



## Supporting Stream Management Planning in Colorado

### **2020 Coalition Direct Support APPLICATION OVERVIEW**

With support from the Colorado Water Conservation Board and Gates Family Foundation, River Network is enlarging the pipeline of local coalitions that are interested, ready and capable of undertaking stream management plans during CWCB's 2020 grant cycle. More detailed information on the project can be found [here](#).

River Network will provide capacity and up to \$5,000 in financial support for time and travel expenses for expert assistance to up to three Colorado coalitions intending to pursue a grant application in 2020. Coalitions lead by agricultural stakeholders are eligible for additional funding. A coalition is defined as an organized group of stakeholders willing to undertake a collaborative project. It does not have to be a formal group with staff and a board of directors (ie a water district or a nonprofit) but should have adequate capacity to undertake a project of this magnitude.

This assistance is intended to help coalitions:

- Identify and engage stakeholders whose initial support for a grant application are critical
- Identify and prioritize the desired goals of a stream management plan
- Write a scope of work with appropriate methods and budget to meet the identified goals
- Raise the required matching funds
- Write the grant application

Coalitions should submit an Application of Interest online by **5:00pm Friday, February 14, 2020**.

[The application is available here.](#)

#### **Program Expectations**

The coalition will take a leadership role in organizing, scoping and raising matching funds for the grant application. River Network will provide support in the form of advice, direction, an agreed upon amount of hands-on work, and funding to hire needed expertise. This is meant to supplement the coalition's leadership, not replace it.

The resources needed to scope, plan and implement a stream management plan are not insubstantial. It is a strategic, multi-year undertaking that will influence the goals and activities of the coalition. Needed resources will vary depending upon how quickly the planning process unfolds, the geographic extent to be studied, the number of stakeholders involved, and the amount of prior data collection and planning accomplished, among other factors. To be conservative, a coalition should have at least .25FTE dedicated to the process for at least two years and some dedicated resources in the budget for stakeholder meetings, communication materials, a review of data needs, etc.

Participating coalitions are expected to have:

- Interest in developing a stream management plan and a stated intent to submit a grant application to CWCB's Watershed Restoration Grant program in November 2020.
- The internal capacity (staff time and financial resources) to plan and pursue funding for a stream management plan within the next two years.
- Have positive relationships with the appropriate stakeholder base to plan and pursue funding for a stream management plan.
- A positive track record related to stream health planning, protection and restoration projects (ie: you've done work in this realm before).

### **Application Process**

Coalitions should submit an Application of Interest online by **5:00pm Friday, February 14, 2020**. [The application is available here.](#)

Organizations will be selected based on:

- How well they conform to the above outlined expectations
- The degree to which River Network's support would make a difference in their ability to submit a quality grant application in 2020
- Geographic diversity as compared to other applicants (ie we will not pick coalitions that are all from the same corner of the state)