



# COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

## COLORADO RESILIENCE PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION – PLANNING PROJECTS

*This Word version application is provided to assist grantees in preparing to submit an online application. Narrative can be cut and pasted to the online application. Please note the character space limits for each question. Only online applications will be accepted.*

*Please respond accurately and comprehensively to all questions listed below. Refer to the Resilience Planning Grant Program Guidelines for complete descriptions and requirements for the grant application.*

### A. GENERAL AND SUMMARY INFORMATION

1. Planning Project Title:			
2. Name of Applicant: (local government, non-profit, or watershed coalition)		DUNS #: (if applicable)	

#### 3. Official Representative of Applicant (with signing authority):

Name:		Title:	
Address:		Phone:	
Fax:		E-Mail:	

4. Name of Fiscal Agent: (if different from applicant)		DUNS #:	
---	--	---------	--

#### 5. Official Representative of Fiscal Agent (if different from applicant):

Name:		Title:	
Address:		Phone:	
Fax:		E-Mail:	

#### 6. Designated Contact Person for the Application:

Name:		Title:	
Address:		Phone:	
Fax:		E-Mail:	

7. Amount of CDBG-DR Grant Requested:		If applying for more than one project, please prioritize (1 of 2):	
---------------------------------------	--	--	--

8. Project Location (please attach a map of the project area, if needed):			
---	--	--	--



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

8. Describe the proposed purpose and scope of the plan, study, or analysis, including deliverables and outcomes. (12,000 character limit)

### Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this project is to conduct a study of terrestrial and aquatic habitats in the Little Thompson Watershed, the results of which will be incorporated into the master plan. The project will have four phases:

1. Develop profiles of all the native ecosystems in the watershed under optimal conditions of health and diversity.
2. Assess the current condition of each habitat, and identify trends.
3. Conduct site-specific studies to learn in-depth information about areas of special concern or uncertainty.
4. Develop a set of proposed actions for the restoration and repair of each habitat, including estimated time frames and costs wherever possible. Integrate these into a prioritized list of projects in the master plan, either as part of broader reconstruction and recovery projects, or as stand-alone habitat restoration projects.

The scope will include the entire watershed (approximately 204 square miles), using sampling to provide comprehensive information without the need to examine every parcel. The time-frame for the study will encompass at least one complete growth season, from spring thaw (circa May 2015) to late autumn. The in-depth, site-specific studies may continue beyond the scope and timeframe of this proposal through the use of volunteers and alternate funding, for as long as they provide useful information.

### Deliverables and Outcomes

- List of all identified habitats within the watershed, with profiles of each.
  - Labels the type of habitat using established definitions and profiles, such as NRCS Ecological Site Descriptions, USDA plant hardiness (climate) zones, USFWS wetland classifications, USFS plant communities and habitats, etc.
  - A narrative description of each habitat, and illustrative photos where feasible.
  - A comprehensive list of all expected or typical flora and fauna in each habitat.
  - A bibliography of reference materials used. Copies of these materials will be provided whenever possible, to become part of a reference library for the Watershed Coordinator's office.
- A narrative assessment of the current conditions and trends (such as invasion of noxious weeds) in each habitat, correlated to the river reaches identified in the master plan, plus upland areas of the watershed, with illustrative photographs.
- A map of the approximate locations and bounds of each habitat in the watershed, as envisioned in a fully recovered condition.
- A prognosis for the unassisted recovery of the habitats, correlated to river reaches as above, with timeframes.
- Recommendations for appropriate interventions and/or non-intervention to expedite and enhance recovery to a resilient and healthy condition of each area, with supporting diagrams and photographs, estimated timeframes (for example, "Seedlings must be watered for two to three years until fully established; thickets will be mature in ten to twelve years"), and estimated costs.



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

- A list of sources of material, such as seeds and cuttings, from viable habitats within the watershed, and from outside the watershed.
- Recommendations and rationale for additional studies that may be needed. In collaboration with the Coalition, design and implement specific site studies and associated monitoring, and train designated volunteers to maintain the study plots and collect and report data (see Methods, below). Create a list of recommended additional studies that are beyond the scope of this project.
- Prepare a report of all findings as of the completion date of the project, for inclusion as an Appendix to the master plan, and for use as a downloadable field guide. Present findings to the steering committee.
- Flag any conflicts with existing recommendations in the master plan.

### Methods

**Phase 1 – Collect and Review Existing Information:** Although there are few studies of habitats and ecosystems in the Little Thompson Watershed, there is abundant information available on nearby watersheds that is applicable. This project will build on the existing information by first gathering and reviewing the relevant research. Conclusions about the natural, healthy state of the watershed will be corroborated by the data that does exist, historical photographs, and reliable anecdotal information. This last may include interviews with long-term residents of the area, newspaper articles, ditch company records, archives, and so on.

**Phase 2 – Assess Current Conditions and Trends:** Researchers will walk portions of the 60+ miles of the river and its tributaries, as well as representative portions of the upland areas of the watershed, and perform a visual assessment of the current conditions. It will not be necessary to cover the entire watershed on foot, but special attention will be paid to reaches identified in the master plan as needing significant work, and also areas of the watershed that show signs of impairment, such as landslides, severe erosion, fire damage, silt deposits, etc. These areas may be identified using available satellite and aerial photography, reports of landowners, or other means. Likewise, researchers may visit areas that are in exceptionally good condition, as these can then be used as reference zones to guide intervention and measure progress. With landowner permission, areas in good condition could be used as source material for propagating native species in damaged areas.

**Phase 3 – Design and Implement Site Studies:** If deemed useful, and with landowner permission, study sites will be set up to measure and monitor particular aspects of concern. Volunteers, Coalition staff, students, interns, interested property owners, or other resources may assist with or take over the duties of maintaining the study site and collecting and reporting data beyond the end date of the funded project. These could include population surveys over time, tracking regrowth or die-off, experimental testing of different solutions for effectiveness, etc. A percentage of the budget will be set aside for such studies, which will be designed and implemented by the researchers based on results from Phases 1 and 2 of the project. The timeline for the site studies will not be constrained by the deadline for other deliverables; that is, the profiles and assessments will be appended to the master plan and a field guide



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

produced in accordance with the schedule, while the in-depth studies continue as long as necessary or for as long as they produce useful information.

