part of most planning efforts within the Yampa Basin and the group has attended state, regional and national planning activities to ensure diversity in stakeholder relationships, an understanding of river planning, and to increase FOTY's presence as a growing watershed organization. To expand outreach within the Middle and Lower Yampa, in addition to implementing the Scorecard, FOTY will continue to build partnerships with other Yampa River organizations and ad hoc groups to increase capacity to ensure equity in Yampa Basin. The following list includes current stakeholders and those identified for future outreach:

#### **Current Stakeholders:**

- City of Craig Representatives-Lower Yampa-Municipal and Industrial (M & I)
- City of Steamboat Springs-Upper Yampa-Municipal
- Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District (UYWCD)-Upper, Middle and small part of Lower Yampa-M & I
- TriState Power and Generation-Middle and Lower Yampa-M & I
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)-All of the Yampa Basin-E & R
- Trout Unlimited-Colorado (TU-Colorado)-All of the Yampa Basin-E & R
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)-All of the Yampa Basin-E & R
- The River Network-All of the Yampa Basin-All uses
- Routt County Extension-Upper and Middle Yampa-Agriculture
- Colorado Mountain College-Steamboat Springs (CMC)-All of the Yampa Basin-Educational Partner
- Routt County-Upper and Middle Yampa-M&I

- Colorado State University (CSU)-All of the Yampa Basin-Educational Partner
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-All of the Yampa Basin-E & R
- Upper Yampa Watershed Group-Water Quality Ad Hoc Group-Upper and Middle Yampa-E & R
- Moffat County Tourism Board-Middle and Lower Yampa-Community Outreach
- Craig Chamber of Commerce-Lower Yampa-M & I
- Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT)-All of the Yampa Basin-Agriculture
- Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC)-All of the Yampa Basin-E & R
- Integrated Water Management Plan Committee-All of the Yampa Basin-All uses
- American Rivers-All of the Yampa Basin-E & R
- American Whitewater-All of the Yampa Basin-E & R
- Landowners-Only focusing on Middle and Yampa-Community Outreach
- Irrigated Agriculture-Only focusing on Middle and Yampa-Agriculture
- Local businesses-Only focusing on Middle and Yampa-M & I
- Community Members-Only focusing on Middle and Yampa-Community Outreach
- Regional and National Representatives

**Opportunities for stakeholder growth:**

- Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable-All of the Yampa Basin-All uses
- Town of Hayden-Middle Yampa-Municipal
- Moffat County Extension-Middle and Lower Yampa-Agriculture
- Moffat County-Middle and Lower Yampa-M&I
- US Fish and Wildlife-All of the Yampa Basin-E & R
- US Forest Service-All of the Yampa Basin-E & R
- Landowners-Only focusing on Middle and Yampa-Community Outreach
- Irrigated Agriculture-Only focusing on Middle and Yampa-Agriculture
- Local businesses-Only focusing on Middle and Yampa-M & I
- Community Members-Only focusing on Middle and Yampa-Community Outreach
- Regional and National Representatives

**5.1.2 Sub-criterion No. A2 Geographic Scope**

Friends of the Yampa represents the entire Yampa Basin. The project identified in this grant will implement the river health Scorecard in the first segment of the Yampa River with the intent of expanding the program to the rest of the river. The WaterSMART grant will help ensure development of the Scorecard is completed, one segment at a time. Outreach will be conducted more broadly within two 10-digit HUCs over approximately 180 river miles out of the Yampa River’s 250 miles.

(See section 3. Project Location for Map. )

(See Sub Criterion A1 for a list of current Stakeholders.)

Stakeholders will be representative of the entire of the Yampa Basin and its tributaries, with outreach goals focused on developing additional members in Northwest Colorado. In addition to stakeholders from more than three national organizations, each stakeholder water use area will be represented, including municipal, industrial, agricultural, non-consumptive, environmental, and recreational users. Please see the list of current and potential stakeholders with the use type and area they represent in Sub Criterion A1. The list is always evolving as FOTY continues to add stakeholders.

