Project Title:

Upper Cache la Poudre Watershed Plan

Entity submitting proposal:

Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed

Project Description:

This project consists of creating a watershed plan for the upper portions of the Cache la Poudre (CLP) River (above the mouth of the canyon, including the north fork, south fork, main stem, and Rist canyon). The plan is focused on preventing water quality problems stemming from significant stressors like catastrophic natural events like wildfires and addressing existing water quality and habitat issues. This plan is designed to be driven by stakeholder input and consultation, and assessment of existing conditions. The goal is to create a planning foundation for future implementation of watershed health restoration activities that will protect and increase the resilience of the Cache la Poudre (CLP) watershed.

Project Title:

Gunsight Processing Area Reclamation Project

Entity submitting proposal:

Coal Creek Watershed Coalition

Project Description:

The Gunsight Processing Area is located about 3.6 miles northwest of Crested Butte, in southwestern Colorado. At the abandoned mine site, four prominent benches connected by three unstable fill-slopes constructed from mine waste form an impervious area devoid of vegetation, with extensive evidence of stormwater runoff and erosion. Several prominent rills or gullies drain toward the Slate River, which is approximately 400 feet from the site. Several seeps that originate from mine waste are present during wet periods and at least three seeps persist during average conditions. Mine wastes and water from the Gunsight Processing Area have a low pH and very high metal concentrations. The project will use a series of mine reclamation best management practices (BMP) to restore natural topography, permanently stabilize and isolate mine waste, and allow for re-vegetation. These practices will improve hydrologic function on the site and minimize water contact with mine waste, thereby reducing metals loads and improving water quality in the Slate River and eliminating human health risks on the site.

Project Title:

Illinois Gulch Restoration Project

Entity submitting proposal:

Trout Unlimited, Inc

Project Description:

Illinois Gulch is located near Breckenridge in Summit County, Colorado. The headwaters are on the western face of Bald Mountain, and Illinois Gulch flows northwest along Boreas Pass Road, through several residential neighborhoods until its confluence with the Blue River. Illinois Gulch is also listed on the State's 303(d) list for exceedance of cadmium and zinc water quality standards. This contamination is due to historic mining operations that now exist in the form of draining adits and mine tailings/waste rock piles. These metals-rich deposits contaminate adjacent surface waters during high flow conditions and precipitation events. This project will focus restoration efforts at the Mountain Pride mine in the upper watershed. The mine wastes at this site directly contact Illinois Gulch and leach heavy metals into the downstream portion during precipitation events. Additional water quality monitoring will isolate specific loading sources that can be addressed by the installation of hydrologic controls. The proposed hydrologic controls in conjunction with re-vegetation efforts will create a buffer zone while conveying water around the mine waste piles and back into the mainstem of Illinois Gulch.

Project Title:

Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction in Lower Bear Creek

Entity submitting proposal:

Groundwork Denver (GWD)

Project Description:

This project is a comparative investigation of the efficacy of best management practices in the mitigation of nonpoint source pollution in Lower Bear Creek and implements best management practices (BMP) referenced in the 2014 Lower Bear Creek Watershed Plan. Two distinct BMP strategies will be implemented (1. a structural BMP, and 2. maintenance BMP with an education component) along the segment prioritized by the Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) for an *E.* coli Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The efficacy of each strategy will be measured using in-stream water quality monitoring and a comparative analysis. The project design interfaces productively with and does not supplant Denver's MS4 permit requirements. The two overarching themes of the Colorado Nonpoint Source Management Plan are mirrored in the project design.

Project Title:

Middle North Empire Creek Restoration Project

Entity submitting proposal:

Clear Creek Watershed Foundation

Project Description:

The Middle Mining District features:

- Two mine waste piles (3,500 CY) that have split into four piles (N-S and E-W) by the active channel of North Empire Creek.
- A fluvial fan behind a remnant water impoundment containing 4,400 CY of highly mineralized sediment deposited from the two uppermost waste piles in the middle reach and from the upper reach of North Empire Creek.
- The large (0.5 surface acre) Gold Dirt mine waste pile, which is adjacent and eroding into the creek.

Project Title:

NPS Water Quality Improvements in the Rifle Creek Sub-watershed

Entity submitting proposal:

Middle Colorado Watershed Council

Project Description:

Within the Rifle Creek sub-watershed, the project intends to:

- Understand selenium impairment issues, along with other potential water quality pollutants, in greater depth and with better specificity;
- Contribute to the improvement of habitat for threatened, endangered and native fishes in the mainstem of the Colorado River by improving water quality in Rifle Creek;
- Build upon watershed assessment work that will be conducted in 2015 (using other sources of funding);
- Begin to address water quality issues through pollution source reduction project implementation in 2016 through 2018;
- Disseminate information on the water quality issues along with identified solutions to public land managers and private land owners; and
- Demonstrate project implementation success to encourage future participation in continued source reduction efforts, including technology transfer, to other selenium impaired segments in the Middle Colorado watershed.

Project Title:

Uncompahgre Selenium Control: Phase 9 -Lateral Piping

Entity submitting proposal:

Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association

Project Description:

The *Uncompahgre Selenium Control: Phase 9 Lateral Piping* project proposes to replace approximately 11.3 miles of open, earthen irrigation delivery system laterals (GB, GBA, EO, EU and EQ laterals) with closed PVC pipe in order to reduce selenium and salinity loading caused by deep percolation of irrigation water from off-farm delivery system laterals within the federal Uncompahgre Project Area. Under current assumptions, this effort is projected to reduce from 126-315 pounds of selenium and 3,150 tons of salt per year.