Phase 4 – Report Findings and Recommendations: The results of this study will become an important part of the master plan, as well as a reference document that will be used in the field to assist with all aspects of restoration activities. The profiles, narratives, lists, maps, photographs, diagrams, assessments, bibliography, etc. will be assembled and presented in a report that can be attached to the master plan as an appendix, but also made available in digital form that can be downloaded and used as a field guide. The field guide should be organized in such a way that a non-scientist user can easily refer to all the relevant information for a particular location.

9. Identify how this project will incorporate resilience and sustainability strategies. Include details on proposed resilience metrics and standards that will be tracked and reported. *(12,000 character limit)*

#### Incorporating Resilience and Sustainability Strategies

The purpose of the proposed habitat study is to help to directly restore the natural resilience of the river, and to indirectly support the incorporation of both economic and ecological resilience and sustainability strategies in all other restoration efforts.

The Little Thompson River has high, naturally occurring variability in flow from season to season and year to year. As a result, both the natural and the human environments in the watershed were well-adapted to normal (up to 100-year) flood events. In fact, in the 1990s there were two significant (50-year) floods; with only one or two exceptions, the built environment proved itself to have excellent resilience and the natural environment emerged, if anything, even stronger than before.

The 2013 flood of the Little Thompson River changed all that. The flood is estimated to have been a 1000-year event that inflicted catastrophic damage on many sections of the river. In many places, the healthy and well-developed riparian habitat was completely destroyed. The flood also washed away homes, a fire station, numerous buildings, bridges, roads, reservoirs, cisterns, utilities—virtually all infrastructure that was within the floodplain, and much that was considered well outside the floodplain.

Bridges and buildings can be rebuilt, but, left to itself, it will take the river's ecosystem many decades to fully recover. In the meantime, the existing and rebuilt infrastructure is more vulnerable than ever, because in some places there is little vegetation left to slow erosion, dissipate energy, help contain the river within a stable channel, trap sediments, or provide shade, food, and shelter. Minor high-water events, such as spring run-off, that used to nurture the valleys and canyons, now pose a threat to life and safety by causing severe erosion, landslides, unpredictable migration of the stream channel, and collapsing of riverbanks. The vast areas of bare ground are being colonized by noxious weeds that could soon be out of control. Land that is bare or colonized with non-native vegetation may be subject to rapid desiccation, which increases wildfire hazard. Eroded and bare slopes increase the incidence of destructive flash flooding. High sediment loads are reducing water quality. Downstream, the sediments have been deposited over low-lying fields and pastures, smothering the grasses. The loose, damp sediments cannot support the weight of farm equipment, so these acres are out of production, possibly for years, until the ground firms up.

The Little Thompson Watershed provides ideal habitat for several threatened and endangered species. There is a known population of Preble's meadow jumping mouse, for example, and the river



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

supports greenback cutthroat trout. There are still large pockets of riparian habitat that escaped the deluge relatively unscathed, which could provide the essential seed and breeding stock for recovery elsewhere on the river. However, these pockets are now vulnerable islands in what was once a diverse, robust corridor linking the high alpine with the plains.

**A healthy, diverse ecosystem is the key to protecting infrastructure and safety. The results of this study will be used to select areas for planting and appropriate plant species that will protect against erosion and landslides, mitigate flood damage (past and future), stabilize banks, floodplains, and river channels, reduce sediment loads, improve water quality, suppress noxious weeds, provide food, shelter, and shade for fish and wildlife, mitigate fire hazard, and re-connect islands of habitat.**

As restoration work moves forward, a reassessment of what is an appropriate building site, bridge design, or surface runoff plan is in order. **This study will provide the diverse stakeholders within the Little Thompson watershed with clear, authoritative guidance about the biological environment, thus enabling them to make decisions that support sustainability and resilience.**

### Resilience Metrics and Standards

Our best defense against natural disaster is a healthy, diverse ecosystem. In a resilient watershed, the environment can withstand the shocks of ordinary (i.e., within commonly accepted regional planning parameters) floods, fires, and droughts. Natural diversity and adaptability within the region help to confine and mitigate impacts, such as when more drought-resistant grasses thrive and spread to provide groundcover and food when other plants die back. Adaptive changes may be different than pre-disaster conditions, but the functionality is preserved.

Our efforts, then, must focus on restoring the native habitats as quickly as possible, and ensuring that any activities and infrastructure within the watershed will not compromise the long-term sustainability of this ecosystem. Where there are existing circumstances, property rights, or other legal uses that have an impact on the environment, these should be mitigated wherever possible. **The proposed study will help set the standards by which we measure resilience and identify areas for corrective action.**

As mentioned before, the Little Thompson Watershed had proven itself over and over to be highly resilient to the kinds of destructive events that any human could reasonably anticipate might occur within their lifetime, or the lifetimes of their children and grandchildren. The flood of 2013, a 1000-year event, was far more destructive and rare. If we define resilience as the ability for systems—ecosystems, economies, transportation, communications, vital infrastructure, homes and businesses, and so on—to return to full functionality after a disaster, clearly the ecological resilience of the watershed, which is the linchpin of the resilience of all other systems, has been severely compromised. Temporary repairs have been made to roads, most bridges, utilities, and other infrastructure, however, the situation we currently face is that the systems we rely on are now highly vulnerable to even minor, localized floods, storms, droughts, fires, etc. that could occur at any time. The economy has been strained, but will recover fully as long as we do not fall into a cycle of disaster, repair, repeat. If we do not take corrective action now, we face years or decades of repeated and costly cycles of repairing and replacing infrastructure, with each cycle reducing the region's resilience even further. Such a drain on resources can only be sustained for so long.

It takes many years, even when everything possible is done to accelerate the process, to fully re-establish habitats that have been destroyed. The funded portion of this study will end long before there are substantial, measurable results, and therefore does not propose to track and report resiliency metrics. It will, however, document the baseline of current habitat conditions from which improvements can be measured, and it will describe in detail the highest feasible standards of full recovery that we



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

wish to achieve, which will become part of the master plan. The master plan already contains extensive mapping of existing conditions in the riparian corridor, with satellite imagery and graphic representations of conceptual designs for restoration work. A comparison of these maps provides a visual metric of our starting point and our ultimate destination. This establishes the foundation for clear metrics as projects are implemented in the future.

The third phase of this proposal provides for physical study plots within the watershed. The nature of these study plots will be determined in collaboration between watershed stakeholders and experts, based on the results from phases one and two, feasibility, and the value added by integration with other activities (such as infrastructure replacement) in the watershed. Standards and metrics will be *the* key aspect of the design of these studies, as they may be implemented for the purpose of monitoring conditions, assessing progress, and testing strategies. These studies will continue beyond the timeframe of this proposed project for as long as they provide useful data. We intend to modify projects and tactics in response to the information gleaned from these study sites, to ensure that our restoration projects effectively and efficiently meet the standards set out in the master plan.