FOTY participates in most Yampa watershed planning groups to ensure there is continuing engagement with Yampa water users. FOTY will maintain and build relationships with current stakeholders and expand outreach to other water users, especially agricultural producers and agricultural interest groups.

## **5.2 Evaluation Criterion B-Addressing Critical Watershed Needs**

The Yampa River is a unique river in the Upper Colorado River Basin, in that it is a relatively large river with a natural hydrograph. With the lack of transbasin diversions, large dams, or reservoirs in the basin; river uses need to be studied and managed to ensure long term health, ecosystem services, and water supplies remain consistent or potentially improved.

Current data shows that the Yampa River experiences water quality issues due to high seasonal temperatures. The Scorecard will develop ideas to address warming temperature trends. Within the Scorecard Segment and outreach focus area, the Yampa River is host to one of the healthiest riparian forests and one of the most impacted riparian areas in the entire Yampa Basin and Upper Colorado River Basin. Because of the Yampa's natural hydrograph, floodplain connectivity is high (especially in the Middle and Lower Yampa) causing adjacent landowners to be occasionally impacted by high water conditions and riparian corridor degradation.

The Middle and Lower Yampa River is also host to four of the Colorado River Basin's endangered fish species, including the Humpback Chub, Bonytail, Colorado Pikeminnow, and the Razorback sucker. The natural hydrograph of the Yampa allows regular sediment flushing that is beneficial to the Colorado and Green Rivers and necessary for the successful life cycle of these endangered fish. Within the Yampa Basin there are concerns with invasive fish species such as Northern Pike and Smallmouth Bass, yet at the same time the Upper Yampa supports healthy native whitefish and sport fish populations because of its fluctuating nature.

Irrigation season in the Yampa is relatively short, about 55-60 days on average per year due to lack of water shortages. Developing natural solutions to improve longer term discharge levels and a consistent base flow conditions is a goal of planning groups within

the basin. The majority of the Yampa Basin is not yet under administration by the State of Colorado, meaning there is a lack of oversight to ensure proper headgate installation and there is the potential for incomplete measurements. Ageing infrastructure and inefficient water use have led to a lack of verification and knowledge of return flows related to flood irrigation and their effect on the river. However, for the last two years the Yampa has experienced administrative calls on the river during low flow. These were the first and second instances of the entire river being placed on-call. This is an issue that is expected to be more common as low water conditions and higher temperature occur more frequently.

Another critical watershed need is data availability. Data collection for Yampa River watershed health is performed by multiple organizations, leading to many inconsistencies. There is a need to fill data gaps and ensure the collected data is used to inform river management, water consumption, restoration efforts, and river use. Because there are many organizations working in the Yampa Basin, efforts are not always coordinated or focused to achieve broader complimentary goals to affect the health of the watershed. The Scorecard will focus efforts and ensure consistent data collection across the basin, fill data gaps, provide an avenue for communication between data collectors and the public, and inform watershed health planning and prioritization.

### **5.2.1 Task A-Water Group Development**

#### **Describe the stakeholder outreach and partnership building that will be conducted and explain how it will contribute to the management of the critical watershed issues and needs?**

With the WaterSMART grant FOTY will leverage existing partnerships and develop an engagement program for the Scorecard project. FOTY will continue to expand outreach to other organizations to ensure diversity in river use within the basin. FOTY will engage with other river planning efforts, while also engaging members of each planning entity in Scorecard development and FOTY river planning. The goal at the end of Scorecard development is to receive endorsements from other river planning groups; supporting the program as a strategy for long term monitoring of watershed health in the Basin and as a tool to inform their river planning goals.

This project will help FOTY build partnerships with organizations already collecting watershed health data to leverage that data for Scorecard development. Additionally, FOTY will be able to share data with others, to help fill gaps and add knowledge. The Scorecard will evaluate current efforts in the watershed; to see if impacts to the river are being managed and if efforts are sustainable. The Scorecard will track trends for each segment over time. Scorecard results will demonstrate which watershed health indicators need further research or detail and which can be addressed by FOTY or other stakeholders within the basin.



