

GRTU Primary Sponsor _____ Chris Johnson _____
GRTU Sponsors _____

(add additional sheets with sponsor names as necessary)



GRTU COC Funding Request Application Project Description

Please provide a general, narrative overview of your project, addressing each of the areas outlined below.

Project Overview

Provide a general overview of the project: Fish managers seeking to restore Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed greenback cutthroat trout are planning to modify an existing waterfall on the Wild & Scenic Cache la Poudre River in order to halt invasions of invasive, non-native trout. We propose to conduct a study of fish passage in the Wild & Scenic River across several other waterfalls using a scientific approach to identify existing waterfalls that restrict the passage of invasive trout species. Outcomes could identify alternate sites that may not require modification, preserving the natural state of this Wild and Scenic River as much as possible.

Background

Provide some background on the river, fishery and the challenges they face. The Cache la Poudre River is Colorado's only river with the Wild and Scenic designation. The greenback cutthroat Trout is the Colorado State Fish, and currently listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Restoring greenbacks in the Cache la Poudre River watershed is therefore an extremely unique and important opportunity. Colorado Trout Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Flycasters, the US Forest Service, and other agencies are collaborating to do just that under the auspices of the [Poudre Headwaters Project](#), a large-scale conservation effort to restore greenback cutthroat trout throughout the upper 37 miles of stream habitat within the watershed.

This project would improve stewardship of the Cache la Poudre Wild & Scenic River by informing Forest Service management actions that protect the river's free-flow character and river recreation values and also facilitate restoring native fish habitat.

The PHP is the hallmark conservation project for Rocky Mountain Flycasters (RMF), and is critically-important for both the Forest Service and an interagency Greenback Cutthroat Trout Recovery Team. The PHP is being led by the Forest Service with

outside agency (USFWS, NPS, CO Parks & Wildlife.), non-profit (Trout Unlimited, American Whitewater), and academic partners (Colorado State University). RMF has been engaged with Forest Service fish biologists, supporting field studies with volunteers, obtaining grant funding for barrier construction, and even helping to administer construction contracts on Forest Service Lands.

Project Outline

Provide a general outline of the project objectives:

To restore aquatic habitat in the Wild & Scenic River (WSR) and its tributaries, a series of 6 natural and man-made fish barriers will be used to eliminate reinvasion of non-native brook trout, a major threat to the project's success. Once barriers are established, fish managers will remove non-native trout before reintroducing native greenback cutthroat trout. The lower barrier site for the project occurs on the Wild Section of the WSR. In its current state, this waterfall does not restrict fish passage year-round, and would need to be modified to meet the ESA objectives without diminishing WSR values. This project will identify alternate waterfall sites that might naturally restrict fish passage year-round in their current state, potentially eliminating the need to modify features on the WSR.

Workplan

Provide information on how the project will be accomplished, what type of activities will be conducted and the expected project schedule.

Under direction of the Forest Service, RMF will assemble teams of anglers and electrofishing volunteers to capture a sufficient number of resident trout upstream and downstream from waterfalls that might restrict fish passage. Field biologists will work with the volunteer teams to collect small tissue samples from nearly 200 trout. Genetic analysis will detect small differences in the DNA of brook trout upstream and downstream of waterfalls throughout the corridor, and will highlight alternative, natural waterfalls that might be used to meet greenback cutthroat trout recovery objectives.

September, 2022: Collect tissue samples from 200 resident trout

October – November, 2022: Sequence tissue samples of all 200 specimens

December, 2022 – February, 2023: Analyze spatial population structure of trout between waterfalls using microsatellite makers.

August, 2023: Finalize results and complete a draft project report; Share results with River Network and project partners.

Budget

Provide an overall budget for the project. Indicate all funding and labor to be provided by the applicant and indicate what the GRTU funds would cover.

Please see the attached budget spreadsheet for the project.

Funding Request

Outline the amount of funding requested from the GRTU COC Fund for the project. Indicate if the full amount requested would be required in order for the project to move forward or if partial funding would be accepted.

We are requesting \$9,900 over two years for the project to move forward. As indicated in the budget spreadsheet, this is an expensive project and includes over \$19,000 in matching funds and in-kind contributions. Without this grant, the project will not be able to move forward.

GRTU Recognition

Outline the recognition that GRTU will receive from your project, such as signage at the project site, inclusion in your newsletter articles, local and national press releases or other types of recognition of GRTU's contribution.

GRTU will be recognized in several ways, including: Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU) will recognize GRTU in their statewide newsletter, in *High Country Angler*, and on the CTU website (in particular on the [Poudre Headwaters Project page](#)). CTU and RMFTU would also gladly host GRTU members who might visit us in Colorado to tour the project area and see first-hand the waters they are helping us restore with Greenbacks. GRTU would also be acknowledged in CTU's One TU annual report for Colorado.

RMFTU would acknowledge GRTU as a "Cutthroat Trout Donor", the highest level, on its [donor page](#), in an article in its monthly newsletter, and in announcements at monthly member meetings.

GRTU Audit

State your commitment to provide a chapter member to conduct a conservation tour audit visit by a GRTU member to the project site.

CTU and RMFTU would be pleased to welcome anyone from GRTU who would like to see this project site and other areas related to the Poudre Headwaters Project.