The success of the project itself will be assessed by the team's ability to:

- Stay within budget and deadlines
- Effectively communicate progress and findings in periodic presentations to the Steering Committee and Stakeholder general meetings
- Provide the requested lists, narratives, and maps in a useful format for other (non-scientist) users
- Effectively train volunteers to maintain experiments and collect and report data
- Communicate needs and issues to the Watershed Coordinator, Program Assistant, or Steering Committee, as appropriate, in a timely manner, and work to resolve issues and make progress toward the project goals
- Cope with diverse stakeholder needs and interests
- Be responsive to Coalition needs
- Comply with all reporting and audit requirements

10. Please identify how your plan, study, or analysis will be implemented or used, including how it fits into local or regional planning efforts or processes, if applicable. Watershed coalitions should indicate how the project aligns with the watershed master plan. (12,000 character limit)

Besides being incorporated into the master plan, the findings of this study will be assembled into a field guide for daily use by everyone engaged in restoration activities. The field guide will be handy, of course, for making decisions that directly impact habitat, such as plant selection. It will also provide an on-the-ground reference for the restoration of the stream channel and floodplain, decisions regarding the size and configurations of pools, siting of buildings, sizing of bridges, and numerous other considerations.



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

The expert assessments and recommendations will assist the Coalition in avoiding unnecessary expenditures and allow us to focus resources on areas of greatest need and value. For example, our attention naturally tends to gravitate to the built environment, but there may be an intervention that is required in a remote, undeveloped area that is needed to rescue habitat for a threatened or endangered species.

This study will provide a complete picture of the habitats that existed before the flood, and how they can be restored to optimum health as quickly as possible. An understanding of these habitats and their plant and animal communities will fill in an essential piece of the master plan for the watershed, which will guide all decisions for Coalition-sponsored restoration activities.

### Local and Regional Planning

The Little Thompson Watershed spans three counties (Larimer, Boulder, and Weld), but nearly all of the land is unincorporated. There is no government entity that has stepped forward with a vision for the watershed, nor have regional public plans, such as the State Water Supply Plan, made any mention of the Little Thompson River. The Coalition has taken it upon itself to contact and engage all stakeholders, create the first-ever master plan, and lobby County, State, and Federal agencies to participate in our planning, and include us in theirs.

The Coalition has instigated a number of other projects that contribute to our vision of a healthy, enduring watershed that creates an ecologically healthy river. The following table lists some of the projects and their status.

Project	Status	Funding
<b>Emergency Response, health &amp; safety</b>	Complete	n/a
<b>Emergency Repairs, public infrastructure</b>	Temporary repairs complete	n/a
<b>Capacity Building 1: Coalition Formation, Stakeholder Database, Mapping, Site Assessments, Public Outreach, Planning, Governance, Coordination with other agencies</b>	Continuing	Partially secured
<b>Capacity Building 2: Hydrology Training</b>	Complete	Secured, closed
<b>Capacity Building 3: Watershed Coordinator And Program Assistant</b>	Starting March 2015	Applications Pending
<b>Debris clean-up, phase 1</b>	Complete	Secured, closed
<b>Debris clean-up, phase 2</b>	Starting April 2015	Partially secured
<b>Master Plan</b>	Complete	Secured, closed
<b>Water Usage Study</b>	In progress	Secured
<b>Restoration Demonstration Projects</b>	In progress: site selection completed	Partially secured
<b>Hydraulic/Sediment Transport Study</b>	Planning	Application pending
<b>Floodplain Restoration, Blue Mtn</b>	Planning	Application pending
<b>Emergency Early Warning System</b>	Planning	Application pending
<b>Weed Management: Education</b>	Complete	Secured, closed
<b>Weed Management: Site work</b>	Planning	Applications pending
<b>Repairs to Irrigation Infrastructure (multiple)</b>	Varies by project	Partially secured, Applications pending
<b>Agricultural Recovery Projects (multiple)</b>	Varies by project	Applications pending
<b>Participation in State Water Supply Initiative</b>	In progress	n/a



**COLORADO**

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

This list does not include numerous implementation projects that are currently in the planning stage, but do not yet have an identified funding source, including relocating and rebuilding permanent infrastructure, numerous floodplain restoration projects, sediment removal, and re-vegetation. The Coalition also tracks projects undertaken by private landowners, homeowner associations, fire districts, Colorado Department of Transportation, and other entities to ensure there is coordination of efforts.

The proposed study of habitats, flora, and fauna will be fully integrated as an essential part of the master plan. Part of the master plan development, completed in December, 2014, included a thorough search for existing research and data on all aspect of the Little Thompson Watershed. This survey revealed that very little research has ever been done on the Little Thompson River. The small amount that has been published gives tantalizing glimpses of an outstanding, highly diverse ecosystem. This ecosystem was heavily damaged by the flood, and we are in danger of losing the pockets that remain. It is critical that we fill in this gap in our knowledge of the watershed and use the results to set our standards for recovery.

We have learned that a master plan is an essential tool in fostering a unified vision and recording critical information needed by government agencies. The completion of the initial master plan is a major achievement and first step toward the Coalition’s mission to restore and maintain the resiliency, ecological integrity, and agricultural heritage of the watershed, and our goal to monitor and provide leadership in managing the health of the river and its ecology. The study of habitats proposed here, together with other proposed studies and research currently in progress, will fill in essential pieces of the master plan, enabling much better integration of the needs and goals of the Little Thompson Watershed into regional plans.

11. Has/Have your community(ies) adopted “Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado” as put forth by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (effective date 1/14/2011).

Yes  No  or

If no, please explain:  
(600 character limit)

---

---





**COLORADO**

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

**B. PROPOSED BUDGET**

**11. Project Budget & Funding Sources**

	Total Cost	Project Funding			
		CDBG-DR	Other Funds Requested or Committed		
			Amount	Source	Status*
<b>PROJECT ACTIVITIES (list)</b>					
1. Develop profiles of all the native ecosystems in the watershed under optimal conditions of health and diversity.	\$ <del>20</del> 32,000	\$ <u>20,000</u>	\$ <u>12,000</u>	CSU?	
2. Assess the current condition of each habitat, and identify trends.	\$35,000	\$ <u>35,000</u>		TetraT?	
3. Implement site-specific studies to learn in-depth information about areas of special concern or uncertainty.	\$ <del>540,296</del> 00	\$ <u>40,000</u>	\$ <u>10,296</u>	LTWRC Volunteers	
4. Develop a set of proposed actions for the restoration and repair of each habitat, including estimated time frames and costs <del>wherever possible</del> .	\$3,000	\$ <u>3,000</u>		TetraT?	