Stakeholder and general outreach will be conducted through community meetings, email, phone calls, website development, social media posting, and monthly Scorecard meetings. FOTY has established relationships with many conservation groups and will expand on those relationships throughout the WaterSMART grant period. FOTY is an organization that advocates for conservation and recreational access to the Yampa River through partnerships with American Rivers, American Whitewater, the Nature Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management, Trout Unlimited, the US Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and US Fish and Wildlife. FOTY is a member of the Friends Grassroots Network of the Conservation Lands Foundation and has established relationships with regional stakeholders including, the Yampa-White-Green Basin roundtable (BRT), the Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) committees, the Yampa River Legacy Group, and the Yampa River Fund.

### **5.2.2 Task B-Watershed Restoration Planning:**

**Describe the process the watershed group will use to develop a watershed restoration plan and how completing the plan will contribute to the management of the critical watershed issues and needs.**

FOTY plans to use existing data and methodology from other river planning efforts, the Basin Implementation Plan, the Integrated Water Management Plan, and the City of Steamboat Springs Streamflow Management Plan, to inform the needs of the basin and develop the Scorecard. FOTY will research long term monitoring efforts in other basins to ensure correct data collection, learn best practices, and understand opportunities and areas for improvement. In preparation for the WaterSMART grant and Scorecard development, FOTY will research metrics for riparian condition, fisheries health, water quality, water supply, and sustainable management.

Within the grant period, FOTY will build partnerships with educational partners to assist in field data collection. Data collection will follow industry standards of quality assurance and quality control. FOTY will collect pre existing data, compile results from original field data collection, and measure results with scoring criteria developed by the Technical Advisory Committee. Qualified contractors will be hired to ensure proper data management order to reach technical goals and prepare baseline data for watershed health monitoring.

Upon completion of the Scorecard, the Stakeholder Group and Technical Advisory Committee will develop a watershed plan for the segment and compile lessons learned from Scorecard development. FOTY and stakeholders will evaluate results, reflect on changes needed, and develop a draft watershed plan for the Middle and Lower segment focus area. FOTY, the Stakeholder Group, and the Technical Advisory Committee will evaluate which indicators need adjustments to improve future Scorecards. Refinement of

the Scorecard will be an iterative process, providing opportunities to identify new funding sources and engagement with new stakeholders after the initial Scorecard effort.

When the Scorecard is complete we intend to offer it as a tool for other river planning efforts in the basin.

- The Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) prioritizes planning projects that meet multi beneficial needs. The IWMP has identified long term monitoring as a need however, the plan does not currently have a monitoring method identified. We hope that the Scorecard can be endorsed by the IWMP Committee as a method to meet their monitoring goals.
- The Yampa-White-Green Basin roundtable has developed a Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) to help meet the goals of the Colorado Water Plan; the BIP identifies projects and goals for the basin. Currently the BIP is undergoing an update and the Scorecard has been identified as a priority project for the basin.
- The City of Steamboat Springs Streamflow Management Plan (SMP) proposes a river assessment to be completed every 5 years. The Scorecard has already been identified as a possible tool that will meet the monitoring and assessment goals of the SMP. We hope to align completion of the Scorecard with the SMP sampling period, to ensure collaboration, cohesion, assistance, and partnership in Yampa River monitoring.

### **5.2.3 Task C-Watershed Management Project Design:**

**Describe the process that the watershed group will use to design projects and how completing the project design will contribute to the management of the critical watershed issues and needs. To the extent known, describe the project(s) for which the watershed group will complete a design.**

FOTY will not be pursuing Task C with this grant request.

## **5.3 Evaluation Criterion C— Implementation and Results**

### **5.3.1 Sub-Criterion C-1: Project Implementation**

FOTY outreach, Scorecard implementation, and a Watershed Health Plan will be conducted as follows: (The steps are also described in *4.4 Approach*)

1. Outreach: Public meetings online and in person (when possible) will be held to update the community about progress of the Scorecard, river planning efforts, future projects, and FOTY's mission.

