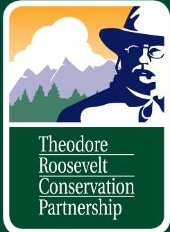


Public Funding for Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration in Colorado

Alex Funk
Director of Water Resources



LT-PBR Funding Overview

- There is only **one** *dedicated* funding opportunity for low-tech PBR efforts
- Growing interest/recognition by federal and state natural resource agencies
- Partnerships with fed and state agencies, public entities, Tribes, & water users
- Challenges in Accessing Funds

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

- **Southwest Rivers Headwaters Fund**
 - Priority for LT-PBR *and* beaver translocation
 - Capacity-building eligible
 - Only available in the Rio Grande Basin
- **RESTORE Colorado**
 - Partnership w/ federal and state agencies
 - Funds at-scale habitat restoration
 - Western Slope LT-PBR projects
 - Projects identified in stream mgt plans



NFWF

Colorado Water Conservation Board

- **Multiple Grant Opportunities**
 - Colorado Water Plan Grants
 - Colorado Watershed Restoration Grants
 - Water Supply Reserve Fund Grants
 - Federal Technical Assistance Grants

- **Other Resources**
 - Regional Water Plan Grant Managers



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

Reclamation: WaterSMART Grants

- **Multiple Grant Opportunities**
 - Cooperative Watershed Mgt Grant
 - Planning and Design
 - Environmental Water Resources Program
- **Considerations**
 - Significant cost-share
 - Highly competitive
 - Requires partnerships



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Reclamation: “Bucket II”

- Available for the Upper Co River Basin
- Ecosystem restoration + “wet” water
- No match!!!!

- **Considerations**
 - Only public entities and Tribes are eligible
 - CO public entities *are* in the process of developing comprehensive proposals



Natural Resources Conservation Service

- **Climate-Smart Ag and Forestry Practices**
 - \$20 billion available nationwide
 - LT-PBR is an eligible practice
- **Grant Opportunities**
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 - Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- **Considerations**
 - Partnerships with landowners/conservation districts/ag groups
 - EQIP funds go to landowner *not* watershed org
 - RCPP requires technical assistance/capacity



Resources

- **Colorado Water Funding Opportunity Navigator**
 - Federal and state water funding
 - Hasn't been updated recently (April)
- **Colorado River Resilience Website**
 - <https://resilientcoriver.org/resources/>
 - Federal Funding Opportunities Database
- **Funding Navigation/Support**
 - CWCB Regional Grant Support
 - CO River District – Community Funding Partnership
 - SW Water Conservation District – new navigator role
 - NGOs – American Rivers, Audubon Rockies, TRCP



Key Takeaways



There's a lot of public funding, **but** much of it time limited



Partnerships!!!!



Unique opportunities in 2024