**Comment [DC2]:** A portion of their "in-kind" work on master plan?

**Comment [DC1]:** This is 9 sites, one hour/week for a year, at \$22/hour.

**Comment [DC3]:** A portion of their "in-kind" work on master plan?

**Formatted:** Font:

**Formatted:** List Paragraph, Numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0.25" + Indent at: 0.5"

**Formatted:** List Paragraph, Widow/Orphan control, Adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Adjust space between Asian text and numbers, Tab stops: Not at -0.5" + 0" + 0.25" + 0.5" + 0.74" + 1" + 1.23" + 1.5" + 2" + 2.5" + 3" + 3.5" + 4" + 4.5" + 5" + 5.5" + 6" + 6.5" + 7" + 7.5"

\* (e.g., committed, in application stage, etc.)



**COLORADO**

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

The total cost for each phase includes equipment, transportation, insurance, and administrative costs.					
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$98,000				

***For the following sections, please see the project selection criteria in the Resilience Planning Grant Program Guidelines for additional guidance.***



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

### C. NEED

12. Please provide data to describe a) the extent and severity of the disaster damage, and b) current conditions that pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the community.  
(12,000 character limit)

#### Extent and Severity of the Disaster Damage

The following description is excerpted from the Little Thompson Watershed master plan:

*In September 2013, the Little Thompson River experienced a catastrophic flooding event, with an estimated peak discharge that exceeded the largest historical measured flood levels by more than three times. Although there have been other floods on the Little Thompson River, none have been as destructive as the September 2013 event. Thirty homes were totally lost or rendered uninhabitable [this figure does not include numerous non-residential structures that were also destroyed, including a fire station]; five dams failed; 28 bridges were damaged or destroyed, isolating several communities for extended time periods (and requiring air evacuation); and there was a significant loss of agricultural land and livestock. The flood destroyed almost the entire riparian corridor, through surges of scour, deposition, or both. The upper reaches experienced almost a total loss of trees, many of which were large, well-established fir trees. The lower reaches experienced deposition of debris and sediment to such an extent that much of the riparian vegetation was buried beyond recovery.*



Little Thompson River at Blue Mountain neighborhood (formerly X-Bar-7) before and after the September 2013 flood.

*In the middle section of the river, both conditions exist, with alternating sections of scour and deposition. Although other rivers on the Front Range also experienced catastrophic flooding from the September 2013 event, the Little Thompson River had some of the highest flow per square mile (unit discharge) of any watershed:*



**COLORADO**

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery  
Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

RIVER	LOCATION	DRAINAGE AREA	2013 EST. PEAK DISCHARGE	2013 EST. UNIT PEAK DISCHARGE
Little Thompson	Blue Mtn (X-Bar-7), about mid-river	87 sq mi	15,730 cfs	180 cfs/sq mi
Big Thompson	Drake Gauge	314 sq mi	15,300 cfs	49 cfs/sq mi
St. Vrain	Lyons	218 sq mi	23,000 cfs	106 cfs/sq mi

Table: Comparison of unit discharges in Front Range rivers.

*Several short-term recovery efforts were implemented on the Little Thompson River immediately after the flood, including temporary river crossings to replace lost bridges and to restore a 2-mile stretch of Highway 36. However, not all immediate needs were addressed, nor were any long-term needs....*

*It should be noted that some sections of the Little Thompson River could, over time, naturally reestablish its equilibrium slope, planform alignment, and natural geomorphic condition. These geomorphic functions are also likely sufficient to allow for the natural regeneration of riparian plant material through seeding and cloning with no active restoration. The challenge, however, is the time frame, likely decades, required for this extensive regeneration. Active restoration will be critical in many locations to address public safety issues in the case of stabilizing channel banks, land reclamation related to agricultural and economic needs, property reclamation where homes were lost or damaged, and those areas used for water supply and recreation.*

*Based on the visual assessments that were conducted [for the master plan], more than half the reaches have sustained flood-related damage to the wetted channels and floodplain instabilities that are of such poor condition that active restoration is recommended.*

Current Conditions that pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the community

The 2013 flood of the Little Thompson River is estimated to have been a 1000-year event that inflicted catastrophic damage on many sections of the river. In many places, the healthy and well-developed riparian habitat was completely destroyed. In many areas, the ability of these habitats to recover naturally will be greatly impeded by:

- Absence of soils in areas scoured to bedrock and cobble
- Lack of intact habitats nearby that can provide a source for reseeded and replenishing native populations
- Rapid invasion of undesirable, noxious weeds
- Ongoing, high levels of erosion, deposition, and sediment transport, causing channel migration, instability, and other issues
- Disconnection from the water table
- Inability to retain moisture and dissipate energy
- Instability of unconsolidated sediments
- Increased vulnerability to wildfire
- Lack of shelter, pools, and resting places for aquatic wildlife in blown-out channels and ponds
- Lack of shade to moderate temperatures
- Lack of food, cover, and shelter for wildlife
- Setbacks in both ecological and economic recovery due to repeated, frequent, destructive flooding during normal rainfall and snowmelt events, because there is no longer a functioning



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

riparian zone to absorb the impacts

These ecosystems provided resilience and protection needed during normal to large flood events, from annual spring run-off to the 50-year events seen in past decades. Without them, even minor floods could be devastating. To be sustainable and resilient, it is essential to all other aspects of restoration and recovery to account for and protect an ecologically healthy watershed. The stakeholders of the Little Thompson Watershed wish to be good stewards of the land and do the right thing, but they have many questions, including:

- Why is habitat restoration important?
- How do the upper banks and slopes of the watershed impact the riparian corridor and the river?
- What do we know about the habitats that were known to exist in the Little Thompson Watershed?
- Are there comprehensive lists of plant and animal communities?
- What are the undocumented habitats that should be typical and expected in this area?
- Which species will be most successful in a particular area?
- Which habitats belong where?
- What threatened and endangered species live in the Little Thompson Watershed, and what are the special considerations for restoration of appropriate habitats for them?
- Which areas do not require intervention?
- Which areas are highest priority?
- How do we stop the weeds from taking over?
- How can we reduce the costs for recovery?
- What would happen if we do nothing?
- How can I protect my property from further erosion? From deposition?
- How can we restore fully functioning and resilient ecosystems more quickly?
- Where can we find the needed materials, such as seeds, cuttings, and microfauna, within the watershed or from other sources, appropriate for the restoration of each habitat?
- How should specific restoration projects be implemented to ensure success?
- Where should new buildings, bridges, and other infrastructure be sited to minimize harmful impacts on habitats?
- How can infrastructure, water quality, agriculture, etc. benefit from diverse and health plant communities?