Timeline: July 2021-July 2023

Tasks: Schedule two annual meetings to update the public about the Scorecard, website and handout development, and provide a river planning summary developed yearly.

2. Outreach: FOTY will develop a website to track the progress of Scorecard development. The website will be user friendly and graphically appealing.  
Timeline: September 2021-January 2023  
Tasks: Contract with a web and graphic designer to develop FOTY web pages about river information and outreach efforts. Provide information about Scorecard efforts in a variety of formats to ensure user friendliness and visual appeal.
3. Data Collection: FOTY will develop a plan for summer field work, including funding ideas and data collection methods.  
Timeline: July 2021-September 2022  
Tasks: Determine the sequence of field work to ensure correct data is collected for each indicator. Identify if additional funding is needed to get the relevant data. Hire a Watershed Health Coordinator to implement project planning, management, and field work. Collect data for the Scorecard within the segment by the end of September 2022.
4. Data Collection: FOTY will work with educational partners to implement opportunities for students to participate in field studies, data management and analysis, and scoring criteria.  
Timeline: July 2021-September 2022  
Tasks: Develop curriculum with educational partners that will allow students to collect field data, compile existing data, and perform data analysis. Draft an educational partnership plan including field measurement goals, data collection strategies, designated parties responsible for collecting data, data analysis, and developing scoring criteria, and a concept for how the final results will be presented for the final Scorecard.
5. By the Fall of 2022, FOTY should have most of the data collected and analysed with scores developed for each indicator.  
Timeline: May 2022-October 2022  
Tasks: Compile data from all sources, determine any remaining field work, analyze data, develop scores for each indicator, and create a final data report to inform the final Scorecard.
6. FOTY will ensure the Scorecard is complete and accessible to the public. FOTY will conduct extensive outreach to ensure broad dissemination of Scorecard information; the Scorecard will be available online or in print.  
Timeline: October 2022-December 2022  
Tasks: Create the final Scorecard, have it available online and in print form, advertise the results through email, partnership communication, and other outreach.
7. FOTY will work with the Stakeholder Group and the Technical Advisory Committee to look at the Scorecard results and determine which areas of river health need

improvement. FOTY and the two groups will develop a watershed plan that outlines projects to address areas of improvement; each with a timeline, preferred approach, and project goals.

Timeline: January 2023-July 2023

Tasks: Meet with the Stakeholder Group and Technical Advisory Committee regularly (minimum of 3 meetings) to develop a Watershed Health Plan. Seek feedback on the Scorecard development process and keep track of needed changes. Provide a final Watershed Health Plan to the public online and in print.

8. FOTY will continue stakeholder engagement to expand the reach of the Scorecard for use in other segments of the Yampa. The long term goal is to evaluate river health in the entire Yampa Basin and expand stakeholder planning groups for each segment, eventually creating an umbrella group representative of the whole basin.

Timeline: January 2023-July 2023

Tasks: Leverage existing partners to develop stakeholder groups in other segments of the river. Provide the Scorecard and Watershed Health Plan to each new group to encourage creation of a similar health assessment or long term monitoring program. Seek out leaders and partners to achieve broader goals of watershed health in the Yampa River Basin.

9. Beyond 2023, the long term goal of this project is to develop a Scorecard for each segment of the river and then evaluate each segment's health on an annually rotating basis, Segment A in Year 1, Segment B in Year 2, Segment C in Year 3, and so forth.

### **5.3.2 Sub-criterion No. C2—Building on Relevant Federal, State, or Regional Planning Efforts**

Stakeholder outreach and the Scorecard development will build on previous planning efforts to help meet long term monitoring goals identified in other plans. FOTY hopes to use the Scorecard as a tool to meet monitoring goals for plans and organizations in the basin, and inform future planning, projects, and desired outcomes. The Scorecard data will be made available to all stakeholders, federal, state, and regional partners so it can be used in other river studies.

The Scorecard will meet the monitoring goals of:

- The Integrated Water Management Plan (Local Effort, with Federal and State Stakeholders)
- The Basin Implementation Plan (Regional Effort)
- The Yampa River Fund
- The City of Steamboat Springs' Streamflow Management Plan

## **5.4 Evaluation Criterion D— Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation Priorities**

### **Department Priority Area 1: *Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt***

Development of the Scorecard will follow recognized scientific practices to identify river health indicators, methods to measure those indicators, and scoring criteria to grade each indicator and determine overall watershed health. The results of the Scorecard will inform and improve current and future management practices and watershed projects. The Scorecard will provide information about public use and access to help determine where more outreach, improved access, and conservation easements may be needed. Outreach from this project will build on existing relationships with conservation organizations to ensure non-consumptive water use and public use are considered in all river planning and management. The Scorecard will help identify healthy areas of the Yampa River to ensure long term conservation and tracking of those areas, systems, and habitats to prevent unforeseen degradation.

### **Department Priority Area 3: *Restoring trust with local communities***

Through FOTY's increased and long term stakeholder engagement efforts, FOTY will build trust and partnership with irrigators, adjacent landowners, recreationalists, environmental stewards, government representatives, and the community to ensure productive river planning and healthy partnerships.

### **Department Priority Area 5: *Modernizing our infrastructure***

The Scorecard will help inform water use issues and needs to improve infrastructure within the basin. Efficiency in water conveyance is a priority within the basin and the Scorecard field work will help identify aging infrastructure and opportunities for improvement. Because of the lack of water storage within the Yampa Basin, drought heavily impacts the basin and how water is used. The Scorecard will help identify how to best manage the river and guide timing for diversion structures, irrigation, and return flows; all processes that are not fully understood in the basin.

## **6. Environmental and Cultural Resources Considerations**

### **Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)?**

The efforts identified in this project proposal will not negatively impact the surrounding environment. A plan for data collection will be prepared with consideration given to correct timing of collection efforts to secure the best information with the least impact to species or habitat. Field studies have the possibility to include soil cores or tree cores to determine riparian habitat health. Industry standard methods will be used to minimize

impact. Fisheries indicators for the Scorecard will use existing data from the State of Colorado and fisheries studies within the basin.

**Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?**

There are four fish species that are federally listed within the Yampa River: the Colorado Pikeminnow, Razorback Sucker, Humpback Chub, and the Bonytail. The Yampa River is a critical habitat for spawning and provides necessary fluctuations and sediments that have an impact all the way to the Colorado River. Field data collection will account for critical timing in the life cycle of these species to ensure that potential impacts are minimized

**Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as “Waters of the United States”?**

There are riparian and wetland habitats that are under the jurisdiction of “Waters of the United States.”

**Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)?**

The scope of this project should not modify or impact any features of an irrigation system.

**Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?**

The only building listed on the National Register of Historic Places is the Dawson-Carpenter Ranch (parcel # 97000047) in Hayden, Routt County, CO, which is a working ranch managed by The Nature Conservancy; a property that maintains a healthy riparian forest. Field work for the Scorecard will be conducted in this area as it is within the identified Segment for the project.

**Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?**

There are no known archaeological sites within the proposed area.

**Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?**

The project will not have a negative effect on any population within the Yampa Basin; one goal of the project is to reduce barriers and increase access to the river for the local community. The Scorecard will be designed to measure socioeconomic health as part of its scope and understand how the river serves the community. River recreation access and watershed health knowledge will be evaluated for equity considering all populations within the surrounding communities.

**Will the proposed project limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?**

This project will not limit access to any American Indian sites or lands.

**Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?**

This project will not contribute to noxious weed issues within the basin. We will try to note noxious weeds in the segment during field data collection, to expand our knowledge of threats to the basin.

## 7. Required Permits or Approvals

If the stakeholder group and technical committee determine that data collection for the Scorecard will require a boat, FOTY will ensure all necessary permits are obtained from Yampa River State Park. Colorado Mountain College-Steamboat, our educational partner, has a yearly access special use permit within the State Park segment that we may be able to utilize.