13. Describe how this plan, study, or analysis addresses the conditions described in question 12.  
(12,000 character limit)



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

Restoring ecosystems is a major undertaking, for which the Coalition is seeking assistance. Because this is a relatively undeveloped watershed, with few nearby municipalities and taxing districts, the overall population density and public resource base are low. In general, residents of the Little Thompson Watershed have had to shoulder much of the cost of temporary repairs to roads and bridges, debris removal, and emergency measures to stabilize slopes and stream banks. They simply do not have the resources to fund scientific studies and long-range planning projects, although many are eager to help in any way possible. Understandably, some of the financial aid from various agencies is contingent upon scientific and objective data in support of the applications. The data gathered under this proposal will directly inform plans for re-vegetation, erosion control and mitigation, constructed channel depths, size and configuration of pools, overbanks, and other features; it will help determine goals for temperature regimes in the river; etc.

Prior to the 2013 flood, the few studies that had been done along the Little Thompson River described excellent water quality and a high level of biodiversity (class B1, the highest designation, according to one study). Researchers discovered thriving populations of rare fish/insect communities, for example, that were thought to be extinct along the Front Range. There are also known populations of the threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse and American bald eagles on the river, and areas that provided ideal habitat for such rare and threatened plants as Bell's twinpod, Ute ladies tresses, and Colorado butterfly plant. According to anecdotal evidence, the river was home to greenback cutthroat trout. The Little Thompson River had been proposed as a reference river for the region. Under proper management, the Little Thompson River could have been a wellspring for the restoration of some native species to the rest of the South Platte Basin. However, the remaining pockets of healthy habitat are now vulnerable islands in what was once a diverse, robust corridor linking the high alpine with the plains. This study will help determine how to best support the recovery of these threatened populations throughout the watershed.

Most of the existing research on habitats in the Little Thompson Watershed has already been gathered for the master plan. However, this specific research is sparse, has not been assessed for specific restoration efforts, and is not easily accessible or usable by landowners, farmers, ranchers, planners, builders, engineers, fire department personnel, utility companies, and other parties to use in making decisions about habitat restoration, per se, or any other activities which could have an impact on habitats. There is a wealth of relevant regional information that can be used to fill in the gaps in our knowledge of ecosystems in the Little Thompson Watershed, but this, too, must be assembled, reviewed, and rendered into a usable form.

A healthy, diverse ecosystem is the key to protecting infrastructure, health, and safety. The results of this study will be used to select areas for planting and appropriate plant species that will protect against erosion and landslides, mitigate flood damage (past and future), stabilize banks, floodplains, and river channels, reduce sediment loads, improve water quality, suppress noxious weeds, provide food, shelter, and shade for fish and wildlife, mitigate fire hazard, and re-connect islands of habitat.

As restoration work moves forward, a reassessment of what is an appropriate building site, bridge design, or surface runoff plan is in order. **This study will provide the diverse stakeholders within the Little Thompson watershed with clear, authoritative guidance about the biological environment, in the form of a field guide, thus enabling them to make decisions that support sustainability and resilience.**



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

14. Demonstrate how you concluded alternative funding sources are not available (e.g., which funding sources might this project be eligible for and why you concluded those sources would not work).  
(3,000 character limit)

In general, there are few sources of funding specifically for projects to restore habitats and ecosystems, and virtually no funds for studies on these topics conducted by nongovernmental, nonacademic groups. Where these funds exist, they are usually not geared toward disaster situations.

In the year-and-a half since the disaster, we have responded to the urgent needs for rescue; shelter, food, and drinking water; re-establishment of communications, bridges, and other vital links; repair of critical infrastructure; stop-gap protection of vulnerable sites; and removal of hazardous debris—all the while, just hoping and praying, because the next storm, even a small storm, could wash it all away again. Ironically, so far almost nothing has been done to restore the cornerstone of our resilience, a healthy and diverse ecosystem.

Replacing the acres and acres of soils that were washed away, scraping tons of sediment, planting miles of mixed grasses, forbes, shrubs, and trees, re-grading slopes and floodplains—these tasks, on the scale required along the Little Thompson River, are beyond the means of ordinary landowners. Unfortunately, neither insurance nor federal and state disaster response programs are truly designed to assist with this important, long-term recovery work. For the limited funds that *are* available for stream restoration, environmental work, habitat improvement, and other habitat-related work, the funding agencies usually prefer to see objective data and scientific background information to support the proposal. This study will help the Little Thompson Watershed to qualify for such funds as may be available.



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

### D. IMPACT

15. Identify how this plan, study, or analysis furthers or is compatible with local and/or regional planning efforts (including watershed master plans, as applicable). (12,000 character limit)

The Little Thompson River system is unique among Front Range rivers in several ways. First, except for an eight-mile stretch of Highway 36 in the vicinity of Pinewood Springs, there are no major roads paralleling the river. Second, large segments of the upper reaches are undeveloped land, including USFS, BLM, and private conservation easements. Together with its proximity to Rocky Mountain National Park near the headwaters, and Rabbit Mountain Open Space at the bottom of the foothills, this lends the upper river and its tributaries a remote and wild character as an important corridor for seasonal wildlife movements. Third, while the river traverses three counties (Larimer, Boulder, and Weld), there are no municipalities on the Little Thompson or its tributaries, except where the river touches the very outskirts of Berthoud, Johnstown, and Milliken.

As a result, the Little Thompson could well be renamed the Little Known River, even though it flows right through one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. In the absence of any government authority to oversee restoration and recovery, stakeholders in the Little Thompson Watershed formed a coalition in January, 2014, under the auspices of the Big Thompson Conservation District. In one year, the Coalition has accomplished the following:

- Identified and contacted over 600 stakeholders in the Little Thompson Watershed, including property owners, farmers, nearby towns, fire and water districts, county governments, and federal agencies.
- Formed committees, with volunteer members recruited from the stakeholder base, to direct planning, fund-raising, outreach, and all coalition-sponsored activities. Decisions are made using consensus, and our entire governance and philosophy is based on a collaborative approach.
- Hold meetings as needed, up to twice weekly, which are open to the public; hold quarterly-or-so landowner meetings; publish a biweekly e-newsletter; write articles for local news media; and maintain a website of information and resources.
- Created a database that tracks recovery-related expenses of all stakeholders, volunteer hours, and in-kind services which can be used to qualify as matching funds for grant applications.
- Raised \$XXX,XXX to date for flood recovery and planning, with an additional \$X,XXX,XXX in the pipeline.
- Employed the equivalent of \$XXX,XXX of outside volunteer time and equipment to remove hazardous debris and perform other emergency post-flood work.
- Applied for inclusion in the State Water Supply plan.
- Hired a national-caliber engineering and consulting firm to develop the first-ever master plan for the watershed. The plan, completed and approved in December, 2014, includes conceptual plans and cost estimates for flood recovery work, as well as recommendations for further study. Wherever possible, the conceptual designs use “soft,” natural techniques and materials to repair channels and flood plains, control erosion, and restore habitat.

In other words, up until the flood of 2013, there has been scant attention paid to the Little Thompson Watershed at the regional or state level. Nearly all planning involving the Little Thompson River since that time has been at the behest of the Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition. The steering committee includes permanent seats for representatives of all three counties (Larimer, Boulder, and

Formatted: Highlight

Formatted: Highlight

Formatted: Highlight





## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

Weld) that cover the river, and the coalition sends representatives to municipal, regional, and state meetings that are relevant to watershed issues.

**The study proposed here will be incorporated into the master plan, which is the guide for all future, coalition-sponsored projects in the watershed, and all landowners and government agencies will be encouraged to follow it whenever their activities have an impact on the river.**

16. Describe the multiple objectives the project will address (e.g., hazard mitigation, green infrastructure, economic and community development, etc.). (12,000 character limit)

This study lays the foundation for restoration of habitats throughout the watershed. We expect this to directly and indirectly impact all aspects of restoration, recovery, and rebuilding, but in particular:

- Reduce hazards to life, property, and infrastructure from future floods, storms, and droughts by re-establishing trees and woody vegetation (absorb energy, fend debris, stabilize banks, moderate temperatures)
- Reduce the potential for landslides
- Reduce the potential for sinkholes and desiccation by helping to stabilize the water table
- Moderate water temperatures in the river
- Improve water quality
- Improve resilience by increasing biological diversity
- Improve resilience by strengthening pockets of, and connections between, intact, robust habitats
- Enhance and improve the performance and resilience of other restoration work, such as floodplain restoration, bank stabilization, infrastructure upgrades, irrigation headgate replacements, and cisterns by providing protective vegetative cover
- Restore habitat connectivity from the high alpine to the plains for seasonal wildlife migrations
- Support populations of identified threatened and endangered species
- Suppress invasive and noxious weeds
- Encourage sustainable choices for buildings and activities in the watershed

One of the silver linings of the September 2013 flood is that it has strengthened the feeling of community among the stakeholders in the watershed. Even those who do not directly own assets along the river, but have, for example, jurisdiction or other involvement, have been moved to participate, advise, and help with the many challenges of restoration. **An important part of what brings us together is our unified vision of a resilient and enduring watershed that creates an ecologically healthy river.**

This study should work directly to strengthen and clarify that vision, which in turn will build an even stronger sense of community.

17. Please demonstrate commitment, involvement, and support for the plan, study, or analysis from community partners, the public, and/or neighboring jurisdictions. As applicable, identify what each



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

partner will contribute (e.g., subject matter expertise, funds, shared decision-making, etc.).  
(12,000 character limit)

### **Letters of Support**

The following letters of support are attached to this application:

- Etc
- Etc
- Etc

### **Community Partner Contributions**

In-kind contributions in the form of volunteer time, as well as assistance from staff of State and local agencies is a significant part of the work of the Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition. Already, hundreds of hours have been donated from various Coalition members to attend regular meetings, review the Master Plan, assess damages, write grants, and similar endeavors. Going forward, some 10-15 hours/month/person of volunteer time from the members of the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition Steering Committee is anticipated.

The Big Thompson Conservation District (BTCD) has been generous in donating its time and services to the Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition, and the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition. The current volunteer staffing level for these two coalitions is some 1.5 employees from the Big Thompson Conservation District, including 50 percent of the time of the BTCD Board President.

The Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition also will access technical support services currently offered by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and available to watershed coalitions dealing with disaster recovery. These services are offered via a team of consultants, who are able to provide *pro bono* consulting on engineering review, capacity building, meeting facilitation, resilient river design, grant writing, and revegetation plans, among other issues.



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

18. Describe how this project intends to address or positively affect vulnerable populations, if applicable. *(6,000 character limit)*

The destruction of habitats along the Little Thompson River by the flood of 2013 has greatly increased the economic, health, and safety risks of all landowners along the river itself, as well as all those who depend on the bridges, water supplies, fire stations, and other infrastructure. These populations include residents whose homes are newly vulnerable to erosion, or who could be stranded and isolated from medical help and fire fighting resources if a crossing is closed or damaged; and ranchers and farmers who depend on irrigation water from the Little Thompson River. As described elsewhere, the restoration of a functioning riparian zone will greatly enhance the resilience of the infrastructure, while a better understanding of the habitats will inform sustainable choices for reconstruction. This study lays the foundation for improving resilience and reducing these risks.

19. Describe how this plan, study, or analysis contributes to the overall economic health of the community, as applicable. *(12,000 character limit)*

In its current condition, the Little Thompson Watershed is more vulnerable to severe damage from even minor flood, storm, and fire events than ever before. Any reconstructed infrastructure is at serious risk of being damaged or destroyed in the next event, leading to an expensive cycle of destruction and rebuilding that could ultimately impoverish the regional economy. The restoration of healthy habitats and a functioning riparian corridor is the key to breaking this ruinous cycle and restoring resilience.

20. Describe how your plan, study, or analysis addresses carbon mitigation and energy efficiency strategies, as applicable. *(6,000 character limit)*

Although the proposed study is not designed specifically to address atmospheric carbon dioxide or energy issues, it will have a positive affect on carbon mitigation by supporting the re-establishment of native woody species along the river.