## 8. Project Budget

Budget Item Description	Computation		Quantity Type	Total Cost
	\$/Unit	Quantity		
<b>Salaries and Wages</b>				
Outreach Coordinator	\$20	520	Hour	\$10,400
Lindsey Marlow, Executive Director (Grant Project Director)	\$30	520	Hour	\$15,600
<b>Contractual</b>				
Website development	\$5,000	1	Unit	\$5,000
Graphic Designer	\$3,000	1	Unit	\$3,000
Watershed Health Consultant	\$115	250	Hour	\$28,750
Mapping	\$5,000	1	Unit	\$5,000
Educational Partner: Data Analysis and Technical Advisory	\$15,000	1	Unit	\$15,000
<b>Materials and Supplies</b>				
Brochure/handout prints	\$1	2000	Handout	\$2,000
Report and Method Printing	\$2,000	1	Order unit	\$2,000
<b>Travel</b>				
Travel	\$0.56	3900	Miles	\$2,184.00
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>				<b>\$88,934</b>
Indirect Costs de minimis (10%)				\$8,893

Total Cost				\$97,827
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## Budget Narrative

The budget for this project will start with WaterSMART grant funding on July 1, 2021. Friends of the Yampa intends to start the planning process for the Scorecard in March 2021. The project and WaterSMART grant funding should be complete by the end of July 2023. At that time we hope to have completed the Scorecard and development of a Watershed Health Plan. To achieve these goals **FOTY is applying for a WaterSMART grant of \$97,827.**

### Salaries and Wages

This grant will support two FOTY staff positions:

**Lindsey Marlow, the Executive Director**, will oversee the successful implementation of outreach and Scorecard development. The Director will also ensure grant deadlines are being met and deliverables are provided. Based on a 40 hour work week for this position, budget numbers anticipate grant administration will take a minimum of 5 hours per week for the entire two-year duration of the grant.

The **Outreach Coordinator** is a new position that FOTY will try to fill in the first quarter of 2021. The grant will build organizational capacity in this position, with a focus on Middle and Lower Yampa outreach efforts, multimedia development of educational and promotional materials, and assistance in development of the Scorecard. Based on a 40 hour work week for this position, budget numbers anticipate grant related work will take a minimum of 5 hours per week for the entire two-year duration of the grant.

### Contractual

FOTY anticipates contracting for the following services to achieve the goals of this grant:

**Website Developer:** will be contracted to develop online materials for the entire duration of this grant. A developer will be hired to update the website to showcase current and grant funded outreach efforts, design page layouts and evaluate user interaction for ease of use and navigation, build pages to chronicle development of the Scorecard, and finally provide an interactive Scorecard based on the evaluated segment at the end of December 2022. Costs are estimated and will be limited to the amount necessary to complete the desired webpages.

**Graphic Designer:** will be contracted to help develop pamphlets, outreach materials, design of the Scorecard, and a cohesive and recognizable design for the entire effort. Costs are estimated and will be limited to the amount necessary to complete the desired outreach and branding materials.

**Watershed Health Consultant:** will be contracted to provide guidance for Scorecard development and implementation, verification of data collection and field work



methodology, and design of the final Scorecard deliverable. The Consultant will liaise with FOTY, the Technical Advisory Committee, the Stakeholder Group, and the Educational Partner to ensure proper implementation of Scorecard data collection and analysis. The Consultant will perform field work that cannot be performed by the educational partner. Costs are based on previous Watershed Consultant contract work within the basin and approximate time to implement long term monitoring effort.

**Mapping:** A GIS contractor will be employed to develop maps for use in stakeholder outreach, compilation of data collection, a field studies summary, and an interactive online map for the final Scorecard. Costs are estimated and will be limited to the amount necessary to complete online mapping and methodology documentation.

**Educational Partner:** The educational partner will work with graduate students and FOTY staff to develop field data collection methodology, collect field samples and data, analyze data, and the partner will present a final report of all data for use in the Scorecard. The average budget for graduate student work is approximately \$1750 a month for 20 hours a week at Colorado State University. The proposed budget for this line item will fund 1-2 graduate students through the summer data collection period with extra time to complete data analysis and develop a report after the sampling period.

#### Materials and Supplies

FOTY anticipates the following items are needed to achieve the goals of this grant:

**Brochures/handouts:** created to inform stakeholders and the public about FOTY's mission, Scorecard efforts, projects, and programs. Estimated printing costs are \$1 per 8.5" x 11" color print, with 2000 prints to hand out at outreach events throughout the duration of the grant.

**Report and Method Printing:** after the Scorecard is complete, print copies will be made available to any interested parties. Materials will include an informational booklet about the Scorecard and a report detailing its methodology. Other budget items may limit how many copies are available.

#### Travel

Travel costs are developed based on mileage at the current federal mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.56 per mile. Mileage from Steamboat Springs to Craig, Colorado is 84 miles roundtrip. A monthly trip to Craig for outreach and Scorecard meetings is anticipated for all 24 months of the grant duration, with 3 to 4 additional trips for field data collection and monitoring efforts. The travel budget also includes costs for the educational partner to travel to field research sites; We anticipate 4 trips from Fort Collins to Craig, Colorado (400 miles roundtrip) during the grant period.

Indirect costs are calculated at the de minimis rate of 10 percent.

## Appendix A



1/13/2021

Bureau of Reclamation  
Financial Assistance Operations  
Attn: Mr. Edmund Weakland  
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27815  
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Friends of the Yampa WaterSMART Grant Support

To Whom it May Concern,

The City of Craig is in support of Friends of the Yampa in their application for WaterSMART grant funding. The intended goal for the Friends of the Yampa in pursuing funding for this grant is to increase community outreach and relationships, create multimedia educational materials for the river, develop restoration and watershed health projects, and create a River Health Scorecard.

Friends of the Yampa continues their effort to be champions of the river and the City of Craig supports Friends of the Yampa in pursuing these funds.

Regards,

City of Craig

**Parks and Recreation  
300 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Craig, CO. 81625  
Phone: (970) 826-2029**



# VISIT *Moffat County*

COLORADO'S GREAT NORTHWEST · VISITMOFFATCOUNTY.COM

Bureau of Reclamation Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: Ms. Avra Morgan  
Mail Code: 84-51000  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

1-11-2021

RE: Friends of the Yampa WaterSMART Grant Support

Ms. Morgan & Selection Committee:

We are writing in support of "*Friends of the Yampa*" in their application for WaterSMART grant funding. The goals of Friends of the Yampa in applying for this grant are to increase community outreach and relationships, create multimedia educational materials for the river, develop restoration and watershed health projects, and create a River Health Scorecard, all efforts that are truly needed for the Yampa River Valley and our citizens.

Moffat County supports these efforts and supports Friends of the Yampa in pursuing these funds in every way. The Yampa River is the center of life for all of us here in the Yampa Valley. Not only tourism and recreational interests are served by these efforts, our partners in agriculture and business all have found that a vital and healthy river system is paramount for sustainable economic development.

These efforts will help sustain our mission for Moffat County citizens. We ask that you fully fund their request.

Sincerely,

Tom Kleinschnitz  
Director / Visit Moffat County  
[TomK@MoffatCounty.net](mailto:TomK@MoffatCounty.net)



The Nature Conservancy in Colorado  
2424 Spruce Street  
Boulder, CO 80302

tel (303) 444-2950  
fax (303) 444-2985

[nature.org/colorado](http://nature.org/colorado)

US Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
Attn: Ms. Avra Morgan  
Mail Code: 84-51000  
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

January 14, 2021

Dear Ms. Morgan and CWMP proposal reviewers:

It is with great pleasure and admiration that I write to support the Friends of the Yampa's (FOTY) application for Cooperative Watershed Management Program funding. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of Colorado has a strong partnership with FOTY via the Yampa River Fund and the Yampa Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) and other smaller, locally-driven projects. We have been impressed with FOTY's presence and advocacy throughout the Yampa Basin and know of no other organization capable of handling the proposed scope of work.