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

21. Describe how your plan, study, or analysis addresses connectivity (trails, wildlife habitat, roads, etc.), as applicable. (6,000 character limit)

### Connectivity Across the River

There are some 28 bridges or road crossings of the Little Thompson River, nearly all of which were destroyed in the flood of 2013. In addition, about 25% of the eight miles of highway that actually parallel the river were destroyed and had to be rebuilt. The only public bridge that remained fully functional during the event was the Interstate highway (I-25). For some neighborhoods on the river, a single bridge is the only means of egress and the only way for fire fighters and ambulances to provide rescue, short of airlifts. Many of the crossings were still in a functional state, except for being flooded, until the latter stages of the flood, when the trees began falling and the riparian corridor fell apart. It was the debris, and the lack of any barriers (such as standing trees and roots holding embankments) to fend off and slow down that debris, that caused the most damage.

**By supporting the re-establishment of a healthy riparian corridor, this study is critical to the future protection of connectivity across the river.**

### Connectivity Along the River

As mentioned previously, the Little Thompson River system is unique among Front Range rivers in several ways. It is the only river in the region that is not paralleled by a highway along most of its length. Large segments of the upper reaches are undeveloped land, spanning 7,000 feet of elevation change from just below Rocky Mountain National Park to its emergence from the mountains and foothills at Rabbit Mountain Open Space Park. **As a result, the river and its tributaries form one of the last natural and continuous riparian corridors for seasonal wildlife movements on the Front Range.** On the Little Thompson, the seasons are measured in the passing of elk herds following the snowline, black bears harvesting the chokecherries, and the arrival of neotropical migrant birds seeking food and rest on their long journeys.

Unfortunately, the flood of September 2013 destroyed long stretches of habitat, leaving pockets of native plants standing like islands in a sea of scoured cobbles and sandbars. **We urgently need a study of habitats throughout the corridor in order to re-link these islands and restore the full array of diversity from high mountains to plains, from uplands to wetlands.**

## E. FEASIBILITY

22. Please demonstrate your capacity and experience to carry out the plan, study, or analysis, including your organization's management capability. Include brief descriptions of qualifications for each member of the active project team and describe their role(s). Will volunteers be used, and if so, how. (12,000 character limit)



# COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

From January 2014 to date, the Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition has successfully managed the following projects:

Project	Status	Funding
Emergency Response, health & safety	Complete	n/a
Emergency Repairs, public infrastructure	Temporary repairs complete	n/a
Capacity Building 1: Coalition Formation, Stakeholder Database, Mapping, Site Assessments, Public Outreach, Planning, Governance, Coordination with other agencies	Continuing	Partially secured
Capacity Building 2: Hydrology Training	Complete	Secured, closed
Capacity Building 3: Watershed Coordinator And Program Assistant	Starting March 2015	Applications Pending
Debris clean-up, phase 1	Complete	Secured, closed
Debris clean-up, phase 2	Starting April 2015	Partially secured
Master Plan	Complete	Secured, closed
Water Usage Study	In progress	Secured
Restoration Demonstration Projects	In progress: site selection completed	Partially secured
Hydraulic/Sediment Transport Study	Planning	Application pending
Floodplain Restoration, Blue Mtn	Planning	Application pending
Emergency Early Warning System	Planning	Application pending
Weed Management: Education	Complete	Secured, closed
Weed Management: Site work	Planning	Applications pending
Repairs to Irrigation Infrastructure (multiple)	Varies by project	Partially secured, Applications pending
Agricultural Recovery Projects (multiple)	Varies by project	Applications pending
Participation in State Water Supply Initiative	In progress	n/a

These projects included raising and disbursing the necessary funds (approximately \$x,xxx,xxx), managing xx,xxx hours of volunteer time, obtaining the required permits, coordinating with jurisdictional authorities, and extensive outreach to stakeholders and the public.

Although comprised of volunteers, the steering committee has benefited from a pool of extraordinary talent, with members who include experienced managers and stakeholders with key expertise. In addition, the committee has often turned for help and expertise to the coalition members, who include scientists, engineers, land managers, builders, analysts, volunteer coordinators, and so on.

We anticipate hiring a professional watershed coordinator and a program assistant, who will provide oversight and administrative support for priority projects, prior to the start of this project. Experts in ecological site analysis and habitats will be hired to conduct this study. During Phase 3, these experts will train volunteers to continue the monitoring, maintenance, and data collection and reporting from selected study plots. The studies will be designed such that non-scientist volunteers can handle these tasks with a basic level of training.

Formatted: Highlight  
Formatted: Highlight

23. Demonstrate how your plan, study, or analysis is cost-effective and reasonable. Describe how you arrived at the project cost. (12,000 character limit)



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

The Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition has virtually no funding and no budget. From its inception in January, 2014, the coalition has operated on a shoestring, making the most of staffing and administrative support provided by the Big Thompson Conservation District, a few private donations, a small income from members using gift cards for their grocery shopping, and thousands upon thousands of hours of volunteer time. When a piece of equipment or a grant comes our way, we have learned to squeeze every bit of value from it, because we have to. Those lessons have been applied in the design of this project.

Several habitat biologists and project managers were consulted during the development of this proposal and the budget, which were structured in accordance with their recommendations as well as the urgent needs of the coalition. The study includes several strategies to minimize costs and maximize value. For example, Phase 1 includes collecting and reviewing the existing relevant information for the Little Thompson Watershed in particular, and for the habitats that we should find here, which have been studied in other, comparable watersheds. The methodology proposes the use of existing, well-known systems for classifying habitats, providing a built-in efficiency for organizing and communicating a great deal of information. This approach allows us to leverage the information that is already available. In addition, much of the existing data has already been assembled in the writing of the master plan. It only requires a review by habitat experts.

The second phase makes use of sampling methodology, recent aerial and satellite imagery, and other readily available resources to provide a complete picture of the current ecosystem conditions. This greatly reduces the time it will take, as well as the logistical issues of obtaining permissions and indemnifications, and accessing remote and rugged areas. The riparian corridor was thoroughly covered during the research for the master plan, and simply requires assessment of representative sites from the point of view of a habitat expert.

For Phase 3, the scope calls for the experts to design and set up the selected study plots, and to provide enough instruction and training to enable volunteers to take over the maintenance of those plots, plus monitoring activities, data collection, and reporting. The number and nature of these studies will be determined based on the needs of the coalition and the resources available. Because these studies have the potential to provide extremely valuable data over a long time period, a significant portion of the budget has been reserved for them; but the tactic of using volunteers to conduct the ongoing work should greatly reduce the overall cost. Also, depending on the studies chosen, it may be possible at that time to find additional funds from organizations such as USFWS, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, the Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, or others for more complex studies of value.

One of the critical deliverables is a comprehensive report of the findings of Phases 1 and 2 for inclusion in the master plan, and another is a field guide for use with any restoration, building, or other activities. The field guide, especially, will maximize the utility of the study findings, ensuring that this valuable information is applied in all future work. As a cost savings, these two reports need not be published in the conventional sense, but simply made available for download and printed as needed from the coalition's website.

Altogether, the findings of Phases 1 and 2 will be used in at least seven ways:

1. Set the baseline for metrics and monitoring of habitat recovery
2. Set the standards for measurement of full recovery and maximum resiliency
3. Incorporate the findings into the Master Plan for all future planning
4. Create a field guide to help ensure that all restoration and rebuilding activities in the watershed incorporate best practices for habitat health and sustainability



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

5. Support future applications for grants and assistance for river restoration and resilience with objective, scientific data
6. Identify and immediately implement studies for aspects of particular concern or uncertainty, which may provide informative data for as long as needed
7. Identify needs for additional studies and funding for watershed ecology and resilience

**All proposed methods and required deliverables for this study are designed specifically to reduce expenses, maximize value, and expedite progress on the coalition's priority projects by utilizing existing information, identifying sources of free or inexpensive materials, clearly delineating next steps, determining where no action is the best and least expensive course, and providing tools that will support sustainable, cost-effective decision-making on all future projects.**



**COLORADO**

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

24. Please provide a proposed project timeline with key milestones and demonstrate your ability to carry out the plan, study, or analysis in a timely manner, including your readiness to begin work immediately and complete work within 18 months. *(12,000 character limit)*

**The Coalition is ready to begin the project as soon as the award is announced.** The perfect time to begin the proposed project is mid to late March, which should be ideal, given the six-week timeframe for announcing the grant awards. Upon award, the coalition will immediately issue an RFP for a competitive bid process. Proposals will be solicited from academia, the private sector, and, if appropriate, from NRCS (Ecological Site Description program).

The study itself is designed to be very flexible in how it is carried out, with various phases overlapping if desirable. In any case, we anticipate that the team will wish to begin Phase 2 as soon as the beginning of the spring thaw in the lower mountains, when snowmelt begins to recharge the watershed. This date can vary greatly, but we will assume here that the earliest that Phase 2 can begin is April 13, 2015. Based on these assumptions, the timeline would be as follows:

Date	Milestone
<b>March 16</b>	Grant awards announced
<b>March 17</b>	Issue RFP for competitive bids
<b>March 19</b>	RFP Q&A teleconference
<b>March 27</b>	Proposals due
<b>April 3</b>	Grant funds released; Select contractor
<b>April 4</b>	Begin Phase 1
<b>April 13</b>	Begin Phase 2
<b>May 25</b>	Report to Steering Committee: Progress and findings to date
<b>June 22</b>	Report to Steering Committee: Progress and findings to date Phase 1 deliverables due
<b>June 30</b>	End Phase 1
<b>July 20</b>	Report to Steering Committee: Progress and findings to date Preliminary recommendations for Phase 3
<b>August 17</b>	Report to Steering Committee: Findings Phase 2 deliverables due Recommendations for Phase 3
<b>August 19 &amp; August 22</b>	Presentations to Stakeholders (one weeknight, one weekend), Recruit volunteers for Phase 3
<b>August 24</b>	Begin Phase 3
<b>August 31</b>	End Phase 2 Begin Phase 4
<b>September 21</b>	Report to Steering Committee: Progress and findings to date Volunteer training update Phase 4 and Final deliverables due
<b>October 30</b>	End Phases 3 and 4





## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

<b>Ongoing</b>	Site studies and monitoring to continue for as long as volunteers can collect and report useful data.
<b>The actual timeline will be adjusted based on conditions and input from the selected contractor, but we anticipate that the funded portion will be completed within a single growing season, or seven to eight months.</b>	

### F. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

25. If needed, provide additional information to demonstrate how the proposed project meets the planning project selection criteria outlined in the Program Guidelines. *(12,000 character limit)*

The Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition has demonstrated its ability to manage projects and grant funds in several ways over the year since its inception, even though this organization is comprised only of private individuals, plus a few representatives from other stakeholder organizations, with no budget, volunteering their time and efforts. One of the keys to the Coalition's success lies in our initial effort to identify and contact all stakeholders, and to keep them well-informed about Coalition activities. This has led to a high level of trust and cooperation in the watershed community.

For example, the Coalition maintains a file of permissions, waivers, and indemnifications signed by property owners for the purposes of research for the master plan, site inspections for damage assessments and for pending restoration grant awards, access and work by outside teams of volunteers, transit of heavy equipment performing debris removal, etc. For those who don't wish to participate, the Coalition is careful to respect private property rights, and in all cases we do our utmost to comply with the landowners' wishes.

**Based on this history, the Coalition is confident that there will be a high level of cooperation and support for the proposed project that will, for instance, enable researchers to access sites to assess current habitat conditions.**



## COLORADO

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

### G. ATTACHMENTS

- Please complete the Environmental Worksheet and have your chief elected official or board president sign. Attach this completed form to your application submittal.
- Non-profit and regional government organizations are encouraged to attach letters of support from local government officials and other partners.
- All applicants are encouraged to attach letters of support, maps, and other necessary exhibits to this application.

### H. SIGNATURES

***Application must be signed by those with official signing authority for the organization, in addition to the fiscal agent, as applicable.***

**I certify to the best of my knowledge that the statements made on this application are accurate and true.**

Local Government/Non-Profit Organization – Chief Elected Official or Board President	Watershed Coalition, if applicable
Signature:	Signature of Coalition President:
Date:	Date:
	Signature of Fiscal Agent:



**COLORADO**

Community Development Block Grant –  
Disaster Recovery

Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Community Development Office

	<b>Date:</b>

**For assistance in completing your application, please contact:**

*Don Sandoval, Regional Manager*  
*Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Division of Local Government, Field Services*  
*Phone: 970-679-4501*  
[don.sandoval@state.co.us](mailto:don.sandoval@state.co.us)

*Anne Miller, Senior Planner*  
*DOLA, Division of Local Government, Community Development Office*  
*Phone: 303-864-7726*  
[anne.miller@state.co.us](mailto:anne.miller@state.co.us)