FOTY's plan to increase outreach and relationships throughout the Yampa builds upon their existing array of fun, interactive, educational events. Their proposal comes at a time when many aspects of water security require understanding and action from the agricultural, recreational, and environmental community. Voices from all Yampa communities are integral to planning for a climate changed future; FOTY is an excellent watershed group with the diverse energy and scientific expertise to take on the challenge of Northwestern Colorado's extensive geography and biodiversity.

We hope that the Bureau of Reclamation views this proposal favorably and selects the Yampa Basin as the recipient of CWMP funding. Our staff in the Yampa routinely collaborates with FOTY and maintains involvement in watershed planning, monitoring, and the initial development of river health assessment tools. As you may be aware, TNC owns Carpenter Ranch, just upstream of Hayden, and has a long-standing commitment to the Yampa Valley. We look forward to continuing to build and implement community-based projects in partnership with FOTY. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos E. Fernandez", written over a horizontal line.

Carlos E. Fernandez, State Director  
The Nature Conservancy in Colorado



**COLORADO WATER TRUST**

3264 Larimer Street, Suite D, Denver, CO 80205

Tel: 720.570.2897 | [www.coloradowatertrust.org](http://www.coloradowatertrust.org)

Bureau of Reclamation Water Resources and Planning Office

ATTN: Avra Morgan

Mail Code: 84-51000

P.O. Box 25007

Denver, CO 80225

Friday, January 15, 2020

Dear Avra Morgan,

Colorado Water Trust is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Friends of the Yampa (FOTY) request to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART grant program to build stakeholder partnerships and develop a Yampa River health assessment and River Health Scorecard.

Colorado Water Trust has been involved in supporting healthy streamflows across Colorado since 2001, and specifically on the Yampa River since 2012. We continue to build momentum toward healthy flows on both the upper and lower Yampa River, and stakeholder support is key to the success of our projects.

FOTY plays a critical role in the Yampa River basin, inspiring residents and visitors to be stewards of the Yampa River. This grant would enable FOTY to continue to build relationships with local stakeholders and increase the collective understanding of river health issues among key interests on the river. River health scorecards are a great tool to convey complex technical information in a way that is educational and informative for all parties – from water professionals to new audiences. Inclusion of all interested stakeholders serves to benefit long-term planning processes, including the contemplated watershed restoration plan.

Additionally, increased monitoring and communication of river health metrics would be beneficial to stakeholders in the basin, including Colorado Water Trust and parties involved in restoration activities in both the upper and lower Yampa basins.

We understand the resources required for coordinated planning and outreach at this project's scale and look forward to providing technical advice and assistance whenever possible.

Sincerely,

Mickey O'Hara  
Director of Programs



## Appendix B



Friends of the Yampa  
PO Box 771654  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

### Official Resolution

WHEREAS, Friends of the Yampa shall enter into an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation concerning the WaterSMART Phase I Grant: Middle and Lower Yampa River Watershed Management and Yampa River Scorecard Project Phase I Grant Application.

WHEREAS, Friends of the Yampa, a Colorado 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in good standing has legal authority to enter into an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation.

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation requires an Official Resolution confirming Friends of the Yampa will work with the Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement.

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Yampa hereby authorizes Ben Beall, Board President, to act on behalf of Friends of the Yampa to review and approve the application submitted.

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors of Friends of the Yampa hereby authorizes Lindsey Marlow, Executive Director of Friends of the Yampa to have the authority to apply for the WaterSMART grant and enter into an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to meet all requirements of the grant.

RESOLVED, the signature of the President of the Board of Directors signifies the review and approval of the application submitted.



Ben Beall, Board President, Friends of the Yampa

1/17/2021

Date



Charlie Preston-Townsend, Secretary, Friends of the Yampa

1/18/2021

Date